

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

DATE: December 31, 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)	See attached individual monthly reports
Types of Programming	See attached individual quarterly reports
Cost per Individual	Varies by program*
Number of Individuals Successfully Completed Programming	See attached individual quarterly reports**

*Although some individual monthly reports identify cost per individual, it does not provide an accurate picture of the true cost per client. 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 expended 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
Rosalyn Cotton, Chair, Board of Parole
Mike Rothwell, Deputy Director
Vocational & Life Skills Administrator
Grantees
File

**Center for People in Need – TRADE Program
Quarterly Report – Quarter Ending September 2015 (GQ3)**

Number of individuals receiving program services:

Month	Parolee	Probationer	Inmate	Discharged (previous 18 months) (not including parolees, inmates and probationers)
July	8	0	40	2
August	5	0	15	0
September	7	1	10	2
Quarter Totals:	20	1	65	4

Quarter 1 total served: 13
Quarter 2 total served: 82
Quarter 3 total served: 90
Total served (all three quarters): 185

***Note:** A number of program-eligible individuals receive assistance through our program, but do not complete module training. The numbers above reflect the universe of program-eligible individuals who received services in this quarter. The numbers immediately below reflect those who received module training for this quarter.*

Number of individuals receiving Vocational Module Training:

Month	Parolee	Probationer	Inmate	Discharged (previous 18 months) (not including parolees, inmates and probationers)
July	5	1	14	1
August	0	1	13	0
September	1	0	10	0
Quarter Totals:	6	2	37	1

Quarter 1 total receiving module training: 13
Quarter 2 total receiving module training: 36
Quarter 3 total receiving module training: 46
Total receiving module training (all quarters): 95

Cost per individual:

Current reimbursement costs from the beginning of the program through September total \$391,754. The total number of individuals served through the program so far are 202. Calculation under these numbers brings the total cost per individual to \$1,939.37.

This number will be reduced in subsequent reports due to additional individuals being served under the program. The current calculation includes startup costs.

Number of individuals successfully completing program:

Forty individuals successfully completed the program in quarter 3, bringing the total numbers of graduates of the program to 67.

Narrative summary of programming delivered during this quarter:

The TRADE Program continues to move forward on all cylinders. Staff members continue to find new and creative ways to serve clients and help them reintegrate into the community, obtain employment and achieve economic stability.

Along with all our regular programming this quarter, we added an optional Small Business Plan course in September. The class meets on four Thursdays during the six-week module. Curriculum from this course utilizes the SBA Small Business planning model, with students writing a small business plan by the end of course. The first class had 7 students with business plan ideas ranging from hair salons to automotive custom aftermarket, floral shop and cyber security. The most unique was a fitness gym geared toward gamers and comic book enthusiasts. The students were very motivated to do the research and implement what they learned into a realistic plan for their future. Plans are to continue offering this course as demand exists.

We are also offering clients the opportunity to go through a second module after they complete the first one. This is based in large part on feedback from clients such as one sent to our Program Coordinator in a letter: "I am very interested in coming back for a second module in construction and this is why: I have very little work experience and I have very little to build on as far as skills and training. Now that I have forklift training, I have got something. But what happens if I can't find a suitable job opening in a warehouse environment? This is why I would like to have extra training and experience, to open more options. A lot of bigger construction sites will have forklifts that need to be operated. If I show up with construction and forklift training, that would certainly put me towards the front of the list. I am trying to stack my deck the best I can at this point. I really need to get the best job that I can, and with so many marks against me, I want and much training and experience as possible." Feedback like this tells us we are successfully helping clients plan for their future and seize the initiative.

The TRADE Program is also now offering construction module participants the opportunity to build dog houses. This allows them to utilize their skills to build

something that can be put to actual use. This is proving popular with participants as we look for new ways to get more individuals into the construction module, since there are available jobs in that field. *(See attached article we wrote about one the participants and the dog house she built).*

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

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

Number of individuals receiving General OSHA certificates: 36 (71 year to date)

Number of individuals receiving forklift certifications: 23 (27 year to date)

Number of individuals receiving food permits: 8 (9 year to date)

Number of individuals receiving employment: 25 (42 year to date)

Number of first quarter job fair attendees: 70 attendees, and 35 employers

Number of bonus points issued: 28,935

Successes/Positives:

We have many success stories to share for the last quarter as the TRADE program continues to build.

We had a job fair August 7th with 70 attendees and 35 employers/providers attending. An employer who attended the job fair sent us an email that said “Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the job fair. It was an excellent experience for our business and I actually ran into an applicant from the fair once the fair was completed down at our branch applying. I am sure that we will be reaching out to you further to follow up on some possible speaking events that we can be part of in the future.” We created a survey on Survey Monkey that was sent to employers and providers who attended the fair. The responses were very positive and many employers had plans to interview attendees of the fair in the future.

Case Manager Julia Ernst had a success story in August that she reported to the TRADE team immediately: “I just spoke with Jennie and she is in Fremont now. She took the Janitorial and Building Maintenance class with TRADE. She said she had an interview today with the director of a retirement home company that was a full-time job with chances for advancement and benefits. It went so well, she starts Monday. The

interview questions were the same questions we taught her in mock interviews and she also completed her turnaround talk with the employer. She said she was open and honest with the director. After the turnaround talk, her started talking with her about her work history, they joked around and she provided him with knowledge about building and maintenance. She said that the director stated 'This was the best interview I have ever had with someone.' That speaks volumes of her and the TRADE Program. Good job TEAM and Jennie wanted to say hi and thank everyone for the best thing that happened to her while she was incarcerated (her words, not mine)."

Forklift and Warehouse instructor Joseph Welch reports: "Watching Nate to me is a prime example of how the TRADE program is truly working within and beyond its function. Nate shows a work ethic and attitude that will parlay to success in the work force and in his social life as well. Nate has really stepped up and owned his responsibilities here at TRADE. He is more than willing to do what tasks are assigned to him and he provides a positive demeanor that a firmly believe will take him to great things after he reenters the workforce." *(See attached letter from Nate to learn how he has shown the initiative).*

Case Manager Carrie Kuszak reports: "We had an individual start 8 weeks ago and his attitude was not the best, and slightly difficult to talk to without hearing all negatives in return. As the days went by he slowly started lightening up and appeared to become comfortable and easy to talk to. After this change, he was more willing to work on his job prep and open to writing a successful turnaround letter. Now as we come to a close of his 8 weeks, he will be returning for another module. It has been a pleasure to see this turnaround within him and his passion to continue to improve the positive actions he is taking to better his life."

Case Manager Julia Ernst reports: I worked with Jenika on her interview skills, 3 resumes and assisted her with applying for a job with St. Monica's. She got the job and is working at this time. She continues to take strides forward within her life and her employment."

Case Manager Grant Krieger reported: "I had a student who was employed to created and monitor MSDS sheets for a company in town. She told me that the big selling point on her resume for her employer was her OSHA card."

Jim Erwin, Instructor with Christian Heritage reports: "Cynthia, one of our recent graduates has struggled to get her life and family back together after her trouble. She had lost all six of her children and everything she had and became homeless. She came to us from Fresh Start home for women and finished all of our courses. Cynthia had completed everything necessary to get her family back together from the state. She had

located a home large enough to accommodate her and all her children, but had nothing to put in the home. As she worked with Rhoni Bruhn (family advocate), Christian Heritage was able to donate enough new beds to meet all the needs of her family and haul other donations to help her start over. Two days ago, she had nothing and now she has a home with enough to get her started. I believe it was the combined efforts of all the TRADE team that has helped her succeed.”

Challenges:

Housing continues to be the biggest obstacle. On their monthly reports, case managers regularly indicate housing is the largest barrier faced by clients. We are working with transitional housing resources in Lincoln area, but it is clear there are not enough resources in this area, and that has a considerable impact on the ability of participants to obtain a job, which in turns increases the likelihood of recidivism. Jim Erwin with Christian Heritage has been meeting with landlords and we are putting together a list of landlords who will rent to our clients. This is a harder sell than employers as many indicate they have had bad experiences in the past.

Case Manager Carrie Kuszak reports: “A barrier I see is a lack of self-esteem and self-confidence (in clients). I often see in people that they don’t think they deserve the better things in life due to their history. I wish we had more time to spend with them on helping them build their confidence. I have seen some great turn around with individuals while they are here but some really need more time and help.”

With demand for forklift and warehouse training, we could use an additional forklift.

Those with sex offender backgrounds have the biggest obstacle in finding jobs. We will continue to search for employers who are willing to give them a chance.

Case Manager Grant Krieger reported: “The ability of students coming from parole and jamming have a hard time staying in the program due to their lack of income while going through the program. We combat this by assisting them with job searching from day 1 to try and find them a part-time job while they are still in the class.”

Case Manager Grant Krieger reports: “Transportation is a big issue for all of our participants. The bus does not run late enough or does not give access to certain businesses. It is also difficult to find employers who will give a person with a charge of sexual assault on a child a chance. Students with this charge, no matter how long ago it was, are being denied a lot of opportunities to show they have the skills necessary.”

