

2011 Regional Defendant/Offender
Workforce Development Conference

SCOPE OF

PRACTICE

August 16 – 18, 2011

**The Brockey Conference Center
South Seattle Community College
6000 16th Avenue Southwest
Seattle, Washington**



In 2009, according to the Bureau of Justice, 7,225,800 adults or about 1 in 32 adults in the U.S. were under correctional supervision which includes those supervised in the community, on probation and parole, and those incarcerated in prison or local jails.

In Washington State, the Bureau of Justice revealed 102,932 adults were on probation and parole, and 18,233 adults were incarcerated at year end 2009. With a state population of 6,664,195, that equates to 1 in 55 Washington residents under correctional supervision in 2009.

Our communities are at risk if we do nothing to assist those in transition from prison and jail, back into the community. Without a coordinated effort by government agencies, community and faith-based organizations, and educational institutions, the reentry process will not be effective. The 2011 Regional Defendant/Offender Workforce Development Conference is a platform for our community to explore and network with those who are experts in their field as it pertains to the reentry process.

The theme of the conference is Scope of Practice, which refers to the range of work tasks appropriate as a result of your training. To do our work ethically and serve those in transition with integrity, we must confine our tasks to those which we are trained for and are within our scope of practice. For tasks beyond our field, we must rely on others in our community. Reentry is a process sustained through collaborative partnerships, meaningful contacts, and dedicated individuals.

On behalf of the Community Partnership for Transition Services of King County, we invite you to join us for our first regional conference. Share your expertise, network with other community agencies, learn about best practices, and implement a sustainable partnership in your home community.



2011 Regional DOWD Conference Agenda

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

- 8:00 – 8:30 Registration, Continental Breakfast, Networking Opportunity
- 8:35 – 8:45 Mr. Gary L. Oertli, President, South Seattle Community College
- 8:45 – 8:55 Joseph E. Garcia, South Seattle Community College
- 9:00 – 9:20 King County Council Chair Larry Gossett
- 9:25 – 9:35 Brenda Amundson, Supervising U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer,
Western District of Washington
- 9:40 – 10:15 Voices and Faces Panel
- 10:30 – 12:00 Workshops A
- 12:00 – 1:20 Lunch (on your own), Networking Opportunity
- 1:30 – 3:00 Workshops B
- 3:10 – 4:00 Wrap Up and Announcements

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

- 8:00 – 8:40 Continental Breakfast, Network Opportunity
- 8:40 – 8:50 William Brown, Management Center Administrator,
Federal Bureau of Prisons
- 9:00 – 11:30 Workshops C
- 11:30 – 12:50 Lunch (on your own), Networking Opportunity
- 1:00 – 2:30 Workshops D
- 2:45 – 4:00 Regional (County) Breakout Session – Part 1

Thursday, August 18, 2011

- 8:00 – 9:00 Continental Breakfast, Networking Opportunity
- 9:00 – 9:20 Questions & Answers
- 9:25 – 9:50 Gordon Graham, Instar Performance, LLC
- 10:00 – 11:30 Workshops E
- 11:30 – 1:20 Group Luncheon and Recognition Awards
Dr. Kurt Buttleman, Executive Vice-President, South Seattle Community
College
- 1:30 – 3:30 Regional (County) Breakout Session & Action Planning - Part 2
- 3:40 – 4:00 Closing Remarks

August 16, 2011 – Workshops A (10:30 – 12:00)

How Do We Get It Right – Bringing CSI 2 Our Practice

JMB 140

Presenters: Joseph E. Garcia, M.A., South Seattle Community College; Susie Leavell, Program Administrator, Department of Corrections

Contact: Joseph E. Garcia, JGarcia@sccd.ctc.edu

Inter-Professional Case Management 501 for Criminal Justice Professionals - This is a purpose-driven practice to improve essential inter-professional case management skill-sets, introduce the fundamentals of critical education, economic and social service systems for adults in transition from prison/jail and to review methods that support these adults in attaining and retaining opportunities earned. Also, how we develop skill-sets in motivational interviewing; establishing and sustaining professional boundaries; and the need to acquire basic knowledge of criminogenic behavior and understand how this behavior impacts success in achieving short/long-term self-sufficiency.

