


**Nebraska Department of Correctional Services
Vocational & Life Skills Program
Quarterly Report**

DATE: October 2, 2015

TO: Pete Ricketts, Governor
Patrick J. O'Donnell, Clerk of the Legislature

FROM: Dawn-Renee Smith, Reentry Administrator 

RE: Vocational & Life Skills (VLS) Program

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Statute 83-904, the following provides a report on aid distributed under the Vocational & Life Skills Program.

The following community organizations have received funding under the vocational and life skills grant program:

Goodwill Industries – RESTART; Western Alternative Corrections, Inc.; Center For People In Need; Metropolitan Community College; Released and Restored, Inc.; Mental Health Association of Nebraska; Prairie Gold Homes; ResCare Workforce Services

Funding was awarded in January and programs could begin program design and hiring, effective February 1, 2015. All programs are fully staffed and providing services to the target population.

Number of Individuals Receiving Programming (April – June 2015)	752
Types of Programming	See attached flyers & individual monthly reports
Cost per Individual	Unknown*
Number of Individuals Successfully Completed Programming	87**

*Although some individual monthly reports identify cost per individual, it does not provide an accurate picture to the true cost per client as the programs are in the beginning stages with startup costs causing an exaggerated cost per individual. These numbers will be much more accurately represented at the end of the grant cycle (June 30, 2016).

**Successful completion is difficult to capture during the grant period as grantees are working with individuals even after they obtain employment. Additionally, some programs conduct one-day seminars, for example, and there is no specific criteria for successful completion outside of their attendance. Total numbers will be reported at the end of the grant cycle.

Funds not expended:

The grant cycle includes the five months of FY 2014-2015 and all of FY 2015-2016. All available funds were awarded to eight organizations. Any funds not reimbursed will be known at the end of FY 2015-2016 and, per statute, will be carried into the next fiscal year.

cc: Scott R. Frakes, Director
Senator Bob Krist, Chair, Executive Board of the Legislature
Roselyn Cotton, Chair, Board of Parole
Mike Rothwell, Deputy Director
Vocational & Life Skills Administrator
Grantees
File

ReStart

ReStart serves citizens with a criminal record as they return to the community by preparing them for work.

Paid transitional jobs provide opportunity for individuals to:

- experience the world of work
- learn workplace customs/routines
- acquire job skills
- establish an employment record
- obtain employer references

Case Managers provide supports when dealing with transportation, housing and work attire. Readiness Workshops will assist with basic computer skills, work on developing a resume, and guidance on how to talk with employers about their criminal records.

Peer Mentoring groups will address soft job skills and family support issues such as child support. Retention and Advancement Services are also provided by ReStart staff to ensure any issues that arise are addressed immediately. This is critical to maintaining unsubsidized employment.

See reverse side for program admission criteria.



Locations:

Heartland Workforce Solutions- American Job Center
5752 Ames Avenue
Omaha, NE 68104

Juan Diego Center
5221 S. 31st Street
Omaha, NE 68107



ReStart

ReStart Admission Criteria

- Nebraska state inmate, parolee, or felony probationer

OR

- Former state inmate or felony probationer up to 18 months after discharge from state prison, parole, or state probation
- Willing to work to develop an Individual Employment Plan that identifies short term and long term goals
- Attend life skills and job readiness workshops
- Participate in peer mentoring sessions
- Participate in a transitional job opportunity, when appropriate, to gain basic employability skills
- Maintain contact with ReStart staff to ensure any issues with employment or support services are addressed in a timely manner

Contact Jana Dye at (402) 934-2728, Garry Kern at (402) 934-2805 or Kevin Lytle Jr. at (402)505-2294. You can also visit www.goodwillomaha.org for more information.



Locations:

Heartland Workforce Solutions- American Job Center
5752 Ames Avenue
Omaha, NE 68104

Juan Diego Center
5221 S. 31st Street
Omaha, NE 68107



ReStart

Participants Enrolled in ReStart

As of June 30, 2015 ReStart have enrolled 53 participants (11 females/42 males) and are actively working to assist with obtaining employment. Within the active participants:

- 10 -Parolee
- 6 -Felony Probationer
- 23 -Inmate
- 14 -Released from state supervision within last 18 months

ReStart staff has been working with participants on all employability skills such as resumes, interview preparation, attendance, attitude, and more.

- 20- Currently Employed (waiting on verification for some)
 - Average wage: \$9.98/hr
- 2- Currently in Transitional Jobs
- 28 out of 53 have created or updated resumes
- 25 participants pending enrollments
- 53 Kuder Assessments
- 53 Created Individual Employment Plans
- 53 have researched employment opportunities
- ReStart has assisted 40+ individuals that do not meet ReStart's criteria. Assistance included resume, interview preparation, resources, and other

Transitional Jobs and Supportive Services

ReStart has assisted individuals with many supportive services to help eliminate barriers to employment, training, and social. Assistance has included:

- \$9,853.33 have been spent on 12 participants for Transitional Job Placements (Work Experience and On-the-Job Training)
- \$1,249.13 have been spent on direct client services for 18 participants
 - Bus tickets- 302 bus tickets have been provided to participants
 - Work Attire/tools
 - Interview Attire- ReStart partners Heartland Workforce Solutions Center- Men's Clothing Closet and Women's Center for Advancement- Clothing Closet for interview clothing. ReStart assists with what is not provided through partners.

Positives & Outreach

ReStart has received 120+ letters/emails and applications from incarcerated individuals to inquire about services through the ReStart program. Many of these applications came from the Transitional Living Fair at Nebraska Correctional Center for Women in York, NE on June 23, 2015 and Transitional Living Fair at Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln, NE on May 12 and May 13. Through these fairs, ReStart met with current inmates that are planned to be released within the next year to talk about what their plan is after release. This experience was great for us to get in front of the inmates and explain the services that ReStart offers and talking about their exit plans. ReStart plans to work with

ReStart

these individuals before they are released to develop resumes and employment, social, and training goals. This is one of ReStart's big goals of assisting these individuals with planning for after release and letting them know the resources out there to help be successful.