TRADE Program staff continue to find new and unique ways to creatively work around challenges.

TRADE Program Evaluation Report

July 21, 2015 – September 30, 2015

The evaluation of the TRADE program meets the performance requirements of *Reentry Initiative Vocational & Life Skills Program, Section 001.06 – Performance Requirements*. The evaluation is conducted by third party evaluators, Drs. Richard Torraco and Dave Hamilton, who have no financial or programmatic interest in this project. Both Drs. Torraco and Hamilton have extensive experience with the evaluation of vocational skills training, adult education, and workforce development programs. In order to assess the effectiveness of the process and outcomes of the TRADE program, the evaluation uses qualitative data obtained by interviewing key stakeholders in the program and quantitative data that assess progress toward the goals and outcomes of the program.

Qualitative data for project evaluation were obtained by interviewing key stakeholders in the program including participants, instructors, and administrators to examine the quality and effectiveness of the instruction and support services provided to TRADE participants. Participants are interviewed at quarterly intervals throughout the program. Administrators are also interviewed during the program.

How Evaluation Findings Were Used

Feedback from TRADE participants and other evaluation data collected during the program are used to make subsequent improvements to the program. Findings from interviews with program participants and administrators are used subsequently to improve the quality and effectiveness of vocational instruction, life skills training, class scheduling, and support services. Improvements to the TRADE program based on the findings from the evaluation are described in the following sections.

Expansion of TRADE Programs within Existing Budget and Resources

TRADE program administrators have been resourceful in making the best use of existing budget and resources. This resourcefulness is evident in two areas.

1. Expanded Access to TRADE Vocational Training Programs

Access to TRADE vocational training programs has been expanded during the last quarter of the project. TRADE participants who are close to completing their vocational training program now can apply to be considered to participate in a second vocational training program in a different occupational category. All TRADE participants who were interviewed by the evaluators and discussed the expansion of vocational training programs were impressed by and very positive about this opportunity to acquire additional job skills for post-program employment. Several interviewees are now enrolled in their second vocational training program and were excited about expanding their job skills into an additional area.

2. Development of a new Small Business Class

A new “Small Business Class” has been developed and is now offered one day per week for four weeks. This class is based on the Small Business Administration curriculum and materials. It includes the following content areas:

- How to write a business plan
- How to develop a budget
- How to identify a market and target customers
- How to implement the business plan

Participants who were interviewed had very positive comments about this new class. Several interviewees are taking the Small Business class and were excited about expanding their skills in this area.

Employment Opportunities for TRADE Program Completers

The TRADE program provides effective preparation for post-program employment to its participants. Participants receive excellent training and acquire marketable job skills. In addition, they develop the skills to write their own resumes, cover letters, and turnaround letters. As they approach the time for graduation, TRADE participants receive training and coaching on how to find jobs and how to complete job applications. These TRADE services are effective in helping participants to get jobs after the program.

Nonetheless, employment outcomes would be improved even further if the TRADE program had the financial means to hire an additional staff member to serve as a full-time employment coordinator. Under current capacity, the employment coordinator on staff serves a dual role and also teaches computer and financial literacy classes. A full-time employment coordinator is needed to provide someone dedicated solely to increasing relationships with employers and helping TRADE completers get connected to those employers after graduation. NDCS is encouraged to consider providing financial resources to the TRADE program for hiring a full-time employment coordinator. Further investment would pay off through the benefits of having

more ex-offenders gainfully employed after the program and in reduced costs due to lower recidivism.

Positive Feedback from TRADE Instructors

Three TRADE instructors were interviewed by the evaluators (i.e., the forklift instructor, the custodial/building maintenance instructor, and the instructor who teaches computer skills, financial and budgeting skills, and the small business class). All three instructors appeared eager to help TRADE participants and very positive about the instruction and learning that is occurring during the program. Each of these three instructors is well-qualified for the classes they teach for the TRADE program.

In each of the three areas (i.e., (a) forklift operation, (b) custodial/building maintenance instructor, and (c) computer skills, and financial and budgeting skills), the instructors thought students are learning enough to become employed in six weeks. The instructors believe that some TRADE participants are ready for work, but they worry about some students' futures, especially related to the reoccurrence of drug abuse.

The instructors believe that they have sufficient time for instruction to make a difference. They also feel that they have the administrative support and resources (i.e., a class/training environment conducive to learning, equipment and supplies for the class/training, and other instructional resources) they need to provide effective instruction for the TRADE program.

Instructors stated that they enjoy participating in the graduations of TRADE completers. Instructors stated that seeing TRADE program completers finish and move on to the possibility of release and employment is fulfilling for them.

Participants' Reactions to TRADE Classes are Positive

Participants who were interviewed were asked about the quality and effectiveness of all of the classes offered by the TRADE program. Overall the reactions of participants to TRADE classes were positive.

Participants stated that they like the "Making It Work" and "Within My Reach" classes. They complimented the interaction among participants in class, reading from books, role playing, and being given the time to explain their experiences to others. Jim, an instructor, received many positive comments as "someone who's been there," and "he can really relate to you."

No one got more positive comments than Brian, the instructor for "Substance Recovery – JOLT." Participants find value in his message that the students can make it when they get out of prison. Brian uses his own experience and makes learning real for the participants. Nonetheless, two participants said this was material that they already had in SUV at the penitentiary.

Everyone interviewed mentioned the value of the US Bank representative, Shelly, in complimenting the Financial and Budgeting Skills class.

Case Managers are Highly Valued by TRADE Participants

Both case managers (Carrie and Julie) are perceived by all of the participants who were interviewed as supportive and helpful. Both case managers received many positive comments about helping participants with turn-around letters, cover letters, and resumes. Two participants commented that both case managers respect the TRADE participants. Three participants who were interviewed commented about how important it was that their case managers cared about them and actively sought them out to ask questions about “how it is going.” Participants stated that they appreciate knowing that all participants can come back to the Center for People in Need for help with job placement or Center services during the first year post completion.

Some TRADE Classes are Very Effective and Could be Longer

Several participants who were interviewed were very impressed with the “Within My Reach” class. This class teaches TRADE participants about developing positive personal relationships with others and how to relate better to one’s spouse, children, partners, roommates, coworkers, and others. Participants stated that they really enjoyed the “Within My Reach” class, but it was too short. Participants believe the class should be longer.

A few participants who were interviewed stated that the “Financial and Budgeting Skills” class should be longer. Participants stated that they find it valuable to have to develop a budget for their own finances. They would like more class time to learn to develop these skills.

Most TRADE Participants Believe They are Ready for Reentry

Participants who were interviewed were asked six questions about their “Readiness for Reentry.” Every participant thought they were ready for release. Each participant named where they planned to live. Most participants were somewhat hesitant about exactly where they will work, but they demonstrated they had been giving this some thought. Most thought their families would react positively after their release and there would not be significant negative perceptions about them by others. Several participants stated that they planned to stay away from old friends and other people and situations associated with negative experiences in the past.

Emphasis on the Importance of Employment after the Program

Preparation for post-program employment should continue to be emphasized with all TRADE participants throughout the program. Helping participants get jobs after the program is a challenge that every administrator, case manager, and instructor should be committed to.

TRADE TEAM.

9-25-15

I AM REQUEST^{ING} ANOTHER MODULE. THE TRADE PROGRAM HAS BEEN A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR ME. THE OSHA TRAINING WAS AMAZING AND I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO ALSO HAVE THE SAME INSTRUCTOR FOR FORKLIFT. STEVE IS THE ABSOLUTE BEST, I COULD NOT OF ASKED FOR A BETTER TEACHER. MY CASEWORKER CARRIE HAS HONESTLY MOTIVATED ME TO ASPIRE FOR HIGHER GOALS IN MY LIFE AND HAS GIVEN ME THE COURAGE TO TAKE MORE POSITIVE PATHS IN MY CHOICES AND FUTURE. I WOULD ^{LIKE} TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPERTUNITY TO LEARN. TAKING A CONSTRUCTION MODULE WOULD OPEN EVEN MORE DOOR'S FOR ME, IF COMBINED WITH MY FORKLIFT CERTIFICATE. ON CONSTRUCTION SITE'S THERE ARE ALWAYS FORKLIFTS MOVING MATERIAL'S, AND SOME BASIC CONSTRUCTION SKILL'S WOULD ONLY ENHANCE MY CHANCES OF EMPLOYMENT. DURING MY 3 1/2 YEARS INCARCERATION, THIS LAST 8 WEEKS HAS HAD THE MOST POSITIVE IMPACT ON ME. MORE THAN S.A.U., O.P. AND A.A COMBINED. I FEEL MY LIFE TURNING FOR THE BETTER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME AND I WOULD LIKE THE CHANCE TO CONTINUE LEARNING AND GROWING. TRADE HAS BECOME THE FOUNDATION OF MY CHACE AT A NEW LIFE OF FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY.