Networking and Job Searching for the Older Ex-Offenders

Oly 103

Presenter: Paul Valenti, Job Counselor, The Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens

Contact: Paul.Valenti@seattle.gov - www.seattle.gov/seniors - <http://www.linkedin.com/in/fpvalenti>

The modern job search is vastly different than it was only a few years ago. Not only are there fewer jobs, the jobs that are available increasingly require higher skills levels and greater networking skills to land. Older Job Seekers, especially older Ex-Offenders face even greater obstacles to employment including, in many cases, limited or non-existent technical skills, little knowledge of professional networking and how it can benefit them, as well as obstacles to employment like lack of housing, lack of social skills, and lack of knowledge about how to acquire the skills and information they need to succeed.

Infusion, Collaboration, Celebration! YWCA Passage Point

JMB B

Presenters: Linda Rasmussen, Regional Director, YWCA; Wanda Wilder, Director, YWCA Passage Point; Mercedes Pamela Elessa, Director Social Services Salvation Army, Formerly Policy, Training & Service Coordinator, YWCA; Cynthia Grayson, Director, Family Connections Northwest; Mona Tschurwald, Program Manager II Landlord Liaison Case Manager, YWCA Passage Point; Paulette Payne, Case Manager, YWCA Passage Point

Contact: Wanda Wilder, wwilder@ywcaworks.org

Join us in exploring how YWCA Passage Point successfully serves clients who are re-entering society and re-uniting with their families. We will discuss (**Infusion**) intensive case management, (**Collaboration**) creating a network of support, and (**Celebration**) (Celebrating small successes). The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion on the importance of how partnering with various community based organizations, such Family Connections Northwest, King County Housing Authority, the YWCA Landlord Liaison Program, and South Seattle Community College are *key* in operating our thriving re-entry program.

Sound Mental Health Recovery and Integrated Services

JMB A

Presenter: Latasha Billups, Vocational Coordinator, Sound Mental Health

Contact: LatashaB@smh.org

Sound Mental Health (SMH) has a number of programs that can be accessed by people that have been in the jails and prisons. Integrated Services includes the following programs: FACT, FISH, ORCS, and FIRST. Under Sound Reentry Services, there are IDDT, Project START, Domestic Violence Program, and Reentry Vocational Program. The chemical dependency and co-occurring disorder services include CCAP, Criminal Justice Liaisons and Reentry Services. SMH also has numerous supportive housing programs: Project Homestead, McDermott, Co-stars, housing vouchers, and case management. Learn how to access the many programs offered by SMH.

August 16, 2011 – Workshops B (1:30 – 3:00)

Motivational Case Management – Case Managing Those With Extreme Barriers

Oly 103

Presenter: John Taylor, CDP/CW, Employment Specialist, City of Seattle Conservation Corps

Contact: johnl.taylor@seattle.gov

The goal is to build and assemble a vehicle that fosters a belief that change is possible. The objective is to provide a guide or methods of providing Case Management services to individuals returning to the community with extreme barriers who seek an opportunity for change. The new case management is not a repackaged version of traditional social case work; it is made up of a mixture of specialized skills and concentrated knowledge within a diverse practice setting.

Moving Toward a Fresh Start

JMB 140

Presenter: Terry Weber, Workforce Development Manager; Pioneer Human Services

Contact: TLWeber@esd.wa.gov

Obtain information/strategies to move target customers from, “No one will hire me” to employment. Obtain tools, tips and techniques to “package” customers for effective job search, interview effectively and use employer incentives to “seal the deal.” Gain additional resources for “up-skilling” and effective self-talk to continue to move forward. A step-by-step process with handouts, resources and web site links to assist and guide professionals to work effectively with target customers. I will use techniques, tools and strategies that address the belief systems of customers and professionals address self-imposed limitations and use proven processes to help customers become “packaged” and “up-skilled” to develop employment pathways to living wage opportunities.

Begin at Home: Using the “Housing First” Model for Offenders

JMB A

Presenters: Michael Quinn, Clinical Supervisor, Plymouth Housing Group; Laura Jones, Housing Case Manager – Jail Diversion, Plymouth Housing Group

Contact: Laura Jones, ljones@plymouthhousing.org

Plymouth Housing Group employs the philosophy of “Housing First” and is successfully housing vulnerable individuals who are high utilizers of the jail, mental health, and chemical dependency systems. The presentation will explore methods and current practices that best support homeless offenders with multiple challenges to housing stability. Plymouth Housing Group has expanded its portfolio of “Housing First” supportive housing for homeless offenders up to 85 units over the past 5 years through partnerships with the City of Seattle’s Municipal Courts, King County Specialty Courts, and King County Jail Health.