ReStart's Outreach has included:

- Community Re-Entry meetings on subjects such as voter registration and selective services
- Omaha Correctional Center Involvement Meeting
- Reentry Initiative Committee
- Met UNO Research Staff at Nebraska Department of Correctional Services in Lincoln, NE
- Met with new nonprofit- Reviving Our Sisters Effectively Corp.
- Garry Kern will be presenting about ReStart and Reentry at to Hunger Club at Big Mama's Kitchen
- MCC Table Talk
- Community Involvement at St. Luke Lutheran Church
- Garry Kern will be presenting at the Black Male Achievement Conference
- ReStart is talking with League of Women voters, Metro, UNO, and a couple of churches for future outreach
- Met with Case Manager's at Community Correctional Center-Omaha
- Large Network Meeting at St. Luke Lutheran Church
- Boys Town Block Party
- Provided a tour of Heartland Workforce Solutions Center to Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility Staff
- Met with Metropolitan Community College Reentry team
- UNO's Culture Fair
- CIC Meeting at NCYF
- Reentry Transitional Meeting
- Partnership meeting with Oxford House and MCC
- NDCS Unit Administrator Meeting in Lincoln
- Provided a tour of Heartland Workforce Solutions Center to NDCS Staff and Vocational Rehabilitation staff
- ReStart staff attended a Leadership Seminar to better our skills of how to serve our clients

Employers:

Business Outreach Specialist has made connections with multiple employers to place ReStart participants. Some employers included:

- Bolts/GT Midwest/Nebraskaland Tire, McCarthy Construction, Majors Plastics, First Data, WASI, Pepsi Co. Arrow Distribution, International Nutrition, Brandeis Catering, Omaha Winlectric, White Lotus Group-Property Management, James Skinner Baking Company, Phillips Manufacturing, The Filter Shop, Tyson Foods, Treat America Food Services, Stokes Restaurant, Hiland Dairy, Donner Steel Work, TJ Contracting, Art Push Heating and Cooling, Sol Lewis Engineering, Open Door Mission, Stokes Grill and Bar, HuHot Mongolian Grill, Twisted Fork restaurant, Two Men and a Truck, Allied Moving, MBCI Metal, It's Got to Go Containers, B & B

ReStart

Classic Dogs, Charvat Construction, Omaha Bedding Company, Staff Mid-America, Sam's Club, Planet Fitness

Workshops & Peer Mentoring:

ReStart had its first workshop/peer mentoring session on May 23 and another session at Community Correctional Center-Omaha on May 26. ReStart had 5 workshops/peer mentoring sessions in June at Omaha Correctional Center, Nebraska Corrections Youth Facility, and another offsite location. Within these events, ReStart was able to reach out to 30+ individuals about the program and steps to viewing self differently. As well as working with correctional system to enhance chances of success once released.

Success Stories

Jeffrey Mantzaris enrolled in the ReStart program on April 28th with lowered confidence and slight shame. Humble and ready to prove himself, Jeffrey worked in the Goodwill's Retail Operations Center through the Work Experience program. He received consistently good reviews from the worksite managers. He completed his entire incarceration sentence and transitioned from the Community Corrections Center in Omaha to the Oxford House, a transitional living home. After a short stay there, Jeffrey recently signed the lease on his own apartment. After several weeks doing work experience, Jeffrey worked with ReStart staff to complete his resume and improve his interviewing skills through mock interview sessions. From there, Jeffrey successfully interviewed and received a server position from Stokes Grill and Bar, a restaurant in the Old Market. With support from his family, his involvement in ReStart, and his commitment to betterment, Jeffrey is well on his way to a successful transition and fulfilling his long-term passion- serving others at the highest level.

Alexis Rios came into the ReStart program on April 1, 2015 after being released from Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility. Alexis had just graduated with his High School Diploma in March before being released. Alexis has worked with ReStart staff to create a resume and work on employability skills. Alexis is currently in a Work Experience at Goodwill ROC and started part time employment at Golden Corral a few weeks ago. Alexis's supervisor at his WE has informed ReStart staff that he does great work, is on time every day, and learns new tasks and projects daily.

Challenges and Other Data

- ReStart continues to have a challenge with obtaining verification of probation for individuals who are no longer on probation.
- No individuals have been exited at this time
 - Jason Osborne has been removed from his parole and is currently at Diagnostic and Evaluation Center. Possible exit upon verification.



METROPOLITAN
Community College

Re-entry program

Re-entry services are available at Metropolitan Community College for incarcerated individuals as well as individuals transitioning from facilities across the state (up to 18 months after discharge). MCC will help make a successful transition into college or a career. These services include:

- Skill and interest assessments
- Career and educational goal setting
- Work readiness and life skills training (credit and noncredit classes)
- Transition preparation
- Credit analysis and transfer
- Registration assistance
- Introduction to MCC locations and resources
- Transportation
- Job search, placement support and early work experience
- Referrals to community agencies
- Continuous coaching and tutoring
- Financial aid and scholarship assistance

Contacts

Metropolitan Community College
Attn: Re-entry Program, MCC Express
P.O. Box 3777
Omaha, NE 68103-0777

or

Re-entry program manager
Diane Good-Collins
402-738-4059
dgood@mccneb.edu

Locations

Incarceration

Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility
Omaha Correctional Center
Community Corrections Center - Omaha

or

Re-entry

Metropolitan Community College
MCC Express, 24th and Vinton
Fort Omaha Campus, 30th and Fort

Opportunities

Tuition assistance is available for work readiness and life skills training. Space and funding are limited.

Credit classes are bundled into fast-track options for career training:

- college and career preparation
- business and entrepreneurship
- trades
- information technology

These career pathways lead to stackable credentials and include courses such as:

- College Success Strategies
- Financial Literacy
- Customer Service
- Introduction to the Trades
- Business Office Communications

Noncredit classes include:

- Basic Skill Building
- Tutoring
- Employability Skills
- Resumé Writing
- Interviewing
- Career Exploration and Planning

Funding for this project comes from a grant award from the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Reentry Initiative (Award #201502-GA04). Authorized by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 83-904 and Nebraska Administrative Code Title 71, Chapter 1, Vocational and Life Skills Programs.

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE AT METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

We will help you navigate the systems at MCC

A

B

You may receive assistance with GED completion, program determination, placement testing, financial aid (FAFSA) completion, registering for classes, transportation, scholarship information, obtaining student identification, accessing electronic student information and referral for tutoring services.

If you are interested in pursuing an educational goal, contact us for additional information.

