

Franklin County Sheriff's Office addresses recidivism in the County Jail by partnering with Community based employers.

Recidivism is a major issue for Jails and Jail Administrators around the country, the revolving door of Inmates cycling in and out of local jails is an issue for every County in the United States regardless of if you have a 50 bed jail or several thousand beds. This is case for the Franklin County Sheriff's Office as well.

"We cannot turn a blind eye to this issue." Said Sheriff Dallas Baldwin. So the Corrections Division of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office has revamped the curriculum of its already existing life skills classes to include Community Based Partners and Employers.

Evidence based best practices have clearly established that assisting those who are Justice Involved with the tools to reenter our communities is the best opportunity for us to break the cycle of recidivism. Chief Deputy Geoff Stobart explains, "73% of the inmates released from the Franklin Jail are released back into our Community. These people are our neighbors, they attend our churches, and they have children who attend our schools. It is our best interest as a Community to do everything in our power to return them to our Community with the skills to succeed."

Life Skills is a 6 week program that was designed to increase the preparedness for employment of individuals who are Justice Involved.

The curriculum for this program is intended to increase the participant's chances of employability, while addressing their barriers to employment. Over the 6 week period participants were exposed to and took part in the Servsafe safe food handling certification which is a certification required to work in the food industry, application completion for individuals with barriers, resume writing and peer review, budgeting and proper interviewing etiquette presented by the Urban League, and mock interviews with both their facilitator and volunteers from outside businesses. The volunteers included: Hot Chicken Takeover, Clean Turn, The Urban League, and Commissioner Brown's Office.

John Rush CEO of CleanTurn stated "CleanTurn Enterprises is very intentional about providing training and employment for men and women who have spent time incarcerated. We firmly believe folks should not be defined by their worse decisions."

At the end of the program each participant received a copy of their certificates (both class completion & Servsafe), resume, and a disc that includes a digital copy of their resume along with a Franklin County resource guide was placed in their property. The gentlemen in the first Life Skills cohort were given all of the tools and community connections needed to become successful members of the Franklin County workforce.

