

Narrative Report Sarpy County Reporting Center 2011-2012

New and Innovative:

One of the continued accomplishments for this fiscal year was in regards to being able to continue to offer the Nebraska Career Connections System to offenders on probation. This system allows access to career exploration and job seeking tools for offenders who are in need of addressing their employment issues. Offenders can access the system and save information to create their own files while having their resume, cover letter and personal website available whenever they need it. Along with the data base, two laptops were purchased to provide more computers to our growing population. Offenders can now use the laptops while in the facility, under the supervision of staff. They will have more accessibility to the assistance of staff by being able to utilize the laptops in their probation officer's office. This will allow for more one on one assistance.

A second accomplishment again this year has been to offer bus passes for transportation assistance to offenders who need to come to the reporting center to look for employment. There is currently a computer lab available to offenders and they can apply for jobs on-line and research employment opportunities. The bus passes can also be used to attend interviews, so offenders can be punctual and learn ways to provide for themselves. This encourages them to take responsibility to attend appointments on their own. The passes provided clients with the ability to attend job fairs and employment classes.

Six Kindle Fires were also purchased. This allows offenders to access employment websites easily and quickly. It allows officers to work with offenders in a more efficient manner. It allows offenders to complete career assessment questionnaires and view educational videos related to employment, time management and other life skills topics.

Finally, wireless internet service was paid for the Reporting Center. This allows for the ease of use with the laptops and Kindle Fires.

Accomplishments

What was accomplished that improved the career education?

Offenders continue to have the opportunity to utilize Nebraska Career Connections. This site allows offenders to explore careers and develop their own personal documentation that can assist them finding and maintaining employment.

Offenders have access to complete on-line applications, view videos and develop their cover letters and resumes.

How did these activities help students meet performance measures?

Offenders are often court-ordered to find and maintain employment. This partnership with Nebraska Career Connections assists offenders in completing this requirement of their probation. It will also assist them in supporting themselves and their family members.

How did this activity address special populations?

Probation serves the population of offenders. This population presents its own set of unique challenges. By having these types of resources probation staff can assist offenders in finding and maintaining employment.

Recommendations for the Future

It is recommended that more offenders be introduced to the Nebraska Career Connections website. Many probation officers have been trained in regards to the system but on-going support and reminders are necessary.