

FAITH-BASED INITIATIVE

FBI JOURNAL

Faith-Based Initiative

Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency



Volume 3 Issue 1

February 2009

CITYWIDE REENTRY ASSEMBLY

Come and help us CELEBRATE our Mentors and Mentees and the work of our Clusters.



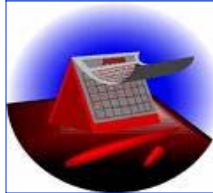
Mark Your Calendar

Revive the Spirit

Foundry UMC

1500 16th St. NW

February 21, 2009 8:30 a.m. (see page 3)



By Hallem Williams, Senior Program Analyst

Each year, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) and our faith community partners present a series of events to raise awareness related to reentry issues. Please join us for fellowship, conversation and celebration.

February 19, 2009

St. Luke Center

4923 East Capitol Street S.E.

6:30 p.m.

Learn more about Reentry Reflection 2009 events at:

www.csosa.gov

Re-Entry Reflections

Women's Forum

By Hallem Williams, Senior Program Analyst

Rev. Yvonne Cooper, of Allen Chapel AME Church, served as the keynote speaker on Saturday, February 7th, at CSOSA's Annual Women's Re-entry Program. *The First Steps Homeward: The Real Challenges of Women's Reentry*, was co hosted by Reynolds and Associates, Inc., and held at Fairview Residential Reentry Center and Purity Baptist Church. Participants were provided with a tour of Fairview, (home for approximately 50 women reentrants). A forum was also held at the church, where panelists addressed issues including housing, healthcare, employment and building healthy family relationships. The event concluded with a Dress for Success Fashion Show featuring the residents of Fairview wearing clothing donated by CSOSA staff and *Suited for Change*.



Re-Entry Reflections - continued on page 2

Revive the Spirit 2009

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Theme:

“New Hopes and New Opportunities”

Foundry United Methodist Church
1500 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Judge

By Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader

Alexander Williams, US District Courts—Maryland

This event is an annual conference designed for previously incarcerated persons under the supervision of CSOSA. This year we are honoring successful mentor/mentee relationships and celebrating our special emphasis programming. Workshops and motivational speakers will be presented.

Key Note Speaker



Mentor Recognition Program- By Sondra Hunt, Special Assistant

We will close the Revive the Spirit Conference with the excitement of honoring our mentors for the outstanding work that they perform. Lunch will be served and we will hear from our motivational speaker, The Honorable Judge Alexander Williams, on the theme “New Hopes and New Opportunities. We want you join us to **Celebrate You**, our faithful mentors.

If your faith institution would like to become a participating institution in the faith-based initiative, please contact one of our Cluster Coordinators. Their information is listed below. To find out more about the initiative, visit www.csosa.gov or contact me at 202-220-5346 or email soundra.hunt@csosa.gov.



Cluster Coordinators

CLUSTER A

By Ta’Kia Jackson, Office Automation Clerk

MINISTER KELLY WILKINS
COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH
KWILKINS@COVENANTBAPTISTDC.ORG
202-562-5576



Call us or e-mail we would love to hear from you. You are special to us! Happy Valentines Month



Cluster B

EVANGELIST HOWARD MOORE
GREATER MT. CALVARY HOLY CHURCH
MINHMOORE@VERIZON.NET
301-641-3763

Cluster C

REV. KAREN HARRISON
METROPOLITAN AME CHURCH DAPRP
KHARRISON@DAPRP.ORG
202-223-0581

Re-Entry Reflections...continued

Claiming Your Home Sweet Home



By Chris Keels & Hallem Williams

On January 31, 2009, there was excitement in the air as CSOSA and the faith-community sponsored its first Housing Conference entitled, "Claiming Your Own-Home Sweet Home" for offenders and the faith community. The conference featured two resource tracks. The first track focused on assisting re-entrants in learning about available housing and how to network the resources. The second track featured presentations for the faith-community on how to use available property to meet housing needs, how to design programming, where to apply for funds and best practices.

Paramount Baptist Church in SE Washington was the host site. This faith institution has committed to becoming a housing resource center for re-entrants who are a part of CSOSA's Faith-Based Initiative. We commend them for their commitment. We are looking for a site in NW Washington to make the same commitment. If you are interested, please contact Chris Keels at christine.keels@csosa.gov or call 202-345-4494 for more information.

