

Expanding Mentoring in Maine: Support for Re-Entry from Corrections



November 30, 2012

Saint Joseph's
College of Maine

Standish, Maine

Sponsored by Mentor ME (Co-Occurring Collaborative Serving Maine, the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, My Sister's Keeper, Goodwill Industries of Northern New England, and Saint Joseph's College of Maine) through funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Second Chance Grant

Expanding Mentoring in Maine: Support for Re-Entry from Corrections

A One-Day Event

November 30, 2012
8:30 am – 4:00 pm

The imprisonment boom and the focus on incapacitation as a goal of punishment over the past thirty years has led us to re-consider how we respond to the fact that 95% of those in jail and prison will get out at some point. Since the turn of the 20th century the criminal justice system, our federal and state governments along with local communities, have attempted to develop approaches to the re-entry process. The Second Chance Act signed into law in 2008 is one mechanism by which the federal government has attempted to ensure a safe and successful return of people who were formerly incarcerated through re-entry initiatives focused on employment, housing, substance abuse, as well as children and family services. One important and often under-studied initiative in all of this is the various mentoring programs that are used in conjunction with other re-entry programs.

This conference will explore models of mentoring practiced here in Maine and around New England and will highlight the work of the Mentor ME project, a collaborative project among the Co-Occurring Collaborative Serving Maine, the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, My Sister's Keeper, Goodwill Industries of Northern New England, and Saint Joseph's College of Maine which is a BJA funded Second Chance Grant.

The keynote will explore the dynamics, inner-workings and outcomes of the mentoring component of Mentor ME which was designed by women for women who are in the process of returning to society after being incarcerated. This exploratory process was done in large part by carefully listening to and hearing from those intimately involved with the struggles and successes of re-entry...the mentors and mentees.

The intent of the day is to expand mentoring for the citizens of Maine by beginning a discussion about what we are doing and how it can be expanded. Human services providers, correctional personnel, faith community, peer advocates, mentors, mentees and other stakeholders are encouraged and welcomed.

Definition:

“Mentoring is defined as a relationship over a prolonged period of time between two or more people where caring volunteer mentors assist those re-entering from the correctional system in successfully and permanently re-entering their communities by providing consistent support as needed, guidance, and encouragement that impacts the participants in developing positive social relationships and achieving such outcomes as job retention, family reunification, reduced recidivism, etc.”

[Adapted from: Coffey Consulting, 2009]

Objectives

- ▶ Examine the lessons learned from Mentor ME, Second Chance, BJA funded female mentoring program in Cumberland County, Maine
- ▶ Explore a variety of correctional mentoring programs
- ▶ Engage in a dialogue to expand mentoring in Maine

Target Audience

Human Service Providers,
Faith Based Community,
Adult Corrections,
Interested Stakeholders

“Going to jail probably saved my life, but joining the mentoring program definitely changed my life.”

~Amy*, mentee (name changed)

8:30 – 8:45

WELCOME

Jim Dlugos, President, Saint Joseph's College of Maine
Kevin Joyce, Cumberland County Sheriff

8:45 – 9:30

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Dale Brooker, PhD

Chair of the Dept. of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Saint Joseph's College
Overview of Mentor ME

9:30 – 10:00

First Person Experiences: Mentors and Mentees

10:00 – 10:15

BREAK

10:15 – 11:30

Panel: Mentoring Programs

Moderator: Richard C. Lumb, PhD

- Co-Occurring Disorders Veteran's Court Mentoring
- Mercy Connections, VT
- Good Bridges, NH
- Maine Coastal Regional Re-Entry Center and Restorative Justice Project
- Mentor ME
- Kennebec CARA Re-Entry Mentoring

11:30 – 12:30

LUNCH

12:30 – 1:30

BREAKOUT SESSION A

A1: *Mercy Connections, VT & Mentor ME, ME*

Top ten ways to recruit, match and support mentors for your program! Busy women make the best mentors and seasoned mentors make the best recruiters.