Skagit Valley College Community Integration Project Program

JMB B

Presenters: Megan Kost, Community Integration Project Coordinator- AmeriCorps VISTA, Skagit Valley College; Twila Tate, WorkFirst Program Coordinator, Skagit Valley College; Jere LaFollette, Human Services Instructor, Skagit Valley College; Gregg Freeman, Community Corrections Supervisor, Department of Corrections; Charles Wend, Chief Corrections Deputy, Skagit County Sheriff’s Office

Contact: Megan.Kost@skagit.edu

The Community Integration Project (CIP) is designed to support and guide previously incarcerated individuals who wish to further their education. The long-term goal of the CIP is to decrease the rate of recidivism by helping ex-offenders achieve the knowledge and skills necessary to obtain meaningful employment. A partnership between Skagit Valley College, Department of Corrections, Skagit County Sheriff’s Office, and Skagit County Community Action Agency. Ex-offenders are referred to Skagit Valley College through the Dept. of Corrections, while Community Actions helps to aid in housing and other human services. Community Action also helps to oversee the Comm. Integration Project Coordinator (VISTA) position.

August 17, 2011 – Workshops C (9:00 – 11:30)

Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) - How It Can Positively Impact Job Readiness and Retention

JMB A

Presenters: Brieanne Olsen, U.S. Probation Officer; Jennifer Tien, Senior U.S. Probation Officer

Contact: Jennifer_Tien@wawp.uscourts.gov

This workshop will focus on how MRT was developed to target a population with certain personality characteristics and how it works to redirect thinking errors and behavior. In this workshop we will demonstrate how the different steps are designed to reinforce job readiness and retention. We will show some videos of the group dynamics in the presentation of steps and a live panel of graduates and its impact on their ability to find employment and retain it. Finally, we will provide the research and statistics on how MRT has successfully helped reduce the recidivism rate by one third.

Evidence Based Supported Employment (EBSE) for Persons with Mental Illness & Criminal Backgrounds

JMB 140

Presenters: Michael Donegan, MSW, Program Manager Supported Employment Program, Downtown Emergency Service Center; Julie Morgan, Case Manager and Employment Specialist; Cristina de Melo Wirkala, Employment Specialist/Job Developer, Downtown Emergency Service Center

Contact: Michael Donegan, mdonegan@desc.org

An increasing number of those with criminal records experience Mental Illness. Recovery based mental health treatment helps participants reconnect with society. For many, this means jobs. EBSE is a proven way of promoting the return to work. We will explain the MH System; who is eligible; describe EBSE and the challenges related to criminal backgrounds; and ways to overcome barriers as we all work together. We will share our experiences in using Evidence Based Supported Employment especially with persons with criminal backgrounds. We will share information regarding the research that has produced the evidence and on line resources that are available for those supporting participants and employers who hire them.

Interaction Transition: Creating Safe Communities Through Effective Transitioning of Sex Offender & Violent Ex-offenders

Oly 204

Presenter: Rev. Jimmie James, Executive Director, Interaction Transition

Contact: jimmiej@interactiontransition.org

Interaction Transition is a non-profit agency in Seattle dedicated to community safety by assisting ex-offenders in the community re-entry process from prison. Since 1967, I/T has developed the expertise of evidenced based practices and methods for successful transition. Direct services include transitional housing, case management, employment assistance, pre-release meetings, and post-transition planning.

How to Train a Penguin – The Art of Manipulation

JMB B

Presenter: Jeff Robson, U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer Assistant

Contact: Jeffery_Robson@wawp.uscourts.gov

Learning should not be painful! This interactive seminar mixes humor with pragmatism to provide insight and practical skills to help make better neighbors out of the people we work with. This workshop provides insights on identifying manipulative behaviors and common mental health issues. We delve into practical solutions to avoid the common pit-falls we fall into. Most of us get into this field to help others and make the community a better place for all. The theme of this presentation is raising awareness and providing the highest quality of services possible to our people in a safe, professional, and effective manner.

