



WAC WORKS



Western Alternative Corrections. Inc.

October 2016

We are pleased to present our first WAC Works newsletter. This newsletter is intended to provide information about various parts of our program at Bristol Station Residential Reentry Center, as well as shed some light on some of our participants and highlight their journey to success.

On July 1, 2016 our new Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Reentry Initiative grant for the Intensive Vocational and Life Skills Program (IVLSP) began. We are excited about the continued opportunity to provide reentry services to individuals transitioning back into their communities and collaborate with other grantee recipients. We would like to share a tidbit of information about the positive progress with our previous grant cycle. During our last grant cycle we were able to provide services and programming to 142 participants! With those 142 participants we saw a significant decrease with regard to the scores on the risk and needs assessment we utilize. Overall, the risk rating for individuals participating in our reentry program decreased from high to moderate. For those of you who get excited about statistics and validity, we share your enthusiasm because this proves that what we are doing is working! Looking forward, we will continue strive to keep this momentum going with our reentry programs.

Bristol Station residents also participate in a variety of volunteer and restorative justice projects in the community. Since July, residents have participated in community service projects with Adams Co. Fairgrounds, Big Brothers, YMCA, Hastings Kool-Aid Days, Hastings Arboretum and Hastings Greenscape. One Bristol Station resident stated "It makes me feel good to give back to the community and to help others."



In July two Bristol Station employees, Brent Hultine, Home Reintegration Specialist, and Tara Shafer, Case Manager, began the Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training. The OWDS training addresses several competencies, including career development theory and application, ethics training for career development facilitators and transition interventions for the offender population. This training is evidence-based, helps identify areas of employment interest, and aims to increase employment rates for the offender population by teaching employability skills. Overall, increasing employment rates with the offender population decreases recidivism rates.



(Case Manger, Tara Shafer, facilitates an employment readiness group.)





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PARTICIPANT HIGHLIGHTS

(In the picture below, David participated in the ribbon cutting with the Hastings Chamber of Commerce.)

Each quarter one program participant will be the focus of this section to illustrate their progress in the Bristol Station reentry program. This quarter David Reynolds has been chosen to be the highlight of this section. David entered Bristol Station in May 2016 and successfully transitioned out of the program in August 2016. While at Bristol Station David received correctional case management and participated in the vocational and life skills programming offered.



Within with first week at Bristol Station David secured employment, however he reported being very unsatisfied with the job and only worked a few weeks before he quit. According to David, his disdain for that job and the feelings he experienced after quitting gave him motivation to find a job that he enjoyed.

David stated "I wouldn't be at C3 without being at Bristol Station." David indicated that the staff at Bristol Station made a positive impact on him through their positive interactions, by providing words of encouragement and instilling patience during difficult times. David also stated "Bristol Station puts things in front of you that you've never done and gives you an opportunity to move forward." David reported that some of the life skills he acquired while at Bristol Station have been extremely helpful in learning to live independently. David reported that he believes his biggest accomplishment thus far is "persevering and excelling at my job and persevering through difficult times which have allowed me to gain a new perspective on things." David is also a Professional Role Model through the Hastings YMCA and volunteers on a weekly basis.

A door opened for David when a supervisor at C3 Hotel was at Bristol Station recruiting laborers for the construction of the hotel. David took advantage of this opportunity and chose to work as a laborer, "even though I knew I did not enjoy construction work but I really wanted a job with the hotel." Shortly before construction on the hotel was complete David's positive attitude and work ethic helped him achieve his goal to work for C3 Hotel as he was offered a bellman position with the hotel. David reported he worked as a bellman for only a few days before he was offered the Executive Housekeeping Supervisor position.

To summarize, David has worked for C3 Hotel since June and through determination and hard work he earned an executive level supervisory position within a very short period of time. "I was given an amazing opportunity."

David's success story is one to be celebrated. We are very proud of his positive progress and accomplishments over the last several months.

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