

Judicial & Law Enforcement Task Force
Minutes
September 19, 2018

Rusty Antel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of the Boone County Government Center.

Panelists for the meeting included: Boone County Presiding Commissioner, Dan Atwill; In2Action Executive Director, Dan Hanneken; Job Point Executive Director, Steve Smith, and Boone County Community Services Director Kelly Wallis.

Kelly Wallis started the discussion with an overview of programming and initiatives in Boone County. She noted that Boone County expends a substantial portion of its annual budget on the justice system, including the courts, prosecutor, jail, and law enforcement. The goal of those programs includes enhancing public safety. If we don't focus on reducing recidivism, we neither promote and enhance public safety nor do we utilize resources as wisely as possible because the individuals involved in those systems repeatedly cycle back through those systems, and others. Kelly noted the ongoing efforts to look at data from the various systems, including behavioral health care, homelessness, criminal justice, to see where we can align resources to better promote public safety and create better outcomes for those individuals and the community at large. She indicated that the research demonstrates the importance of supportive services at every step of the process.

Dan Hanneken then provided a brief overview of In2Action, noting that while the vast majority of the individuals served come out of an institutional setting, they have the ability to serve those who have not yet entered the system but find themselves at risk of doing so. He noted that often we look at the various systems necessary for success, including housing, behavioral health care, job skills training, jobs, but that we shouldn't silo those systems as all are important. He stressed that the programming that can be made available is only part of the answer. He further stressed that one of the most important ingredients for success is the relationships upon which success can be based.

Dan Atwill spoke about Governor Parson's recent economic development conference in Kansas City, which he attended, and the focus given at the conference to understanding that those who have been justice-involved can be part of an economic resurgence in our State. He noted that the Governor had indicated he did not intend for us to build more prisons but rather that he believes we must find a different and better way to encourage business in Missouri, in part through providing appropriate job skill training to individuals coming out of DOC and our county jails. Dan referred to a session at which the head of one of the adult institutions spoke about job skills training that is occurring at his institution for inmates so that they can be more prepared for success upon their transition to the outside. Dan encouraged those present to include conversations with those on the State level, since the conference

demonstrated clearly the administration's desire to assist these individuals and, by so doing, to increase the economic vitality of our State.

Steve Smith spoke about the ways in which Job Point is providing training for individuals who often have a felony conviction on their record. He noted some of the success stories for those who have gotten training and, despite their records, have landed terrific jobs in many different fields, including HVAC and highway construction. He noted the impact the "Ban the Box" initiative had had on individuals' ability to even get an interview. He shared stories about individuals who had been able to obtain those great jobs and turned their lives around despite the felony conviction and about those who had had some relapses in their paths post-release.

Rusty closed the meeting at 5:35 p.m. after thanking the presenters and announcing that the next meeting will take place in Commission Chambers on November 28, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. Commissioner Casey Clevenger will be the presenter.