August 17, 2011 – Workshops D (1:00 – 2:30)

How 2 Build & Complete a Bridge 400 ft. High Over a 2 Mile Wide Raging River - The Practice

JMB 140

Presenter: Joseph E. Garcia, M.A., South Seattle Community College (SSCC)

Contact: JGarcia@sccd.ctc.edu

Life Skills-to-Work (LSW) students develop a customized portfolio (*promising practice*) from the LSW instructors to access on-going educational opportunities from a menu of professional & technical, (pre)apprenticeship and academic transfer programs at SSCC. Incarceration drops with each year of higher education. For every dollar spent on corrections education, basic skills education returns \$5.65 and vocational skills training returns \$7.13 (*Evidence Based*). At SSCC, the Workforce Education Office made a significant investment in establishing a customized “one-stop” (*promising practice & evidence based model – Ford Foundation’s Bridges to Opportunity research project*) for this student cohort to support their college choice planning, instructional, GO2WORK, supervision & legal financial obligations and retention needs. When these adults gain literacy, soft and employment skill-sets and receive higher education outcomes, the return-on-investment (ROI) is significant - strengthened family and community ties, reduced recidivism and pay taxes.

Presenting a Positive Image: How to Make a Stellar Impression at a Job Interview

JMB B

Presenter: Mary Butschky, Coordinator, Suited for Success, Catholic Community Services of Western Washington

Contact: maryb@ccsw.org

Would the people you assist benefit from some expert training to boost their confidence level at a job interview? Are they in need of an image update and/or interview clothing? If so, come learn about the “Suited for Success” Program for low-income persons residing in Pierce and King Counties. This presentation will include some audience participation and review of the Suited for Success workshop materials. We will also have a fashion show with live models of “Right and Wrong Ways to Dress for an Interview”.

Skagit Valley College Community Integration Project Program

Oly 204

Presenters: Megan Kost, Community Integration Project Coordinator- AmeriCorps VISTA, Skagit Valley College; Twila Tate, WorkFirst Program Coordinator, Skagit Valley College; Jere LaFollette, Human Services Instructor, Skagit Valley College; Gregg Freeman, Community Corrections Supervisor, Department of Corrections; Charles Wend, Chief Corrections Deputy, Skagit County Sheriff's Office

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Resolve and Evolve

JMB A

Presenters: Reentry Corps for Safer Communities presents: “Voices and Faces”

Contact: Daniel Rush, drush63@hotmail.com

Our presenters will have distinct and unique stories about their own journey through our criminal justice system. Our presenters are all at different stages of their own personal reentry, creating different perspectives for the audience. This presentation will also provide a stage for our collective vision of “Reentry Corps for Safer Communities.” With the creation of the “Reentry Corps”, we are teaming up with local partners, in order to create awareness through local and national speaking engagements. We will also provide assistance and guidance to individual’s struggling with their own reentry. As a society, I believe that we have a tendency to dwell on the negative headlines. It’s time we turn some heads with some positive narrative.

August 18, 2011 – Workshops E (10:00 – 11:30)

Providing Employment Supports to Offenders with Disabilities

Oly 103

Presenters: Kathy Powers, Director of Services, Orion Industries; Cynthia Wong, Vocational Counselor, Orion Industries; Barbara Panush, Job Developer, Orion Industries

Contact: kathy.powers@orionworks.org

Orion supports individuals with conviction histories and disabilities to assess readiness to employment and provide 1:1 job search assistance. This session will discuss non-visible disabilities and their impact on functioning. We will profile our individualized approach to vocational assessment services, use of community supports and job development services.

Infusion, Collaboration, Celebration! YWCA Passage Point

JMB B

Presenters: Linda Rasmussen, Regional Director, YWCA; Wanda Wilder, Director, YWCA Passage Point; Mercedes Pamela Elessa, Director Social Services Salvation Army, Formerly Policy, Training & Service Coordinator, YWCA; Cynthia Grayson, Director, Family Connections Northwest; Mona Tschurwald, Program Manager II Landlord Liaison Case Manager, YWCA Passage Point; Paulette Payne, Case Manager, YWCA Passage Point

Contact: Wanda Wilder, wwilder@ywcaworks.org

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What is Your True Color?

