

Enhanced Services in Summit County

Eligibility

Oriana House offers enhanced services for probationers in Summit County who are in need of education, employment, and/or cognitive skills programming but not case management.

Referrals

Summit County Probation Officers can make a referral through the Oriana House Admissions Department. The Admissions staff will schedule orientation for the client. Orientation is held at St. Hedwig, 213 E. Glenwood Avenue, Akron, and consists of a single, one or 1.5 hour session. Call 330-535-8116 to make a referral.

Updates

Oriana House staff will provide Summit County Probation with updates on enrollment, attendance, and client progress.

Programming

EMPLOYMENT CLASSES

Employment Readiness (0-Dosage hours, 4-Boosters, and 4-Aftercare)

Based on assessment results, clients are referred to Employment Readiness classes that provide preparation to enter the work force. This is done through teacher instruction, class discussion, role plays, in-class activity, and homework all incorporating Cognitive Behavioral Theory. The one-week curriculum includes five sessions, one per day, each 1.5 hours in length. The sessions are: Preparing for Employment, Damage Control, The Job Interview, Résumé Writing, and Online Job Searching. Participants practice basic academic skills and have the opportunity to develop underlying skills such as self-awareness, self-confidence, and critical thinking. Most activities are designed to be done in groups. Clients have the opportunity to learn from each other's experiences and practice working in a team - a skill that is increasingly important in today's work world.

Cognitive Behavior Intervention for Ex-Offenders Seeking Employment (CBI-EMP) (22.5 dosage hours)

This course is designed to provide clients with cognitive skills to manage work-related issues and situations, increase motivation for employment, and retain employment. By using these skills, clients are taught how to change their behaviors by changing their thinking in employment and career related situations. This is accomplished through goal setting, role playing, group discussions, teacher instruction, and homework. The curriculum includes five modules divided into sessions. These modules are: Getting Ready for Work, Thinking Right About Work, Managing How We Feel and Act at Work, Working through Challenges At Work, and Being Successful At Work. The curriculum is taught over five weeks, with three, 1.5 hour classes per week. CBI-EMP adopts strategies found in social learning theory, cognitive theory, and behaviorism.

Based on the Employment and Education section of the ORAS assessment, clients who assess at the Medium-High, Medium, Low-Medium, and Low levels will participate in the five day Employment Readiness course. Clients who assess High and Very-High will participate in the five week Cognitive Behavior Intervention for Ex-Offenders Seeking Employment (CBI-EMP).

Job Search Boosters

Clients who are identified as high risk/need and have been unsuccessful in securing employment will attend Job Search Boosters to enhance their learned skills. Job Search Boosters are one hour, once a week. Topics include: Job Seeking, Interviewing, Follow-Ups, and Job Matching and Assessment. Each session is structured to spend 15-20 minutes on the selected topic. The remainder of the session is for the clients to complete a worksheet where they process their job search activities for the week and role play their select situation to analyze how they may have received a better outcome. Clients are asked to provide constructive feedback to one another and incorporate their newly learned skills. Clients attend these sessions until they have gained employment.

Employment Aftercare

Employment Aftercare is for clients who have employment. It is once a week, with each session lasting one hour. These sessions allow clients to process workplace and individual issues with peers and group facilitators, reinforcing the skills developed in Employment Readiness classes. If clients' work schedules do not permit them to attend the group, clients will be met with individually to cover the material.

EDUCATION CLASSES

Adult Education Program

Clients who do not have a high school diploma or GED, are referred to the Education Department to help increase their skill levels and functioning in a community setting. This is achieved through intensive, in-house, educational programming that incorporates common core standards and computer-based learning. GED testing is offered to those who complete the GED classes.

The Academic Instructor administers various assessments including: SORT assessment (Slosson Oral Reading Test), TABE Locator (Test of Adult Basic Education) and Math Placement Exam to better pinpoint what each individual should work on. Once the assessments are completed, the instructor immediately grades them, discusses the results with the client, and develops the client's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Education classes are based on grade-proficiency level. Classes are two hours for all education levels and clients typically attend two classes per week.

ABLE/Literacy Life Skills

Clients scoring between grades K-3 are placed in Literacy classes. Clients scoring between grades 4-6 are placed in ABLE classes. The ABLE/Literacy Life Skills component is designed to help students make intelligent decisions to perform appropriately in everyday situations. Topics include: using maps and following directions; keeping track of personal finances and using credit; using resources such as the library, newspapers, medical services, etc.; and understanding one's learning style. Students in these classes also receive instruction in basic mathematics and language arts.

Pre-GED Classes

Pre-GED clients are those scoring between grades 6-9. Before they can advance to GED-level work, these learners need to develop basic skills and content-area knowledge at a level that is comfortable for them. Pre-GED classes offer the adult learner a foundation of skills including reading strategies, mathematics, writing, and background in social and natural sciences. While these classes are not designed to be a test prep course, they will help prepare for success in achieving the GED. We focus on enhancing critical thinking skills, language arts, reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies.

GED Classes

GED clients are those scoring between grades 10-12. We are confident that these clients will be ready to take the GED test while they are with us, provided they complete all activities outlined on the IEP. The Oriana House GED preparation curricula will prepare the client to pass the four content areas: Reasoning Through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies. Classes emphasize critical thinking and applications in all content areas. The instructors will teach content so learners are able to demonstrate skills and competencies. Instructors will teach writing to emphasize skills of analysis and the ability to read critically to identify and draw on evidence in source material. Clients are able to take the GED Ready practice test to determine their readiness for the official GED test.

COGNITIVE PROGRAMMING CLASSES

Thinking for a Change (37.5 dosage hours)

Developed by The National Institute of Corrections, Thinking for a Change is an integrated, cognitive behavior change program for offenders that includes cognitive restructuring and development of social and problem solving skills. Through the acquisition and use of these skills, clients are taught how to change their behaviors by changing their thinking. There are 25, 1.5 hour lessons, three times a week.

Thinking Errors (12 dosage hours)

The Thinking Errors class was developed based off of the Criminal Thinking Scale. Each two hour session teaches one of the six domains (entitlement, justification, power orientation, cold heartedness, criminal rationalization and personal irresponsibility) using lecture, cognitive restructuring, and role playing. Classes meet once per week for six weeks.

Booster Groups (Dosage hours vary based on risk levels and referral recommendations)

The Booster Group utilizes role playing and homework to reinforce concepts from Thinking for a Change in increasingly difficult situations. The group meets once per week for 1.5 hours.

Distorted Thinking (9 dosage hours)

Developed by Oriana House, Distorted Thinking is a curriculum of basic thinking errors based on research by Dr. Stanton Samenow and his Commitment to Change curriculum. Each 1.5 hour session defines and then applies a thinking error using lecture, discussion, and cognitive restructuring. Classes are once a week for six weeks.

Good Intentions, Bad Choices (12.5 dosage hours)

Developed by Oriana House, Good Intentions, Bad Choices is a course on thinking errors based on Dr. Stanton Samenow curriculum of the same name. Each 1.5 hour session defines and then applies a thinking error that has resulted in clients recidivating. The weekly sessions use lecture, video, discussion, cognitive restructuring, and role plays. There is an individual session incorporated into the program that all clients must complete.

Oriana House Enhanced Services

Call 330-535-8116 for more information or to make a referral.

