



*Transition is the process*

*Reentry is the outcome*

*The way forward*

## King County Community Partnership for Transition Solutions

### Welcome!

The King County Community Partnership for Transition Solutions (KCCPTS) is a consortium of over forty-partners that work with justice involved individuals released from prison or jail that are transitioning to their families and community. Our mission is to support the successful transition of justice involved adults who have earned their return to the community and their families through a supportive and caring volunteer network. We do this with the support and guidance from our community partners that are leaders in private and public social services including state, county, tribal, city government agencies, local non-profit organizations and local chapters of national government and non-profit agencies in King County. Most importantly, former consumers of the justice system play a huge and critical partnership role with KCCPTS.

KCCPTS has been partnering with community organizations for the past sixteen years. This social justice endeavor was influenced by the following events:

- The development of the Skills-2-Pay-the-Bills curriculum in 1997 tested in several Seattle federal and Washington State Work Release facilities;
- The release of the Criminal Justice Project in 1999 which focused on a process for non-custodial parents to develop a pre-release plan to meet their child support financial obligations;
- The first national U.S. Department of Justice reentry initiative called the Going Home Project in 2000 which was funded for 6-years to focus on pre/post-release planning for Serious Violent Offenders (SVOs), 18-34 years of age in Spokane, Pierce and King Counties;
- South Seattle College's (SSC) intentional decision in 2000 to focus on the post-secondary education, training and re-employment needs of adults in transition from prison/jail back to our communities in King County;
- The first fiscal investment of SSC from 2000 to 2003 in the Life Skills-2-Work (LSW) Curriculum that Washington State Department of Corrections furthered this financial investment by contracting with SSC at their First Day Reporting Center in Belltown and then at their Seattle Community Justice Center in 2005;
- In 2004 SSC was asked by King County Community Corrections, Center for Community Alternative Programs (CCAP) to start a LSW class for their post-release jail population;
- In late 2006 as the Going Home Project was completing its last year of funding, the King County Going Home Project Steering Committee made a strategic decision to develop a sustainability plan and that resulted in the creation of the CPTS in King County;

- In April 2007, King County Community Corrections contracted with SSC to open a Learning Center at the downtown Seattle CCAP location; and
- Since 2013, CPTS has launched four more regional partner groups throughout Washington State, hosting local and regional monthly, quarterly and annual meetings. These connect policy and best-practice focused events to provide platforms to community partners to stay solution-centered for those served.

KCCPTS is a highly effective team due to the level of trust amongst partners. We value commitment, respect, compassion, authenticity, integrity and transparency. We are able to have crucial conversations and brainstorm ideas to resolve challenges faced by the adults we serve that are transitioning to their families and communities. All of the partners have a common goal of providing needed solutions in order for individuals to be self-sufficient, become re-employed, obtain the ability to pay all of their financial obligations and reconnect with their children and families.

One of the lessons learned in this community is the reference used for individuals who were formerly incarcerated such as criminals, inmates, convicts, former prisoners, or ex-felons is offensive. There is a stigma associated with these references. Individuals feel they are being negatively judged by others when called ex-felons or formerly incarcerated. Their preference is justice involved, students, returning citizens or former consumers.

KCCPTS maintains a close partnership with the business community, specifically with employers that hire those that have been involved with the justice system. CPTS hosts a *Second Chance Employers* database that community partners collaborate with. The Second Chance Employers is a secured database of more than 430 employers. The database is a tool for case managers, correction officers, probation officers and job specialists.

The work by the KCCPTS in support of those returning to the community is evident in the projects, programs, and events that have been implemented. The *Community Transitions Solutions* (CTS) event provides on-the-spot solutions, including housing and benefits for returning justice involved individuals. The *Spring into Summer* event supports the children impacted by the incarceration of a family member. KCCPTS also host a *Summer Institute*, a two-day training conference designed for service providers that work with formerly justice involved individuals. Service providers from across the state attend this conference. Active members of the justice involved community play a critical role in the planning and implementation of this special event. KCCPTS meets the third Friday of every month at New Holly Learning Center in Seattle. For more information on the work of KCCPTS, please go to [www.KCCPTS.org](http://www.KCCPTS.org) and [reentrycorps.org/our-story/](http://reentrycorps.org/our-story/)