



**Department of
Rehabilitation
& Correction**

START WITH CIRCLES



**Department of
Rehabilitation
& Correction**

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AGENDA

What is a Citizen Circle?

Why start with a Citizen Circle?

How does a Citizen Circle work?

Hear from Summit County Citizen Circle

How should we start a Citizen Circle?

What does reentry look like?

What does reentry mean to you?

The CHaos of ReEntry

Family

You haven't changed.
Still the same
behavior.



Social Services

I made an
appointment for you.
Why didn't you go?



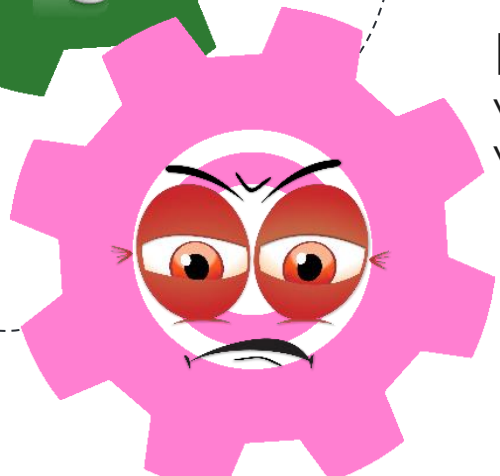
Children

When are you going
to spend time with
me?



Substance Abuse

Did you attend treatment?
Did you go to your
meeting? Are you going to
test positive?



Friends

You've changed.
You're not the same.



Parole Officer

You need to report to
my office!



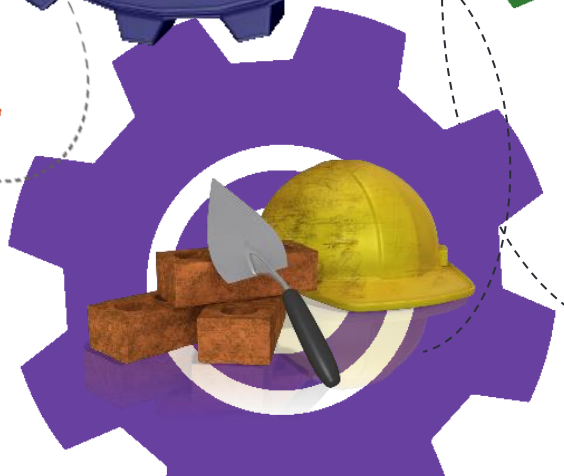
Landlords

The rent is due now.



Employment

Why are you always
late? Why didn't you
show up yesterday?



WHAT IS A CITIZEN CIRCLE?

Create partnerships that promote positive interactions, social support and accountability for justice-involved individuals.

Citizen Circles provide a holistic and collective approach to individuals at any stage of their reentry.

Operates in a safe and welcoming environment for each individual that seeks support and assistance from the Circle.

Establishes a presence with the Coalition as a primary stakeholder for reentry referrals within the County.

WHY START A CITIZEN CIRCLE?

Provides reintegration planning/support

Collaboration in county to create a continuum of care

Accountability

A place to provide HOPE

Safe and welcoming environment

Be able to collect needs of justice involved individuals

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CITIZEN CIRCLE AND COALITION

- Citizen Circle

- Connect justice-involved people to communities, programs, and resources
- Support individuals with a seamless transition back to Ohio communities.
- Community members take an active role in developing partnerships to assist individuals.
- Justice-involved individual's responsibility and commitment to positive change

- Coalition

- Focus its efforts at a countywide effort
- Alliances of individuals for combined action to promote successful reintegration
- Provide the crucial service of helping individuals find employment, access stable housing, support their families and children, and become active contributors to society.
- Connect justice-involved people to communities, programs, and resources

HOW DO CITIZEN CIRCLES WORK?

Citizen Circles operate in a safe and welcoming environment.

