

Project HOPE Reentry Council Subcommittee Responsibilities

1. Drug Treatment and Health Services

Examine drug counseling, mental health counseling and exposure to traumatic experiences counseling resources as they exist both within and outside of penal institutions and propose ways to make those services more affordable, accessible and effective in both contexts. Additionally, identify factors of incarceration that unnecessarily contribute to the break-down of the family structure and make proposals to reasonably remove those factors both inside penal institutions and in the community.

2. Education

Identify impediments to offenders obtaining their GED/vocational training while incarcerated or upon their return to the community and propose solutions on how to remove those barriers and increase access to educational opportunities and job readiness.

3. Housing & Transportation

Identify impediments to quality transitional or permanent housing opportunities for ex-offenders and provide solutions on how to increase the affordability and accessibility of such resources in order to reduce homelessness and hunger. Similarly, identify local impediments to affordable public and private transportation and provide solutions that can be implemented in order to increase ex-offender mobility to and from educational opportunities, work and other necessary life activities.

4. Employment & Workforce Development

Identify impediments to ex-offender employment within our local community and propose ways to increase ex-offender employment while simultaneously maintaining public safety and promoting business development in our region. Recommended topics of emphasis include liaising with the Alabama Career Center and Mobile Works, employer recruitment to hire ex-offenders, identifying and publicizing business and community incentives to hiring ex-offenders, banning the box, the provision of workplace clothing, soft skill training for ex-offenders, ex-offender employment workshops and job fairs.

5. Prison In Reach

Identify impediments to faith based and community service provider access to penal institutions in our region and what services are most effective in reducing recidivism prior to release as persons prepare to transition back into the community. Recommended topics of emphasis include how to strengthen faith based collaboration in prison ministry, developing a 90 day pre-release plan for ex-offenders and how to continue relationship building with ex-offenders after release.

6. Documentation and Restoration

Identify institutional and structural barriers in our courts or public policy that unnecessarily hinder ex-offenders from being successful upon release (i.e. the augmentation of outstanding traffic fines or a municipality's blanket ban on hiring ex-offenders). Identify impediments ex-offenders have in obtaining the restoration of their personal identifying documents (i.e. social security card, driver's license, birth certificate, etc.) and propose solutions to remove those impediments on the

local and State level. Identify impediments to the reasonable restoration of voting rights and propose solutions to remove those impediments.