DALLAS REENTRY SYMPOSIUM
“REENTRY TODAY: UNLOCKING THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES”
DOORS wishes to acknowledge the following for making
The Dallas Reentry Symposium a huge success

THE CITY OF DALLAS
Housing/Community Services Department
ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL OF DOWNTOWN DALLAS, INC.

PAPER CONCEPTS
Marc Cobos

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Videographer

THE QUEST GROUP
Kathy Cobos

THE SHERATON DALLAS
Amber Cornelius

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
C.F. Hazlewood
Susan McHenry
DOORS

Christina Melton Crain
President and CEO
(214) 296-9258
crains@dallasdoors.org

February 25, 2013

Dear Symposium Attendee –

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the first Dallas Reentry Symposium hosted by DOORS and the City of Dallas. Much time and preparation has gone into making this an event which you will not soon forget, hoping to leave you with intrigue, excitement, answers and more questions, as well as a call to action.

DOORS is a 501(c)(3) organization that is committed to reducing recidivism in our community through two means:

1) By serving as a “Reentry Advocate” for the formerly incarcerated and their families through assessment of their needs and sending them to partners’ “expert” providers for service, and

2) By serving as a “Reentry Educator and Trainer” for families, the expert service providers, and the community, placing the tools at their disposal necessary to effectively serve and work with this very special population.

DOORS accomplishes the above mission by serving as the “reentry clearinghouse” – pulling together all reentry resources, organizations and the like under one roof. This allows for cross-networking, collaboration, cohesion and a stronger service model for the former offender. By simply filling the gap between exiting prison and entering services, as well as educating others with the specific needs and issues surrounding this population, we feel certain that recidivism will be cut dramatically, thereby creating safer communities.

Thank you again for taking time away from your extremely busy schedules to attend today’s symposium. Your presence indicates your commitment to reentry and those who are desperately in need of your services and expertise. We have a very large task ahead of us, but, TOGETHER, we can find solutions, meet on common ground, and partner to create a reentry system that is seamless and worthwhile for all. Thank you and have an excellent time!

Christina Melton Crain
President and CEO, DOORS

Administrative Office: 17165 North Presbyterian Road, Suite 110, Dallas, TX 75243
Operational Office: 861 N. Hart Elementary Institute, 2400 Grovett Street, Suite 205, Dallas, TX 75235
Phone: 214-296-0258 214-408-6770

"Reentry Today: Unlocking the Many Opportunities" 3
January 25, 2013

Dear Re-entry Symposium Attendees:

The City of Dallas Housing/Community Services Department recognizes the importance of developing collaborative partnerships and comprehensive solutions that address the needs of individuals who are preparing to exit or have exited judicial systems and, therefore, is pleased to partner with DOORS to host this re-entry symposium.

I hope the speakers today will impress upon you, the responsibility we all have to develop strong community-based approaches that will improve the path of stability for the men and women returning to our city.

Ryan S. Evans,
Assistant City Manager
City of Dallas
February 25, 2013

Dear Participants,

Thank you for taking part in the Dallas Reentry Symposium, presented by DOORS and the City of Dallas. As the U.S. Congressman representing the 32nd Congressional District of Texas, which includes several areas of Dallas County, I am proud to have the DOORS program in our community.

As you may know, DOORS is a nonprofit organization that works diligently to bridge the gap between incarceration and reentry into society for formerly incarcerated persons via two distinct methods — by serving as a “reentry advocate” for the former offender, assessing his or her specific needs so as to assure their proper connection to the appropriate services; and, serving as a “reentry educator and trainer,” helping equip community service providers with the necessary skills and resources needed to assist the former offender in building a brighter future for themselves, their family and our great nation.

In the 113th Congress, our primary focus will continue to be on policies that will reenergize our economy and tackle our nation’s chronically high unemployment. I strongly believe that a robust economy in North Texas is one of the best ways to ensure a better way of life for us all.