"NATE"

Candice Bolte-Wilcox was midway through her training at the Center for People in Need's Tackling Recidivism and Developing Employability (TRADE) program when she was tasked to build a doghouse out of used and broken pallets from the warehouse. At first she just saw a pile of shoddy wood scraps. But as she smoothed the planks clean, she began to - imagine what it could be.



Candice came to the program lacking confidence and self-worth. Like many serving time in prison, the specter of her crimes haunted her self-image.

"I thought I was always going to be labeled as a felon or a criminal," said Bolte-Wilcox.

But TRADE is more than vocational training. It's life training. For Candice, seeing her life on paper was a revelation.

"When they had me (write) my resume, it turned out to be five pages long. I was like 'oh my gosh! I've done a lot. I have a lot of skills'."

Such a realization paid dividends in Candice's construction module work. She approached the project with gusto and began sketching ideas. Soon, a full-fledged idea began to form: a doghouse; one big enough to house a fairly hefty pooch.



To see the finished doghouse is to reasonably assume Candice had the best supplies at her disposal. The smooth round on the edges, the rich red wood stain, and the thoughtful vents under the shingled roof bespeak a selective quality. But that's not the case. The wood had been previously discarded.

Candice sees the doghouse as a symbol for what she could be, what she's already grown to be. Her future hasn't yet been created; and if she builds it, employers and success will come. Her instructors and case managers simply revealed Candice's potential to her.

"They made me feel like I can succeed, like I can do this," she said. "Seeing all those crimes that can come up on a background check makes me feel like I'm not going to be anything but a criminal for the rest of my life. But they helped me see beyond that."

"Just because I've been convicted of crimes does not mean I'm not a good person, or I'm not a hard worker, or I'm not dependable."

She is only twenty days from release from prison and she has a stack of certificates and qualifications from the TRADE program that bolster her confidence for the outside world. Candice knows her limits, but sees beauty where there was once only scraps.

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

Quarterly Report for the Period Ending September 30, 2015

Summary of activity to-date

During the third quarter, MCC’s Reentry Program team continued to work with the incarcerated and re-entry populations on a daily basis. These interactions are conducted face-to-face, via telephone, or US mail contact. The Re-Entry team continues to field referrals from the NDCS Reentry Specialists, case managers, and social workers. The program consistently receives referrals from state parole and probation officers.

The Re-Entry Program is growing in visibility and numbers served. Since last quarter, MCC’s Re-Entry Program has served an additional 234 individuals, which translates to 605 individuals since Q1.

The summer academic quarter ended midway through Q3. The 60 Omaha Correctional Center (OCC) students enrolled in credit courses earned a combined grade point average (GPA) of 3.3. In order to be considered in good academic standing, students must earn a least a 2.0 GPA. The completion rate at this facility was an impressive 88%.

There were 30 enrollments in college credit offerings at Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility (NCYF). The completion rate was 51% with a combined GPA of 2.7. Those who did not complete either chose to drop the course or were moved to segregation due to disciplinary issues.

Fall academic quarter began on September 8. The Re-Entry Program completed 108 fall registrations for incarcerated individuals at OCC and NCYF. Three credit courses were offered at NCYF and six credit courses were offered at OCC. One of the OCC classes included a manufacturing-focused workforce training class which, combined with the completion of three additional courses, greatly increases employment opportunities.

There were 9 program participants from Community Corrections Center – Omaha (CCC-O). Two CCC-O students are participating in the aforementioned manufacturing training opportunity but in an on-campus setting. Previously, there were four employers interested in hiring offenders who complete the MCC certificate program and receive the national certification. That list has grown, as there is a high need for people with this training and certification.

Delivery of program services

Individual	Count
Parolee	69
Felony Probationer	18
Inmate	427
Discharged State Supervision (within 18 months)	91
Total	605
Program Offerings – Participating Individuals	Count
Workshops/Fairs: Workshops including Reintegration; Healthy Lifestyles; Living Above Your Circumstances; Interviewing and Preparation; Financial Literacy; Social Media and You	10 offered 170 attended
Credit coursework participation: Intro to Business; College Success Strategies; Intro to the Trades; Employability Skills; Intro to Microcomputer; Intro to Entrepreneurship; Financial Literacy; Intro to Process & Power; Secrets to Business Success; Fundamentals of College Writing	213 15/SS = 96 15/FA = 117
Presentation sessions	25

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

Quarterly Report for the Period Ending September 30, 2015

Intake sessions	126
Referrals to community agencies	42
Educational and career planning	88

Program costs

Tuition Expenses	
Incarcerated	\$10, 157.25
Re-Entry	\$7250.00
Combined expenses for Incarcerated/Re-Entry Population	
Textbooks	\$7251.38
Supplies	3227.41

Program completions

A total of 28 Re-Entry Program participants completed forklift certifications during Q3.

One Re-Entry Program participant successfully completed probation and began her drug and alcohol counseling practicum in fall quarter.

Other collected data

One program participant was transferred to an Iowa state facility but will finish his bachelor degree while at that facility.

One CCC-O resident was released on parole. He continues to work full time and attend class at MCC.

Challenges & successes

The MCC Re-Entry Program continues to focus on offering a wider scope of credit offerings at OCC and NCYF. During fall quarter, MCC was able to offer a developmental writing course at NCYF, which enables those enrolled to take college level writing classes in winter quarter.

OCC Warden, Education and MCC determined it was best to offer the manufacturing distribution class to those who were releasing from OCC within 12 months. This population could then complete the national certification and become gainfully employed. The intake for the manufacturing distribution class (PROT 1000) offered at OCC was very competitive and only 10 students were enrolled due to limited computers. Of the 10 enrolled, two chose to drop within the first two weeks stating it was due to the extensive work load required for the course and limited access to computers to study outside of class time. To address this issue, Re-Entry Coaches sat down with each student and scheduled personal study time. In addition, MCC is providing binders with online content printed as a study aid for the PROT 1000 students to utilize when they are not able to access computers in the Education Building.

In response to complaints echoed by CCC-O residents regarding staff not allowing telephone access for residents to contact MCC's Re-Entry Program, the Program Manager arranged for Re-Entry Coaches to work on site at CCC-O twice a week. Since providing this on site assistance, there have been no complaints. This has also improved the coach to population communication and deepened relationships with CCC-O staff and residents.

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

Quarterly Report for the Period Ending September 30, 2015

The Re-Entry Program is supported by three full time positions; however, one of those positions was vacated in early September. In addition, the person in that role had taken approximately 3 weeks off prior to leaving so the Re-Entry Program has been operating on a staff deficit over third quarter. While growing in numbers served, the Re-Entry Program has not been able to concentrate on strengthening the program due to being short staffed. The position is currently posted for re-hiring. Operating at less than full capacity has also meant that the team has struggled to meet the new grant data collection requirements.

Inmates continue to move to other facilities prior to completion of credit courses. Communication has improved with some OCC case managers. While it is not common occurrence, it is still a real concern as dropping students negatively impacts the GPA of each individual and may impact access to future Financial Aid upon release. The Re-Entry Program Manager is working with OCC Education staff to ensure that when the move is beyond the control of the inmate that the student record is not negatively impacted.

Preview of plans for upcoming quarter

The MCC Re-Entry Program Manager is collaborating with OCC Wardens and Cornhusker State Industry (CSI) administration to offer INFO 1006 – Basic Electronics – at OCC during Winter Quarter. MCC will need to bring in several pieces of equipment in order to adequately cover course content. In consideration of how to best support the presentation of this equipment in a classroom setting, CSI is planning to create stand-alone carts for each station.

MCC Re-Entry Program continues to work with peer facilitators and mentors on the Time's Up noncredit workshop series that highlights peer support. The group has met twice and is moving forward with curriculum development and planning for next sessions at OCC. MCC's Re-Entry Program has included Goodwill ReStart staff twice in the presentation of this workshop. During the fourth quarter, we will offer the first session of this series at Nebraska Correctional Center for Women (NCCW) utilizing previously and currently incarcerated facilitators, just as modeled at OCC.

Much of the fourth quarter will be spent in modifying and transferring data to meet the new reporting requirements set forth by NDCS nearing the end of the third quarter.

The Re-Entry Program scheduled four additional forklift certification trainings to take place at MCC's South Omaha Campus on October 3 and 24. There is a possibility of 40 additional certifications being earned in Q4.

Mental Health Association of Nebraska
Quarterly Report -Quarter Ending September, 2015

Number of individuals receiving programming:

Month	Parolee	Probationer	Inmate	Discharged (previous 18 months) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inmate • Parolee • Probationer
July	11	1	18	24
August	14	1	26	25
September	26	1	16	0
Quarter Totals:	51	3	60	49

Cost per individual: \$791.28

Number of individuals successfully completing program: All participants are still active in the program with the exception of one person who relocated to Kansas.