JMB 140

Presenters: Arinda Phillips, Case Manager, Federal Bureau of Prisons; William Brown, Management Center Administrator, Federal Bureau of Prisons

Contact: Arinda Phillips, Arphillips@bop.gov

This workshop is an introduction to the True Colors program, which is for anyone who is interested in improving their communication with others. True Colors is a priceless research based program that provides a very simple and fun assessment tool used for matching four basic colors to personality characteristics to reveal one's strengths and weaknesses. At the end of this workshop, participants will learn their True Color color spectrum. Knowing their True Colors will enable each participant to experience and view themselves and others in a new light, which can enhance communication in relationships at work and home, in Team building, and working with clients.

Introduction to Child Support Enforcement in Washington

JMB A

Presenters: Washington Division of Child Support (DCS), King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office - Family Support Division (KCPA-FSD), Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement – Region 10 (OCSE)

Contact: Jan Hentze, jhentze@dshs.wa.gov

Many adults transitioning from jail and prison are also non-custodial parents. Child support arrears often accrue during periods of incarceration and subsequent child support enforcement policies and actions may act as a barrier to reintegration with the larger economic community. This presentation is designed to give an overview of how the Division of Child Support and its partners establish, modify and enforce child support obligations. With a better understanding of how the child support system works as well as some local resources, the people and systems who work with ex-offenders will be better equipped to assist their charges in navigating the child support system and therefore increasing the likelihood of successful reintegration.

Arinda Phillips, Case Manager has been employed with the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) for 20 years. She began her FBOP career in July 1990 and has been a Correctional Treatment Specialist (Case Manager) since 1993. Ms. Phillips has a BA degree in Business Administration from the University of San Francisco, CA. She has worked in the Seattle Community Corrections office since June 2003. The Seattle Community Corrections Office provides oversight to Residential Reentry Center (halfway house) contract facilities throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience in case management for correctional settings. In September 2007, Ms. Phillips completed the Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training provided by the National Institute of Corrections. She is certified as a Facilitator for Breaking Barriers and Moral Reconciliation Therapy, both cognitive behavioral treatment program; and True Colors, a model of personality identification program.
ArPhillips@bop.gov

Barbara Panush is a Job Developer with Orion's Projects with Industry program. Barbara joined Orion in 2011 with a rich experience in business and sales with a focus on community networking. Barbara's customer service and business angle has been a great match to assist Orion's clients. Barb.panush@orionworks.org

Brienne Olsen is a University of Washington graduate, and currently a U.S. Probation Officer in the Seattle office. She has been with the U.S. Probation Office since 2005, and prior to that worked as a Community Corrections Officer with the Washington Department of Corrections for nearly four years. Brienne is a certified Offender Workforce Development Specialist and Moral Reconciliation Therapy facilitator. Brienne_Olsen@wawp.uscourts.gov

Charlie Wend has worked in adult corrections for almost 30 years. The majority of Charlie's career has been spent with the Washington State Department of Corrections. He has worked predominantly in community corrections, supervising DOC field offices and work release facilities. For some time, Charlie supervised a group of Re-Entry Specialists who were tasked with orchestrating the transition of high risk sex offenders, mentally ill offenders, and violent offenders from prison back into the community. Charlie last worked with DOC as a Field Administrator, supervising DOC field operations in a seven county region. Currently Charlie is the Chief Corrections Deputy with the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, directing operations of the Skagit County Jail. cwend@co.skagit.wa.us

Cristina de Melo Wirkala is an Employment Specialist/Job Developer at Downtown Emergency Service Center with 5 years of experience in the mental health field. Currently working with adults with mental health disabilities, supporting them in their goals to re-enter the workforce.

Cynthia Grayson - Director - Family Connections Northwest. She received her Master's Degree from USC in 1978. She began her career as a Mental Health Professional and an adoption worker with Los Angeles County Department of Adoptions. Ms. Grayson has over 25 years of child welfare and counseling experience with at-risk families of abuse and neglect. As a clinical social worker, she has expertise in the area of U.S. and International Adoptions (trans-racial/trans-cultural), Child Welfare and Child Protective Services. In addition, she has over 25 years of educational, administrative, and clinical supervisory experience including CPS work for Washington State Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Ms. Grayson has provided Culturally Relevant Training and consultation services to DCFS staff and other Child Welfare Professionals. Family Connections Northwest, Inc, provides Family Preservation Services, Family Reunification Services, Crisis Family Intervention services, Family Reconciliation Services, Alternative Response Services, and Therapeutic Child Development Services to children who have been abused and neglected. Ms. Grayson is a Practicum Advisor for the University Of Washington School Of Social Work. She continues to develop and maintain positive community, educational and institutional relations including research, training and consulting.
www.familyconnectionsnwinc.com

