Cook County Smart Justice
Barriers to Employment for Justice-involved Individuals

Cook County Administration Building
President’s Conference Room, Floor 35

Agenda

Thursday, June 6, 2013

6:00pm – 7:30pm
Welcome Reception

Location: Gold Coast Room
Renaissance Chicago Downtown Hotel
1 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601-1631

Friday, June 7, 2013

All sessions on Friday, June 7, will take place in the President’s Conference Room (Floor 35) of the Cook County Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

Sessions will be facilitated by Gretchen Slusser, Executive Director of Cabrini Green Legal Aid.

8:00am – 8:30am
Networking and Breakfast

8:30am – 9:00am
Welcome and Opening

Hon. Gregg Goslin
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Hon. Robert Steele
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Hon. Dorothy Brown
Clerk of Circuit Court, Cook County

Hon. Chris Rodgers, NACo President
Douglas County, Neb. Board of Commissioners
9:00am – 10:00am **Barriers & Opportunities to Employment: Making the Business Case**

Breakout Session #1: Unemployment in general can cause problems for the general public that can be taxing on county governments and communities. When compounded by other issues facing justice-involved individuals, unemployment can be devastating for county governments and communities. What challenges do justice-involved individuals face when unemployed and seeking work? What problems are you experiencing in your county and in counties you work with as a result of unemployment in this population?

10:00am **Welcome Remarks**

*Hon. Toni Preckwinkle, President*

*Cook County Board of Commissioners*

10:30am – 11:15am **Continued Discussion on Barriers & Opportunities to Employment: Making the Business Case**

Breakout Session #2: Having discussed and identified individual issues and community impacts associated with the unemployment of justice-involved individuals, what can be done to increase employment opportunities and earning potential for this population?

1. *What can counties do to make employment opportunities more available?*
2. *What can local employers do to encourage hiring of justice-involved individuals?*
3. *How can this population enhance their skill set and prepare for employment opportunities?*

11:15am – 12:15pm **Cook County Experience**

Discussion on how collaboration between public and private agencies in Cook County has been leveraged to provide opportunities for justice-involved individuals focused on the following four topics:

1. *Diversion – County solutions to stopping the cycle of violence*
2. *Progressive laws – State response to the need for relief from criminal records*
3. *Access – County, judiciary and NGO response to removing barriers to accessing forms of relief*
4. *Community Engagement – Individual, business, civic and city leadership and involvement*

A success story: Cabrini Green Legal Aid client will share how they benefited from this collaboration.
12:15pm – 1:15pm  
**Lunch (provided)**

During lunch, participants will vote to select the top three approaches or solutions discussed during Breakout Session #2. These three approaches will then become the focus for discussion in the following session on Local Approaches.

1:15pm – 2:45pm  
**Local Approaches:**

Advocates of the top three solutions from Breakout Session #2, as determined during lunch, will lead participants in a discussion session emphasizing local approaches. Participants will discuss what resources, information, and/or training is needed. Participants will also share some lessons learned, and discuss how other counties can learn from and possibly replicate their successes.

2:45pm – 3:00pm  
**Break**

3:00pm – 4:15pm  
**Creating Partnerships: Advocacy, Manpower and Funding**

*Association of Pro Bono Counsels – IMPACT Project*

What are the challenges with funding the programs we have discussed? How can we overcome those challenges, and who is interested in this issue?

4:15pm – 4:30pm  
**Wrap Up and Next Steps**

1. **Research** – know what is happening in your county or community. *i.e.* – What are the laws around relief? Are there groups assisting justice involved individuals through the process? Are their employer initiatives to hire this population?

2. **Join an advocacy or working group that is committed to the issue.**

3. **Identify 1 or 2 solutions from this roundtable that could work in your county and begin to shop them locally.**

4. **Report back in 3 months as a group to discuss progress.**