Narrative summary of programming delivered during this quarter:

In addition to the specific program information below, I have also attached copies of some of the narratives of activities staff have prepared

HOPE Program: HOPE/Corrections has received 85 referrals from individuals wishing assistance with employment (30 still incarcerated), and employment Specialists are currently working with 55 enrolled individuals. To date, 31 participants are now employed (56%). Employment Specialists have conducted job development activities to help potential employers feel more comfortable hiring ex-offenders; assisted participants with resume development and interview skills; accessing transportation; and obtaining work related materials including identification, permits and specialized clothing. Our Benefits counselor has worked with 49 individuals with 15 actively in progress wishing benefits assistance including full benefits analysis, analysis updating, and in signing up for benefits through the SOAR program.

Honu Home: Honu has had 17 guests to date, and has assisted 8 former guests in finding safe, suitable and affordable apartments. Since the house only serves 5 people at a time, 1 additional participant is currently staying at the Keya House until a room opens up at Honu. House guests work on wellness strategies and problem solving skills, interpersonal communication and community integration.

Real Program: Peer Support Specialists make weekly visits to program participants to help them with any issues that may arise including housing, community integration and problem solving skills. Peers also have been working with current and potential landlords to address any issues they may have related to renting to ex-offenders and assisting participants in finding suitable housing of their choice. In addition, program staff make regular visits to CCCL, York, Tecumseh, and NSP to visit with potential future participants in activities designed to help them transition back into the community

Other data/information your program is collecting: Program staff have begun providing weekly WRAP and Trauma support groups to women in NCCW-York, with an average of 15 people attending and participating. These group sessions are very well received by both participants and facility staff.

Successes/Positives: Four state Senators (Ebke, Bolz, Kolterman and Pansing-Brooks) visited the Honu Home recently for a 1 1/2 hour visit with guests and heard firsthand the value and effectiveness of peer support has had on their lives. The senators specifically wanted to visit with participants and all opened up and shared pieces of their stories. I believe all the senators were very impressed with what they heard.

As reported above, we have been very successful in helping participants find and secure their own apartment. We continue to work with current and potential landlords on accepting housing applications by conducting weekly visits to housed participants and providing peer support and any other assistance they may need. The goal is to identify potential problems before they become major obstacles.

Challenges: All programs are operating as designed, and with a very few exceptions, no conflicts or problems have come up. The only real issue is in managing all the data we are collecting from all 3 programs and developing a database that will make collection and report generating easier and less problematic. In addition, we now have more than 100 individuals on the waiting list with discharge dates now in 2017.

HOPE Supported Employment

Total Referrals	85
Total Active	55
Total Employed	31

HOPE/Benefits Review

Total Referrals	49
Total Active	15

REAL Referrals

Total Referred	75
Total Active	30

Staff Narratives

Johnny

Johnny and I have stayed in weekly contact since he entered into the program in March. Johnny is on parole. Johnny expressed the desire to work in the human services field stating if he was to stay clean and sober that would be the best fit for him. Knowing some people in the recovery community I helped network at Summit Wellness and Recovery for Johnny where he was hired as a tech and is still employed. I have worked hand in hand with Johnny on a healthy work life balance. Johnny was at a transitional living home and now has his own apartment. I am helping Johnny find his lost high school transcripts to enroll in collage. I have also encouraged Johnny to do the peer to peer training which he is going to attend at the end of October which will allow him to be a certified peer support and wellness specialist so he can continue to help others. Working in collaboration with the VTH house and the VA substance abuse program we have set Johnny up for success and he is doing very well.

Darrin

Darrin entered into the program in April when he was still incarcerated at eccl. Darrin got a job working maintenance at Clever Brooks. Darrin is from western Nebraska and really didn't know his way around Lincoln and said big cities overwhelmed him. Upon jamming out of prison I helped Darrin become familiar with the city and I also helped Darrin get into an apartment here in Lincoln so he was able to keep his job and not have to back to his home town of Butte. Darrin is still employed at Clever Brooks trying to get hired on full time so he can get benefits. Darrin is diabetic so for insulin we have been helping Darrin get to some of the free clinics around town. Darrin contacts me weekly as I continue to provide peer support and help him maintain a healthy work life balance.

John

John has been in the Hope program since April. John seemed interested in driving a truck or doing construction. I called Ross the trucking supervisor at K-2 construction and set up an interview for John. John was hired and they helped John obtain his CDL license. John is working 50-60 hours a week making \$13 an hour. John is at eccl but once he is released I will continue to work with John on maintaining a healthy work life balance. John has been moved to stabilization and follow in our program and I contact him monthly.

Charles

Charles is on felony parole and entered into the program in March. At this time Charles is not interested in working. He is working on himself and his addiction issues up at the VA. I see Chuck twice a week up at the VA in moving beyond treatment and peer support. Chuck is interested in helping others and getting into the human services field. I talked Chuck into going to the peer support training in October to become a Certified Peer Support and Wellness Specialist. At that time I will help Chuck obtain and maintain employment. Chuck is doing very well in his recovery and has seemed to find a new way to live. I also helped Charles obtain his state ID.

Tommie

I worked with Tommie when he entered into the program in April for a short time why he was at CCCL. Tommie was paroled to Kansas City. He has my contact info and will get ahold of me if he is ever back in Lincoln Ne.

Andrew

I went and met with Andy at the county jail before he was released back in May. I have stayed in weekly contact with Andy. He is waiting to hear back from the railroad about the possibility of going

back to work there. Andy should know in the next month if the railroad will let him come back to work. I will stay in contact with Andy and provide peer support for him and help him develop a healthy work life balance when he returns to work.

Greg

Gregg had been working with the real program and the hope program since April. Greg maintained employment and a healthy work life balance while working with us. Greg was successfully in our program and parole and has been successfully discharged from both.

Randolph

Randy entered into the program in late March. Randy had been in and out of the hospital three times in the past few months due to health issues. He was employed at farmland and employment wasn't the issue but homelessness was. Randy and I spoke with his landlord and we were able to work out a payment plan so he could stay in his apartment. Several months later Randy returned to the office stating he was living in his truck because he was once again hospitalized. At this time with suggestions from the doctors we helped Randy apply for benefits. We moved Randy into the Hone house and set him up with Centerpoint. At this time we are just waiting to hear back from the benefits specialist and Randy was still employed at Farmland staying at the Honu House. Unfortunately due to some personal issue Randy was asked to leave the Honu house 7/24/2015. I set up a meeting with him at centerpoint for 8/3/2015 but I can't get a hold of him to see how that meeting went. I will continue to try and contact Randy weekly to see how he is doing. I saw Randy last night and he is still employed at farmland. He is going to come into the office this week and catch up with me. 10/13/15

Andrew

Andrew and I stay in weekly contact. I helped Andrew get a job at JCM electric making \$18 an hour while he was still at work release. Andrew paroled to the Honu house and weeks later we were able to find him his own apartment in north Lincoln. Andrew and I attend AA and NA meetings in the area. I gave Andrew a ride to the OMV so he could test to get his license. I also helped Andrew shop for a truck which he bought and now drives legally. I stay in weekly contact with him and help support him to develop a healthy work life balance. We also helped Andrew in getting all his tools together when he was first employed at JCM electric. I also picked up Andrew from prison and drove him to the hone home.

Robert

Robert is on parole. We spent a week at the OMV studying and testing and now Robert has a driver's license. We helped Robert get work boots which he is paying us back for. Robert is employed at the VA hospital cleaning 40 hours a week. Robert purchased a car and is looking into getting his own apartment. Robert has been in the program since May. I talk to Robert weekly and attend peer support with him up at the VA hospital. On top of providing Robert peer support I also attend NA with Robert and support him in a healthy work life balance.

Jocelyn

Jocelyn was first living in the Kia house when she was released from prison. I helped her move from the Kia house to Honu. She lived for three months. While at Honu Jocelyn was employed at Walters painting. She is now able to see her son twice a week and also has moved into our apartments on 21 and F street where she pays her own rent and bills and is seeing her son more often. She has been working with the hope program since late May. I stay in weekly contact with Jocelyn.

Gregory

Greg has been with the hope program since June. Greg is on parole and working with Melissa our benefits specialist. When the benefits piece is complete we will explore our work options. I contact Greg weekly.

Nicholas

Nick is on an interstate compact from Missouri. Since coming into the Hope program in June Nick has done well. I networked for Nick and helped him obtain a job at the auto connection where he is employed full time and has been since June. I did talk to Nick weekly but moved him to stabilization and follow up and talk to him once a month. I will continue to help Nick develop a healthy work life balance.

William

William and I first met when he was at LCC and I went out to visit him back in May. William was released from prison to a treatment center. I would go attend NA every other week at that treatment center to help support William. October 1st I picked up William from the Bridge treatment center and helped him move into the Honu house. William obtained a job at K2 construction that next day. However the job didn't work out for William we will keep looking and find something that will help him develop a healthy work/life balance. William stays in daily contact with me.

Dustin

I went and first made contact with Dustin when he was at LCC back in May. Dustin was released to the crisis center. I would go see Dustin weekly and provide peer support. I attended his mental health board review and they released him to the honu house. When they released Dustin I picked him up and moved him into the honu home. I gave Dustin a ride to get food clothes and shower supplies. I referred Dustin to the real program. Dustin was able to get a job mowing yards the first week out but it wasn't a good fit. I helped network for Dustin and we were able to get something a little bit more fitting siding and roofing houses. Dustin has now moved out of the honu house and into his own place. I try and contact Dustin weekly.

