

# Reentry News



CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

December 2015



## Meet Brittany: Reentry Success Story

The things I've done in my past define me as who I was but the things I do presently are a constant reminder of who I am now and how far I've come. A few years ago, I never thought I'd be where I am now. I went to juvie a few times, partied too much and got pregnant at 16. At that moment in my life I thought I had it all.

I thought having a baby would help me find the little slice of happiness I couldn't find anywhere else. Don't get me wrong,

having my daughter was the best thing to ever happen to me, but it didn't solve my problems. I still didn't know how to love myself at the time, how could I love anything else?

Now 5 years later, I'm sitting in the Clark County Jail for half a year because I let alcohol get the best of me. I thought all this time, I had it under control because I wasn't into hard drugs, I just liked to drink. Drinking took over my mind, body and life. I'm 21 years old and almost died from withdrawal from alcohol. It consumed me. I drank and drove, fought with loved ones and lost everything I had.

I'm ready for change. When I was sentenced to 9 months in jail the thoughts that went through my head were indescribable. My life was over in my eyes because I'd never gone through anything like this. I have 21 days left and can say this is the happiest I've been with myself in years. It's all about your mindset and how you use the time. I choose to take advantage of everything in front of me and make the best of it.

The first step I took was getting into MRT (Moral Reconciliation Therapy). If you take it seriously, you can gain so much from it. By the time I go home, I should be finished with the 12-step program. I also went through ECAP (ESD 112 Early Child Hood Assistance Program) and got my daughter in preschool while I was gone. ECAP let me help decide which school she would go to so I had a part of it too. I attend the Xchange Church Faces of Hope classes which gives me faith and motivation and an opportunity to be part of a faith-based program. Reentry is helping me get food stamps so when I walk out of these doors, I know I won't be hungry. I signed up for insurance so I know I'll be healthy. I'm already in treatment class because Reentry helped me get an evaluation. I am set and ready to go with a plan to succeed and not come back.

Jail has been a blessing in disguise and I believe that it saved my life. When I go home, I'll have my daughter back, I'll be sober and I'll be living the good life. I don't want to drink anymore. I want to help people and show them there is hope.

Thank you Clark County Sheriff's department for understanding and giving second chances. Thank you Deputies Barb Schubach and Alva Songer for being positive influences. Thank you to the Jail Work Center for accepting me with a strike and letting me see my daughter twice a week.

One more thing- Thank you to the YWCA ladies for helping me and supporting the woman. They taught me H.O.P.E which stands for "Hold On, Pain Ends."

Written by Brittany





## Outstanding Local Program

### Where do people go for CD-ITA?

There are limits to the number of beds per month available for CD-ITA. Currently Clark County ITA's an average of 10 people per in designated ITA facilities in Washington; Pioneer Center East (PCE) in Spokane, WA and Pioneer Center North (PCN) in Sedro Woolley, WA. PCE and PCN, like a growing



## Lifeline Connections CD-ITA

### Chemical Dependency Involuntary Treatment Act

### What is the Chemical Dependency Involuntary Treatment Act (CD-ITA)?

CD-ITA is the Chemical Dependency Involuntary Treatment Act. It is one sentencing alternative used by the court, judges and prosecutors, that allows inmates to serve a portion of their jail sentence in an inpatient substance abuse treatment facility. Referrals for screening for treatment placement come from the court, defense attorneys, the Therapeutic Court Programs and probation officers. After an inmate serves a portion of his or her sentence, if substance abuse is determined to be a factor in an inmate's legal history, he or she may spend 30-60 days in a substance abuse treatment program.

CD-ITA requires multiple treatment engagements such as detoxification services, in or out of jail and/or previous inpatient or outpatient treatment with continued use after treatment. For ITA purposes the person must also agree to be held in a secure treatment facility for 60 days. ITA requires a court order for commitment of 60 days substance abuse treatment. The individual agrees with the judge that they are a danger to themselves and others and is asking the court to mandate her or him to treatment for a period not to exceed 60 days. Only about half of the people in CD ITA from Clark County come from the jail. Others are referred by substance abuse treatment programs, detox facilities, emergency rooms or self-referrals from people living on the streets.

number of other treatment centers throughout the state, are providing trauma-informed and grief resolution substance abuse curricula.

### Can someone be forced into CD-ITA?

No. CD-ITA requires court involvement and the person agrees to stay in treatment for 60 days. CD-ITA is different than mental health civil involuntary treatment, MH-ITA. For the specific legal definition of CD ITA, see RCW 70.96A.140.

### What other treatment options exist for inmates in Clark County Jail ?

Inmates may also be assessed for and released early from jail to attend an intensive inpatient treatment facility for 20-30 days that does not require an ITA court order.

### How do I get more information?

Andy Lexow has been the CD-ITA Coordinator at Lifeline Connections since 2007. Andy estimates he has helped almost 1,000 clients get out of jail and into substance abuse treatment in the last 8 years. Andy believes "Inmates are not bad people trying to get good. They're sick people trying to get well. They're people who got their values and priorities mixed up for any number of reasons, that want another chance. Going to treatment is just a small step into a new life-long journey of living one day at a time."

