WEBVTT

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00:00:04.020 --> 00:00:16.830
Margaret diZerega: Hello, my name is Margaret diZerega. I'm the director of the
Center of Sentencing and Corrections at the Vera Institute of Justice. Thank you so
much for joining our conversation today titled, Looking Beyond a Conviction Opening
Doors to Public Housing.
2
00:00:17.910 --> 00:00:18.870
Margaret diZerega: Next slide please.
3
00:00:25.830 --> 00:00:32.190
Margaret diZerega: Today's webinar is part of reentry week. I encourage you to sign
up for the national reentry resource Center.
00:00:32.490 --> 00:00:41.370
Margaret diZerega: website to gain access to helpful reports to learn about events
like these, and stay informed about federal funding opportunities that can support
your reentry work.
5
00:00:42.030 --> 00:00:49.410
Margaret diZerega: You can join the conversation on social media using hashtag
reentry matters or any of the other hashtags here on the screen.
6
00:00:51.150 --> 00:00:54.990
Margaret diZerega: So on the next slide i'm going to share a little bit about Vera's
work.
00:00:56.370 --> 00:00:58.050
Margaret diZerega: To open doors to public housing.
00:00:59.100 --> 00:01:05.250
Margaret diZerega: So safe affordable housing is essential for the millions of
people released from US jails and prisons each year.
00:01:06.120 --> 00:01:11.130
Margaret diZerega: But most public housing authorities have admissions policies that
prevent formerly incarcerated people from living there.
00:01:11.970 --> 00:01:19.080
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Margaret diZerega: For nearly all types of convictions housing authorities exercise their individual discretion to set eligibility criteria.

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Margaret diZerega: federal policymakers have encouraged housing authorities to rethink limits on public housing for people with conviction histories and to actively address barriers to housing that can reinforce discrimination.

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Margaret diZerega: In 2017 the Veara Institute of Justice, launched its initiative Opening Doors.

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Margaret diZerega: To work with housing authorities, law enforcement agencies county and state corrections departments reentry service providers, homeless service providers continuum of care organizations,

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00:01:47.700 --> 00:01:58.980

Margaret diZerega: resident leaders, and other Community stakeholders to remove barriers to housing with funding from the US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance we've been fortunate to work with eight jurisdictions since.

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Margaret diZerega: Ranging from San Diego California, Oklahoma city Oklahoma, and Lafayette Louisiana.

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00:02:06.870 --> 00:02:11.370

Margaret diZerega: And then you can see some of the other jurisdictions here on the slide next slide please.

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00:02:13.950 --> 00:02:20.580

Margaret diZerega: We just released a fact sheet, with eight recommendations to help housing authorities remove barriers to people with conviction histories.

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00:02:21.180 --> 00:02:33.330

Margaret diZerega: These recommendations are informed by the work of today's panelists and our other opening doors site partners. The fact sheet and other publications on housing authority reentry programs are available on our website.

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00:02:34.560 --> 00:02:44.970

Margaret diZerega: So we're now going to stop our screen share and i'd like to

introduce my colleague Jacqueline Altamirano Marin who's going to lead a discussion with our terrific panel today thanks Jacqueline.

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00:02:47.430 --> 00:02:49.830

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: Thank you so much Margaret for the introduction and for

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00:02:50.160 --> 00:03:00.270

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: the great overview of Opening Doors. So, joining me today to share more about the programs and policies and acted in their communities through opening doors I have.

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Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: With me JESSICA Klein, and she is the director of re entry at the Delaware department of correction.

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Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: I have Nikki Ratliff she is a program services director at burlington housing authority in North Carolina.

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00:03:12.750 --> 00:03:25.590

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: and I have Alan Zais who is the executive director at Northern Illinois Regional Affordable Community Housing and also known as NIREACH and formerly the Winnebago Housing Authority, so thank you all for for being here.

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Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: To get started and ground us in our conversation I'm interested to hear why you all decided to engage.

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Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: In changing housing policies to increase access for people with conviction histories so we're going to go ahead and start with Nikki and then I'll hand it over to Jessica and we'll finish off with Alan. So Mickey you could take it away.

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00:03:46.320 --> 00:03:51.720

Nikki Ratliff: Thank you, so I burlington housing authority we don't consider ourselves to be an average landlord.

