



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Michael Terry
Community Relations Specialist, 352-797-3609

Re: HCSO Touts Success of Project Re-Start at Hernando County Detention Center

Date: January 12, 2018

A program introduced last spring to reduce the recidivism rate of inmates upon their release from the Hernando County Detention Center has proven a success.

The program is called Project Re-Start.

Back in April, staff at the Hernando County Detention Center partnered with CareerSource Pasco/Hernando to implement Project Re-Start. Project Re-Start is a 10-12 week program designed to reduce the reoffender rate once an inmate is released from jail.

The program provides instruction to pre-release inmates with a combination of different focus areas to include work maturity skills, marketable skills training, and supportive services.

The program is funded by a 2-year grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Program participants receive instruction toward certification in basic keyboarding skills, Microsoft Office, QuickBooks and enhancing employability skills.

To date, 18 inmates have completed Project Re-Start. Eight of the original 18 inmates who completed the program are currently employed. Three have enrolled in additional classes offered by CareerSource to further their education.

Of the original 18 participants, none have reoffended since their release from the jail. An additional 20 inmates are currently enrolled in the program.

The Program Manager, Workshop Facilitator, and Re-Entry Deputy have been working in conjunction with potential community partners and employers to introduce the Project Re-start Program for potential employment opportunities.

In addition, program participants who have exited the program have also received support services from such businesses as the Crescent Community Clinic, Bay Care, Dawn Center, Career Source, Eckerd Youth, Hernando Cares Guide, homeless shelters, and other non-profit agencies.

The program has exceeded expectations.

The Sheriff's Office hopes to continue to offer this program to inmates who desire to make a better life for themselves and their families upon their release from jail.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.