Cynthia Wong is one of Orion's Vocational Counselors. She joined Orion in 2009 and has her Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology. She brings experience with youth and individuals with addictions and has honed her skills working with individuals with diverse disabilities and obstacles at Orion. cynthia.wong@orionworks.org

Daniel Rush – Lead Program Director for Voices and Faces Project (Re-entry Corps), Senior at University of Washington (Society, Ethics, and Human Behavior). Executive intern for South Seattle Community College. drush63@hotmail.com

Jennifer Tien received her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University and her Masters Degree in Justice-Corrections from The American University. She is one of four Master MRT trainers in this district and is also an Offender Workforce Development Specialist. Jennifer is currently the Residential Reentry Specialist for the Seattle and Bellingham RRCs and supervises a caseload of federal offenders in King County. Prior to coming to Western Washington in 1994, she worked in the federal probation office and pretrial services offices in Washington, D.C. Jennifer_Tien@wawp.uscourts.gov

Jere LaFollette has a master's degrees from the University of Washington (MSW) and the University of California (MPH). In addition to five years full time teaching at Skagit Valley College, Jere has over 20 years of clinical, administrative, and planning experience in the community mental health and juvenile justice fields. jere.lafollette@skagit.edu

John L. Taylor, CDP/CW, Employment Specialist, City of Seattle Conservation Corps – Past history as Washington State Employment Security – Administrator (SHARE) Seattle Housing & Resource Efforts – Recruiter/Case Manager Apprenticeship Opportunities Project – Recovery Centers of King County – King County Hills Addiction Center. Johnl.taylor@seattle.gov

Joseph E. Garcia is a National Urban Fellow, graduate studies at Yale University; B.A., Seattle University; M.A., Occidental College. He served as a Program Associate at the Center for the Study & Teaching of At-Risk Students (C-STARS), University of Washington; and in a number of executive positions in local & state government. Mr. Garcia has received many awards for his work including the Governor's Gold Pin for Exemplary Youth Service; WA State Department of Correction's Community Service Award; Alaska Airline's Real Life Hero's Award; and the AFT Washington's first recipient of the Cesar Chavez Human & Civil Rights Award. He is a faculty member at South Seattle Community College Correction's Education Programs. He was recently appointed as the Coordinator, Re-Entry Ministry for the Archdiocese of Greater Seattle. He is a Vietnam Veteran. JGarcia@sccd.ctc.edu

Julie Morgan has worked as a Case Manager and an Employment Specialist in Seattle and in California for more than seven years.

Kathy Powers has been Orion's Director of Services since 2001 and has over 18 years experience in vocational rehabilitation. Kathy has her Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. She has developed and managed programs focusing on supported, transitional and competitive employment. kathy.powers@orionworks.org

Latasha Billups MA, MHP, CDP, EMMHS. Ms. Billups is a Vocational Coordinator at Sound Mental Health. latashab@smh.org

Laura Jones, Housing Case Manager - Jail Diversion, Plymouth Housing Group. Laura has worked as a Case Manager with two of our Criminal Justice Housing collaborations. She has worked with the offender population in Chemical Dependency Treatment, Transitional and Permanent Housing. Ljones@plymouthhousing.org

Linda Rasmussen - Regional Director YWCA; Associate Director, Homeless Initiatives Department. Linda joined the YWCA Staff in January 1996. Linda earned a Master's Degree in Applied Behavioral Science from Whitworth College through the Leadership Institute of Seattle/Spokane, an experience-based program in organization development. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from The Evergreen State College with an emphasis in community arts programs and non-profit organizations. Linda was instrumental in creating the vision and driving the design and development of Passage Point. Linda is part of the Steering Committee of the YWCA Senior Manager Team, helping to plan the monthly meeting agendas. On behalf of the YWCA, Linda serves on the Steering Committee of the Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness. She is a representative of SKCCH to the Healthcare for the Homeless Planning Council and is currently a Co-Chair of that group. rasmuss@ywcaworks.org

Mary Butschky, Coordinator Suited for Success, Catholic Community Services of Western Washington. Mary Butschky is a graduate of University of Washington and has worked many years in the business arena as an office professional. She has been Coordinator of the Suited for Success program since September 2006. maryb@ccsww.org