Metropolitan Community College
Attn: Transition/Reentry, MCC Express
P.O. Box 3777
Omaha, NE 68103 -0777

Diane Good-Collins
402-738-4059
dgood@mccneb.edu



METROPOLITAN
Community College

mccneb.edu | 402-457-2400

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**Nebraska Department of Correctional Services – Vocational & Life Skills Grant Program
Metropolitan Community College – Re-Entry Program**

Quarterly Report for the Period Ending June 30, 2015

Summary of activity to-date

MCC's Reentry team started the second grant quarter with a Program Manager and Resource Specialist and ended with four additional staff: one full time Re-Entry Coach and three part-time Re-Entry Coaches. A good portion of the second quarter was spent training staffing and meeting with individuals and groups inside and outside the lock facilities. The Program Manager spent several hours with the Coaches, sharing and refining processes and intake information. The full time Coach sat in on several re-entry student intake sessions conducted by the Program Manager to witness the active coaching model used within the Re-Entry Program.

To date, the MCC Re-Entry Program has been directly introduced to all of the Nebraska state correctional facilities through on-site visits, with the exceptions of Tecumseh State Correctional Institution (TSCI) and Work Ethic Camp (WEC). The Re-Entry Program, however, manages to serve these facilities through collaboration with NDCS Reentry Specialists, case managers and providing support through written US mail contact with the populations.

The program has grown significantly since the first quarter. A total of 398 individuals were served this quarter, up from 97 in Q1. This increase is largely due to the additional staff members, which greatly increased our capacity to serve participants.

In spring academic quarter, the Re-Entry Program enrolled 47 men in college credit courses at Omaha Correctional Center (OCC), with an 82% completion rate. Those who did not pass either dropped the course or were transferred to another facility.

In the summer academic quarter, the Re-Entry Program significantly increased capacity and offerings. The program registered 90 incarcerated individuals housed at Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility (NCYF) and OCC in college credit courses. Ten credit courses in Business, Trades, Employability, and IT were offered as part of the program's College and Career Preparation tracks, helping individuals develop employability, self-awareness, and foundational success skills.

In addition to the 90 who were registered at these two facilities, there were 6 Community Corrections Center – Omaha (CCC-O) program participants who were registered in on-campus classes. Two of these individuals also participated in a manufacturing-focused workforce training program at MCC called Project Impact. Completion of this program nearly guarantees gainful employment upon completion.

**Nebraska Department of Correctional Services – Vocational & Life Skills Grant Program
Metropolitan Community College – Re-Entry Program**

Quarterly Report for the Period Ending June 30, 2015

Delivery of program services

Individual	Count
Parolee	30
Felony Probationer	16
Inmate	325
Discharged State Supervision (within 18 months)	27
Total	398
Program Offerings – Participating Individuals	Count
Workshops/Fairs	8 offered = 291 attended
MCC 14/SP Orientation @ OCC: 42 attended	
ReEntry Information Workshop @ CCC-O: 33 attended	
2 - Discover MCC Workshops @ NCYF: 35 attended	
Re-Entry Fair @ NSP: 40 attended	
2 - Career Plan/Job Skills Workshops @ NCCW: 48 attended	
Re-Entry Fair @NCCW: 53 attended	
Reintegration Workshop @ CCCO: 12 attended	
Reintegration Workshops at OCC – 2 sessions: 28 attended	
Credit coursework participation	96
BSAD 1000 – Introduction to Business – 9 enrolled	
WORK 1400 – Employability Skills: 10 enrolled	
WORK 1400 – Employability Skills: 10 enrolled	
WORK 1410 – Secrets of Business Success: 10 enrolled	
WORK 1410 – Secrets of Business Success: 7 enrolled	
RDLS 1200 – Student Success Strategies: 10 enrolled	
RDLS 1200 – Student Success Strategies: 7 enrolled	
INCT 1010 – Intro to the Trades: 11 enrolled	
FINA 1000 – Financial Literacy: 9 enrolled	
WORK 0900 – Intro to Microcomputer: 7 enrolled	
CCCO students registered in on campus classes: 6 enrolled	
Presentation sessions	18
Intake sessions	72
Referrals to community agencies	35
Educational and career planning	190

Program costs

Tuition Expenses	
Tuition Expenses for Re-Entry and Incarcerated participants will be charged next quarter. MCC institutes a wait period before charging tuition to grants in case students drop the course.	
Combined expenses for Incarcerated/Re-Entry Population	
Textbooks \$5,936.57	Supplies \$837.05

**Nebraska Department of Correctional Services – Vocational & Life Skills Grant Program
Metropolitan Community College – Re-Entry Program**

Quarterly Report for the Period Ending June 30, 2015

Program completions

A total of 14 Re-Entry Program participants completed their forklift certification this quarter. Of those 14, 12 were incarcerated at CCC-O and 2 were re-entry students. Re-Entry Program staff have registered another 16 CCC-O and re-entry students into the next forklift certification class in July.

Two Re-Entry Program participants successfully completed and graduated from Young Adult Court; both participants had their felony probation charge reduced to a misdemeanor with completion of this program. One of these graduates was promoted to a sales position at his place of employment.

Other collected data

One Re-Entry Program participant was a victim of gang related violence, resulting in a gunshot wound to his leg and brief hospitalization. That participant has since returned to his GED studies and is focusing on his education goals.

One Re-Entry Program participant left the treatment program she was paroled to. The participant's parole officer contacted our program to assist with contacting the individual. Re-Entry Program staff successfully convinced the individual to turn herself into treatment in order to complete her program; this collaboration saved one person from returning to prison this quarter.

Challenges & successes

Now that all of the Re-Entry Program staff positions are filled, the challenge has been to get everyone familiarized with not only the Re-Entry Program processes and procedures but also to adjust to the NDCS organization, methods and culture. MCC Re-Entry Program continues to work collaboratively with NDCS re-entry and facility staff members to ensure MCC Re-Entry staff members have access to the various facilities.

NCYF wardens have provided additional support to MCC's Re-Entry Program by offering the services of Ken Schmid. Ken Schmid has greatly improved the program's ability to schedule classroom space, workshops and experience greater access to the NCYF population.

The Re-Entry Program is currently working on an annual schedule of classes for OCC and NCYF. Annual scheduling will allow for easier processing of incarcerated into the college credit offerings within the lock facilities and more closely model the registration process that takes place when the participants are released and served on campus.

