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PRESS RELEASE

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Training to Educate Staff on How to Help Former Prisoners Become Employed

LAS VEGAS, NV — Employment counselors from the Nevada JobConnect will attend a special training September 27-28 designed to assist them in providing employment-related services to formerly incarcerated individuals looking for work, which is a key component of successfully reentering society.

“Employment is something that people take with them beyond their term of supervision,” said Barbara Hunt, Sr. U.S. Probation Officer for the District of Nevada. “We are utilizing tools to create key points to help those we supervise think differently about themselves to motivate them intrinsically to value themselves and be proud of their accomplishments. The facilitators will be teaching about assessment as it relates to employment, making note of how applying individual interests, skills, and abilities match individuals with long term positions that they will retain, because they are matched to something that they enjoy.”

The training will be conducted by the US Probation, District of Nevada and Eastern District of California, the Federal Bureau of Prison, and the Washoe County Sheriff’s office. Employment specialists from various agencies will learn about improving outcomes through collaboration, helping formerly incarcerated individuals become prepared for work; how to develop interventions; how to encourage employers to hire individuals with a criminal background; how to match clients with appropriate jobs; and how to implement other effective job readiness strategies.

“This is a worthwhile training that will benefit our staff who often work with individuals who have been in prison and have a difficult time reentering society which includes the important task of finding employment,” said Don Soderberg, Director for the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation. “Our goal is to assist all jobseekers in accessing training and programs that will make them successful at obtaining a job. We rely heavily on our partnerships with the business community in helping jobseekers find suitable employment. Training like this helps our staff become more sensitive to the needs of formerly incarcerated jobseekers and learn how to work with businesses to educate them about giving this population an opportunity to go to work, which helps reduce recidivism.”

The Reentry Employment Specialist Training is open to agencies that provide reentry services. Those interested in attending should contact Tammi Brown at t9brown@bop.gov or (530) 827-8000 ext. 4735.



DETR is comprised of the Employment Security Division, Equal Rights Commission, Rehabilitation Division, and the Research and Analysis Bureau. DETR works in partnership with the Nevada JobConnect System to provide training and job placement services to job seekers and to assist employers in hiring practices. It also supports economic development efforts through improving Nevada’s workforce.