



SULLIVAN COUNTY

Serving the communities of:

Acworth, Charlestown, Claremont, Cornish, Croydon, Goshen, Grantham, Langdon,
Lempster, Newport, Plainfield, Springfield, Sunapee, Unity and Washington

SULLIVAN COUNTY OFFICIALS PRESENT AT SECOND CHANCE ACT CONFERENCE

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May 29, 2014, Newport, NH -- On May 14-16, 2014, Sullivan County officials attended and presented at the annual conference for grant recipients under the Second Chance Act re-entry program overseen by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance. Sullivan County Department of Corrections Superintendent Ross Cunningham, County Manager Jessie Levine, DOC Program Director Donna Magee, and consultant Kevin Warwick represented Sullivan County at the conference, which specifically focused on inmate reentry into the community.

For the second time in four years, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Warwick were invited to give presentations about Sullivan County's successful reentry program, called TRAILS (Transitional Re-entry and Inmate Life Skills): Mr. Cunningham spoke on the issue of "Strategies for Reentry in Rural Communities" and Mr. Warwick presented on "Implementing Evidence-Based Corrections Practices with Fidelity."

The objective of the conference was to provide a forum for peer-to-peer networking and to provide reentry officials, community mental health partners, educators, and other local leaders the opportunity to discuss challenges and share solutions about inmate reentry. Federal grantees and others who have committed to reentry programs for their inmate populations received technical assistance and educational material from experts in relevant subject areas.

The Sullivan County Community Corrections Center, which hosts TRAILS, opened in August 2010 and provides its inmate population with an intensive 90-day alcohol/substance abuse treatment program that also addresses co-occurring mental health issues. Participants who have successfully completed the program transition back into the community while continuing to receive services for one year in the County's aftercare program. Sullivan County DOC staff contributed greatly to the success of this program, which has grown to include Relapse Prevention and Community Intervention. Statistics show that the recidivism rate (new incarceration) for those completing the TRAILS program is 21%, compared to the 47% recidivism rate of the NH prison system.

Sullivan County is honored to be nationally recognized for its program and appreciates the support of the community and elected officials, and in particular the efforts of Department of Corrections program and security staff for their successful implementation of this important pilot program for rural communities.

All Day, Every Day, We Make Life Better