One main concern that is continually expressed by the CCC-O residents is that the front counter staff is not cooperative when inmates request to use the telephone to call the MCC Re-Entry Program. This process was approved by the CCC-O warden but the front counter staff oftentimes refuses use of the telephone to inmates who are attempting to access MCC Re-Entry services. In addition, when MCC Re-Entry Program staff leaves messages with the staff for the inmates, the inmates report they do not receive the messages.

As Re-Entry Program staff began to register students for class, an issue that arose was that some had previously attended MCC and were placed on "academic probation" for various reasons. MCC policy is that any student on academic probation must complete an online workshop; however, this population does not have access to the internet.

**Nebraska Department of Correctional Services – Vocational & Life Skills Grant Program
Metropolitan Community College – Re-Entry Program**

Quarterly Report for the Period Ending June 30, 2015

The program worked with MCC administration to create an alternative plan for these individuals to complete a paper version of the workshop with the Program Manager in order to satisfy college policy and thus be successfully re-enrolled.

Re-Entry Program staff were invited to share program information to the State of Nebraska parole officers' Omaha office. We continue to work closely with the parole and probation officers and receive their referrals on a regular basis.

The occasional inmate continues to be moved to other facilities prior to completion of college credit courses. This is not a common occurrence. Since the MCC Re-Entry Program staff is still not able to access the NDCS system that displays information regarding when an inmate may be moved, the Program Manager works with NDCS staff to determine how to best manage these individual situations.

Preview of plans for upcoming quarter

The Re-Entry Program has been meeting with stakeholders to explore offering MCC's Project Impact classes at OCC beginning fall quarter. If an individual successfully completes all four courses of the Project Impact workforce training, they will receive the Diversified Manufacturing Technology Certificate from MCC. This curriculum is aligned with the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) Certified Production Technician (CPT) program so, upon release, students may take the national certification test and have increased employment opportunities in a high-demand career field.

The next quarter includes the development of a curriculum for a noncredit workshop series that highlights peer mentoring while incarcerated. The Re-Entry Program Manager and full-time Coach have already chosen the participants and facilitators and will have at least one workshop prior to the end of the third quarter.

The Re-Entry Program scheduled two additional forklift certification trainings to take place at MCC's South Omaha Campus on August 22. All 20 participants will be either currently incarcerated or re-entry students. We are planning to hold additional forklift certification training in September at Heartland Workforce Development for the re-entry population, as well.

Prepare to Get Out and Stay Out



The Life Skills/Re-entry Prep program offered by Released and Restored prepares you to do just that!

The Life Skills/Re-entry Prep program targets 2 key areas for success:

JOBS and MONEY MANAGEMENT

This intensive two-week program will PREPARE you to:

- OBTAIN and MAINTAIN gainful employment by:
 - Teaching you how to properly fill out job applications;
 - Teaching you how to create and update your resume;
 - Preparing you to conduct a job interview with Confidence and Skill;
 - Teaching you the work attitudes employers are looking for in their employees;
 - Teaching goal-setting and problem-solving skills;
 - Teaching team-building and appropriate conflict resolution skills;
 - Creating an open and honest cover letter addressing your felony conviction; and
 - Discussing the federal income tax credits and federal bonding available to employers who hire felons.

- MANAGE your money and income well so you do not enter the black hole of debt by:
 - Teaching you an easy system for paying your bills on time;
 - Teaching you a simple way to save money from each paycheck;
 - Teaching you how to keep your checking account balanced; and
 - Teaching you how to obtain and maintain good credit history.

- ❖ Class size is strictly limited to 12 individuals;
- ❖ Class meets Monday – Friday 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Lunch is provided)
- ❖ Class location: 2400 S 11th (11th & Lake) Lincoln

To enroll, complete the application and send it to:

Released and Restored
Attn: Life Skills/Re-entry Prep Program
P O Box 22962
Lincoln NE 68542

Once your application is reviewed, you will receive notification of your acceptance into the program, and the class to which you are assigned.

Released and Restored

Individual who has discharged State supervision within the previous 18 months

Quarter	Ending Month	Year	Parolee	Probationer	Inmate	Other	Notes
	February	2015					
	March	2015	6			1	
3rd Q	Q-Total		6	0	3	1	0
	April	2015	4		7	1	
	May	2015	1		6	2	
	June	2015					
4th Q	Q-Total		5	0	13	3	0
	July	2015					
	August	2015					
	September	2015					
1st Q	Q-Total		0	0	0	0	0
	October	2015					
	November	2015					
	December	2015					
2nd Q	Q-Total		0	0	0	0	0
	January	2016					
	February	2016					
	March	2016					
3rd Q	Q-Total		0	0	0	0	0
	April	2016					
	May	2016					
	June	2016					
4th Q	Q-Total		0	0	0	0	0
Totals for Grant Period			11	0	16	4	0



Mental Health Association of Nebraska

HONU HOME / KEYA HOUSE



Who Qualifies?

Honu Home/ Keya House is for adults at least nineteen years old with a behavioral health diagnosis.

What we offer

- *Peers helping peers with crisis prevention and diversion from psychiatric distress that may lead to hospitalization and or reoffending.
- *A comfortable, clean, and furnished house in a quiet and safe neighborhood.
- *Self help and proactive recovery tools to regain and maintain wellness.
- *Trained peer companions who are compassionate, understanding, empowering, and available twenty-four hours a day.

How it's done

- *This program is strictly voluntary and free of charge. You can self-refer or be referred by a professional or family member/friend. There is a registration process to ensure the appropriateness of the program for each individual as well as for the comfort of other guests.
- *We offer a stay of up to ninety days.
- *Peer companions staff the house twenty-four hours a day.
- *Staff can maintain contact and support at your request after your stay.

Guidelines

- *You must have transportation to and from the house.
- *You must be able to maintain acceptable personal hygiene.
- *You must be responsible for preparing your own meals and cleaning up after yourself.
- *You must follow the house rules which will be fully explained when you enter the house.

Mental Health Association of Nebraska

Funding provided by the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services shall provide the necessary resources to expand the capacity of Mental Health Association of Nebraska (MHA-NE) programs and services to individuals recently released from state correctional facilities. Participation in all MHA-NE programs and services is voluntary and require the individual to take a leading role in the type and scope of services they receive, thereby "owning" their recovery and making success the likely outcome.