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Nikki Ratliff: We work daily in partnership with our residents and Community organizations to increase access and assist with everything from healthy foods,

clothing, education, employment, and now the COVID 19 vaccine. 00:04:05.070 --> 00:04:12.990 Nikki Ratliff: Offering people with conviction histories hope for housing and bringing them into into our communities was a no brainer for us is what we do and as who we are. 30 00:04:16.440 --> 00:04:17.460 Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: Thank you so much Nikki. 00:04:17.970 --> 00:04:21.390 Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: JESSICA, can you share a little bit about why you decided to get engaged in this work. 32 00:04:22.650 --> 00:04:24.270 Jessica Cline: Hi. Thank you. 33 00:04:24.600 --> 00:04:28.500 Jessica Cline: So in 2018 actually the Governor of Delaware 00:04:28.950 --> 00:04:40.380 Jessica Cline: issued an executive order, creating the Delaware Correctional Reentry Commission and as part of this Commission and and part of his executive order he recognized that lack of stable housing is. 35 00:04:40.800 --> 00:04:47.700 Jessica Cline: a significant destabilizer for returning citizens and can lead to reincarceration, relapse, and future victimization. 36 00:04:48.840 --> 00:04:59.220 Jessica Cline: We also recognized at that family reunification is vital to the success of returning citizens and that Deleware Department of Correction in conjunction with the 37 00:05:00.000 --> 00:05:08.010 Jessica Cline: Deleware Correctional Reentry Commission are committed to promoting family reunification efforts and one of these efforts, was entering in to.

00:05:08.730 --> 00:05:15.330

Jessica Cline: The family reunification pilot program with our five public housing

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authorities in the state of Delaware.

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Jessica Cline: We do have a strong understanding that you know housing is such a determinant of health and success and how

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00:05:24.120 --> 00:05:34.650

Jessica Cline: unstable housing and reincarceration are linked and there's so many challenges to finding housing for formerly incarcerated individuals, along with you know shortages of shelter beds.

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00:05:35.850 --> 00:05:40.650

Jessica Cline: You know, lack of of economic stability and the ability to pay rent.

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Jessica Cline: So a lot of thought went into why we really valued this partnership and this opportunity with our housing authorities, as well as Vera.

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Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: Thanks so much Jessica and we look forward to hearing more about the reunification.

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Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: program--and Alan I'll go ahead and hand it over to you. Why did you decide to engage in this work?

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Alan Zais: Everyone's putting it so well, we simply see the need, and you know I'm the executive director now but I came up through the very basics of housing.

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00:06:12.720 --> 00:06:29.730

Alan Zais: Managing sites running a family unification program running about your program and i've seen the challenges that family space, and I've seen the real faces of people who are affected by these programs and it's our job to provide homes for people not barriers to homes.

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00:06:31.230 --> 00:06:40.110

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: Alan just sticking with you a little bit more, because you actually had Illinois had a great new piece of legislation passed, and can you talk to us a little bit more about the.

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Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: The piece of legislation that passed and with the pha policies, and can you briefly tell us what the law will do and what benefits, you see from it.

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Alan Zais: Yeah. Thank you. The Housing Authorities Act requires a number of things basically

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Alan Zais: starting to set up a baseline so that we can measure how we're reaching populations and helping them, but specifically required collection of the number of applications for Federally assisted housing collecting the number of applications with a criminal history record, and

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Alan Zais: you know, housing authorities are supposed to now but it's not consistent, for example, Champagne Housing Authority very progressive doesn't look at criminal histories at all, whereas other housing authorities could look at a myriad of

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Alan Zais: criminal history background prohibit side agencies from considering detention that is not a conviction criminal charges and experiments that do not result in conviction,

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Alan Zais: convictions that are vacated sealed expunged, or impounded by the Court.

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Alan Zais: and requires housing authorities to create a system of independent review of applicant criminal history.

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Alan Zais: With a written notice why applicants were denied in the rights to the criminal records this already exist, but it's making sure that there's consistency with the housing housing authorities to do this.

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Alan Zais: And I think it's interesting to point out, along with this, that very recently, the General Assembly for the state is put out a.

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Alan Zais: source of income discrimination, as well the voucher program, for example, is useless if someone getting the voucher can't find housing, so this would protect renters.