A2: *Good Bridges, NH*

Mentors working with individuals one-on-one on career awareness and work readiness skills, starting in the prison.

A3: *Maine Coastal Regional Re-Entry Center and Restorative Justice Project*

Incorporating restorative practices in mentoring to make the victims, offenders and communities whole

A4: *Co-Occurring Disorders Veteran's Court Mentoring & Kennebec's Criminogenic Addiction & Recovery Academy (CARA)*

Peer Mentoring Models: Veteran mentors who understand combat experience act as peer mentors in the court and peers working with peers in the CARA program.

1:30 – 1:45 **BREAK/TRANSITION**

1:45 – 2:45 **BREAKOUT SESSION B** (Sessions A repeated)

B1: *Mercy Connections, VT & Mentor ME, ME*

B2: *Good Bridges, NH*

B3: *Maine Coastal Regional Re-Entry Center and Restorative Justice Project*

B4: *Co-Occurring Disorders Veteran's Court Mentoring & Kennebec's Criminogenic Addiction & Recovery Academy (CARA)*

2:45 – 3:00 **BREAK/TRANSITION**

3:00 – 4:00 *Round Table Discussion: How to Extend, Connect and Advance Best Practices for Mentoring in Maine*

4:00 **ADJOURN**

Speakers



Dale Brooker, PhD

Professor Dale Brooker, Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Saint Joseph's College of Maine, addresses the prisoner re-entry process and correctional education through current research and publications. As the evaluator for the Mentor ME, a BJA Second Chance Mentoring Grant program, he explored the relationship between the mentees and mentors. His other interests include the history of prisons, capital punishment, white-collar crime, criminological theory and gender issues in criminal justice. Throughout his career, he has won awards for teaching excellence, outstanding leadership and writing excellence. Professor Brooker earned his Ph.D. from Sam Houston State University in 2005.

Kelly Paquette

Kelly Paquette is a Program Manager for the Good Bridges, NH program of Goodwill Industries of Northern New England, a non-profit organization whose mission is to eliminate barriers to opportunity and help people in need reach their fullest potential through the power of work. In her role as Program Manager, Kelly works with youth and adults in mentoring, employment and AmeriCorps programs in and around Central NH and has extensive experience implementing and managing mentoring programs for at risk youth and women leaving the NH prison system. Prior to joining Goodwill, Kelly worked for the Women's Fund of NH, the Women's Policy Institute and Leadership New Hampshire. A native of NH, Kelly lives in Concord with her husband and two children. Kelly is a member of the NH Afterschool Network and a former CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer.



Pam Greene

Pam Greene is Mercy Connection's Justice and Mentoring Coordinator and a founder of Mercy Connections in 2001. She is an experienced public and private sector manager with a special emphasis on advocacy and education for women, political activism, social justice and systemic change. Pam has worked with the Sisters of Mercy in Vermont since 1997, at Trinity College of Vermont and as a Mercy Associate. Formerly she served as Executive Director of the Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity (1984-1990), appointed by Governor Madeleine M. Kunin.

Arlene Jacques

Lt. Arlene Jacques, MsEd, currently works as the Education Team Coordinator for the Cumberland County Jail. She has also worked as the director of CCJ's community Corrections Center. She serves as a member of the Advisory Board for My Sister's Keeper, and believes that partnerships between service providers and the jail is integral to providing support for the individuals re-entering society.



Richard C. Lumb, PhD

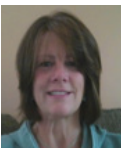
Dr. Richard Lumb was born in Maine and spent 24 years in direct police service with the Maine State Police and later as Chief of Police in two communities prior to transitioning to academic studies and teaching. He has held numerous positions which include the Director of the Institute for Leadership Development at SUNY Brockport. At the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he was assigned as the Director of the Research, Planning, and Analysis Bureau at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department for five years they developed an internationally recognized crime and problem-solving GIS analysis program. Lumb maintains active work with agencies and communities to assist them resolve problems, enhance effectiveness and efficiency, and engage in research and publication. He recently joined faculty at the University of Maine in Augusta, Justice Studies Program.

