

Next²nd Chance

Advisory Councils

Hot Topic Series, January 2016

Missed a meeting? See what we've been talking about...

Hot Topic: *Employment*

The Discussion

- Finding a job is one of the biggest barriers to getting back on track during recovery or after involvement with the justice system.
- They shared their experiences with looking for and finding work — good and bad — and who helped them along the way, and who didn't.
- Everyone has skills and talents and people can try to focus on turning negatives into positives. For example, a person who sold drugs has a certain set of skills that can be very valuable in the right — *legal* — job setting if you match them up correctly.

Member Recommendations

- Start a job club so members can share resources and information on who hires "us".
- Formally include an employment component or access to job training across all behavioral health programs. "Everyone can't use supported employment or DVR."

What's Being Done

- Each of NJ's local One-Stop Career Centers has trained staff available to assist people with a criminal record. They focus on a particular list of employers who have hired ex-offenders before, or have indicated that they are interested in doing so.
<http://jobs4jersey.com/jobs4jersey/jobseekers/exoffend/>
- New Jersey State Parole has several employment assistance programs.
http://www.state.nj.us/parole/comm_progs.html

Other topics include: Maximizing Recovery, the Dangers of Assumptions, How You Would Design the Workforce, and so much more! Be a part of the next discussion!

"The opposite of addiction is not sobriety — it's connection" - quoted by NSC Member