I appreciate your interest in maintaining the vitality of our community and am pleased that you have chosen to attend this important symposium. Please enjoy this event and the exceptional guest speakers scheduled to speak throughout the day. I look forward to hearing about the impact DOORS’ efforts have on our community this year and in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Congressman Pete Sessions
STATE OF TEXAS
Office of the Governor

Greetings:

As Governor of Texas, I am pleased to welcome you to the DOORS Dallas Reentry Symposium.

Crime is a scourge on our society, impacting far too many Texans, and recidivism is a serious problem among offenders released from criminal justice facilities. We must work together to help men and women who have completed their sentences transition to stable, productive and crime-free lives.

DOORS helps offenders obtain education, employment and a new outlook on life. Armed with these important tools, many fellow Texans can take advantage of their second chance at freedom. As you gather to discuss new ways to discourage recidivism and make the Lone Star State a safer place, I commend you for your dedication.

First Lady Anita Perry joins me in sending best wishes for a successful symposium.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Brad Livingston
Executive Director

January 22, 2013

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first ever Dallas Reentry Symposium hosted by DOORS and the City of Dallas.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) strives to reduce recidivism and facilitate successful reentry into the community through evidence-based programming, transitional services emphasizing continuity-of-care, effective supervision, information sharing, and linkages to community resources such as the DOORS program. The DOORS reentry initiative is an outstanding example of how local communities are making vital contributions to successful offender reentry, and the TDCJ is pleased to acknowledge the public service it performs in the Dallas area and to express our appreciation for your attendance at the symposium.

Thanks to the vision of the state’s policymakers, Texas is at the forefront of nationwide efforts to enhance offender reentry. I believe those of you gathered here today share that same vision, and I have no doubt the time you invest in today’s symposium will help you make an even greater impact in the lives of men and women returning to your community.

Thank you for your interest in helping men and women help themselves, and know that the positive results you may achieve are not limited by city or county boundaries. All Texans ultimately benefit by what occurs in one community.

Enjoy the symposium, and when you depart at the conclusion of the program, please travel safely.

Sincerely,

Brad Livingston
Executive Director

Our mission is to provide public safety, promote positive change in offender behavior, reintegrate offenders into society, and assist victims of crime.

P.O. Box 99
Huntsville, Texas 77340-0099
(936) 437-2101
www.tdcj.state.tx.us
## Symposium Program Outline

**Dallas Reentry Symposium**

**Reentry Today: “Unlocking the Many Opportunities”**

**Presented by Doors and the City of Dallas**

**Monday, February 25, 2013**

**Sheraton Dallas – 400 North Olive Street, Dallas, Texas 75201**

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<th>TIME</th>
<th>FUNCTION</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 AM – 8:30 AM</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Lone Star</td>
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<td>8:00 AM – 9:15 AM</td>
<td>Opening Session/ Breakfast</td>
<td>Lone Star Br C3-4</td>
<td>Christina Melton Crain, JD Master of Ceremonies</td>
<td>“Reentry Today: Inside the Belly of the Beast”</td>
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<td>Edward Latessa, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>9:15 AM – 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Morning Break</td>
<td>Lone Star Foyer C</td>
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<td>9:30 AM – 11:00 AM</td>
<td>Breakouts (2) – Participants choose one (1) to attend:</td>
<td>Lone Star Br C1</td>
<td>Edward Latessa, Ph.D.</td>
<td>“Breaking Down the LS/CMI Assessment”</td>
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<td>Lone Star Br C2</td>
<td>Honorable Susan Hawk</td>
<td>“Prison: It’s Not Just for Criminals Anymore – Dealing with the Homeless, Mentally Challenged and Veterans”</td>
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<td>Teresa May-Williams Ph.D.</td>
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<td>11:00 AM – 11:30 AM</td>
<td>Mid-morning Break</td>
<td>Lone Star Foyer C</td>
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<td>11:30 AM – 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Luncheon</td>
<td>Lone Star Br B</td>
<td>Sunny Schwartz</td>
<td>“Reentry – Accountability Is the Key” the 365 sign copies of her best-selling memoir ‘Dreams from the Monster Factory after lunch’</td>
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<td>1:00 PM – 1:15 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>1:30 PM – 3:15 PM</td>
<td>Plenary Session (All attend)</td>
<td>Lone Star Br C3-4</td>
<td>Formerly Incarcerated Persons Panel</td>
<td>“Reentry – The Clients’ Perspective”</td>
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<td>3:30 PM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Closing Session</td>
<td>Lone Star Br C3-4</td>
<td>Richard Stroker</td>
<td>“Where Do We Go From Here: Effective and Realistic Reentry Policy”</td>
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CHRISTINA MELTON CRAIN, JD
President and CEO, DOORS
Master of Ceremonies

