

**Tennessee Community Resource Board
Brook Hollow Church, Nashville
February 26, 2024**

TCRB Representatives:

J.R. Davis, Chairman / Middle TN Representative	(P)
Vinessa Brown, Vice Chairman / West TN Representative	(P)
Raeanne Hance, Secretary / East TN Representative	(P)
James Booth, Member / Middle TN Representative	(P)
Joan Evrist, Member / Middle TN Representative	(P)
Tom Hallquist, Member / Middle TN Representative	(P)
Robert Sherrill, Member / Middle TN Representative	(P)
Mario Allen, Member / West TN Representative	(P)
Paul Hensley, Member / West TN Representative	(A)
Rev. Michael Rickenbaker, Member / West TN Representative	(A)
Eric Anderson, Member / East TN Representative	(A)
Tory Campbell, Member / East TN Representative	(A)
Lindsay Holloway, Member / East TN Representative	(A)
Genevieve Turner, Member / East TN Representative	(P)

TDOC Representative:

David Dodson, Director of Religious and Volunteer Services

Guests:

Vicki Helgesen, Leaving the Cocoon
Gretchen Wolfe, Leaving the Cocoon
Jordan Davis, Return Citizens Committee
Christie McLean, God Behind Bars

Call To Order (9:15 a.m.) – J.R. Davis

Devotion & Prayer – David Dodson

Welcome & Introductions – J.R. Davis

Planning Meeting
Reviewed Agenda

Old Business – J.R. Davis

Vote for Vice Chair.
Last meeting resulted in two ties. It was decided to vote again during first meeting of 2024.
Vinessa Brown, West TN Representative was elected Vice Chair.

Initiatives - What initiatives do we want to adopt as a board this year?

- JR Davis presented 501c3
- Raeanne Hance presented *AWEC Resolution Utilization on the Use of Person-Centered Language in the Criminal Justice System*. See Attachment A for details. Suggested wording in resolution is “incarcerated individual”, “individual on parole”, “individual on probation.”
- Tom Hallquist presented *Faith in Correction Regional Conferences*. See Attachment B for details. Not just one conference in Nashville, but one in each region.

Main points from Tom Hallquist:

- Bring families into conference to learn what programs are available
- Love Works has agreed to vocal messages and music at no cost
- Melinda Doolittle agreed to be a part of the conferences
- Would be a positive impact on individual regions
- Get local boards involved

It was asked if the board could obtain a list of boards in each region. David Dodson stated it is possible and would obtain.

Questions Discussed:

- How do we formulate? Each region would decide what works best for them. However, TCRB needs to create a format as an “all together” TCRB approved procedure which includes vision, mission, timelines, suggested key speakers, etc. All conference should have same vision.
- Conferences must be informative, and resource driven.
- Do we go in prisons? This would be a lot of planning and events are already held in prisons.
- Conference 2024 Draft Outline
Framework
Theme: Re-entry, Recidivism, Community Acceptance
Audience: Community, Justice: Impacted & Family, TDOC
Components: Healing (families)
Trauma (informative)
Rehab Services & Resources
Training
Identity - Intra/Inter-personal
Messaging – Legislation
Effective Mentoring
Current Programming
Resources: Housing
Education/Vocational Skills
Finances
Employment
Basic Needs
Expungement
Drug & Alcohol
- Joan Evrist presented parole board concerns. Should TCRB, as an advisory board to TDOC, write advisory letters concerning these concerns? What areas do we want to write to TDOC as TCRB? More discussion next meeting.

Lunch presentation – Dr. Alfonso Gilbert – Leadership 101

Matthew 11:28-30: 4 Principles for Leadership which Jesus Mastered

Humility – Gentle & Humble of Heart

Learners – Jesus was a learner; Leaders are readers, Biology teaches we are growing or dying

Influence – Jesus greatest influencer ever; Doesn't require title; Influence to make people better themselves

Emotion Intelligence – Come to me who are weary and burdened; Jesus has a pulse for others emotional level

Initiative Decisions & Committee Assignments

- **501c3 – Non-Profit Status**
All board members agreed to move forward.
- **Faith in Correction Regional Conferences**
All board members agreed to conferences.
Committee: Mario Allen, Member / West TN Representative
Raeanne Hance, Secretary / East TN Representative
Robert Sherrill, Member / Middle TN Representative
- **Advisory Letter to TDOC – Subject: Parole Board**
All board members agreed to advisory letter for Parole Board.
What areas do we want to write to TDOC as TCRB? More discussion next meeting.
Committee: Raeanne Hance, Secretary / East TN Representative
Robert Sherrill, Member / Middle TN Representative
Genevieve Turner, Member / East TN Representative

Miscellaneous Topics – J.R. Davis

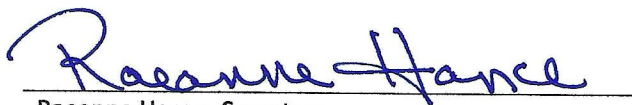
- **New Board Member Vote:**
James Kirkwood's resume was handed out to attending board members.
Mr. Kirkwood has influence and contacts that would be beneficial to the board.
Attending members agreed to vote. Tom motioned for acceptance; all agreed.
Mr. Kirkwood will be submitted for approval for member as a West TN Representative.
- **Board needs to know membership dates for all board members.**
 - J.R. Davis stated that David Dodson could be contacted for these dates.
- **Was stated there is a budget for the TCRB. Is there a budget and how do we utilize?**
 - Genevieve Turner to research.
- **Need access to Facebook page. David Lawson has login and password.**
 - Vinessa Brown was tasked with reaching out to Thurston to obtain password.

Meeting Adjourned (2:00 p.m.) – J.R. Davis

Next Meeting: Friday, April 26, 9:00 a.m. – Location is TBD

Meeting Dates for 2024:	April 26	August 30	December 6
	June 26	October 25	

Submitted by:



Raeanne Hance, Secretary
Tennessee Community Resource Board


Date

ATTACHMENT A
INITIATIVE SUGGESTION - RAEANNE HANCE
AWEC RESOLUTION

**AWEC RESOLUTION UTILIZATION ON THE USE OF
PERSON-CENTERED LANGUAGE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Whereas person-first language refers to language that focuses first on the individual as a whole person, rather than their situation, condition, or diagnosis, and

Whereas people-first language avoids turning one aspect of a person's life into an all-encompassing label, and decreases the conscious or unconscious marginalization and dehumanization of people and groups of people, and

Whereas reliance and use of non-person-centered labels for people involved in the legal system can produce and reinforce certain stereotypes and stigmas, and

Whereas stigmas have been shown to result in exclusion from significant social and economic resources and services that may affect their health and well-being (Winnick & Bodkin, 2008), and

Whereas stigma creates negative attitudes which can limit engagement by persons released from custody supervision with their community, reducing their interest as well as the community interest and support in the ability and willingness to work, access treatment and services, participate in civic affairs, engage in positive, pro-social activities and relationships, and re-connect, repair, and improve family relationships, and

Whereas words such as "con", "criminal", "defendant", and "arrestee" restrict people to groups that do not acknowledge their human identity and reinforce existing stereotypes they based solely on the interactions of the legal system, and

WHEREAS the Association of Women Executives in Corrections specifically states the guiding principles of HUMANITY, JUSTICE, PROTECTION, OPPORTUNITY, DIGNITY, KNOWLEDGE, COMPETENCE and ACCOUNTABILITY are consistent with sound correctional policy; evidence-based research and a culture which contributes to the potential for successful reentry to the community and should be equally available to all individuals in custody, those released to the community and others placed on community supervision with opportunities for better outcomes.

THEREFORE, correction agencies should develop policy based on the logic of "people-first" language and purge the criminal justice vocabulary of language that turns an individual record into an indelible brand.

THEREFORE, agencies should develop policy that purge and discontinue terms such as "inmate," "ex-offender," "prisoner" and "ex-convict" in an effort to eliminate the oftentimes dehumanizing language of the criminal justice system, that is, defining people by the crime they were convicted of or their 'status' in the criminal justice system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Women Executives in Corrections supports vigorous exploration of all aspects of corrections operations to include an examination and inclusion of person-centered language in correctional policies and procedures.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Women Executives in Corrections supports the development of the preferred terminology referring to persons in the correctional system is incarcerated individual, not inmate, and in the probation and parole system is: individual on probation, not probationer, individual on parole, not parolee, individual on community supervision and client.

ATTACHMENT B

INITIATIVE SUGGESTION - TOM HALLQUIST

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Faith in Corrections Regional Conferences

This is a proposal to the Tennessee Department of Corrections (TDOC) and the Tennessee Community Resource Board (TCRB) to initiate regional Faith in Corrections Conferences for 2024, as discussed at the TCRB meeting in December of 2023. Due to the success of the October Faith in Correction Conference panel discussions, conversations were established to initiate conference agenda and topics. I met with Chris Southerland and Ron Miller here in Nashville and we discussed formats for the Florida Faith in Correction Conferences. We discussed a format whereas the conferences would incorporate mindset changes for the inmates, families, volunteers, and DOC staff. The initial discussion would be a conference that included inmates, family members, volunteers, and Doc officials. LoveWorks, formally Timothy's Gift would supply the music and a motivational message.

The Purpose of the family participation would be to show that there is progress being made by having courses offered in Parenting from Prison, entrepreneurship, Anger management, etc... The volunteers and DOC officials would determine topics for discussion. I am meeting with Chris and Ron and Florida officials in March to further initiate these discussions. I have been scheduled to present at this time with FDOC officials the curriculum of Mindset Change for DOC officials.

Benefits

- 1) Allow units to participate in positive activities that would be an example for other units if they wanted to participate in similar positive programs.
- 2) The participating unit would be selected by low behavior incidences. Thus, causing less administrative concerns for the DOC staff.
- 3) Allow DOC officials to present a message of hope to the inmates and families if mindsets are changed to a positive instead of negative.
- 4) Allow families to participate and see what programs are being taught and the benefits.
- 5) Allow the inmates to develop self-esteem for their accomplishments by being recognized by volunteers and DOC staff.

Consequences

- 1) Any contraband brought in by family members or other inmates would result in severe consequences for the family and inmates involved which would result in loss of privileges.
- 2) Any behavior problems could result in loss of privileges for inmates and or family members.

In February, I asked David Dodson his opinion and the possibility of having family and inmate participation in the TCRB Faith in Correction Conferences and David suggested we make a formal request to the TDOC for their approval and participation. I truly appreciate David's incite and support not only for this project but for the TCRB in general. LoveWorks has volunteered to assist the regions by offering music and a motivational message if the regional board agrees. One suggestion would be for the possibility of having a conference with the families and on the facility grounds and another the same day at a church or conference center. The format would be developed by the various regions and the on-ground facility conference is just an option. Each region will have the complete support of the TCRB, and we offer our assistance to the local and regional boards.

I am submitting this attachment to the board now before the meeting for two reasons 1) to give you an opportunity to digest these concepts and 2) I might be late to the meeting due a Zoom meeting with Ethiopian and Sudanese DOC officials along with New Mexico representatives. I will explain when I arrive approximately at 10:00. To be included in old business are topics of 1) TCRB 502c3, 2) TCRB Website transfer from Thurston. 3) FIC FB transfer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hallquist