Important components to Citizen Circles are:

- Having a diverse membership

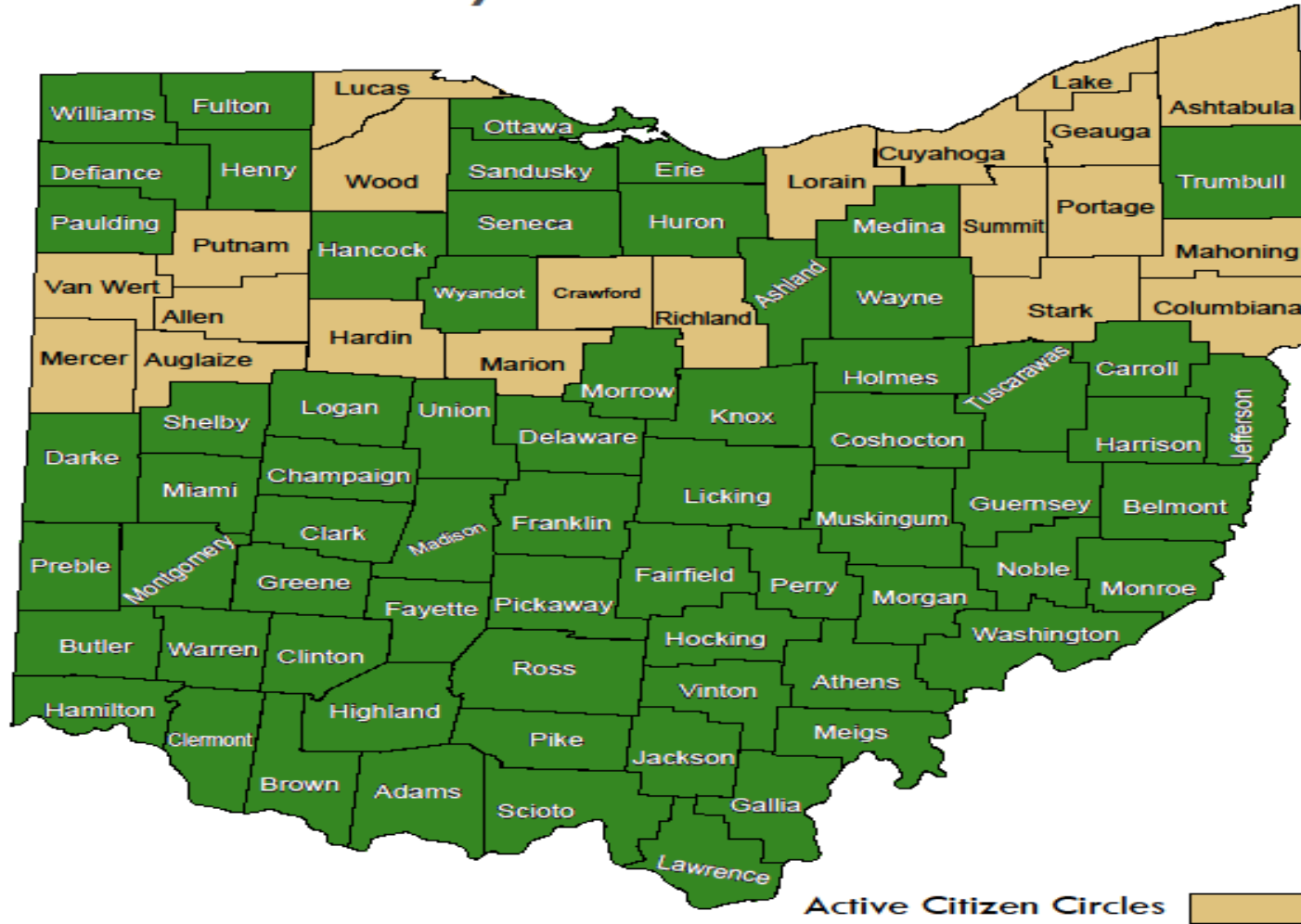
- Consistent location with a standard time for the meetings

- Referrals

- Records/tracking

- Communication

Reentry Citizen Circles



Active Citizen Circles (9/26/2023)

SUMMIT COUNTY CITIZEN CIRCLE

First meeting Oct 2018, monthly thereafter, through March 2020. Due to the pandemic, didn't resume until March 2021. From inception, assisted 299 justice involved individuals, with 7 individuals attending more than once.

