

REENTRY NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

To enhance public safety by bringing together the private & public resources of Douglas County to help ex-offenders successfully re-enter their neighborhoods as accountable, self-sufficient & law-abiding citizens

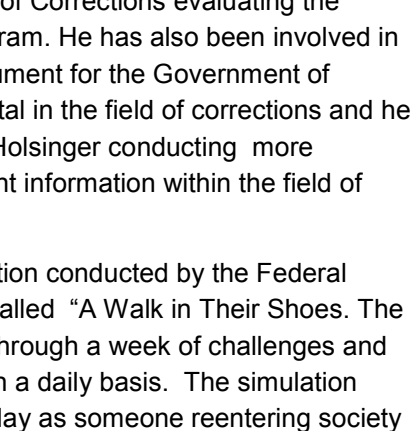


June/July 2015

Program Spotlight from Programs Director, Sherry Gill

On Thursday, June 18th the Douglas County Sheriff's Office hosted a Reentry Training at the Douglas County Fairgrounds. During the morning session, Sheriff Ken McGovern welcomed participants and introduced Dr. Alex Holsinger. Dr. Holsinger is a professor at the University of Missouri Kansas City and heads the graduate school of criminal justice. He received his doctorate in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati in 2012 he was awarded the American Probation and Parole Association's "University of Cincinnati" award for his significant contributions to the academic field of corrections. Dr. Holsinger conducted a presentation on "Risk/Needs Responsivity Model of Case Management".

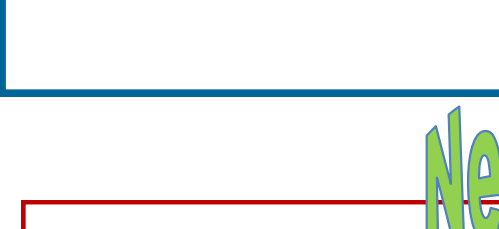
Dr. Holsinger specializes in community corrections and offender assessments while teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He created "Criminal Justice in the Popular Media," a course that utilizes students' exposure to the criminal justice system through TV and movies as an opportunity to develop analytical and critical writing skills.



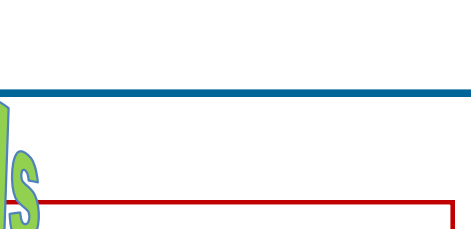
He is as a consultant for the National Institute of Corrections and works with the Kansas Department of Corrections evaluating the implementation of the "Thinking For a Change" program. He has also been involved in the development of a pre-trial risk assessment instrument for the Government of Johnson County. Dr. Holsinger has been instrumental in the field of corrections and he is a very dynamic speaker. We look forward to Dr. Holsinger conducting more presentations in the future to shed light on the current information within the field of corrections.

The afternoon session consisted of a reentry simulation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Prisons Kori Thiessen and Eric Jackson called "A Walk in Their Shoes." The simulation was designed to see what it is like to go through a week of challenges and social exclusion that reentry clients are faced with on a daily basis. The simulation provided an opportunity for the participants to role-play as someone reentering society after being in jail/prison. Participants were provided an "identity" packet as someone who has been released back into the community. Next they were instructed to go through various stations that represent community resources (food, clothing, shelter, employment, identification documents, Social Security office, Department of Children and Families, the judicial system, probation and other agencies trying to get their "new life" in order.

What the participants in the simulation found was that it was not an easy task getting their "new life" in order. For individuals returning from incarceration obtaining a simple identification card can seem daunting especially if they do not have the funds to obtain a birth certificate and have no residential address, no child care and no transportation.



In the photos above, the people on the right are obtaining necessary documentation but the long line of people in the left picture are back in jail.



At the end of the simulation the majority of people were back in jail unable to navigate through the system to obtain what they needed for a "new life". The participants enjoyed the simulation but quickly came to see the many obstacles people face when they are released from custody.

Needs

Magazines: Fishing & Hunting, Cars & Trucks, Racing, trains, dogs, war history, construction, restaurants, cooking, Ebony, fashion, People, Rolling Stones, Sports Illustrated and car and motorcycle., and Men's Health

Paperback Books: Game of Thrones series, Janet Evanovich series, mystery books, Harry Potter Series, African American fiction and non fiction, Native American fiction and non fiction. Large print paperback and easy reading books

SUCCESS STORIES

Nadine had been incarcerated and placed on probation in the past and was ready for a "new life" rather than the cycle of incarceration.

She participated in the Reentry Program within the facility and attended the Substance Abuse Program (SAP) in the community. Nadine was the first graduate of (SAP). She was able to obtain a birth certificate and social security card to get an ID. She finished the cognitive journaling classes and learned about job readiness. She gained full time employment and has been promoted several times due to taking on more responsibility.

What Nadine discovered about herself while working the programs was that she did not like to feel emotional pain. She had covered her feelings with alcohol for so long, she did not know her inner self. With the help of a Reentry Case Manager and the cognitive programs she was able to see and understand her past behaviors.

She learned that she could be a compassionate and feeling person and she started liking herself. She developed skills to manage her emotions rather than numb them with alcohol. She became reacquainted with her family and more accepting of their differences. She became responsible for her life and her choices rather than expecting others to take care of her.

She said, "It is a new world for me being able to manage my thoughts and feelings without alcohol and it has opened a lot of doors for me".

It has been energizing for the Reentry staff to watch Nadine's growth as a person.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



One of the exciting things about working in Douglas County is the tremendous reputation the Sheriff's Office and community has developed locally and nationally in the field of Reentry. I need to acknowledge the staff that have put in the hard work to earn this reputation; Shannon Murphy, Mike Caron, Dr. Margaret Severson, Undersheriff Kenny Massey and of course Sheriff Ken McGovern.

This newsletter travels to our partners in Washington State to Baltimore, Maryland; New York City to Flagstaff, Arizona. We cannot change lives without the tremendous support we receive here in Douglas County and I'd like to share with you two successful programs who have partnered with us to give you a little pat on the back for your commitment.

Reno County, Kansas recently opened their new corrections facility and hired a programs director. Over a year ago a contingent from Reno County, including Sheriff Henderson visited Douglas County, and I distinctly remember how passionately Sheriff McGovern urged him to consider not only changing the physical layout of the facility, but also the philosophy of operation. Click on the link to access the article: [Reno County](#)

Clark County, Washington had skyrocketing jail costs due to overcrowding and lawsuits from inmate deaths due to in custody suicides in 2012. Lt. Tangen visited Douglas County Correctional Facility in 2013 and began to model their reentry and mental health services after the DCCF and Bert Nash Mental Health. The impact was immediate, click here to access their latest newsletter: [Clark County](#)

There is always a long list of things we want to improve on here in Reentry, but it's good to look around and remember how much we have accomplished together.



The **Transition from Jail to Community Initiative**



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