Chevis

Chevis jammed out of prison from Tecumseh back in June. He stayed at the Keya house until we were able to get him into our apartments on 21 and f. He pays his own rent and bills and seems to be doing well.

James

James is still incarcerated at NSP. I have went out and met with James. When he is released from prison I am going to work with him to help him obtain and maintain employment.

Jason

Jason jammed out of prison in June. He went to Colorado and when he returned he stayed at the Keya house. After a short stay at Keya house Jason found a job and his own place to stay. I try to contact Jason weekly but haven't talked to him in a few months.

Abdul

Abdul entered into the program in June. Abdul and I applied for several jobs in the Lincoln area. Abdul was going to volunteer at one of our homes but violated his parole and is locked up again. I went to his parole hearing and upon his release from prison he is going to continue working with me and we will help him obtain employment or he is going to volunteer with us. I will go visit Abdul in prison and stay in

contact with him until he gets out of prison in Dec. Abdul did have his own apartment and was able to purchase a car when he was out. Upon his release I will help him obtain all these things again along with employment.

Douglas

I first made contact with Doug in June. I went to CCCL on a Sunday and met Doug. Doug was parole pending with no place to go and no family in the state. Doug was paroled to the Honu. I picked up Doug and took him shopping to get some personal things. I took him to get a phone and went with him to meet his parole officer. I also helped Doug get a bike to ride to work and helped him learn the bus route and get familiar with the Lincoln area. Douglas was and still is employed at Fuzzy Taco. Doug has moved into his own apartment paying his own bills and doing very well at work. I have weekly contact with Doug and moved him into stabilization and follow up in the program. His manager at work also contacted me and said she lets Doug open the store in the AM. He is on parole.

Leon

Leon is on parole and came into the program in late June. We set Leon up to go to a truck driving school in Omaha to obtain his CDL license. Once Leon completed the training and obtained his license we were able to get him a job at AJ Donner construction working 50-60 hours a week. Since he started working Leon has moved out of his half way house into his own apartment paying his own bills catching up on child support ect. I stay in weekly contact with Leon to help him maintain a healthy work life balance.

Hollis

Hollis came into the program in July. Hollis was at CCCL parole pending. Hollis was employed at Weathercraft working full time. I was able to help Hollis get into our apartments on 21st and F Street. I work hand in hand with Hollis's parole officer helping him keep on track. Hollis is enrolled at the trades program now so when he is done with that I will help him find employment again. I stay in weekly contact with Hollis and stop by his apartment to make sure he is doing well every couple of weeks.

Travis

I first met Travis when I went and did his milestone one paperwork with him at CCCL back in July. Travis is employed at BMS full time. I attended Travis parole hearing with him to show support. He was granted parole and by working with the real team and my coworker Jamie they were able to find Travis an apartment here in Lincoln. This was very important to Travis to relocate in Lincoln and stay employed here because of his gang ties in Omaha. Travis long term goal is to get a better job in Lincoln and move his family from north Omaha down to Lincoln. I will stay in weekly contact with Travis and support him as he deals with conflict resolution problem solving and also a healthy work life balance.

Micheal

I have not yet had a chance to meet Micheal because he keeps getting into trouble in prison and moved from location to location. I have spoken with his case workers and upon his release from prison I will start working with Micheal on obtaining and maintaining employment. I got his referral in July 20 2015. Mike is in Tecumseh and his case worker will be getting ahold of me this week so we can start working on a plan for Mike when he paroles.

Randy

Randy is on parole and came in the program in July. Randy is employed at Walmart and living at our apartments on 21 and f street. I was in contact with Randy on a daily basis for a long time as he has no

natural supports in Lincoln. I helped Randy get a bike, learn the bus route took him to his parole officer and helped him with clothing food and just about everything else the guy needed. I took Randy to a couple AA meetings in the area also. I stay in weekly contact with Randy and stop by his house every other week. I am also in contact with Randy's parole officer helping to ensure he is developing natural supports and a healthy work/life balance. We are also working on conflict resolution and problem solving skills. Randy is doing very well at work and in life.

Shane

Shane came into the program on parole in late July. Shane stayed at the KIA house at first but then moved to the Honu home. Since I started working with Shane he has shown a great attitude. He has gone through a few different jobs trying to find something he likes. We are in the process of helping him enroll in school right now. Shane works at subway while he is waiting for school to start and has also moved into his own apartment. Shane has shown interest in being a volunteer at the Honu home and hopefully someday working for us. I will stay in weekly contact with Shane and help him coordinate school and help him problem solve, deal with conflict resolution and develop a healthy work life balance.

Bradley

Brad came into the program in July and is on parole. I was successful in helping Brad obtain a job at Kawasaki. Brad and I attended AA meetings when he was first released from prison. To try and help Brad develop some natural supports I went on a few play dates with my kid Brad and his kid. Brad is still employed at Kawasaki was able to buy a car and is now looking to move into his own apartment. I stay in weekly contact with Brad.

Larry

Larry came into the program in late July at that time he was still living at CCCL. Larry is employed at Meco Henne Contracting INC. Larry is now paroled and living in his own apartment. I stay in weekly contact with Larry to help him maintain a healthy work/life balance.

Jose

Jose contacted me in early Aug. I went out to CCCL to do the milestone paperwork with Jose. Jose and I were successful in finding him a job at Nebraska Electrical Services. Jose worked there while on work release. Jose was released from prison and took a bus back home to Huston Texas. A few weeks later I received an Email from Jose asking if he is he came back to Lincoln could he work with me and I emailed him back and said of course. He is flying back the third week of October and we will start working together again. At that time I will help Jose obtain and maintain employment and stay in weekly contact with him.

Edward

I received Edwards's referral in early august. I went out to CCCL and met with Ed. Within a few weeks Ed came to my office and we were successful in getting Ed hired on a Kawasaki where he is still employed. He gets out of prison each day to go to work and is working 40 hours a week. I also hooked up Ed with the outreach workers at the VA so when he is eligible for parole he might have a place to parole to. When Ed paroled I will stay in weekly contact with him.

Richard

Richard came into the office and did his milestone one paperwork in early August he is on parole. After Richard completes the trade program he is going to come back into the office and talk to me and we will

start searching for a job. Once we start looking for employment I will stay in weekly contact with Richard for the moment I speak to him every couple weeks.

Tina

Tina entered into the program in August. At this time I went to CCCL and met with Tina and did the milestone one paperwork. Tina did graduate the trades program and asked me to be there for support so I attended the graduation with her for peer support. Tina was paroled to a treatment center in Omaha. I picked her up at CCCL and took her to the bus station. When Tina graduates treatment in Omaha she will contact me and at this time I will help her obtain and maintain employment. Tina has no natural supports in the state other than myself and a few people from the NA and AA community. I will await her return from Omaha.

Johnathon

John entered into the program in August. I have spoken to John's social worker many times about John and have been out NSP three times to see John. John was released from prison October 5. He went to Cozad Nebraska I will wait and see if he contacts me. He was not on parole.

Daniel

Danny is living at the Honu home. He was released from prison recently. Danny caught a new charge and now is in Drug court. Danny is employed at Gana Excavating working 40 plus hours a week. I talk with Danny weekly and attend family education at the drug court office with him on Monday nights. Danny takes his sobriety very serious we are helping Danny find a new way of life clean and sober and being a productive member of society. Danny has been in the program since 8/19/15.

Gerald

Gerald is at CCCL on work release. Gerald came to the office and by using my contacts at K2 construction I was able to get him a job full time working 50 hours a week making \$11 an hour. I talk to Gerald weekly and go to the job site to check on him and he is doing very well and K2 is happy with him. I stay in weekly contact with Gerald. He has been in the program since 9/22/15

Robert

Robert has been in the hope program since 9/22/15. He is at eccl on work release. Robert got a job at Lincoln cold storage but quit because it wasn't a good fit. The next week Robert was hired at across the street from our office at n street lube. I stay in weekly contact with Robert to help him obtain a healthy work/life balance.

John

John is a new entry into the program and is at NSP. I have been out to NSP twice to speak to him about job options. When he is released from prison I will help him obtain and maintain employment. My first contact with John was 9/25/2015.

Calvin

I went out to CCCL and met Calvin and did his milestone one paper work on 9/27/2015. When Calvin begins his work search he is going to come to my office and we will help obtain and maintain employment.

Issac

Issac is living at the VTH house and going to treatment at VA hospital. I went and met with Issac and did his milestone one paper work. Before starting a job search with Issac I spoke with the substance abuse coordinator at the VA to make sure he was the time was right for him to start looking for work. had met with Calvin Kruger the owner of Kruger Development weeks ago and he is looking to train a individual to run heavy equipment. I will try and coordinate with the two of them and come up with a transportation plan for Issac and also stay in contact with Calvin to make this works so Kruger Development will hire more of our participants in the future. Issac has been in the program since 10/7/2015. Issac is on parole and was recently released from NSP.