Programs and services to be provided are CARF accredited, and include:

Employment Support Services

The HOPE Program now provides targeted supported employment services to individuals recently released or currently on probation/parole from state correctional facilities. Adhering to the SAMHSA/Dartmouth Individual Placement and Support (IPS) fidelity model, the HOPE Program provides job development and on-going employment support services to adults living with severe behavioral health issues. Employment specialists help participants find jobs that exist in the open labor market and that pay at least minimum wage, including part-time and full-time jobs. Employment positions are found based on the participant's individual preferences, strengths, and work experiences rather than "sculpting perfect workers" through extensive prevocational assessments and training.

In addition to IPS activities, the HOPE Program also provides comprehensive benefits analysis services, providing program participants with the information they need to make informed choices regarding the potential impact employment and increased wages could have on the benefits (SSI/SSDI, Medicaid, Medicare, housing assistance, etc.) they receive. For eligible individuals not yet enrolled in disability benefit programs, program staff also provide expedited enrollment assistance through the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access & Recovery (SOAR) program.

Crisis Respite

Modeled after MHA-NE's highly successful KEYA House, the new facility will provide program participants with crisis respite and transitional housing for up to 90 days. Services are designed to help people break the cycle of correctional system recidivism through twenty-four hour peer support, self-advocacy education and self-help training. Program staff and work directly with participants in wellness and recovery activities including Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAP) and in developing individual problem solving skills. In addition to direct peer support services, the House also hosts a 24/7 "warm line" where persons seeking assistance can call and talk directly to trained peers as needed. The Warm Line is a peer-run, friendly phone line through which people with behavioral health concerns receive support and appropriate referral to community services they need.

Crisis Diversion, Outreach and Referral

The REAL Program will provide pro-active support services to former inmates that have been identified as being in need rapid and intensive support services before they make bad decisions that could lead to re-incarceration. This program is community based, with peer support workers meeting people in the community, rather than a formal office.

Mental Health Association of Nebraska

Quarterly Report – Quarter Ending June 2015 (GQ2)

Number of individuals receiving programming:

Month	Parolee	Probationer	Inmate	Discharged (previous 18 months) • Inmate • Parolee • Probationer
April	1	1	5	4
May	1	0	5	4
June	2	0	13	1
Quarter Totals:	4	1	23	6

Individuals receiving programing by program type:

Individual's Name	Program Type/Name
Please see attached MHA Quarterly Status Report	

Cost per individual: \$2,646

Number of individuals successfully completing program: 0. All program participants are currently working on program related activities

Narrative summary of programming delivered during this quarter:

HOPE Program: 32 active participants working on either attaining employment or maintaining employment. Activities include resume development, job searching, interviewing skills, wellness/recovery support, job skills, assistance signing up for benefits, benefits analysis

Honu Home: 8 guests total, 3 moved into an apartment. Activities include transitional housing services, wellness/recovery support, housing search. We were successful in finding a landlord who was willing to rent to program participants with correctional system experience and forgo the application deposit, with 3 participants successfully transitioning into their own apartment.

REAL Program: Community outreach, crisis/recovery support to program participants, assistance in locating and moving into their own apartments, community integration activities, securing state identification and/or birth records, response to law enforcement and probation/parole referral for services.

Other data/information your program is collecting (Employment, Certifications, etc...):
We are collecting quality of life data at various points in time in order to establish benchmarks and monitor progress.

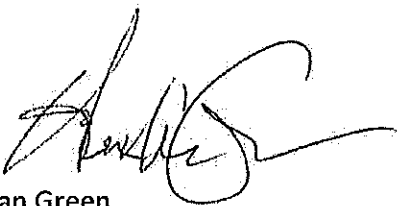
Successes/Positives:

HOPE Program is close to enrollment capacity with employment specialists assisting participants find employment. Employment specialists have also developed good relationships with local employers will to consider hiring people transitioning out of the correctional system.

Honu Home is now open (and full). REAL Program staff assisted 3 Honu guests find their own apartments thus opening rooms for others getting out of state facilities.

Challenges:

The biggest challenge for the reporting period was finalizing permits necessary to open Honu Home. As reported above, Honu opened June 24th and by the end of the first week was full.



Alan Green
Executive Director

7/17/15



Prairie Gold Homes, Inc. (PGH) is based in Lincoln, NE. PGH is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide construction training skills to Community-level inmates, giving them employable talents, to better re-integrate into the community and become productive citizens.

Initially formed in 2002, based on a similar program in the South Dakota prison system. Originally named Bar None Housing, the program began as a way to build efficient single-family modular homes at a low cost, given the minimal labor costs.

In 2009, in collaboration with the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA), Bar None Housing became Prairie Gold Homes, obtaining a 501(c)(3) status. Since, the program has evolved into a certified training program for inmates. The program now combines classroom instruction with hands-on skills training. Graduates receive a nationally-recognized construction industry certificate.

PGH is run by a volunteer Board of Directors and partners with a wide variety of public and private organizations to provide its educational and job training program and facilitate the successful reentry of program graduates. In addition to the Board of Directors, PGH is provided a liaison from the Department of Corrections to aid in relations and communications with NDCS. PGH currently employs an Executive Director, an Office Manager, an HR Manager and a Construction Manager. With expansion plans now taking place, the staff will consequently expand as well. Income to support the organization's work is provided through the sale of homes, grants, and private donations.

Students for the program are methodically selected through an interview process by the Executive Director and DOC liaison. Requirements for selection include: an interest in construction industry; possession of a High School Diploma or GED; High School or higher Test of Adult Basic Education (T.A.B.E) results; minimal Misconduct Report History; crime committed must not be one of a violent or sexual nature and they must be eligible for Community Custody.

Prairie Gold Homes constructs both modular homes and on-site builds. Modular homes are built at the PGH classroom, located on the grounds of Cornhusker State Industries. Those homes are later transported to the owner's property. We use high-quality, name-brand materials, purchased locally. The homes are energy-efficient & low maintenance.

Despite having a waiting list of 100+ inmates, PGH class size is typically kept to a count of 6-10 students in order to maintain close on-on-one instruction parameters. Classes normally last 10 weeks, with the first half being mostly classroom academic related to basic construction skills and construction safety. The students also participate in a 10-hour OSHA Certification, as well as receiving a certified First Aid and AED. Beginning in 2015, in collaboration with another local Vocational Skills organization, graduates of the program will also attend a 2-week Life Skills class. This class will provide those much-needed skills of writing resumes, interviewing, etc.