Christina Melton Crain serves as the President and CEO of Unlocking DOORS, Inc. d/b/a DOORS, a reentry advocate, educator and trainer for formerly incarcerated persons, their families, service providers and the public. She is the Immediate Former Chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice – the oversight board for the incarceration, parole and probation of Texas adult felons – becoming the first woman ever to lead the nine-member board, a position she held until May of 2008. She has a prison named in her honor in Gatesville, Texas. While at TDCJ, Christina implemented a number of programs, such as GO KIDS (Giving Offenders Kids Incentive and Direction to Succeed) and AMACHI Texas, which provide hope to the children of incarcerated offenders. AMACHI Texas is a joint initiative between the Texas Governor’s Office, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the One Star Foundation, and Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star. To date, AMACHI Texas has been recognized by O Magazine, the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, the Dallas Bar Association and The Dallas Observer.

In her law practice, Christina specializes in children/juvenile representation, ad litem representation, mediation and legislative issues. Christina is a third-generation Dallasite and attended Kimball High School. She earned a bachelor’s degree in government from the University of Texas at Austin and her law degree from Oklahoma City University School of Law.

In 1999, then-Texas Lt. Gov. Rick Perry appointed her to the Texas Supreme Court Rules Advisory Committee, a position she held until 2001. Her service to the state continued in April 2001, when Gov. Perry appointed her to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, of which she served as Chairman in February 2003. In 2009, Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst appointed Christina to the Texas Public Transportation Advisory Committee; and, in 2011, Gov. Perry appointed Christina to the Trinity River Authority of Texas, both positions she still holds today.

In addition to her public service, Christina also currently serves as a Member of the UT College of Liberal Arts Advisory Council; the Dallas Bar Association Foundation Board of Trustees; the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Texas Regional Board of Directors; and a member of Altrusa International of Downtown Dallas. Christina served as the 100th President of the Dallas Bar Association and is Past President of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers (DAYL) and the Dallas Women Lawyers Association (DWLA). She is Past Chairman of the DWLA Foundation and Past President of the Dallas Bar Association Community Service Fund Board of Directors. Additional community service includes the Boyer Health Care System Foundation Board of Directors; multiple leadership roles in the Junior League of Dallas; Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star Executive Board of Directors; Past President of the Public Affairs Luncheon Club; and At-Large Member of the UT Texas-Exes Council. Her many honors include: the Oklahoma City University School of Law Distinguished Alumnus Award; UT Outstanding Young Texas Ex Award; the Silver U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor for Volunteerism; the DWLA Louise Raggio Award; the DWLA Foundation Award of Excellence; being named Outstanding Young Lawyer of Dallas; twice named one of D Magazine’s Best Lawyers Under 40 in Dallas; twice named to the Dallas Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 tribute; named one of D Magazine’s Best Women Lawyers in Dallas; and a four-time recipient of the Texas Monthly Magazine Texas Super Lawyer naming.
As Judge of the 291st Judicial District Court, Susan Hawk has selflessly served the citizens of Dallas County for the last nine years. She oversees the handling of felony cases ranging from low level drug cases up and through Capital Murder. More importantly, she is the Creator and Director of the ATLAS Mental Health Court which is an acronym for "Achieving True Liberty and Success." It was the first dual diagnosis program in Texas that addresses mental illness and substance abuse simultaneously.