Chris

Chris is on parole and came into the office looking for help on 10/9/2015. On 10/12/2015 I picked up Chris from home and took him to K2 construction to meet with the office manager Jason. Chris had already applied twice before but never heard back from K2. After a brief meeting with Jason from K2, Chris was hired. I took Chris to his drug test that same day and took him to get work boots and clothes and he is now employed full time working 40-50 hours a week. I will stay in weekly contact with Chris to help him obtain a healthy work/life balance.

Shawn

Shawn is a new entry into the program. I spoke with Amy Rezny on 10/5/15 she said Shawn paroled to Bristol station in Hastings. She though he would be a good fit for our program if and when he comes back to Lincoln. He has two grandchildren in Lincoln and he is trying to be part of there lives. Amy will stay in contact with me and Kasey about Shawn's progress. When Shawn comes back to Lincoln I will help him obtain and maintain employment and develop a healthy work life balance.

Shad

Shad was released from OCC back in April. I have spoke with Andrea Weaver at adult parole about Shad she told me he is enrolled in the trades program. When Shad is ready I will start working with him to help him obtain and maintain employment. I received Shads referral 9/30/15.

Chad

Chad sent us a referral 7/8/15. He is currently at NSP. I first met Chad at our job fair back in April at NSP. I have been out to the prison once to visit Chad and explain our program to him. He expressed the desire to stay in Lincoln to work and also move his family from Omaha to Lincoln. I will help Chad make this happen when the time comes. When Chad is paroled I will help Chad obtain and maintain employment and develop a healthy work/life balance.

Jeremiah

Jeremiah and I have been working together since July 1st 2015. When we first got together Jeremiah was looking for a dishwasher position, part-time. We started filling out job applications on-line and in person. To do so, we had to make an email account. Jeremiah let me know he has a reading and writing disability, so filling out applications were difficult for him. I was able to help him fill them out and when he would get interviews we would get together and practice mock interview questions to prepare for them. I was also able to sit in on the interviews to help advocate for Jeremiah on his behalf. As well as helping him to get connected with a benefits specialist to start figuring out his benefits and applying for them as well. In the middle of September Jeremiah started working at The Fuzzy Taco Shop. He still has some difficulties reading tickets, so we get together and study the menu together. I will continue working with Jeremiah by providing any supports I can for his employment.

Jessica

I have been working with Jessica since 8-13-2015. She moved into the HONU house almost directly after being released from York. She was able to obtain employment almost immediately entering our services. Together we made a resume and cover letter. We also applied at a few different restaurants, before she was hired on at The Eatery as a server. I was able to help Jessica obtain her Food Handlers permit by helping her pay for it along with obtaining work slacks and shoes, we set up a payment plan for her to pay us back the money she used to do so. We continue to discuss work-life balance as she moves forward.

Patrick

When we first began meeting, Patrick was staying at the Work Release Center. I provided him transportation to and from the work release center every time we had a meeting. We looked for jobs online at my office, as well as around Lincoln. We eventually obtained a production position at Kawasaki via temp agency. Throughout my time with Patrick he has classified his mental health symptoms as a barrier to maintaining a job. Patrick decided talking over the phone and venting is the best way I can support him when he is experiencing these negative feelings.

Because of this we have spent a lot of time communicating via phone, sometimes even consistently throughout the day. As Patrick's parole date approached, I helped him obtain an address to The Keya House so he could parole. Just recently Patrick has lost his job at Kawasaki due to dozing off at work. He has explained to me, the medication that he takes make him drowsy, and we are currently looking for new employment.

DaVida

I got DaVida's referral from York in June but she did not become active until 10-7-2015 when she paroled to HONU Home. DaVida has said she can see herself becoming a forklift driver, a housekeeper, or a waitress. She has expressed she would like to avoid fast food restaurants, and anything that involves a lot of heavy lifting. DaVida has also said that her criminal history, job history, and medical conditions are barriers for her to obtaining employment. We brainstormed plans to overcome these

Jamie Elliott, Employment Specialist/REAL Outreach Peer Specialist

barriers i.e. cover letters, turn around letter, having me advocate for her when she feels like it would be helpful. As of today, DaVida let me know she has an interview tomorrow at Village Inn for a Hostess/Server position.

Diamond

I started working with Diamond when she paroled to the HONU home on 9-3-2015. When I started working with her she had already obtained employment at Village Inn as a server. Diamond mentioned its helpful having someone to help her stay organized and hold her accountable. I also was able to help her get work slacks and shoes. We maintain contact on a weekly basis. Diamond has requested supports in improving her problem solving skills and maintaining her wellness.

Jerry

I started working with Jerry on 7-15-15. He was currently staying at the Work Release Center. I met with him there first, and afterwards provided transportation to and from the Work Release Center for our meetings. Jerry said he wanted to either obtain a forklifting position or a janitorial job. When we first started working together we created an email account, he stated he struggles with computers and requested my supports in that area. We spent the majority of our time looking through different websites, browsing positions. On a few occasions Jerry forgot to bring the necessary paperwork to apply for jobs, so we were unable to fill out any applications. I provided Jerry with a planner, because he said he thought it would help him stay organized. Jerry was supposed to start taking the bus to our appointments but after missing the bus, his case worker at the work release center expressed concern with Jerry's motivation. He said he felt like Jerry wasn't ready to look for a job so they are going to put him back on work detail. I let them know if Jerry was still interested in our services that he could contact me in the future.

Cynthia

I started working with Cynthia on 4-17-2015. She had already obtained employment at Subway and desired supports looking for housing. We worked on this consistently throughout our time together, but were unable to find affordable, safe housing. Cynthia moved to North Platte at the end of May, and I stayed in contact with her for several weeks. Cynthia is still currently living in North Platte.

Jeremy

I started working with Jeremy on 3-23-15. He wanted supports in obtaining employment. He had experience in cooking, tinting, car detailing, factory work, and bartending. Jeremy did not want to do strenuous work due to his torn ACL. We applied at a variety of places, and did receive multiple job offers. Jeremy chose to work 3 different positions at Brewsky's Bar and Grill, The Boat House, and Mulligans. During that time I also supported Jeremy throughout the court processes he was going through. Shortly after obtaining employment at all 3 jobs, Jeremy decided to keep the Boat House position but not the others. Jeremy stopped calling me and showing up for his appointments we would

Jamie Elliott, Employment Specialist/REAL Outreach Peer Specialist

schedule. Shortly after that my co-worker Z. Dillon saw him on the mugshots, I have not been in contact with Jeremy.

Amie

Amie and I started working together on 3-30-15. She was already employed at Campbells and volunteering at Keya House. She wanted supports in building her resume, and maintaining employment. She eventually stopped working at Campbells and received a full time position at Honu House. I have supported Amie in her endeavors of becoming an independent business owner by helping her make business cards and flyers for Crazy Clean Cleaning. Recently she expressed wanting to find another job on the side waitressing. She just obtained employment at The Texas T-Bone, she starts on 10-16-2015. I will continue to stay in contact with Amie.

Dexter

I met with Dexter on 5-5-2015 with my co-workers D. Commuso and K. Moyer to discuss Dexter's plans to move forward. He expressed needing supports in finding employment and housing, due to having to move out of his parents' house. Dexter and I spent time going around Lincoln and filling out applications, after about a week Dexter obtained employment at Popeyes Chicken. Shortly after that we were able to get Dexter in the HONU House, after a month of staying at HONU Dexter moved to Wayne Nebraska. Dexter and I have stayed in contact via phone for peer support.

Ramon

I started working with Ramon on 6-23-2015. He was looking for supports for obtaining employment and housing. I provided transportation to and from the work release center for our meetings along with around Lincoln to look for jobs. Ramon was Certified in forklift driving and Building Maintenance, and expressed the desire to work in that type of position. Before obtaining employment I supported Ramon in transitioning into the HONU Home. We continued to explore a variety of job sites and Ramon eventually obtained employment at Lincoln Cold Storage. After about 2 weeks Ramon quit his job due to negative influences in the work place. Ramon decided to move to South Dakota due to his family being there. I am no longer in contact with Ramon.

Patricia

I started working with Patty when she paroled to the HONU House on 9-30-2015. Patty expressed wanting to work at Subway, a hotel housekeeping, or event planning. She said her medical issues, job history, and criminal history are barriers that keep her from obtaining and maintaining employment. We discussed cover letters, turn around letters, and researching each position to make sure it's going to be a good fit as ways of overcoming these barriers. Due to a conflict at the HONU House I am no longer in contact with her.

**Prairie Gold Homes
Quarterly Report – Quarter Ending September 2015 (GQ3)**

Number of individuals receiving programming:

Month	Parolee	Probationer	Inmate	Discharged (previous 18 months) • Inmate • Parolee • Probationer
July			11	
August			16	
September			15	
Quarter Totals:			42	

Cost per individual: Approximately \$3,600.00

Number of individuals successfully completing program: 18 (numbers above include overlapping months)

Narrative summary of programming delivered during this quarter:

All participants completed HBI PACT certification, OSHA 10-hour certification, First Aid & CPR certification and Life Skills training. Also all students participated in constructing a portion of a home.

