



# **CHANGE COURT**

**Helping Survivors Put The  
Pieces Back Together**

# WHAT IS CHANGE COURT

- **CHANGE Court is an Ohio Supreme Court Certified Human Trafficking and Drug Court**
- **Founded in 2014 by Judge Heather Russell as part of a systemic response to the West McMicken Community Council to alleviate street prostitution on McMicken Street**
- **CHANGE Court differs from other specialty courts in that in addition to addressing mental health and substance disorders, CHANGE Court's model addresses the trauma innate in prostituted persons**

# WHO ARE CHANGE COURT PARTICIPANTS

- Persons whose current charges or have a history of charges of misdemeanor prostitution, solicitation, or loitering to solicit
- Person can have other criminal charges but must have some history of being involved in the sex trade
- Currently, half of our participants are also on felony probation in Hamilton County and other surrounding counties. Through transferred supervision, we manage their felony and misdemeanor probation together
- Participants are moderate to high risk and high need
- All of our participants have a diagnosed mental health disorder
- All of our participants are diagnosed with substance abuse disorder

# THE PROGRAM

- Pre-Screening and Observation
- Clinical Assessment
- Standard client pathway starts at Crossroads Cheney Allen for inpatient treatment, then participants transfer to Off the Streets, participants go from Off the Streets to permanent housing
- Participants start out attending court weekly, they must complete IOP, attend at least three sober support meetings per week, undergo random supervised drug screening, and see a therapist once per week to address their trauma
- As clients progress, their mandatory court appearances are reduced to bi-weekly and then to once per month
- Currently, a two-year treatment model
- Record sealing upon program completion

# CURRENT RESOURCES

- Staffing – Hamilton County Probation
- Crossroads Cheney Allen
- Off the Streets
- Talbert House
- First Step Home
- Salvation Army, New Life Furniture Bank, Local Churches
- Supreme Court grant
- Mental Health and Recovery Services Board ATP funds

# **GAPS IN PROGRAMMING**

- Majority of our current grant funding is used for clothing, food, and transportation assistance

Resources to help further the program and support more persons

- Dedicated CHANGE Court Assessor
- Longer Peer Support
- Transportation

**THANK YOU**