

COMMUNITY TRANSITION PROGRAM

BY  CareSource™

Empowering providers and clearing a path to self-sufficiency for those who transition from incarceration to the community



Meet Janie

Janie is an Outreach Worker at the Clermont Recovery Center (CRC), a division of Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services. This organization provides Community Transition Program (CTP) members access to recovery services and substance use treatment upon their release from prison. She is employed by one of the 70+ Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) certified providers who are contracted by CareSource to support people during their transition from incarceration to the community.

Janie, who has worked at CRC for two years, sees firsthand the success and benefits of CTP. Prior to CTP, when people were released from prison, they weren't connected with services to support their transition. Many people walked out of prison homeless, had no transportation, limited if any family support and a parole officer whose words of encouragement and support were limited.

“People experience a huge culture shock when they are released from prison. There is a huge adjustment period. They don't understand why the noises are louder and the smells are stronger. And their life is often held in their parole officer's hands. They have to navigate this new life virtually alone,” Janie said.

But that changed in July 2016 when OhioMHAS contracted with CareSource to improve access and coordination of recovery supports and treatment for those with substance use disorders reentering the community

from prisons. CareSource administers this program that allows Janie and Ohio providers to provide meaningful tools and resources to help people overcome obstacles during the transition.

Through this program, CTP providers can meet with individuals before their release to assist them with planning and identifying the resources they need to ensure they are connected to support upon their return home. This support includes peer support, assistance with transportation, help obtaining state identification, relapse prevention, care management, employment services and substance use treatment.

For members facing homelessness, CareSource also provides housing services through a partnership with CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing). This service provides safe housing, case management and coordination of services allowing CTP members to focus on recovery and thrive.

As an Ohio Certified Peer Supporter, Janie gets to be part of the solution. She is able to use her personal experience with recovery to support individuals during a time of uncertainty and anxiety.

“It's the most amazing program I've ever seen. I give these people support. I get to be their lifeline and I provide them with resources and relief as they learn to navigate the outside world again,” she said.

Through CTP, Janie is better able to support these members. Members like Stacy* who was incarcerated for two years for a drug-related conviction.

“Like so many of the people I help, Stacy was overwhelmed with returning to her family and her parole officer’s expectations. She faced the challenge of reconnecting with her two children and rebuilding her relationships with them. To top it off, she had a hard time finding a job because of her record,” Janie said.

Janie connected with her shortly after her release and immediately engaged her in peer-centered services.

“Peer services really helped her. I was able to talk her through the challenges she was facing which helped make the transition less overwhelming. Building that relationship with her and providing her support helped reduce the risk of her reverting back to old behaviors,” Janie said.

Using the resources available through CTP, Janie also connected Stacy with transportation funds and helped her obtain her state ID, birth certificate and driver’s license. Janie leveraged the CTP housing service and CRC’s employment services to further assist Stacy with her transition. Stacy now has a job and a home that give her the stability she needs to support her children. These milestones have helped her build back trust with her family.

Stacy told Janie, **“Why isn’t this benefit out there for everyone? This is my lifeline.”** And it has been her lifeline. Stacy has maintained her sobriety and has developed a passion to help others who face addiction. She’s working on her degree to be a Chemical Dependency Counselor where she will become a lifeline for others who face similar challenges.

Janie credits Stacy’s success and the success of countless other members she supports, to the CTP program.

“This can be such a forgotten population. There is so much stigma. But now there’s so much compassion and more resources to support people during this transition. CTP is the path to self-sufficiency.”

**The name of the CTP member “Stacy” has been changed to respect privacy.*

How does the CTP program work?

OHIOMHAS
contracts with

CARESOURCE
to administer a benefit through a network of quality OhioMHAS certified

PROVIDERS
who then engage and support

RE-ENTERING CITIZENS
through:

Pre-Release Referral

Referral to a community-based provider within a five days of release. Includes:

- Welcome packet
- Program information
- Provider information
- CTP member card

In-Reach Services

Prior to release, receives:

- 1-to-1 care coordination
- Release planning with a CTP provider
- Housing assessment

Recovery Services

Post release services include:

- Peer support
- Transportation assistance
- State ID support
- Employment support
- Case management
- Relapse prevention
- Substance use treatment

Housing

Housing benefit for those facing homelessness (CareSource):

- Safe housing
- Supportive case management
- Coordination of services