Judge Hawk understands the devastating combination of a mentally ill person with a severe substance abuse problem who has, as a result, committed criminal offenses. She realizes that when these offenders come to court, they do not get the help they desperately need, and re-offend time and time again.

Judge Hawk was dismayed that this population was truly lost in the system, with no program in place to help them. The prison system had become a revolving door which simply warehoused this delicate population due to lack of services and treatment. She knew prison was not the solution and that there had to be a better way. Without the ATLAS program, most would have received a penitentiary sentence that would have resulted in a continuing cycle of incarceration, release, relapse, and re-offence.

Susan Hawk continues to fulfill her pledge to help those who cannot help themselves while protecting those who have been victimized by others. As she often says, "our criminal justice system works best when administered with fairness and compassion."
EDWARD LATESSA, Ph.D.
Interim Dean and Professor
College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services,
University of Cincinnati

Edward J. Latessa received his Ph.D. from the Ohio State University in 1979 and is Interim Dean and Professor of the College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Latessa has published over 140 works in the area of criminal justice, corrections, and juvenile justice. He is co-author of seven books including Corrections in the Community, and Corrections in America. Professor Latessa has directed over 150 funded research projects including studies of day reporting centers, juvenile justice programs, drug courts, prison programs, intensive supervision programs, halfway houses, and drug programs. He and his staff have also assessed over 600 correctional programs throughout the United States, and he has provided assistance and workshops in over forty-five states.

Dr. Latessa served as President of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (1989-90). He has also received several awards including; Marguerite Q. Warren and Ted B. Palmer Differential Intervention Award presented by the Division of Corrections and Sentencing of the American Society of Criminology (2010), Outstanding Community Partner Award from the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (2010), Maud Booth Correctional Services Award in recognition of dedicated service and leadership presented by the Volunteers of America (2010), Community Hero Award presented by Community Resources for Justice, (2010), the Bruce Smith Award for outstanding contributions to criminal justice by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (2010), the George Beto Scholar, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University, (2009), the Mark Hatfield Award for Contributions in public policy research by The Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University (2008), the Outstanding Achievement Award by the National Juvenile Justice Court Services Association (2007), the August Vollmer Award from the American Society of Criminology (2004), the Simon Dinitz Criminal Justice Research Award from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (2002), the Margaret Mead Award for dedicated service to the causes of social justice and humanitarian advancement by the International Community Corrections Association (2001), the Peter P. Lejins Award for Research from the American Correctional Association (1999); ACJS Fellow Award (1998); ACJS Founders Award (1992); and the Simon Dinitz award by the Ohio Community Corrections Organization.
TERESA MAY-WILLIAMS, Ph.D.
Assistant Director
Community Supervision and Corrections Department, Dallas, Texas

Dr. Teresa May-Williams is a licensed psychologist in both clinical and forensic psychology. She is a certified Community Supervision and Corrections Officer and currently serves as the Assistant Director of the Dallas County Community Supervision and Corrections Department.

Dr. May has sixteen years of experience in criminal justice and has worked extensively in the development, operation, and evaluation of a number of evidence-based programs (EBP) and problem-solving courts. Her clinical work includes assessment, counseling, and consultation in forensic and general adult populations. She is the lead investigator for the validation and implementation of a new statewide risk assessment tool.

Dr. May has researched and published a variety of studies examining aspects of motivation, goal success, and emotional and physical well-being. She has also evaluated a variety of Criminal Justice and Problem Solving Court programs. Dr. May received her Ph.D. in Psychology from Southern Methodist University, where she is currently an Adjunct Professor teaching a variety of topics including Personality Psychology, Forensic Psychology, Social Psychology, and Behavioral Action of Drugs.
SUNNY SCHWARTZ
Author, Advocate and Change Maker

A nationally recognized expert in criminal justice reform with 30 years of frontline experience as a lawyer, advocate and consultant, Sunny Schwartz has spent her career navigating all levels of the system and pioneering new policy initiatives for prisoner’s programs, as well as alternatives to incarceration. She is the author of Dreams from the Monster Factory, which gives a comprehensive insider’s perspective on America’s failing prison system and recounts her own real-world implementation of a targeted strategy that both saves taxpayers’ money and dramatically reduces recidivism.