Terry J. Wheeler

Terry J. Wheeler is currently the CODVC Veterans Case Manager/ Mentor Program Coordinator where he supervises court Veterans and assists with the coordination and implementation of re-entry and recovery services as well as recruits, screens and oversees Veteran court peer mentors. His military service was as a U.S. Air Force Combat Intelligence Specialist from 1992 to 1995 during which time he received numerous medals which include Air Force Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal and Air Force Good Conduct Medal. In addition to his court activities, Wheeler is a patrol officer and a past correctional officer.

Jerome Weiner

Jerome Weiner is the past-president of Partners for Community, a management services organization serving six nonprofits. He has 38 years of experience in the field of human services and has served as a consultant to diverse organizations in management training and program development. Jerome has taught courses on both the graduate and undergraduate level in personnel management, organizational behavior, organizational development, management of nonprofits, and staff development. Since moving to Maine six years ago Jerome has consulted with the Maine Association of Nonprofits and Common Good Ventures in the Maine Nonprofit Sector Effectiveness Initiative and other projects. Jerome works for Volunteers of America Northern New England as the Program Manager of the Maine Coastal Regional Re-Entry Center.



Kelly Dell'Aquila

Kelly Dell'Aquila is the Director of Services for My Sister's Keeper. Kelly holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of Southern Maine. Kelly is also certified in Volunteer Management and has been involved with My Sister's Keeper since 2002. She is a member of the Co-Occurring Collaborative Serving Maine and is active with women of the Cumberland County Jail. Kelly is a trained Spiritual Director and also serves as a mentor with My Sister's Keeper.

Mentoring Programs

Mentoring Program that will be highlighted include:

Mentor ME

Mentor ME is collaborative project among the **Cumberland County Sheriff's Office , My Sister's Keeper, Co-Occurring Collaborative Serving Maine, Goodwill Industries of Northern New England,** and **Saint Joseph's College of Maine** to expand and enhance My Sister Keeper's female mentoring ministry and to offer vocational services through Goodwill Industries of Northern New England to women offenders at the Cumberland County Jail in Portland, Maine. The two-year grant goals are to reduce recidivism rates among female offenders and to increase public safety. Through the development of healthy relationships with the female offenders, mentors and the employment skills can provide hope and support to stop these women from recycling and ending up back in jail.

Good Bridges

Good Bridges is a Goodwill of Northern New England program based in New Hampshire that helps women with a criminal background find work and successfully transition back to the community from prison. The mentoring program matches women with volunteer mentors who work with individuals one-on-one on career awareness and work readiness skills. The program is looking for volunteer mentors. Mentoring matches are made while women are nearing the end of their sentence to assist with transitioning to the community.ice Kelly Paquette, is the program manager of Good Bridges.

Mercy Connections

Mercy Connections and Vermont Works for Women have partnered to create a mentoring program which supports women making the transition from Vermont's correctional facilities to Chittenden County. As an educational non-profit organization that builds community through the development of relationships, Mercy Connections empower people to achieve self-sufficiency, equality, leadership skills and fullness of life with a special emphasis on the Sisters of Mercy enduring concern for women. Through our Education and Transition Center in Burlington's low income neighborhood, it also offers classes and support to refugees and longtime residents in a supportive environment. Our mission is: *Self Sufficiency through Education, Mentoring and Community Building*. Pam Greene is the Program Coordinator.

Co-Occurring Disorders Veteran's Court

Many veterans return from military service and find themselves facing unique and personal challenges, including mental health problems and substance abuse that they would not have faced but for their military service which may be amplified by re-entry into home life. An essential component of the Co-Occurring Disorders Veteran's Court is the mentor program. Veteran mentors who understand combat experience and the different aspects of military service act as peer supports to veteran participants. Mentors participate in a supportive relationship with participants to increase the likelihood that they will remain in treatment, attain and manage sobriety, maintain law-abiding behavior and successfully re-adjust to civilian life.