Claiming Your Home Sweet Home cont.



CSOSA's Acting Deputy Director Cedric Hendricks presented Rev. Donald Isaac with an award in recognition of his efforts at the East of the River Clergy Police Community Partnership in addressing "America's Housing Crisis and It's Effect On Re-Entrants". Rev. Isaac is a pioneer in the field of re-entry and is committed to the concept of re-entry as he chairs the Faith Based Re-Entry Collaborative.

CSOSA and Daniel A. Payne Reclamation Program (DAPRP) Welcomes New Cluster C Coordinator

By Guy Charity, Metropolitan AME Church

Effective January 5, 2009, Rev. Karen D. Harrison became the Coordinator for Cluster C. Cluster C encompasses Wards 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Rev. Karen D. Harrison is a graduate of the Virginia Union University's Master of Divinity Program. Before coming on board with DAPRP, Rev. Harrison volunteered her services with the FBI Initiative in Cluster A as a mentor and program coordinator for Pilgrim AME for approximately two years. So, she is familiar with the goals and the vision of the CSOSA's FBI effort.

She has been very instrumental in assisting offenders meet the goals set forth by CSOSA and their own personal goals to make a positive change in their lives. The coordinator has witnessed the exciting and rewarding experiences of seeing offenders successfully complete their judiciary obligations.

Her prayer is to bring new energy, creativity and commitment to the successful return of offenders and our community by eliminating the "ills of recidivism".

She believes "whenever one can sow a seed of joy, and give them the positive feed back through the nurturing of conversation then the conversation is a blessing".



Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal

1518 M Street NW

Washington, D.C. 20005

Home of Cluster C's Office

For additional information please log on to www.csosa.gov

Family Reunification Program

-By Chris Keels, Mentoring Services Liaison Coordinator (MSLC)

On February 26, 2008, CSOSA launched its Family Reunification Program at 910 Rhode Island Avenue NE.

The purpose of the Family Reunification Program is to provide an opportunity for offender's whose children have been placed in foster care or with a guardian to begin the process of reunifying with their children. The program is offered to assist offenders in beginning the reunification of the birth parent with the child through a process of understanding the court's orders, the foster care system, the importance of family preservation, legal rights and parenting skills. Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, Children's Choice Foster Care and Adoption Services, The Office of the Public Defender, Community Relations Office/Brookland Manor, D. C. Child Support Services and McKendree-Simms-Brookland United Methodist Church provide direct services to the offender/parent through adult basic education classes, parenting classes, foster care birth/parent services, housing assistance and life coaching (mentoring).

This program is a restorative justice concept in that it seeks to return healthy families to the District's community, thereby strengthening the fabric of its citizenry. On October 30th, the program graduated four offenders and began a new class on January 7, 2009, with seventeen participants.



Hot Fun In The Summertime — City-Wide Picnic

On August 23, 2008, the Faith-Based Initiative hosted a summer gathering of the mentors, mentees, CSOSA staff and other members of the community. A picnic under the hot sun of August provided the right landscape for families, friends, and the community to network, enjoy summertime foods and hear the wonderful music of the God's Chosen Disciples led by Evangelist Howard Moore, Cluster Coordinator, Cluster B.

• All at Guilfield Baptist Church had fun as we said good bye to summer, sent kids off to school and prepared for the last quarter of the Faith Based Initiative.

• If you would like to help plan an event for the summer of 2009, contact Hallem Williams, Senior Program Analyst at 202-220-5306



-By Gail Francois-Lewis, Special Assistant Re-entry & Sanctions Center



Senate Appropriations Bill, 2009

By Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader

Recognition of CSOSA's work and that of its partners, was included in the U.S. Senate Report 110-417. On July 14, 2008, CSOSA received an esteem honor from the Senate Appropriation Committee. The Faith-Based Initiative and other re-entry projects were declared, "A model program for the Nation". After a Senate review of CSOSA's

committee, it wrote the following statement, "The Committee is supportive of CSOSA's efforts to successfully return ex-offenders to their communities. For a number of years, CSOSA has worked with grassroots, non-profit providers of transitional housing, including faith-based organizations, that offer counseling, mentoring, and life skills training to men and women returning home

from prison. The work of CSOSA staff, the faith based community and the re-entrants, highlights what can happen when all parties are invested in the same cause of helping members of our communities successfully re-enter.