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

We collect certifications for OSHA, First Aid, Life Skills training, employment, parole and recidivism.

Successes/Positives:

McCook class was able to begin construction of a new home, including concrete work and framing. Lincoln students participated in a modular home build.

Challenges:

Redundant reporting procedures.

**Released & Restored
Quarterly Report – Quarter Ending September 2015 (GQ3)**

Number of individuals receiving programming:

Month	Parolee	Probationer	Inmate	Discharged (previous 18 months) • Inmate • Parolee • Probationer
July	0	-0-	6	
August	3	-0-	10	
September	1	-0-	3	
Quarter Totals:	4	-0-	19	

Cost per individual: Using July reimbursement amount of \$6,562.34, August reimbursement amount of \$5,088.29 and the estimate of \$6,166.28 for September 2015 which has not yet been submitted, which equals quarterly total of \$17,816.91. This amount divided by 19 (total individuals served) equals a cost per individual of:
\$937.73

Number of individuals successfully completing program: 14

Narrative summary of programming delivered during this quarter:

Life Skills/Re-Entry Prep course syllabus is attached.

This program prepares individuals to enter confidently and professionally into the job market by:

- teaching and practicing interview techniques in order to present themselves confidently and honestly during an interview;
- preparing and practicing an honest and forthright answer to the question of their felony conviction[s];
- creating various types of resumes that are tailored to the individual, as well as to a specific job search;

- teaching and practicing the following life skills that are not only relevant to obtaining and maintaining long-term gainful employment, but in living a productive and peaceful life:
 - o team-building;
 - o conflict resolution;
 - o anger management;
 - o interpersonal communication/listening skills;
 - o empathy

Successes/Positives:

- Participants continue to be extremely pleased with this program as indicated by the attached comments.
- We have built and sustain a good working relationship with B&R Stores, and Whitehead Oil (U-Stop). Both of these locally owned companies are interested in and have employed graduates of the Life Skills/Re-Entry Prep program.
- Providing graduates who are on Work Seek from the Center, as well as other graduates a supportive environment and access to our computer lab to conduct job searches, to create individualized schedules for dropping off applications and resumes, and to practice and prepare for interviews.

Challenges:

The following continue to be ongoing challenges:

- Unit staff on the men's units at CCC-L being unaware of our Life Skills/Re-Entry Prep program in spite of the fact that the Executive Director is at the facility 2-3 times per month promoting and recruiting for the program.
- On October 9, the case worker on C unit indicated she had never heard of our program •
- In addition, according to Unit Manager ... on the women's unit, staff had been indicating to residents that they were unable to attend our program if their custody level changed to Work Release status. He understands this is not the case, however, the damage has been done, and it will take significant work on our part to reverse this.

ResCare Workforce Services

Quarterly Report – Quarter Ending September 2015 (GQ3)

Number of individuals receiving programming:

Month	Parolee	Probationer	Inmate	Discharged (previous 18 months)
				• Inmate • Parolee • Probationer
July	2	39	0	5
August	1	23	0	3
September	4	17	0	3
Quarter Totals:	7	79	0	11

Cost per individual: **\$535.70**

Number of individuals successfully completing program: 48 job seekers have successfully completed the “Get the Right Future” workshop and 37 of those job seekers are now successfully employed.

Job Seeker Success Story - Rodney initiated his participation in the “Get the Right Future” program as a 54 year old felon with a learning disability, a substantial history of substance abuse, mental health issues, and as an individual that was currently facing eviction from his apartment. Despite being faced with the task of overcoming multiple barriers in his life, Rodney still had the desire and will to pursue employment and contribute to the community in which he lived. During his participation in ResCare’s “Get the Right Future” program Rodney demonstrated significant progress in his ability to market himself professionally. He effectively sought out job opportunities that were available to an individual with his background and barriers. He obtained employment and to date has retained the same job. He has been able to secure housing and remains active in his recovery. Rodney is a prime example of the progress that can be achieved when individuals receive the appropriate support, guidance, and encouragement.

Narrative summary of programming delivered during this quarter: ResCare has delivered the “Get the Right Future” workshop across the state of Nebraska. We are currently located in five locations. For our Reentry grant we are located in Omaha, Kearney, Norfolk, and Gering. We also provide the workshop in our Lincoln office through a Probation contract. ResCare provides the workshop through teleservices in many different locations including Grand Island and Columbus. We provide post-

employment support, by reaching out to each employed job seeker every month to discuss any barriers to employment and asking if there is any support that can be provided to help their continued success.

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

ResCare continues to gather employment numbers with a total of 37 job seekers gaining employment during the third quarter. We are collecting data on our continued support of job seekers post-employment. We are gathering surveys from job seekers and have received a total of 30 surveys during the third quarter with an average satisfaction score of 97.83% during the third quarter. ResCare is also tracking if job seekers are completing class requirements.

Successes/Positives: ResCare is pleased to see enrollment numbers rise throughout the state. ResCare had an increase in enrollment and employment from the second quarter to the third quarter. We continue to market our program to all areas of Nebraska. Teaching the class via teleservices has aided in increased participation. We continue to see the outlook and future of job seekers change during their time with ResCare where they receive pre and post-employment training and support. The Employment Specialists teaching the trainings across the state are also a positive impact. They are passionate about working with the reentry population and are now fully trained and are seeing success in each individual area. They use strengths and teach a real world successful way to deal with past issues that leads to meaningful employment.

Success Story from District P4A probation officer Christine Trosper:

Cathy,

I just got off the phone with Paul and he couldn't say enough about what you did for him. He was very disgruntled with me in the beginning for making him do the program but believes now it changed his life. He did not understand how much he needed the program and what obtaining a job would do for him. I am very happy to report that today is the first day of his new job. He was very proud that he now has a resume, cover letter, and knows how to interview. He did not have any of these things or skills prior to the program. He said point blank you saved his life. I cannot believe the turnaround in his mindset in just a few short weeks hopefully this will carry over to the other areas that we need to address.

I just wish more of the people I referred would take advantage of the opportunity. Thanks for all you do!

Challenges:

Discharge job seekers attending our class – We are receiving several referrals from inmates who want to take advantage of our program. ResCare has increased contact with these individuals by providing letters pre-discharge introducing ourselves and scheduling orientation. We are following up post-discharge with a phone call engaging in conversations about orientation and the benefits of taking our class.

Teleservices through our probation offices can at times be a challenge. Not all probation offices across the state have teleservices availability for all the times necessary to take the full “Get the Right Future” workshop. We are being flexible in those locations and are trying to teach the class when it’s available. Transportation to and from the offices has also been a challenge for job seekers.

ReStart

Participants Enrolled in Restart

As of September 30,2015 Restart has enrolled **102** participants (20 females/82 males) and are actively working to assist with obtaining employment. Within the active participants:

Participants enrolled status	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Total:
Inmate	1	12	7	3	7	8	7	45
Parole	1	4	2	3	0	8	2	20
Probation	1	3	1	0	1	2	0	8
Released within last 18 months	2	4	2	7	2	9	3	29
Total by month	5	23	12	13	10	27	10	102

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

- **46-** Participants have obtained employment while in the Restart program (not all of these are currently active placements, some are duplicated participants employment)
 - Average wage: **\$9.90**
 - Average hours per week: **33.45**
- **6-** Currently in On-the-Job
 - - Past On-the-Job Training placements
 - **1 out of 3** were successful
- **8-** Currently in Work Experience
 - **19-** Past Work Experience placements
 - **11 out of 19** were successful
- **73 out of 102** have created or updated resumes
- **20+** participants pending enrollments (Missing 19 documentation)
- **102** Kuder Assessments
- **102** Created Individual Employment Plans
- **102** have researched employment opportunities
- Restart has assisted **70+** 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:

- **\$14,757.63** has been spent on **22** participants for Transitional Job Placements (Work Experience and On-the-Job Training) (More Transitional Job Placements are current in September but Restart has not been billed yet)
- **\$2,640.96** has been spent on direct client services for **38** participants
 - **Bus tickets-** provided to participants for employment, school, job search, interviews
 - **Work Attire/tools**

ReStart

- o **Licenses** (If lost and needed to obtain or maintain employment)
- o **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.

Updates, Positives, & Outreach

Restart has received **240+** letters/emails and applications from incarcerated individuals to inquire about services through the Restart program. Restart continues to work in multiple correctional centers conducting intakes, workshops, peer mentoring and to develop resumes and employment, social, and training goals.

Restart staff work with participants on soft skills, social issues, finding employment, retaining employment and much more. Restart staff has worked hard to assist participants with creating and updating resumes, letter of explanations, mock interviews, and working on explaining their background to employers so they are not counted out of being a hireable candidate. ReStart's Business Outreach Specialist has made many connections with employers to make placements for Work Experience, On-the-Job Training, and direct hire.