Prairie Gold Homes Contact Information:
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Levi E. Bennett, Vocational and Life Skills Administrator
FROM: Renee Bauer, Executive Director, Prairie Gold Homes
DATE: Friday, July 17, 2015
RE: Quarterly Report – Quarter Ending June 2015 (GQ2)

Number of individuals receiving programming:

Month	Parolee	Probationer	Inmate	Discharged (previous 18 months) • Inmate • Parolee • Probationer
April			16	
May			10	
June			10	
Quarter Totals:			36	

Individuals receiving programing by program type:

Individual's Name	Program Type/Name
See attached page	

Cost per individual: Approximately \$8,000.00

Number of individuals successfully completing program: 12

Narrative summary of programming delivered during this quarter:

Two Lincoln classes graduated (April/June). Home Builders Institute Certification, OSHA 10-hour Certification and First Aid Certification received by all students. McCook class completed a number of construction projects. New students at OCC interviewed.

Other data/information your program is collecting (Employment, Certifications, etc...):

Prior to grant PGH was already collecting a great deal of data for our students. Since the parameters of the grant were recently defined regarding data collection, our database has been enhanced to begin collecting new data required.

Successes/Positives:

McCook expansion up and running and going very well. Lincoln class successfully completed Bee Habitat sanctuary for UNL and erected it on the East Campus Grounds.

Challenges:

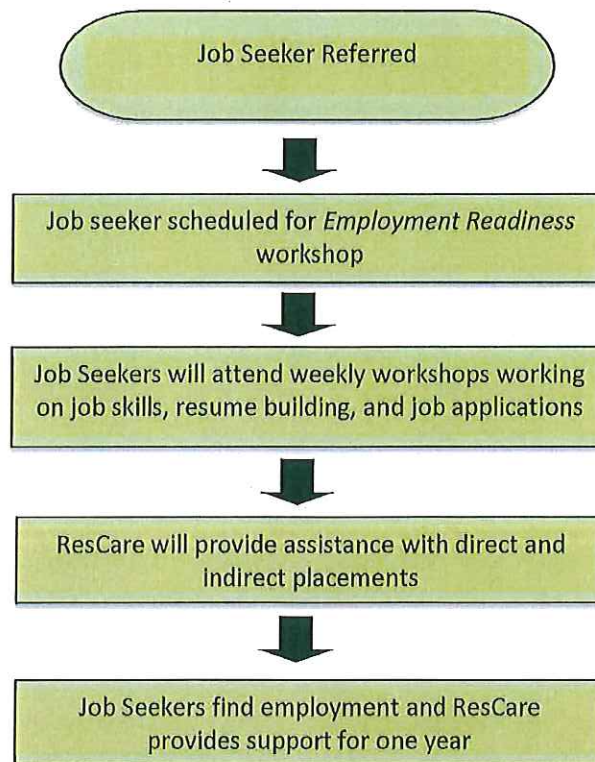
Turn around time to receive reimbursement after approved by Re-entry office. Value of our program receiving criticism by NDCS staff.



ResCare Workforce Services offers job preparation and job retention services that include employment readiness workshops, supplemental online learning, one-on-one engagement, independent job search and job retention support at the following Reporting Center (RC) “Hubs”:

- Omaha (which will serve via tele services Papillion RC)
- Grand Island (which will serve via tele services Kearney RC, Hastings Service Center (SC), Holdrege Probation Office (PO) and Lexington RC)
- Gering (which will serve via tele services Sydney PO, and North Platte RC)
- Norfolk (which will also via tele services Columbus RC, Beatrice SC, Nebraska City RC and Falls City PO)

An Example of our Work Flow



Contact Information:
Greg Agena, Supervisor
gregagena@rescare.com
402-314-6205

Cherisa Price-Wells, Project Director
cherisapricewells@rescare.com
402-314-6026

April-June 2015 Quarterly Report

ResCare Workforce Services

1. **Number of individuals receiving programming**
45 total Enrollees
 - a. **Categorized by parolee**

8
 - b. **Felony probationer**
37
 - c. **Inmate**
0
 - d. **Individual released from State supervision within the previous 18 months**
5
2. **Individuals receiving programing by program type**
All 45 individuals received programming in the "Get the Right Future" workshop and follow up. They attended class or met with our Employment specialist at least once.
3. **Cost per individual**
\$793.55
4. **Number of individuals successfully completing program**
14
5. **Narrative summary of programming delivered during this quarter**
ResCare is providing "Get the Right Future" Employment class in four locations including Omaha, Norfolk, Kearney, and Scottsbluff. This is a Four week class every morning Monday through Friday. Job seekers are then given time to work on employment related information at the computer lab. Individual appointments and orientation are held after each class.
6. **Other data/information your program is collecting**
ResCare is tracking jobs received. ResCare also scans cover letters, resumes, and master applications. Absences are also being tracked. ResCare has job-seekers complete surveys.
7. **Positives**
ResCare continues to market the "Get the Right Future" workshop in each of our areas. Class numbers have increased in each of the past months. ResCare is beginning to teach via teleservices in other areas of the state including Grand Island, Columbus, and North Platte. ResCare hopes to see increased numbers with the inclusion of teleservices.
8. **Challenges**
ResCare has received a total of 130 referrals from inmates who have been or are being released soon. ResCare is in the process of updating that referral process so that we can make contact with all inmates prior to their release . ResCare will be providing letters to job seekers before they are released with an introduction to the program and an initial appointment scheduled.

TRADE Program

The TRADE (Tackling Recidivism And Developing Employability) Program will provide vocational and life skills training and case management services to those transitioning out of the criminal justice system: work release participants, those on felony probation, parolees and individuals who have been discharged from state supervision within the last 18 months. Through a combination of vocational and life skills training and wrap-around services, the TRADE Program will seek to address the array of factors that increase recidivism rates by developing strong support networks which increases the likelihood of employment retention and reduces the likelihood of repeat criminal activity for newly released offenders.

Vocational training programs will include: Construction/Carpentry, Forklift/Warehouse, Janitorial/Building Maintenance, and Institutional Food Service. Christian Heritage and JOLT Nebraska are partnering with The Center for People in Need to provide the life skills and recovery training necessary for successful reintegration. Courses will cover such topics as family outreach, common-sense parenting, communication skills, teamwork and self-help, financial literacy, resume writing, job search and computer skills. Victim impact and domestic violence awareness and prevention classes will also be available to all participants.

Please contact Chris Triebisch at 402-476-4357 x114 or via email at ctriebisch@centeforpeopleinneed.org for more information about the TRADE program.