Megan Kost started her AmeriCorps VISTA position as the Community Integration Project Coordinator in the beginning of February 2011. Born and raised in Lansing, Michigan, Megan relocated to the upper Skagit Valley in June of 2003 to work as a Student Conservation Association trails volunteer for North Cascades National Park. In time, Megan received her Associates degree from Skagit Valley College, and then transferred on to Western Washington University, achieving a BA in Psychology. Serving as the CIP Coordinator, thus far, Megan has found that reentry is a great area of interest to her and enjoys working with and helping previously incarcerated adults work towards reaching their educational goals. Megan.Kost@skagit.edu

Mercedes Pamela Elessa - Director of Social Services for the Salvation Army Renton Corps.; Former Policy Training & Service Coordinator for the YWCA Passage Point Program. Mercedes Pamela Elessa is a 1990 graduate of the University of Washington's School of Social Work. She has 23 years of Social Work experience in the Pacific Northwest. Prior to coming to the YWCA Pamela worked as Community Coordinator with the DOC Going Home Project, Life Skills Coordinator with the YWCA managing all college level grants and scholarships. She enrolled with the University of Washington's Post Graduate Course and became certified as a Certified Minority Child Mental Health Therapist. She has specialized in Change Theory, worked for King County Workforce Development, both YMCA and YWCA as Director of Housing Support Services and has expertise in male-female Relationship Building. Mercedes.Elessa@usw.salvationarmy.org

Michael Quinn, Clinical Supervisor, Plymouth Housing Group. Michael oversees PHG's collaborative projects with the criminal justice system. He has worked in both abstinence-based and harm-reduction housing milieus and endeavors to find a therapeutic balance in the best aspects of both approaches. mquinn@plymouthhousing.org

Michael Donegan, MSW - Program Manager Supported Employment Program, DESC. Mike has worked in Public Mental Health for more than 35 years. He has been helping clients of the King County Mental Health System Choose, Get and Keep jobs in the community since 1988 both at DESC and at Harborview Mental Health Services. mdonegan@desc.org

Mona Tschurwald - Program Manager II- Landlord Liaison Program. Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree in Social Work from UW-Wisconsin, Masters in Public Administration from Seattle University. 29 years experience working with the homeless in Seattle/King County. Mona has worked with a number of social services agencies in King County and have been with the YWCA for 19 years: implementing new programs such as Angeline's Day Center for Homeless Women, Housing Access and Services Program and most recently the Landlord Liaison Project (a countywide partnership program with agencies, homeless people and private market landlords). monat@ywcaworks.org

Paul Valenti has been with the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens, Employment Resource Center for just over 7 years where he specializes in assisting older job seekers - those 55+ - in finding and obtaining part and full time jobs. Paul is a former Hawaii State Legislative Lobbyist, former Communications lecturer at the University of Washington and the former Program Manager of the Center for Learning and Undergraduate Enrichment (CLUE) at the University of Washington. Paul is a certified Dependable Strengths Trainer and a professional Job Search and Employment Speaker and Counselor. Paul.valenti@seattle.gov - www.seattle.gov/seniors - <http://www.linkedin.com/in/fpvalenti>

Paulette Payne - Case Manager- Passage Point Program. B.A. Human Services. Paulette has provided 3.5 years of intensive case management to phase one of our program. This was a scattered site program where clients lived throughout King County. ppayne@ywcaworks.org

Reverend Jimmie James, MA, is the current Executive Director of Interaction Transition since 2009. He has developed, implemented and led a number of successful, social justice campaigns and projects, advocating for marginalized communities and social change. He is an advocate and panel speaker for several campaigns and organizations to end homelessness and poverty throughout King County. He is the founder of H.O.P.E. (Holistic Opportunities for Personal Empowerment) - a non-profit organization creating educational opportunities for youth, dropout prevention, and providing housing and jobs for re-entry and transition. Reverend James received his Bachelors Degree from Northwest University and Masters Degree from Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry. Consultant to Boy Scouts of America Boy Scouts Behind Bars Program Presenter and Co-Facilitator - Building Partnerships with Communities of Faith; WA State Prevention Summit 2000 Co-Facilitator- Recruitment in Communities of Color, WA State Prevention Summit, 2006; Facilitator- Mentoring Children of Prisoners, WA State Prevention Summit, 2006. jimiej@interactiontransition.org