Sunny directs the design and operation of prisoner programs in six county jails. During her tenure, she has made significant changes to traditional incarceration operations, transitioning from an ineffectual system rooted in idling and “downtime” to one that requires inmates to participate in educational, vocational and therapeutic programs 10 hours a day, five days a week. The specific goals of these programs are to facilitate successful reentry into society in a way that addresses the gaps and shortcomings of the old system (and to decrease further victimization on individuals and our community as a whole.)

Sunny also designed and established the Resolve To Stop the Violence Project (RSVP). A nationally renowned, award-winning restorative justice program, RSVP unites diverse community organizations and individuals to collaborate on the first–in–the-nation correctional program offering services to everyone harmed by violence: victims, offenders, and communities, alike. As part of the program, Schwartz chartered a citywide Survivor Restoration Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives from local government agencies, non-profit organizations and the interfaith community. Committee members demonstrated support by adopting alternative and proactive responses to crime and violence, such as mentorship, victim-offender mediation and the development of sentencing options.

Sunny’s presentations and programmatic expertise are bold and diverse, and have proven to be highly effective. Her efforts to reform the criminal justice system and minimize crime through RSVP have been featured on national television, with appearances on the Discovery Channel, PBS, Larry King Live and the Oprah Winfrey Show. Her program is currently being examined for replication in various cities throughout the United States, as well as in New Zealand, Poland and Singapore.

In July of 2004, RSVP was the recipient of the prestigious “Oscar’s in Government” Innovations in Government Award, sponsored by the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University and the Ash Institute.
RICHARD STROKER
Senior Manager, Center for Effective Policy

Richard Stroker is a Senior Manager with the Center for Effective Policy where he serves as a technical assistance provider to jurisdictions participating in sex offender management, offender transition and reentry, and court-based initiatives. Mr. Stroker also provides annual training to parole board members and their staff.

Prior to joining the Center, Mr. Stroker worked in the criminal justice field in South Carolina for 26 years in a variety of positions, including Deputy Director and Chief Legal Counsel, South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; Director of Legal Settlements, Staff Attorney, Coordinator of Grievances, and Hearing Officer with the South Carolina Department of Corrections; and Chief of Staff and General Counsel for the South Carolina Department of Corrections. Mr. Stroker served for ten years as an Adjunct Instructor at the University of South Carolina’s College of Criminal Justice, and has taught numerous graduate and undergraduate courses. He has published several articles that focus on responses to probation and parole violations, adult corrections, probation, parole, and pardons.

Mr. Stroker received his Bachelor’s degree from Cornell University in 1975 and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of South Carolina, School of Law, in 1978. He also received legal education at Oxford University, in Oxford, England. He is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, all state and federal courts in South Carolina, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.
FORMERLY INCARCERATED PERSONS PANEL

Fred Henley currently resides in Richardson, Texas, and serves as Chief Operating Officer of ShowtoStop, a startup technology firm which has developed a video transaction engine to complete financial and social transaction for Dallas Social Venture Partners (DSVP).

After receiving a B.A. cum laude in English from Xavier University of Louisiana, Fred received a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the Vanderbilt University School of Law. While completing a Judicial Clerkship in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, he served as an Adjunct Instructor at Tulane University College. Following his clerkship, Fred moved to Atlanta where he was engaged by the City to provide policy recommendations for upgrading the Emergency 911 System and was appointed by the Mayor to serve as a Contract Compliance Hearing Officer for the City of Atlanta’s Office of Contract Compliance.

Fred’s civic involvement is extensive. He serves as a member of the Texas PTA’s inaugural Emerging Leader Academy. And, beginning in 1994 with Straight Ahead Ministries, Fred has been actively involved with serving incarcerated juveniles and he continues that work today of Dallas County’s Henry Wade Juvenile Detention Center.

Pamela Bryant is a mother of three who resides in Dallas, Texas. Her mother died when she was nineteen, suffering from Lupus, and her father has been incarcerated since she can remember. She has two older sisters who are mentally challenged.