Criminogenic Addiction & Recovery Academy (CARA)

Sheriff Randall A. Liberty and the jail administration at Kennebec County Correctional Facility (KCCF), in coordination with the Maine Board of Corrections, transformed the KCCF in 2010 into a facility that specializes in intensively addressing substance abuse and criminal thinking through a five-week Criminogenic Addiction & Recovery Academy (CARA) program run and created by Crisis and Counseling Centers. The program is intended to be a statewide resource and encourages referrals from other correctional facilities. CARA participants are provided re-entry support during incarceration and after release. Services provided can include case management; housing case management; restorative justice/community service support and mentoring; job search support and other services. The mentoring program of CARA provides peer mentors who offer support during the transition and in the community.

Maine Coastal Regional Re-Entry Center and Restorative Justice Project

The Maine Coastal Regional Re-Entry Center (MCRRC) located in Belfast, Maine is a residential program which serves adult males who are nearing the completion of their period of incarceration and who are being released from State and County facilities. Program partners include the Maine Department of Corrections, Maine Board of Corrections, Waldo County Sheriff's Office, Volunteers of American Northern New England and the Restorative Justice Project. The Restorative Justice Project offers Group and Individual Mentoring while incarcerated at the facility, as well as Community Resolution Conferencing and/or Healing Circles to help facilitate the inmates' healthy and productive return to their families and communities. A critical goal is to help inmates accept responsibility for their actions and to break the patterns that led them into the circumstances of their crime. Serving as mentors, volunteers assist participants with such issues as housing, employment, healthcare and family relationships.

My Sister's Keeper

My Sister's Keeper (MSK) is a network of volunteers from Portland area churches and synagogues and others who have been assisting women released from the Cumberland County Jail to re-enter the community since 1999. The MSK model uses a lay mentoring relationship with material and other resource assistance from area churches, synagogues and other faith-based organizations. The goal of MSK is to reduce the recidivism rate by providing spiritual, humanitarian and material support to women newly released from jail. MSK has developed collaborative relationships with 19 churches and synagogues that regularly donate furniture, clothing, personal care items and limited financial assistance to women newly released from jail. In return, MSK has provided the faith-based community with a window to an underserved and disadvantaged population that falls squarely within their missions to support.

MSK grew out of a prison ministry developed by Myrna Cook of the Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church (CEUMC). Mrs. Cook's experience, with encouragement from jail officials, revealed that the toughest time for jail inmates was the time when they would be released from jail, and were homeless, jobless and without family and friends. MSK has stepped into that breach to offer friendship and material support.

Contact Hours

Certificates will be emailed upon completion of a post-event online evaluation. No partial credit will be given for this activity.

- 5.5 contact hours pending approval of the Maine Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors
- 5.5 Category I contact hours for Psychologists are provided. CCSME is a pre-approved sponsor and provider of Professional Education Activities for Psychologists
- Certificate of attendance for 5.5 contact hours for social workers, licensed clinical professional counselors, and other professionals

**REGISTER
ONLINE!**



You can register online at:
<http://mentoringme.eventbrite.com>

Unable to register online? Complete and mail or fax this form to CCSME.

REGISTRATION

Expanding Mentoring in Maine: Support for Re-Entry from Corrections

- DATE** November 30, 2012
TIME 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM • Registration begins at 8:00 AM
PLACE Saint Joseph's College of Maine, Alfond Hall, Standish, Maine
COST No charge. Refreshments and lunch will be available for purchase at the Saint Joseph's College cafeteria.

Name and Credentials

Organization

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Fax

Email

**Choose your breakout sessions.
Circle your first and second choices.**

Sessions A • 12:30 – 1:30 PM

1st choice: A1 A2 A3 A4

2nd choice: A1 A2 A3 A4

Sessions B • 1:45 – 2:45 PM

1st choice: B1 B2 B3 B4

2nd choice: B1 B2 B3 B4



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