**Questions? Contact Andy Lexow (360) 397 8246**

## Substance Abuse Treatment in Clark County Jail

In partnership with Community Services Northwest, Reentry has provided over **350** free substance abuse assessments to inmates since October 2013. To qualify, inmates must be releasing locally to Clark County and request the assessment voluntarily.



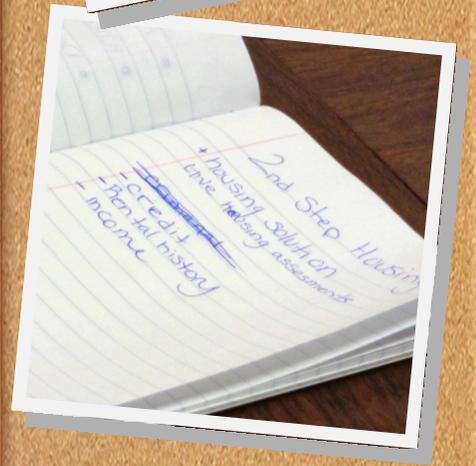
There are 2 Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) substance abuse treatment groups in the Main Jail and one at the Jail Work Center. To qualify, inmates must be releasing locally to Clark County and request group voluntarily.



# Inside the Reentry Program:

## Housing Classes

### Second Step Housing Program



**Second Step Housing** is a non-profit agency in Clark County that provides housing, case management and support services. For information about Second Step programs go to <http://www.secondstephousing.org>

### Second Step Housing teaches 4 rotating classes in the Clark County Jail:

#### 1. Applying for Low Income Housing

The class provides applications for low income property housing options. Participants receive help completing the applications. Second Step staff help students discuss the specifics of each type of property, how to follow up regarding applications and what additional documents and materials may need to be turned in. Second Step helps participants apply for low income Section 42 properties: 6 in Vancouver, 3 in Washougal, 2 in Battle Ground, 1 in Woodland, 1 in Stevenson and Section 8 housing: 1 in Kelso and 1 in Kalama. The Vancouver Section 8 housing voucher list is closed. The class gives a landlord list and apartment inquiry questionnaire.

#### 2. Managing Rental Barriers

The class focuses on common rental barriers: credit history, criminal history and past rental history. Second Step staff address the steps individuals can take to address barriers and make themselves appealing to potential property managers including tenant education classes and credit reparation services. The class also covers property debt, evictions and the landlord screening process. Information on how to access free legal assistance with landlord disputes and appeals is included.

#### 3. Community Resource Tour Guide

The class explores a range of social service programs available in Clark County. It includes emergency shelter system and how to access housing assessments through the Housing Solutions Center. The class covers common needs: affordable housing, supported employment, transportation assistance, interview clothes and child care.

#### 4. Budgeting for Housing

This class discusses budgeting for housing: application fees, deposits and how to manage limited incomes to keep up with next month's rent payment. It includes budgeting for basic housing needs such as rent, water, sewer and utilities. Second Step staff help participants create a housing budget that focuses on retaining housing long term.



**Thank you Sherie Cross and Lyndsey Harkless for facilitating classes!**



**The mission of the Clark County Corrections Branch is to promote and maintain public safety through effective correctional and reentry practices**

## In Her Shoes

*Domestic Violence Awareness Workshop with Clark County YWCA*

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Clark County Jail  
Reentry Organization:

Chief Jail Deputy: Ric Bishop  
Operations Commander:  
Randy Tangen  
Reentry Sergeant: Ken Clark  
Reentry Deputy: Barbara Schubach  
Reentry Deputy: Alva Songer  
Reentry Deputy: Cris Dumitrescu  
Discharge Planner: Anna Lookingbill  
Discharge Planner Kelly Anderson



The Clark County YWCA SafeChoice Domestic Violence Program offers **In Her Shoes** to the public in October as part of Domestic Violence Awareness month. **In Her Shoes is an interactive 30 minute workshop based on real experiences of women living in domestic violence.** The goal is to increase awareness of the obstacles faced when trying to leave a violent relationship. It is not as simple as "Why doesn't she just leave?"

The Reentry program took 7 corrections staff from the jail to the community based In Her Shoes event. Staff found it valuable and asked it be brought "in-house" for law enforcement staff.

In early December, Reentry offered In Her Shoes at the Clark County Jail and invited all branches of the Sheriff's Office- corrections, enforcement and support. Invitations were extended across the law enforcement community. Over 30 people participated .

Comments include:

"Thank you for the reminder and encouragement to attend the 'In Her Shoes' interactive experience yesterday. It is good to gain a different perspective on a DV victim's situation. It's not as simple as "... just leave!" It was a good experience. I hope there are a lot of folks taking advantage of the opportunity!"

"This was a very "eye opening" experience and I'm glad we had the opportunity to participate."

**Special thanks to the YWCA Safe Choice program and Michelle, Misty, Lauren and Beatriz for facilitating the workshop!**

## Reentry Service Provider Meeting



The Reentry Program has a **bi-monthly service provider meeting**. The meeting highlights community programs and problem-solves challenges around service connections for inmates in jail and post-release.

The next meeting is **Tuesday, January 12, 10:30-11:30 am** at the Clark County Public Service Center, 6th Floor, Board of County Councilors Training Room, 1300 Franklin St, Vancouver WA 98660

To attend, please sign up with Sgt Clark: [kenneth.clark@clark.wa.gov](mailto:kenneth.clark@clark.wa.gov)