Pamela has, for all practical purposes, been the family caretaker since age ten, always taking care of others, but not herself. At the age of thirteen she suffered a severe depression which led to destructive thinking and living. She began using drugs and alcohol and by nineteen she was a full blown addict with a diagnosis of paranoia, schizophrenia and depression. She thought that crack-cocaine made her brave. She refused all medication, suffered abuse at the hands of many, and eventually caught an aggravated assault charge against one of her uncles because arguing and fighting was just a way of life, for which she received probation. In 2002 she was convicted for violating that probation.

It was in prison (at the Christina Melton Crain Unit in Gatesville, Texas) that it dawned on her that something was wrong with her. She started to go to church in prison, began GED classes and started to challenge small fears. She did her best to educate herself with the help of the teachers at the Windham School District (prison school) and enrolled in different classes that she thought would help her. She heard that a faith-based dorm would soon be opening and she knew that this was the place for her. She was admitted to the faith-based program, participated fully in all the programming, and was successfully released from prison on June 25, 2012, with a GED in hand, wishing to assist in reducing recidivism.

Pamela came to DOORS upon her release having heard Christina Melton Crain discuss DOORS at the Crain Unit while she was still incarcerated. Pamela says that she is not perfect but that she constantly looks forward and backwards, wanting to be a part of change. She says that “…the most powerful security in the world is knowing that nothing can separate me from God’s love - Proverbs 14.26: Those who fear the Lord are secure; he will be a refuge for their children.”

Shon L. Griggs, Sr. On September 30, 1994, Shon L. Griggs, Sr. self surrendered to the US Marshal in Atlanta, GA, to begin serving a 18 year sentence in federal prison. On October 18, 1995, Shon became a hero as described in Chuck Colson’s article about the rescue of two prison ministry volunteers and two correctional staff members during a prison riot in Talladega, AL. On June 30, 1999, Shon was released from custody. While completing 3 years of supervised release, Shon joined the staff of the Ray of Hope Christian Church where he has since been employed as a Maintenance Mechanic. As a ministry volunteer, Shon has served as the Chief Armor Bearer for Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale for the last 13 years. Shon attended Sylvan Hills High School in Atlanta, GA, and he received Dean’s List grades from Samford University during his brief stay in Talladega FCI. Most importantly, Shon has not received a parking ticket since he was released from federal custody in 1999. Shon is the proud father of three college students, including one daughter that won a 2011 NCAA Championship in basketball.
Michael Lessard was born in 1961 in Chicago Illinois. He stayed there up to 7 years of age. He and his parents moved to Michigan up to 14 years of age, then back to Chicago. Moving again to New Jersey during his High School year because his father was transferring jobs from state to state. Michael tried to keep up with his Dad and that type of lifestyle of transferring a lot. He later married Belinda, where they have one son whom is now a college student at 21 years of age at Texas Tech. Michael’s Mom-Jean Lessard is now 75 living in Dallas where Michael lived along with his wife for a while. His job training started in New Jersey then migrated to Dallas, Texas. Michael stayed in Dallas along with family members since 1984 starting his working industry in the Printing Business.

However, Michael Lessard has stated on numerous times I have potential; just need a chance for someone to believe and open that door for me as well.

Rev. Gregory James White was born May 21, 1961, in Dallas, Texas, to Vanna Reece White Sansom. He attended Harold Budd Elementary School, Boude Story Junior High School and graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1979.

He gave his life to Christ at age 15. However, over the course of time, he strayed. At the age of 27 he became addicted to drugs, namely crack-cocaine, began drinking alcohol, and his entire environment changed from the Christian lifestyle to which he was accustomed. He began living in the streets, out of his car. His drug addiction cost him his truck-driving job. He started stealing to survive. Eventually, he lost all sense of control and direction. He picked up a toy gun to use for robbing and eventually was caught, sentenced and sent to prison to serve a term of 460 years that ran concurrent. He served a total of 21 flat calendar years and was released on January 11, 2010.

