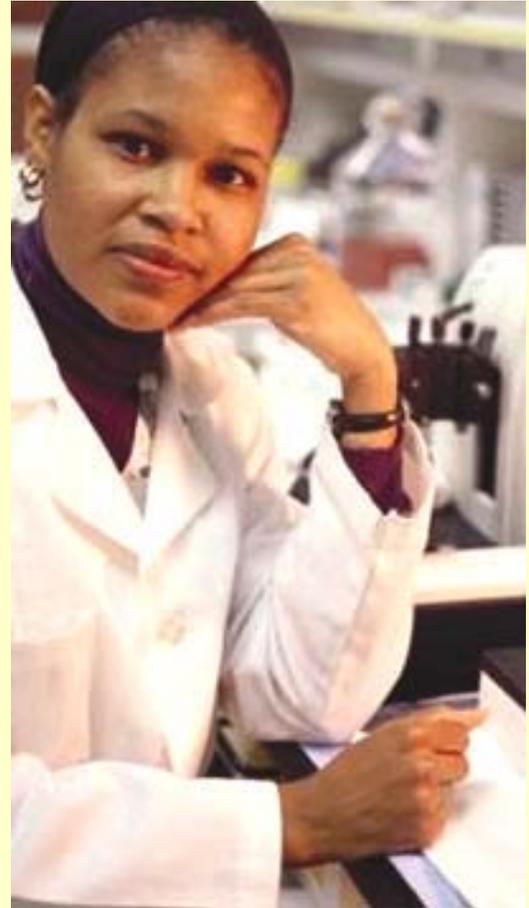


# Serving Ex-Offenders: Creating a Seamless Transition to Success



# Presenters

Scott Anders, U.S. Probation and Parole

Samuel Christopher Anderson  
ARCHS/WANTO Project Manager

Kathy Lambert, Connections to Success

# Workshop Objectives

Discuss best practices in providing services to ex-offenders.

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Discuss a local model  
(WANTO) and key partnerships  
that are needed for training and  
placement of ex-offenders in  
*Non-Traditional Occupations*

# Workshop Objectives

Discuss Strategies for delivering services to the ex-offender population:

Job Coaching

Career Counseling

Career Assessment

Technical Assistance to Prospective  
Employers

# Workshop Objectives

Open Forum/Questions  
on providing services to ex-offenders  
to create success in their transition  
to the workforce.

WANTO Re-ENTRY PROJECT  
for female ex-offenders

funded by the  
U.S. Dept. Of Labor, Women's Bureau

# WANTO Re-ENTRY PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Provide career support group
- Provide “Working it Out Model” for WANTO customers
- Provide mentors for WANTO customers
- Provide pre-release and post-release job readiness training
- Provide tax credit and bonding information to ex-offenders and potential employers
- Provide case management

# WANTO

Woman Apprenticeships In Non-Traditional Occupations

Are you a female who is currently under Federal or State of Missouri court supervision, and in search of training, and placement within Non-Traditional Occupations?



- CARPENTER
- HEALTHCARE
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIST
- PAINTER
- GYPSUM FINISHER
- BRICKLAYER
- SHEET METAL WORKER

WANTO provides training opportunities to women who have an interest in Non-Traditional Occupations, in an effort to provide increased access to employment within the Building Trades, Healthcare, and Information Technology.

CONTACT YOUR PROBATION OR PAROLE OFFICER or call  
SAMUEL CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON - WANTO PROJECT MANAGER  
Telephone: 314-634-0000 ext 235 • e-mail: WANTO@ARCHS.ORG

Partners: United States District Court of Eastern Missouri, Cass County District Council of Greater St. Louis and Youngs Street Menial Workers Joint Apprenticeship Program, Connections to Success, Parent Child Center, MyCarrie's Brother's Construction, Abbott Services-Hd Health Studies Center, Productive Transition Department, SAC HealthCare, Monville University, East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, The Learning Center

## PARTNERS

# WANTO RE-ENTRY PROGRAM NEXT STEPS

- Best practice model for providing employment services for ex-offenders (male & female)

# WANTO RE-ENTRY PROGRAM NEXT STEPS

Development of linkages between apprenticeships in prison to those in the community.