F.B.I. Adult & Family Literacy Consortium

-By LaTrea Earley, Learning Lab Specialist, Vocational, Opportunities, Training, Education & Employment

On January 8, 2009, the Faith-based Initiative (FBI) began its 2009 SE Parenting Class series at our Southeast Field Site in Washington, DC. The SE Parenting Class is a cooperative effort between the Faith-Based Initiative, Vocational Opportunities, Training, Employment and Education (VOTEE) Program and Victim Services Program. Wrap around services to include mentors, adult basic education, parenting skills, victim services and treatment highlights, provides for a holistic approach in addressing dysfunctional family structures. The class meets weekly on Thursday nights and is facilitated by Bonnie Andrews, CSOSA Victim Service Program Manager and Sheleta Martin, CSOSA's Treatment Program Analyst. The Parenting Class covers parenting skills, reunification techniques, domestic violence, stay-away orders, foster care, adoption, resources and spiritualism in the family.



Our last graduation, of five participants occurred on November 5, 2008 at CSOSA's 3850 South Capitol Street SE, field site. Since 2006, the program has graduated 60 offenders. The class spokesperson on November 5th, indicated their appreciation of the time and effort each volunteer and staff gave to the program. It was an excellent display of support to have Community Supervision Officer's and family members of the graduates participate in the celebration.

The next SE Parenting Class is scheduled to start on Thursday, April 9, 2009. Community Supervision Officers (CSO) can send referrals to LaTrea.Earley@csosa.gov indicating SE Parenting Class through the agency's case management system entitled, Supervision Management Automated Record Tracking (SMART) System. Mentors interested in referring mentees should contact their Cluster Coordinator. If the CSO would like for the offender to also have a mentor, please also send a referral to FBI through SMART and Christine Keels, the Mentoring Services Liaison Coordinator will respond.

CSOSA's Offenders Exercise their Right to VOTE

By Chris Keels, MSLC

In the Fall, Mayor Fenty Office issued a public statement advising the citizens of the District of Columbia that returning citizens maintain their right to vote. The status of a felony charge does not prohibit re-entrants in participating in the political process. From September 25th through October 4th, each Cluster sponsored a Voter's Registration Drive to assist offenders in exercising their right to VOTE.

Along with encouraging offenders to register to vote and to exercise their right to VOTE. Cluster faith leaders also assisted offenders in applying to serve as election pollsters.

All voter registrations and applications were delivered by hand to the designated reception site by the October 4th deadline.

Faith leaders encouraged everyone to get out the VOTE. I received a voice message from a mentee (enrolled in the Family Reunification Program) on November 5, 2008, that indicated "I am so proud that I voted and that my vote counted. Thank you for encouraging me to be a responsible father. I now see hope for my child."

This only proves that a little bit of effort allows for enormous rewards.



Ordering Our Steps—Is Making a Difference

By Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader

A new program that began on June 19, 2008 at CSOSA's NW field office focuses on Relapse Prevention for Women. The group-counseling program met for eighteen weeks on a bi-weekly schedule. The Cluster C program was co-sponsored by The Church of Christ (13th Street NW). Topics such as:

- Problems, Struggles and Disappointments
- Healing from Victimization
- Toxic Relationships
- How Do I Explain My Addiction to my children

were addressed by presenters followed by individual reflections and self-renewal. The program began with ten referrals. Each participant was assigned a mentor that attended sessions with the mentee and engaged fully in the growth process. After two months, 90% of the participants were maintaining sobriety. Movies, games and other activities helped the group to bond and began to facilitate change in their lives.

The group celebrated their accomplishment on October 30, 2008 in a graduation program that featured, Michell Yorkman, Director of Client Education from Suited for Change as the keynote speaker. She provided the graduates with an inspiring and a challenging message based on moving forward. The gala of a celebration was attended by mentors, family members of the mentees, Community Supervision Officers and other members of the community and CSOSA's staff. The grand finale was a fashion show, where the women displayed beautiful fashions, but more importantly they flashed their newfound self-esteem.

Brother Gaylord Freeman, spiritual leader from The Church all of Christ (13th Street) reminded the participants that just when we think that we have received all of our blessing our creator pours just a little bit more into our lives. The women demonstrated such a pouring for faith and blessing in their

declaration to continue in the program by helping to facilitate the group sessions for the next class. At the end of this class all of the graduating offenders/mentees (five) had been drug free for 60-days or more.