While serving time in prison, he had the opportunity to meet Pastor Victor B. Jackson of the Kingdom Community Church. Pastor Jackson corresponded with him regularly, sharing the Word of God. Gregory redirected his life to the Lord. And, today, Gregory is a member and the Youth Pastor and Vice President over the Grace Beyond Bars Prison Ministry of the Kingdom Community Church.

While incarcerated, Gregory was also introduced to a wonderful woman that visited him on a regular basis and wrote him letters of support. Upon release, he and this woman married on March 18, 2010.

In closing, I am now working in my passion, which is driving trucks and spending valuable time with my precious wife who is a devout woman of God who loves the Lord deeply. She is at my side daily keeping me on track and helping me in the ministries of my callings.

Kevin Wilson. The son of a drug-addicted mother, Kevin Wilson was raised by his grandmother in Lawton, Oklahoma. His strongest memory of his youth was of “always being hungry and never having food to eat.” He began to steal — first by selling the school’s fundraising candy and keeping the money, then stealing a lawn mower to cut lawns for food. By the time Kevin was 11 years old he bowed to peer pressure and the fact that his entire family used, including his grandmother and granddad, and started selling drugs, ultimately joining a gang for his own protection.

At age 14 Kevin thought his future was secure when his Aunt took him and his cousins to Oklahoma, but her expectations of Kevin were to babysit, cook and clean while she took the foster care stipend. Sports became Kevin’s only outlet and provided the incentive to maintain good grades and hold down three jobs. College, a stint in the Marines Corps plus several jobs provided hope for the future, that is until his younger brother was arrested for triple murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. Released from the Marines for his brother’s trial, and with no structure in his life, Kevin became a homeless drug dealer, robbing, stealing and fathering two children before he was caught and sent to prison.

It was in prison that Kevin’s educational background (Graduation from R.L. Turner High School, Associate of Applied Science from Collin County Community College, and Real Estate Certification from Kaplan College) and propensity to learn resulted in obtaining his Electrical Apprentice Certification. More importantly, he began to read — history, legal and self-help books and the Bible. He came away with an understanding of himself, his life situation, society, poverty and the human psyche, all of which contributed to his post-release success in The City of Dallas Project Reconnect Program.

Kevin Wilson is now the proud owner of his own moving company, “Pearl Moving” and continues to work to better himself in all areas of his life. In Kevin’s words, “I think I have an understanding on how to deal in this world. It’s funny when you figure it out.”
**OPENING SESSION/BREAKFAST — 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM**

(All Attend)

Ed Latessa, Ph.D.

“Reentry Today: Inside the Belly of the Beast”

Lone Star Br C3-4

NOTES:
MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS — 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
(Choose Session You Wish to Attend)

Ed Latessa, Ph.D.
"Breaking Down the LS/CMI Assessment Tool"
Lone Star Br C1

or

Honorable Susan Hawk

Teresa May-Williams, Ph.D.
"Prison: It’s Not Just for Criminals Anymore – Dealing with the Homeless, Mentally Challenged and Veterans"
Lone Star Br C2

NOTES:
Luncheon — 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
(All Attend)

Sunny Schwartz  
“Reentry - Accountability is the Key”  
Lone Star Br B

NOTES:
AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION — 1:30 PM - 3:15 PM
(All Attend)

Formerly Incarcerated Persons Panel
Fred Henley
“Reentry – The Clients’ Perspective
Lone Star Br C3-4

NOTES:

PAMELA BRYANT
Panelist

SHON L. GRIGGS, SR.
Panelist

MICHAEL LESSARD
Panelist

REV. GREGORY JAMES WHITE
Panelist

KEVIN WILSON
Panelist

Dallas Reentry Symposium presented by DOORS and the City of Dallas
**CLOSING SESSION — 3:30 AM - 5:00 PM**

* (All Attend)

Richard Stroker  
**Senior Manager, Center for Effective Policy**

"Where Do We Go from Here — Effective and Realistic Reentry Policy"

Lone Star C3-4

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