Restart is now fully staffed with 2 Coordinators, 1 Case Manager, and 1 Business Outreach Specialist. Racquel Henderson started in July 2015 as the new Case Manager and Bobbi Jo Howard started in August 2015 as the new Business Outreach Specialist. Both Racquel and Bobbi Jo have been great additions to the Restart team and have brought great experience and expertise into the program to assist all participants.

Restart has signed a contract for a location in South Omaha at 5002 S 24th Street. This will assist in expanding Restart services and outreach.

ReStart's Outreach has included:

- Meeting with Mutual of Omaha
- Mule Barn MCC
- OCC- Community Involvement Meeting
- Meeting with DCYC
- Attended and presented to Omaha 360
- Met with Julie from NDCS legal department
- Toured Metropolitan Community College Reentry Team
- YouthBuild Graduation
- Customer Connect Graduation
- Nebraska State Penitentiary workshop/peer mentoring with **50+**
- Presented to Probation South
- Presented to Adult Parole Staff
- Toured Katie Bloom- Adult Parole Social Worker of HWS Center

ReStart

- Toured UNO Research Staff and Nebraska Department of Corrections staff of HWS Center
- MCC Express Outreach
- Hunger Club Big Momma Kitchen (spoke to several agencies and community activist)
- Presented on The One Radio Show 1690am and The Boss Radio Show 95.7fm
- Presented on KFAB- 11 10am Community Matters

Business Outreach and Employers: JBS USA, Design Plastics, Omaha Products Show, Transportation and Logistics Career Fair @ MCC SOC, Construction Career Fair @ HWS, All Purpose Construction, Baxter Auto, Design Plastics, Doll Construction, Helget Gas, JBS USA, Kroc Center, Perkins and Perkins Construction, PF Changs, YMCA, Consolidated Concrete, Auto Club Group, Chicago Lumber, EMS, Inc, Drake Williams Steel, Warren Distribution, AAA, NAPA, Network Staffing Solutions

Workshops & Peer Mentoring:

This quarter, Restart had **22** workshops/peer mentoring sessions that were held at Omaha Correctional Center, Nebraska Corrections Youth Facility, Omaha Correctional Center-Community, Nebraska State Penitentiary, and Heartland Workforce Solutions. Within these events, Restart was able to reach out to over **200** individuals about the program and steps to viewing self differently. As well as working with correctional system to enhance chances of success once released. Within these events, Restart staff works with individuals on all employability skills. Including but not limited to:

- Interview Preparation
- Letter of Explanation
- Resume
- Cover Letter
- Best way to explain background
- Computer skills
- Handling money and budgeting
- Applications

Success Stories

Clynielle was enrolled in the Restart program at the beginning of April 2015. Clynielle is currently on felony probation. Clynielle has worked with Restart staff to complete her resume, work on computer skills, soft skills, interview questions, and work on explaining her background to employers. Clynielle has professional work experience in health care but unfortunately with her charge she will not be able to return to the career field. Clynielle is currently placed in a Work Experience at the Heartland Workforce Solutions Center. Clynielle is working on obtaining administrative and customer service skills while looking for permanent employment directed towards receptionist, administrative, and customer service areas. Clynielle has received great reviews from her direct supervisors and has been informed of some areas to improve on. Clynielle has shown that she can take corrective feedback and she works on improving these areas.

Restart art

Michael was enrolled in the Restart program at the beginning of August 2015. Michael is currently at the Work Release Center and has his parole hearing in October 2015. Michael is currently working on his GED through the Nebraska Department of Corrections. Michael has attended multiple workshops within his time in Restart such as computer skills workshop, resume workshop, soft skills workshop, and peer mentoring sessions. Michael has also come into multiple appointments with Restart staff to create a resume, work on interview questions, and complete a letter of explanation. Michael was placed in a Work Experience at the Goodwill ROC to work on employment skills as he is 20 years old and does not have a significant work history. On Michael's day off he came to the center to work on job applications. Restart staff noticed that he was assisting other people in the resource area at HWS with their resumes, making email accounts and more.

Michael stated that he loves helping people and taking the skills he learns and putting them into practice. Michael was able to switch from the Goodwill ROC to HWS Resource area. Within the time the Michael has been in his new position he has received great feedback from his supervisor and the people he has been assisting. Michael has shown that if you put your mind to something and truly want to succeed; that goals can be achieved.

Exits, Challenges, and Other Data

Restart has had 13 individuals are currently back incarcerated either for a new charge or for a violation. Restart Staff continues to work with some of these individuals by meeting them inside the correctional facilities.

Restart has not exited any participants from the program at this time, but will do so as soon as the Goodwill database is updated. Retention of employment is a main focus for participants. Restart staff works with participants as they progress within the program to retain employment and work on eliminating as many barriers as possible.

Workers:

Average Wage: \$9.89
Average Hours: 33.45

Total Program Placements: 46

Western Alternative Corrections – Bristol Station
 Quarterly Report – Quarter Ending September 2015 (GQ3)

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING PROGRAMMING

MONTH	PAROLEE	PROBATIONER	INMATE	DISCHARGED (PREVIOUS 18 MONTHS)
JULY	36	0	1	4
AUGUST	36	0	1	2
SEPTEMBER	36	0	0	0
QUARTER TOTALS:	108	0	2	6

COST PER INDIVIDUAL:

Total costs for this quarter were \$166,401.48. There were 41 individuals receiving service in July 2015. There were 39 individuals receiving service in August 2015. There were 36 individuals receiving service in September 2015. The service date range totals 92 days. This calculates to \$15.59 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. This program has the capability of serving the participant for longer durations based on the need of the participant. The participant will be deemed a successful completion 90 days following the date of when they last utilized the assistance or the end of eligibility for the program, whichever comes first.

We currently have eight individuals ATTENDING college courses. The participants are attending programs at the Central Community College-Hastings Campus, Central Community College-Grand Island Campus, Mid-Plains Community College-McCook Campus and Mid-Plains Community College-North Platte Campus. The education programs and the degrees/certificates that may be obtained are:

- Associates Degree in HVAC
- Associates Degree in Welding
- Associates Degree in Business Management
- Certificate in Manual Welding

All of the participants receive ONGOING vocational/life skills programming. Based on the needs of the participant, programming is focused on some and/or all of the following:

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

WAC, Inc. has assisted twenty-one participants in this past quarter with expenses that are directly related to their vocational and life skills success. The expenses have covered items such as:

- Interview clothes
- Work clothes
- Slip resistant shoes
- Work boots
- Steel Toe Boots
- Tools
- Safety Equipment
- State ID Cards
- Medications

Residential Vocational/Life Skills Program

The residential vocational/life skills program had six successful discharges from the Bristol Station Re Entry Center. The six participants discharged from the Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center with many of the following: positive release plan, identification, employment, independent transportation, positive support system and a savings account. The population of Bristol Station increased greatly from the previous quarter and now all beds available for program are assigned to current and/or upcoming participants. The participants that were discharged from facility within the past quarter participated in the program from 4 days up to 151 days. During this past quarter there were 67 applicants for the residential vocational and life skills program. There were 37 interviews with applicants during this past quarter.

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 28 of 31 participants of the residential vocational/life skills program that obtained and maintained employment during this quarter. Those participants have been employed by the following local employers:

- Ace Concrete
- Applebee's
- Associated Staffing, Inc.
- Chris's Carwash
- Cloudburst
- Golden Triangle
- KFC
- Krueger Contracting
- Kuhlhanek Construction
- Mary Lanning Healthcare
- Nebraska Prime Group
- Orscheln's
- Perkins
- Rival's
- RMV Construction
- Sonic
- Subway

At the end of this quarter, the participants' average hourly wage was \$10.10.

SUCSESSES/ POSITIVES

The program has encountered positive situations and outcomes throughout the quarter. The largest success this past quarter was that the use of the beds available to the IVLSP program has been maximized. At the end of the quarter all beds were assigned to current participants or awaiting the arrival of the participant in the near future. The employment rate of the residential participants at the end of this quarter was once again 100%. The participants are obtaining employment in expedited fashion and are receiving competitive wages.

The Moral Reconciliation Therapy group has continued to thrive with seven participants at the end of the quarter. Senior Parole Officer Craig Williamson is co-facilitating the MRT group on Tuesday nights. WAC, Inc. has maintained extensive positive working relationships with stakeholders across Nebraska. We have provided information directly to inmates housed in the Residential Treatment Center (RTC) at the Nebraska State Penitentiary by giving a presentation during the "Special Issues" program through the RTC. We are scheduled to present again in December.

We were also able to assist Parole Officers with a few difficult situations where parolees were unable to stabilize a positive release plan. This provided the participant the ability to become involved with a highly structured environment for a short period of time to solidify a positive release plan. These short-term participants utilize bed space that is assigned to upcoming participants awaiting their final parole hearing.

CHALLENGES

The challenges encountered this past quarter and common challenges within the system of community corrections. The biggest challenge we encountered is planning for upcoming bed space due to the length of program being based on the needs of the participant. Another challenge is maintaining contact for follow-up information with participants of the non-residential programming.