The next Order My Steps, Women's Relapse Prevention Group began on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 25 K Street NE at 6:15 p.m. Community Supervision Officers can send referrals to the faith-based initiative through the agency's case management system entitled, Supervision Management Automated Record Tracking (SMART) System. Mentors interested in referring mentee should contact their Cluster Coordinator.

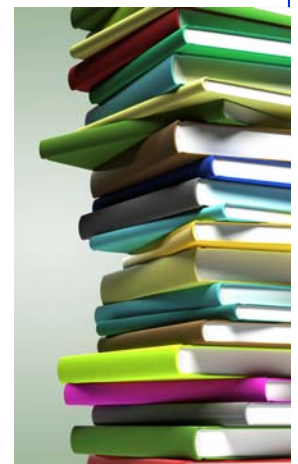


Center for Faith Based Community

Halle Williams, *Senior Program Analyst*

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives has announced the availability of a guidebook that includes emerging practices of leading intermediaries. The Guidebook was created to share practices of leading intermediaries that have led to breakthroughs in performance as they support the work of grassroots faith-based and community organizations.

Included in this document is information from the HHS's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). It offers a tool kit for Community and Faith Based Service providers to sustain their efforts. This includes planning templates, worksheets and best practices for strategic planning and best practices. The kit is free and is available on-line at <http://ncadistore.samhsa.gov/catalog/product.Details.aspx?ProductID=17868>





Mentor Training Schedule

By *Elmira Gwynn, Training Specialist-FBI*

February 2009

<i>Saturday, February 28th</i>	<i>Mentor Orientation Training and</i>
<i>8:30am –4:00pm</i>	<i>Communication Training</i>
	<i>Covenant Baptist Church</i>
	<i>3845 South Capital Street, S.W.</i>

March 2009

<i>Saturday, March 21st</i>	<i>Mentor Orientation Training and</i>
<i>8:30am –4:00pm</i>	<i>Communication Training</i>
	<i>Re-Entry & Sanctions Center</i>
	<i>1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C. Jail)</i>

April 2009

<i>Saturday, April 18th</i>	<i>Mentor Orientation Training and</i>
<i>8:30am –4:00pm</i>	<i>Communication Training</i>
	<i>Re-Entry & Sanctions Center</i>
	<i>1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C. Jail)</i>

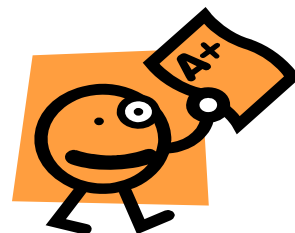


May 2009

<i>Saturday, May 16th</i>	<i>Mentor Orientation Training and</i>
<i>8:30am – 4:00pm</i>	<i>Communication Training</i>
	<i>Re-Entry & Sanctions Center</i>
	<i>1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C. Jail)</i>

June 2009

<i>Saturday, June 6th</i>	<i>Mentor Re-Entry Orientation Training and</i>
<i>8:30am – 4:00pm</i>	<i>Communication Training</i>
	<i>Re-Entry & Sanctions Center</i>
	<i>1900 Mass. Ave. SE (next to the D. C. Jail)</i>



Mentor Matching Report

By *Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader*

The Faith-Based Initiative through the diligent support of the Clusters has faithfully assisted offenders in being matched with mentors. As of December 31, 2008, the following report was filed for the record:

Cluster A – 64

Cluster B—59

Cluster C – 40

TOTAL—163 matches



Congratulations to the Clusters



An Employment Readiness Conference for Offenders

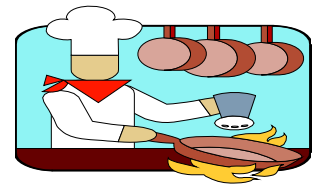
-Chris Keels, FBI Team Leader

On September 19, 2008, the Faith-Based Initiative and the Vocational Opportunities, Training, Education and Employment Unit of CSOSA, sponsored its second Employment Readiness Conference for Offenders. The first conference occurred on June 12, 2008, for which one hundred offenders attended. The program consisted of motivational speakers, employers, vocational training programs, resume writing and life skills workshops. This event occurred in Cluster C at Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church. As of August 2008, 35% of the offenders had acquired employment.