Quarterly Grant Report to the Nebraska Department of Corrections

Due Date: July 20, 2015
Quarter: 2
Submitted By: The Center for People in Need
Program: TRADE Reentry Program

1. Number of Individuals Receiving Programming by Category in Second Quarter:

Number of Individuals Receiving Module Training:

Total Number of Individuals Receiving Programming: 36

Parolee: 4

Felony Probationer: 1

Inmate: 26

Other Individuals Released from State Supervision within the Previous 18 Months (not including parolees): 5

A number of program-eligible individuals receive assistance through our program, but do not complete or begin module training. There are several reasons for this. Many individuals obtain employment after they begin receiving our support services and thus drop out of module training. Others come to us already trained or employed but they need our support services to become stabilized. The following numbers show the totality of program-eligible individuals we served in the second quarter.

Number of Individuals Receiving TRADE Program Assistance including, but not limited to, Module Training:

Total Number of Individuals Receiving Programming: 82

Parolee: 19

Felony Probationer: 2

Inmate: 42

Other Individuals Released from State Supervision within the Previous 18 Months (not including parolees): 19

2. Number of Individuals Receiving Programming by Type in Second Quarter:

Individuals Receiving Forklift/Warehouse Training: 31

Individuals Receiving Construction Training: 2

Individuals Receiving Institutional Food/Event Planning Training: 11

Individuals Receiving Janitorial/Building Maintenance Training: 5

3. Cost Per Individual:

Current reimbursement costs from February to June total \$229,117. The total number of individuals served through quarters 1 and 2 are 95. Calculation under these numbers brings the total cost per individual to \$2,411.75. This number will be reduced in subsequent reports due to additional individuals being served under the program. The current calculation includes startup costs.

4. Number of Individuals Successfully Completing Programming in Second Quarter:

We had 27 individuals successfully complete programming in quarter 2, meaning they graduated from the training program.

5. Narrative Summary of Programming Delivered During this Quarter:

After a successful program launch in the first quarter, the second quarter started producing the kind of results we anticipated.

Participation has steadily increased as we have built awareness of our program. We have also had considerable success building relationships with local businesses. The region's strong labor market has created an environment ripe for employment opportunities for those transitioning out of incarceration, and there is a strong willingness from employers to hire people from our program. We conducted our first quarterly job fair, with 59 job seekers attending and several getting jobs on-the spot.

Ongoing evaluation from Drs. Richard Torraco and Dave Hamilton from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln is enabling us to make necessary tweaks in programming to ensure we are fulfilling our program goals. A copy of the first evaluation is attached to this report, highlighting the key findings and the measures we took to address deficiencies, including changes in our computer programming to enable us to best serve both those who come to us with strong computer skills and those who need basic instruction.

Participants also fill out surveys so we can get instant feedback on classes and the quality of instruction. Classes are receiving very high marks from participants. Classes are frequently referred to as "helpful" and "educational." One participant said the life skills and recovery curriculum has helped him in his relationships and he "would recommend it to all parolees." Another said he "learned a lot about better communications and better understanding of everyday life."

As outlined in the "challenges" section below, our clients face many barriers to successful reentry that are not within our control to change at this time, including housing

and transportation. Even with those barriers, we are seeing enormous program success, due in large part to the quality of our programming and the strong employment network we are building.

6. Other Data/Information Your Program is Collecting:

We track a wealth of information to measure program success. Key statistics from the second quarter include the following:

Number of individuals receiving General OSHA certificates: 49

Number of individuals receiving forklift certifications: 19

Number of individuals receiving food permits: 5

Number of individuals receiving employment: 17

Number of individuals receiving employment at program completion: 8

Number of individuals who received employment at some point during program: 9

Number of first quarter job fair attendees: 59

Number of employer contacts: 125

Number of bonus points issued: 20,240

7. Positives:

Program participation continues to increase. We currently have 171 pending applications, many of whom are current inmates. With that population, priority is given to those individuals with the earliest release dates. It is very encouraging to see the popularity of our program with current inmates. We have also seen a significant increase in the number of clients who are parolees, felony probationers and individuals released from state supervision in the last 18 months. We served a total of 40 individuals from those categories in the second quarter and expect those numbers to increase as we continue to build awareness about the program to people already released.

In addition to data measures, program staff provide monthly reports that highlight client successes. We are particularly happy with the success we are seeing on the employment front. Employment Developer Annette McRoy reports "Tim's Custom Trim hired one of our hard to place participants and has emailed me for more potential employees to fill their full-time construction labor needs. Very exciting that after one phone call, they are turning to TRADE to help with their needs."

Construction Instructor Doug Pillard reports “The graduation ceremony was a great launching platform for the students completing their module. (One of my graduates) was scheduled to be out on May 11 and was looking for a job on work release. He was hired on the spot by a roofing contractor at the job fair and was planning to begin work on May 12.”

Case Manager Julie Ernst reports that “Robert got a job at the job fair and is working hard as well. He tested out of his module and started working right away. To this day, he still has that job.”

Case Manager Grant Krieger reports that “I had one participants who has three pending job offers to choose from. He excelled in our program”

We continue to look for new ways to connect clients with the skills employers are looking for. We are working to obtain additional funds to provide specific training not provided under this grant. We had particular success reaching out to one major local employer, as reported by Annette McRoy: “We met with officials from Kawasaki manufacturing to review (a potential) welding program and they were very supportive of our plans and would like to partner with us if the new module moves forward in the future. They are in great need of welders and would be willing to train TRADE participants while they earn a wage.”

We also continue to have success dealing with other barriers to successful reentry, including connecting clients with healthy support systems. Family Advocate Rhoni Bruhn reports on her work with Ramon: “As I was engaging Ramon in the Family Action Planning process and learning a little of his story, he voiced that he was afraid that someday he would reoffend and be sent to prison. In spite of the reality that Ramon has less than a 6th grade education, began using hard drugs when he was 12, has a physical disability, and no marketable skills, when I asked him to think about what his biggest unmet need was for staying out of trouble once he is released, his reply was ‘I think I need a new set of friends.’ Ramon identified an individual from a ministry in Grand Island that previously offered him support, but said he didn’t know how to contact the individual. Rhoni proceeded to get him connected and said “The following week, Ramon arrived at CORE class beaming and carrying a letter from his friend and new support member.”