Susie Leavell has always enjoyed starting projects, programs and initiatives. She earned her degree in Social Work in 1984 from Warner Pacific College in Oregon. Since that time, she has worked in a treatment center for emotionally challenged children and was a reserve police officer with Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. She joined the Washington State Department of Corrections in 1990 as a parole officer and worked in all aspects of Community Corrections. In addition, she's started a lot of different programs since she joined the Department of Corrections 20 years ago, including the day reporting center in Seattle, the Community Accountability Board in King County and much more. Ms. Leavell is currently the Family and Offender Sentencing Alternative Program Administrator. srleavell@DOC1.wa.gov

Terry Weber is the new Manager of Workforce Development for Pioneer Human Services and most recently, the Program Coordinator for Washington's Employment Security Department Offender Employment Services (OES). He coordinated OES program's activities statewide, provided technical assistance and administered DOC and Carl D. Perkins contracts that provided direct services to persons with convictions. He was also the Supervisor over WIA, UI and TANF programs at WorkSource Mason County resulting in a re-organization of all programs due to the growing numbers of job seekers needing services, reduced funding, staffing and resources to maximize efforts that resulted in improved outcomes and staff production and customer satisfaction. Terry has Certifications for Restorative Justice, Offender Employment, Retention and Workforce Development Specialist. He has worked on offender and reentry issues for over 37 years to raise community awareness and build reentry bridges as well as provide educational opportunities for people with convictions to become positive and productive citizens, family and community members. www.pioneerhumanservices.org www.wa.gov/esd/oes

Thad Allen has been employed by the Washington State Department of Corrections for the past 25 years. Over the course of his career he has worked as a therapist in the Washington State Department of Corrections Sex Offender Treatment Program, a Community Corrections Officer in both the field, and in work release. He was also a Re-entry Specialist for ten years. He is currently a Community Corrections Specialist working within the aftercare component of the DOC sex offender treatment program. He is also involved in the Homeless Coalitions of both Whatcom and Skagit Counties, serving on the Steering Committee representing Law Enforcement in Whatcom County.
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Twila Johnson-Tate graduated from Skagit Valley College with an AACTU degree and from Western Washington University with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, English and Library Science. She has been employed at Skagit Valley College with the WorkFirst Program not once, but twice and is currently working as a Program Coordinator on the Mount Vernon and Whidbey campus. She loves to work with parents who are new to Skagit Valley College and just beginning on their career pathway or in the middle of completing their education and moving towards employment in the field they have received their education in. Her outside interests are making handmade tiles, gardening, writing, cooking and spending time with her 6 grandchildren. Twila.Tate@skagit.edu

Wanda Stewart Wilder - Director, Passage Point Program. Wanda bring well-developed collaborative and community relationships skills with nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies and private and public organization to her work at Passage Point. Prior to taking this position in 2011, Wanda served as Executive Director to both a nonprofit and private not-for-profit agency. She lead a 24/7 substance abuse long term residential treatment facility for women, children and adolescent in King and Pierce county. Wanda has over 20 years of services in the public health and social services field, providing direct services as well as administrative services. Wanda is a certified Chemical Dependence Professional, who holds a M.B.A. degree and a BA degree in psychology with a minor in Law Enforcement. Wanda has served on many community Boards with her most recently being The New Phoebe House and Washington Women's Employment and Education (WWEE). wwilder@ywcaworks.org

William Brown Jr. has 25 years of Federal Government Service. After serving in the U.S. Air Force (USAF), Mr. Brown began his career with the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) in September 1990. As Management Center Administrator, Mr. Brown provides managerial and administrative oversight to three FBOP Community Corrections field offices in WA, CA, and UT. Mr. Brown has a M.A. and B.A. degree in Education respectively, from Chapman University, CA and Southern Illinois University, IL, and an AA degree in Criminal Justice from the Community College of the USAF. Mr. Brown received his Global Career Development Facilitator Credentials and completed the OWDS Training for Trainers (2006). He presented at Defendant and Offender Workforce Development Specialist conferences in 2007 and 2008 and has assisted in teaching the NCIC three-week OWDS course and OES course curriculum. In 2011, Mr. Brown obtained a certification as a True Colors Facilitator. wxxbrown@bop.gov

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