The second Employment Readiness Conference on September 19, 2008, occurred at Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church in Cluster B with a similar format. One hundred and sixteen offenders were referred by Community Supervision Officers (CSO) and mentors. One hundred and seven offenders attended of which sixty-four were walk-ins. Both events received outstanding comments on the evaluation forms.

Below are a few of the comments of what the offenders learned at the event:

- ◆ Don't give up
- ◆ The importance of a dress code
- ◆ Dress for success
- ◆ How to act on an interview
- ◆ How to get involved in the interview and have fun
- ◆ You must be motivated and put in effort
- ◆ A little more about interviewing. Got more information on jobs.
- ◆ How to talk properly when being interviewed, first impressions are important
- ◆ Don't give up too much information during an interview
- ◆ That there is hope for ex-offenders
- ◆ Time Management
- ◆ That all of the programs are here to help you



The next First Quarter Dedicated Employment and Training Event is scheduled for:

March 13, 2009 at Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency

John A. Carver Training and Career Development Center (6th floor)

633 Indiana Avenue N.W.

Washington, D.C.

For more information, contact Eric Shuler, Supervisory Vocational Development Specialist at 202-442-5302



CSOSA/Faith Community Partnership

Faith-Based Initiative Team
 CSOSA
 Community Justice Programs
 633 Indiana Avenue, NW
 13th floor
 Washington, D.C. 20004

Jasper Ormond, Associate Director
 Phone: 202-220-5346
 Fax: 202-220-5316



**Adrienne Poteat, Acting Director,
 CSOSA**

**Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency
 for the District of Columbia (CSOSA)**

By Hallem Williams, Senior Program Analyst

This agency, referred to as CSOSA, is an independent, executive branch federal agency that was established in 1997 by the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act. CSOSA assumed responsibility over adult probation, parole and other provisional releases of adult offenders returning home to the District of Columbia. CSOSA provides administrative oversight to the Pre-trial Services Agency for the District of Columbia. Our mission is to improve public safety.

We seek to reduce recidivism and support the fair administration of justice in the District of Columbia. We work closely with other agencies of the DC criminal justice system and in close collaboration with the community.

For more information, please visit our web site at www.csosa.gov



**MENTOR MATCHING IS A WARM &
 LASTING SPIRIT**

From January 1—December 31, 2008, the F.B.I. matched 163 mentees with mentors. This warm and meaningful gift is a lasting gift. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact:

Chris Keels, MSLC

202-345-4494

christine.keels@csosa.gov

or

Hallem Williams

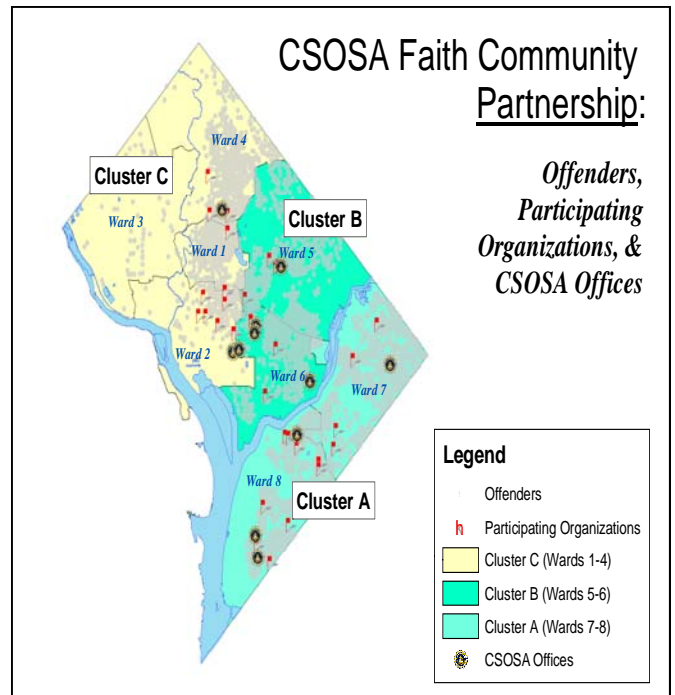
Senior Program Analyst

202-220-5306

hal.williams@csosa.gov

or

The Cluster Coordinators (see pg 2)



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