Program staff and facilitators are also a real strength of the program, as they work hard to motivate clients to change. “I believe that our clients are apprehensive about how they will be accepted in the community,” Recovery Facilitator Brian Hull said. “We point to their strengths and empower them to believe in their own abilities. Put the past behind them and more forward today.”

8. Challenges:

Our biggest program challenge has been keeping people committed to complete the entire program. As Christian Heritage instructor Jim Erwin reports “many of them have immediate need for a job and income and are not able to commit to being in the program. We are helping them get employed and supporting them.” While we urge everyone to complete the program, we know success is also measured by our ability to provide the support services that lead to immediate employment.

The largest challenge for our clients continues to be housing. On their monthly reports, case managers routinely indicate a lack of transitional housing assistance as the biggest barrier. Case managers continue to exhaust all options in working with available resources, but it is clear that more resources are needed in this area.

Another challenge we are seeing is lack of transportation resources due to limited bus hours. StarTran does not run past 6:00 in the evenings. This is a problem because many available shifts are in the evening hours, particularly for those starting new employment. We will continue to look for ways to address this problem.

Please see the attached document containing our external evaluation and how we have addressed other program challenges.



Bristol Station Intensive Vocational and Life Skills Program (IVLSP)

Services

The IVLSP is comprised of services that will be delivered to participants within the Residential Reentry Center setting and to participants located in their respective communities. The services include:

- Life Skills Programming
 - Transition Skills
 - Basic Money Management
 - Cognitive Behavior Therapy
 - Parenting
 - Family Reunification
- Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Vocational Assessments
 - Job Placement Services
 - Formal Education Plans
- Correctional Case Management
 - Individual Program Planning
 - Risk/Needs Assessment
 - Progress Meetings
 - Case Notes
 - Release Planning

Application Process

Potential participants will submit the application and program agreement to the Executive Director for review and approval/denial process via mail or through their supervision authority.

Participant Requirements

Participants must complete the IVLSP program agreement and/or abide by the IVLSP Participant Handbook. Participants must be at least 19 years old and clear a separation investigation. Participants must adhere to all regulations set forth by supervising authority.

Contact Information

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Western Alternative Corrections, Inc.

enhancing community and offender safety, opportunity and responsibility

Bristol Station Intensive Vocational/Life Skills Program

QUARTERLY REPORT: 4th Quarter 2015

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING PROGRAMMING

MONTH	PAROLEE	PROBATIONER	INMATE	DISCHARGED (PREVIOUS 18 MONTHS)
APRIL	20	0	1	1
MAY	26	0	1	1
JUNE	29	0	1	3
QUARTER TOTALS:	75	0	3	5

INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY PROGRAM TYPE: See Attached

COST PER INDIVIDUAL:

Total costs for this quarter were **\$171,863.48**. There were 83 participants served during the 91 day period. This calculates to **\$22.75** per participant/per day.

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING PROGRAM:

Non-Residential Vocational/Life Skills Program

The non-residential vocational/life skills program has had no one complete the program as will officially complete program 90 days after no longer needing support. We currently have five individuals enrolled in classes beginning in the fall. The education programs those participants are enrolled in are: HVAC, welding and CDL programs. The participants are enrolled in programs at the Central Community College-Hastings Campus, Mid-Plains Community College-McCook Campus and Mid-Plains Community College-North Platte Campus.

We have had numerous individuals receive vocational/life skills programming that focused on:

- Resume Development
- Interviewing Skills Training
- Supervisor/ Co-worker Communication Skills Training
- Job Seeking Skills Training
- Job Securing (Getting) Skills Training
- Job Keeping Skills Training

Residential Vocational/Life Skills Program

The residential vocational/life skills program had four successful discharges from the Bristol Station Re Entry Center. The four participants discharged from the Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center with

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many of the following: positive release plan, identification, employment, independent transportation, positive support system and a savings account.

OTHER DATA/ INFORMATION YOUR PROGRAM IS COLLECTING:

Quality of Life Inventory(QOLI)

Participants in both the residential and no-residential programs complete the QOLI upon admission and discharge. The survey is a quality of life inventory which asks the participants how they feel about the areas of life such as; family, friends, employment as well as self-esteem, problem solving, and health. The tracking of this data can assist with measuring their overall well-being and happiness with life at the beginning and the conclusion of receiving services. The scores are currently showing an increase in overall well-being and happiness during this period of time.

Ohio Risk Assessment System-Community Supervision Tool(ORAS-CST)

Participants in the Residential Reentry program complete the ORAS on admission and discharge. This is a validated risk/needs assessment that assesses the dynamic and static risk factors and the criminogenic needs of the individual. The results of the ORAS-CST assist the IVLSP Specialist in identifying interventions that may be appropriate for the resident. Those interventions may in turn reduce the individuals' criminal behavior and help them transition into their community as a productive citizen. The assessment scores have shown a lowering of the risk/needs level at the completion of program.

Employment Statistics

There were ten participants of the residential vocational/life skills program that obtained and maintained employment during this quarter. Those participants have been employed by the following employers:

- Applebee's
- Golden Triangle
- Kuhlhanek Construction
- Nebraska Prime Group
- RMV Construction
- Sonic

At the end of this quarter, the participants' average hourly wage was \$10.80.

SUCSESSES/ POSITIVES

The program has encountered positives situations and outcomes throughout the quarter. The employment rate of the residential participants at the end of this quarter was 100%, with one participant unable to be employed due to needing proper identification. The participants are obtaining employment in expedited fashion and are receiving competitive wages.

During this quarter we commenced the cognitive behavior therapy group, Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT). IVLSP Specialist Brenda Schmidt received facilitator training in June. The MRT group meets

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on Tuesday evenings. We have created a partnership with the parole office to co-facilitate the MRT group. Senior Parole Officer Craig Williamson is co-facilitating the MRT group at Bristol Station.

The Reentry Fairs at the Nebraska State Penitentiary and the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women were also successful. We were able to answer many questions from prospective participants and received many applications for services for the residential and non-residential vocational/life skills programs.

CHALLENGES

We have encountered challenges with serving the "Discharged" population in a residential setting. The accountability processes of the program are thwarting the focus on the opportunity for the participants. We have shifted focus to provide non-residential vocational/life skills programming for that population. We have also found that the commitment to the residential program prior to arrival waivers, which creates an issue with accepting potential participants to participate in the residential program.

Submitted By: _____



Date: 7.20.15