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Alan Zais: You know, persons with reentry from source of income discrimination get clear guidelines of the industry and how do you evaluate that income eligibility.

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Alan Zais: required landlords to consider childcare and alimony as income, make it illegal for landlords to discriminate against the person.

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Alan Zais: Because the industry abused, it is as unstable we're already seeing strong advocacy pushback from landlord groups but it's existed for many years in Chicago in the Collar Counties and work fine the pushback we're seeing is that.

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00:08:58.530 --> 00:09:05.790

Alan Zais: it's requiring landlords to enter into contracts for the Federal Government yes that's kind of true but.

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00:09:06.900 --> 00:09:15.720

Alan Zais: Only for making sure there's no discrimination against income, the benefits of course you know what's being brought up in the conversation today.

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00:09:16.080 --> 00:09:24.660

Alan Zais: These are families that need this help and service and then that provides consistency to further enforce the federal regulations that already exist.

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00:09:26.760 --> 00:09:44.010

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: Yeah it's really exciting piece of legislation, I look forward to seeing the implementation of that and Nikki I'm gonna go to you and I'd love if you could talk to us a little bit more about how has BHA changes approach to criminal background checks for housing applicants.

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Nikki Ratliff: sure you know, under under the leadership of our executive director CEO Veronica Rebels, we have done a complete overhaul of our admissions policy, with the help of the Vera Institute.

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Nikki Ratliff: We now offer more flexibility as it relates to our review of applicants with justice system involvement.

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Nikki Ratliff: applicants who would have otherwise been denied or had to wait longer periods of time for eligibility now have a more viable affordable housing options with us.

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Nikki Ratliff: Each individual's application is either reviewed by our staff in house or a panel and that panel will help set the tone for.

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Nikki Ratliff: any type of documentation that that can be provided to tell the story better of the applicant to give us a different view versus what they see on a piece of paper.

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Nikki Ratliff: We find that this approach, helps our mission to provide safe and decent housing for citizens in our communities and it allows us to work in better collaboration with partners who advocate for the basic needs of those a serve.

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00:10:45.780 --> 00:10:52.560

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: Thanks so much Nikki talking a little bit more about partners and Jessica you actually talked a little bit about this in your introduction.

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00:10:53.130 --> 00:11:06.540

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: But, can you tell us in Delaware a group of housing authorities have come together with a DOC and other partners to create a family reunification program and you tell us more about the program and where you are with the implementation of it.

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00:11:07.860 --> 00:11:20.220

Jessica Cline: sure this is one of the most exciting reentry programs that we've worked on in recent years and there's been many so the family reentry pilot Program.

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Jessica Cline: Initially, actually started through a grant with Vera and the dealer

state housing authority to kind of look at their admission requirements, what we have in Delaware is we have five public housing authorities throughout the state all their admission requirements are different.

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Jessica Cline: Especially regarding criminal history and time since conviction or since offense or time out of the justice system.

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Jessica Cline: And so they we decided to all join together and partner with one of our re entry service providers to create the family reentry pilot Program.

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Jessica Cline: And what this does is allow our returning citizens to reside with family in public housing for one to two years, depending on the nature of their offense.

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Jessica Cline: And then, at which time if there's no issues they can be added to the lease So what we try to do.

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Jessica Cline: The the design of the program is to identify individuals, hopefully, even before they're released that have family residing in public housing.

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Jessica Cline: and start the process, they tried to make it as few barriers as possible, so there's very few restrictions, other than that the Federal hud guidance of which our lifetime sex offender registry and.

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Jessica Cline: Manufacturing methamphetamine and a publicly funded housing unit, but other than that there really aren't any significant criminal history restrictions for this program.

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00:12:55.320 --> 00:13:05.730

Jessica Cline: There is a matrix that will decide, based on the offenses whether the person would have to reside as a guest for one or two years prior to being added to the lease.

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Jessica Cline: So this is a great partnership we have actually had a very difficult time getting it off the ground, and I mean, I think this might lead to a further discussion later on.

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Jessica Cline: In the webinar we have our first applicant that I believe will be successful, hopefully getting ready to move in in the next couple weeks.

