

# RE-ENTRY POLICY STUDY COMMISSION

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES: FEBRUARY 28, 2013

**John P. Cocco** is a Re-entry Case Manager with Step Up, Inc. He has worked in case management since April of 2007. He originally worked in mental health before transitioning into addictions case management, eventually working on a federally funded grant program that focused on HIV education and outreach. He sees working with incarcerated and recently released men as a natural evolution of his interests and experience. John has been trained in motivational interviewing, Integrated Dual Diagnosis Treatment (IDDT) methods, and is a state certified HIV counselor, tester and referrer. John is a second year student in the Masters in Social Work program at IUPUI.

**Tricia Dierks**, BSN, RN has been the Manager of Employment and Compensation at Wishard Health Services since April, 2012. Prior to that, she worked as the Manager of Recruitment and Employment for four years and as a nurse recruiter for two. Tricia is a Registered Nurse by trade, but has worked in the Human Resources arena for a total of seven years, all of which have been with Wishard. She has a special interest in nurse recruitment and retention, and has served on several committees and task forces aimed at improving nurse satisfaction within the health system.

**Trelles Evans** is the Manager of Employee Development and Training for Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana, Inc. Evans works primarily with people with disabilities and individuals transitioning from the criminal justice system. She has more than 13 years of experience working with under-served and at-risk populations. Through various programs and skills training efforts, Evans and her team work to find ways to add value to the employment opportunities offered through Goodwill's Commercial Services division, where more than 90% of workers face one or more barriers to employment. Evans holds a B.S. in psychology from Indiana University and an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University. She has been with Goodwill since 2007.

**Stephen Fisher** is a Community Employment Specialist with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD), where he has worked since January of this year. He is a former small business owner, retail chain trainer, juvenile and Adult Facilities instructor who also worked for five years as an Education Leader at Miami Correctional Facility.

**Bruce Henry** is the Director of Human Resources for the City of Indianapolis and Marion County. Prior to accepting this role, Bruce served as a Patrol Officer, Detective, Sergeant, and Chief's Executive Officer for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department from 1987 through 2008. Bruce is an Adjunct Professor for both Ivy Tech Community and Indiana Tech Colleges, specializing in Criminal Justice, Behavioral Psychology, Research and Evaluation, and Statistics. Bruce holds a BS degree in Business Management, a MS degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, and is currently working to complete his Ph.D. in Psychology Research and Evaluation. Professional memberships include the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP), and the American Psychological Association (APA).

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**Gregg Keesling** is the Founder and President of RecycleForce, a social enterprise with 40 full time employees and more than 120 transitional employees. Gregg is an experienced and successful entrepreneur and nonprofit manager who has worked for many years in alternative staffing and workforce development for the welfare-to-work, temporary and ex-offender population. Since inception, RecycleForce has helped more than 600 individuals return home and processed more than 20 million pounds of electronic materials. The organization has now moved into new markets, including cardboard and paper and other household recyclables.

**Mary Leffler** is Director of Community Engagement for Volunteers of America of Indiana. Mary has more than 33 years of experience in the criminal justice field, beginning her work with juveniles at the Missouri Division of Youth Services.

Since joining VOA in 1996, Mary has led advocacy efforts regarding the mentally ill and addicted, gender responsive treatment and family strengthening initiatives for those criminally justice involved. In 2004 Mary was instrumental in opening Theodora House, a 112-bed residential center for criminal justice involved women.

She currently leads the agency community outreach, public relations and marketing efforts, including volunteerism and targeted grant writing. Mary serves as the President of the Indiana Criminal Justice Association and is Indiana's primary delegate to the American Correctional Association.

**Kevin Potter** is Vice President at Shiel Sexton, a construction management and general contracting firm that provides design and build and real estate services;

**Angela Smith Jones** is a Director of Public Policy for the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce (Indy Chamber). In her position, she serves on a team of Public Policy professionals. As a lobbyist for the Chamber, she is currently working on the following issues: Education, Workforce, Mass Transit, Immigration and the Chamber's Green Business Initiative, along with other lobbying duties. Angela also is the staff liaison to several Chamber Councils and Committees which work year round in developing policies and positions of the Chamber, as well as, creating the Chamber's legislative agenda. Ms. Smith Jones is a member of the Re-entry Policy Study Commission, a position to which she was appointed by the Council President as a representative of the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce.