

NorthWest Initiative

510 W. Ottawa St., 2nd Floor • Lansing • MI • 48933
Phone: (517) 999-2894 • Fax: (517) 999-2897 • www.nwlansing.org

Board of Directors

Christine Blackledge, **Secretary**
Darla Dowker-Jackson
Ronald Emery, **Treasurer**
Elizabeth Hernandez,
President
David Odom
Richard Stapleton, **Vice**
President
Stephanie Whitby

Staff

Tamethia "Tammy" Bradford
Front Desk Assistant

Willie Brooks
*Outreach Program Assistant &
Custodian*

Eternity Burton-George
AmeriCorps VISTA

Karrie Dunn
*FSP Nutrition Education
Coordinator*

Amanda Farr
*FSP Nutrition Education
Coordinator*

Jacob Farr
*FSP Nutrition Education
Coordinator*

Sinclair Franklin
Outreach Program Assistant

Margaret "Renee" French
Outreach Program Assistant

Grace Haley
ARRO GED Tutor

Monica Jahner
*ARRO Program Manager &
Legislative Advocate*

Jane Kramer
FSP PSE Project Coordinator

Kayla Olson
*AmeriCorps Food Access
Coordinator*

Zaire Parrotte
*AmeriCorps Food Access
Specialist & SNP-AL
Coordinator*

Debra Ragland
*Communication & Marketing
Coordinator*

Peggy Vaughn-Payne
Executive Director

Ashia Wilson
*ARRO Day Reporting
Coordinator*

Judiciary Committee

HOUSE BILLS HB 4191, 4192, HB 4193, HB 4194

My name is Monica Jahner. I am the manager of ARRO, a Re-Entry and Day Reporting program in Ingham County. The Day Reporting program is a re-entry program that provides wrap-around services to probationers that come to our program as an alternative to going to prison and jail. I can't tell you how much time our staff spends trying to get IDs for parolees and probationers. Trying to obtain the necessary documents to get an ID or license can be a challenge at the very least. Implementing this legislation to allow the use of the OTIS ID is so important. We can't have successful Criminal Justice clients if they don't have an ID, Social Security card, and License. Clients must be able to get out and find work, and they can't do that without an ID. We have to make this process easier. If we could get the MDOC to comply with the law all ready on the books by providing the ID prior to leaving prison or jail or insuring that they have the necessary documents to get the ID, the clients would have the opportunity to get out and immediately begin their transition into the community.

I was very disappointed that this legislation does not allow the OTIS (Offender Tracking Inmate System) to be an approved photo document. I spent months working with the Secretary of State to approve OTIS as an approved photo. The OTIS tracking photo and information is EXACTLY the same as the prison ID that they provide prisoners. The OTIS system is very secure and the only people with access to it is the MDOC. It makes common sense that OTIS be allowed when the OTIS is where the MDOC creates the ID from. I have been allowed to submit the OTIS and a notary document to the Secretary of State for my clients, but no one else is allowed to do this. It should be universal. Who has the power to use the OTIS as an ID needs to be included in the legislation,

I am very frustrated that all of this legislation only addresses clients on parole. People on probation need to be included as well. One of the goals of MDOC and the community is to keep people from incarceration. Our prisoner population has gone down immensely because we are getting "Smarter on Justice" and allowing people to do programs out here in the community. I run a program that provides probationers programs that include Cognitive behavior classes, GED, Apprenticeships, and all of the wrap-around services to make them successful, including therapy. It is a fact that all clients on probation are also under the jurisdiction of the MDOC. This is why probationers should be addressed in this legislation as well as parolees.

Please contact me for further information. My cell is 248-794-3638

Monica Jahner



NorthWest Initiative

510 W. Ottawa St., 2nd Floor • Lansing • MI • 48933

Phone: (517) 999-2894 • Fax: (517) 999-2897 •

www.nwlansing.org