57% of individuals attending had child support issues.

Average 19 resource providers (aka Members) attending each monthly Citizen Circle meeting.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES PROVIDED

1st half of 2023:

Distributed 72 1-day bus passes and 2 31-day passes.

Distributed 45 \$25.00 gas cards and 4 \$50 gas cards for a total \$1325.00

Provided 2 bicycles and locks for individuals to use as transportation to and from work.

Provided wallets and hygiene bags to participants in need.

Summit County Coalition received ODRC's Coalition Expansion Grant in 2022. With Citizen Circle being the main hub for support in Summit County, Portage and Medina Counties are now partners as well. The grant helped provide over \$18,000 to justice involved individuals for basic needs such as food, clothing, hygiene, temporary shelter, and State ID's. Over \$21,000 was used to provide financial assistance to help with BMV fines/reinstatement fees, court fees, housing/rent, utilities, car repairs, and birth certificates.

MEETINGS ARE MONTHLY

Summit County Citizen Circle

- Schedules participants instead of having walk-ins (though no one will be turned away)
- Conducts meetings using a hybrid method, rather than in-person only, which has increased our Member attendance.
- Cross-training team Members (for assigned meeting duties) makes the Circle professional and effective.
- It is very important that Members understand that Citizen Circle is not a competition for recruitment. By providing options to those we serve helps the individual on their journey to success.

EFFECT OF THE CIRCLE ON COMMUNITY

The effect Summit County Citizen Circle has on our community is wonderful. We have been able to provide a “**one-stop-shop**” with ready access to resources, and a network of support and acceptance for those we serve. We provide a safe, non-judgmental environment, to assist individuals with a successful reentry.

Other benefits:

- Created reentry leadership
- Increased provider collaboration
- Agencies seek out the Circle and want to become members, the Circle hasn't had to recruit providers

MEMBERS PERSPECTIVE

Members:

Charles Harrison with Man2Man Fatherhood Initiative

740-844-3070 harrisonc54@yahoo.com

Laurie Norval with Akron CNC Training Center

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EMAIL FROM LAURIE NORVAL:

WE PROVIDE SKILLED TRADE TRAINING TO STUDENTS TO PREPARE THEM FOR EMPLOYMENT IN CNC MACHINING. WE HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF CITIZEN CIRCLE CLIENTS TRAIN, GRADUATE AND BE PLACED IN GOOD JOBS THAT PROVIDE EXCELLENT PAY, INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT PLANS. GRADUATES CAN WORK IN THIS INDUSTRY FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIFE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HELPING MORE CITIZEN CIRCLE PARTICIPANTS WHO WISH TO ENTER THIS FIELD AND GAIN THE BENEFITS.

BEST REGARD,

LAURIE NORVAL

DIRECTOR

LNORVAL@AKRONCNC.COM

EFFECT OF THE CIRCLE ON PARTICIPANTS

Summit County Citizen Circle values feedback from its participants. Below are some quotes taken from the survey that the participants complete:

“I didn’t feel embarrassed, I’m blessed the community has people like you”

“Allowed me to open up and just be honest”

“Everyone was nice and talking the truth”

“Straight to the point, got the help I needed”

“You covered all areas for me, and I thank you”

“Thank you guys for doing something you didn’t have to”

HOW DO WE START A CIRCLE?

Recruit members

Reach out to ODRC for training

QUESTIONS?

DRC.OHIO.GOV

THANK YOU

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