# WANTO PARTNERS

- MISSOURI FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISION
- COMPUTER VILLAGE, ST. LOUIS, MO
- COMPUTER R US, ST. LOUIS, MO



# WANTO PARTNERS

- ARCHS: AREA RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES
- CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS
- PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

# WANTO PARTNERS

U.S. Probation Office of  
Eastern District of Missouri

Missouri Department of Corrections/  
Probation and Parole of Eastern Missouri





**Connections to Success is a nonprofit organization serving Missouri and Illinois and created to encapsulate a number of existing programs whose vision is to break the cycle of poverty one family at a time**

**Dress for Success® Midwest**

Began serving the St. Louis region in May 1998

Served over 10,000 women and affecting the lives of over 16,000 children

Provides interview appropriate clothing to women referred from other nonprofits



*The following programs are currently included:*

:

### **Professional Women's Group®**

Began October 1999 with over 500 members to date. Qualifications to join include 30 days of continuous employment. Assists women with career development and life skills training

### **Career Development**

Identifies career choices based on individuals' likes and passions Mapping of goals and strategies to reach career objectives "Job coaching" to assist individuals overcome obstacles and challenges



*The following programs are currently included:*

### **Faith & Family Connections**

Faith-based mentoring program Work together with congregations and faith-based organizations to form teams. Match each mentor team with a family for one year commitment

### **Wheels For Success**

Began in July 1999 providing safe and reliable vehicles to selected applicants. Vehicles are donated, then repaired for service. Each recipient makes nominal monthly payment to program for one year

# Professional Women's Group®



- Began October 1999 with over 500 members to date. Qualifications to join include 30 days of continuous employment. Assists women with career development and life skills training.

# Career Development

CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS



- Identifies career choices based on individuals' likes and passions
- Mapping of goals and strategies to reach career objectives
- “Job coaching” to assist individuals overcoming obstacles and challenges.
- Faith-based Mentoring Program

# Wheels For Success

- Began in July 1999 providing safe and reliable vehicles to selected applicants. Vehicles are donated, then repaired for service. Each recipient makes nominal monthly payment to program for one year

**We have awarded 118 cars**



# Wheels of Hope

CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS



An 8' x 40' mobile office trailer providing clothing, training, mentoring and other services offered by Connections to Success. Intended uses include reaching clients unable to get to our service centers, and better collaborating with other agencies and organization needing our services.

**Mobile Career Corner**

**Mobile Dress for Success Boutique**

# QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

# Question

How do ex-offenders access the workforce development system for services? How has this worked?

# Question

What barriers have been encountered in working with the workforce development system and what are some strategies for overcoming these barriers?

# Question

What are the major barriers encountered in serving the ex-offender population?

For each barrier, list some strategies for overcoming the barrier.

# Question

How do you address the issue of lack of a work history or marketable skills?

# Question

Is obtaining a GED a mandatory requirement for offenders being released from incarceration.

## *Share a Success Story*

Talk about an ex-offender who successfully transitioned into the workforce upon release.

What are some of the things that contributed to her success?

# Question

What are some things happening in the St. Louis metropolitan area (best practices) that assist women released from prison?

## Question

How are ex-offenders being helped to obtain employment in apprenticeships, nontraditional occupations and other jobs?

# Question

Describe any pre-release services offered to offenders.

# Question

What are the components of a successful transition plan?

What types of job readiness  
training/services are  
provided?

Pre-release?

Post-Release

# Question

What types of post job-  
placement services are  
provided? And  
For how long?

# Question

Describe any mentoring and support services provided to ex-offenders.

# Question

How do you address issues associated with readjustment to society? Social life?

# Question

How do you get the buy-in  
of employers?

(Federal Bonding Program

[www.bonds4jobs.com](http://www.bonds4jobs.com)

800-233-2258 ext. 246

## Question

How do you identify resources in the community for serving the needs of ex-offenders? Perhaps special needs such as child care? Transportation?

# Question

If an ex-offender has to report to a probation officer are arrangements for reporting flexible to accommodate the work schedule of offenders who are employed?

## *Contacts*

Scott Anders

[scott\\_anders@moep.uscourts.gov](mailto:scott_anders@moep.uscourts.gov)

314-244-6701

Samuel Christopher Anderson

[andersons@stlarchs.org](mailto:andersons@stlarchs.org)

314-534-0022

Kathy Lambert

[kathylambert@charter.net](mailto:kathylambert@charter.net)

636-940-8027 x100

Rose Kemp

[rkemp@dol.gov](mailto:rkemp@dol.gov)

816-426-6108