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Jessica Cline: And so, some of the challenges around communicating the program making sure everyone's aware of its existence, this is a really big shift for the state of Delaware and for our re entrance and I almost think that sometimes people don't believe we actually did it.

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Jessica Cline: The housing authorities have been amazing everyone is on board so we're really looking forward to some post coven relief and some some more Community outreach to get this.

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00:14:03.480 --> 00:14:05.910

Jessica Cline: To really have some significant numbers.

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00:14:07.200 --> 00:14:07.830 Jessica Cline: Thanks so much.

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00:14:08.550 --> 00:14:12.300

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: Would you like to share a little bit about that success story that you've that you've mentioned.

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Jessica Cline: Well, this is the first one, so the challenge that we have had is that a lot of the

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Jessica Cline: individuals are that have tried our housing choice voucher and we haven't expanded to the private landlords yet so right now we're just working within those.

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Jessica Cline: properties owned by the housing authorities, so we have one in our

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Jessica Cline: in our capital city Dover Housing Authority, and we have one and the person was just released from incarceration wants to live with

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Jessica Cline: his sister and it's almost through the process. So I believe she is in good standing with the housing authority which is one of the other requirements.

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Jessica Cline: And it really is useful, so what they'll do is, we have our reentry service provider, that is sort of the intermediary intermediary between DOC.

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00:15:09.000 --> 00:15:26.130

Jessica Cline: And, and the housing authority and they can help the person with the application follow up on it, they can also offer services to the reentry and the family so it's, not just for the re entry, they can offer services for the whole family of the whole household.

97: (Omitted--Unknown speaker. Not apart of the conversation)

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00:15:30.000 --> 00:15:43.530

Jessica Cline: excited and focused on on family reunification, and we appreciate a lot of I think Nikki mentioned the non discrimination rules and laws, because family is.

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00:15:44.790 --> 00:15:48.600

Jessica Cline: You know it's not clearly defined anymore right it's not traditional and

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00:15:49.710 --> 00:15:55.440

Jessica Cline: we're really embracing these opportunities to to allow people to reunify with

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Jessica Cline: their support system and the people that can help them and stabilize them and keep them out of incarceration.

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00:16:03.240 --> 00:16:08.520

Jessica Cline: So hopefully next year at reentry week we have many success stories.

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Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: Very much looking forward to that and sort of dovetailing with that talking about partnerships, and you know what does it take to get this off the ground.

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Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: Alan i'm going to turn to you, and can you talk to us a little bit about what partner agencies you think are important for pha that are thinking of doing this work to include when trying to expand access to public housing folks it's criminal convictions.

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Alan Zais: Oh, what a good question we've seen so many layers of partnerships that maybe it's helpful to look at it that way, first we saw the partnerships that were necessary to do the housing programs.

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00:16:44.160 --> 00:16:55.320

Alan Zais: HUD allowed us to do a demonstration set aside beyond my housing development authority which is a state agency had project based vouchers that allowed us to set aside and then they.

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Alan Zais: Finally, did a demonstration program that was statewide the boards of the housing authority said, have to approve these programs property owners and landlords.

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Alan Zais: So that we can get houses for families to use the vouchers, so we had a mix within the public housing the voucher programs, and then the advocacy partnerships.

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Alan Zais: We reached out to housing authority organizations, there were a couple of chapters in Illinois.

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Alan Zais: The General Assembly for the state they put together a Housing Committee, which was the first time, and we had to make sure our voice was heard.

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Alan Zais: The State Task Force on re entry that was put together by the governor which brought together she's about 50 stakeholders, I think, and then the

partnerships in the communities to invite them to the program get the message to those that need them New York university was.

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00:17:53.970 --> 00:17:59.520

Alan Zais: One of our first ones and establishing a demonstration program the only department of corrections.

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Alan Zais: there's a pilot program that they put together, called the inside out network program that links all services into one area we hear.

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Alan Zais: Many times from persons who need the assistance for reentry that there's so many doors to go to and so much confusion about where to start and where to find different resources.

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Alan Zais: We cannot give enough appreciation to the Vera Institute of Justice, which was a very valuable partnership, and helping us to

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Alan Zais: put together these programs the residents we serve we made partners, the individuals with experience we may partners which helps

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Alan Zais: bring out the story that people need to hear and then, finally, the partnerships within communities, we involve the police departments, the mayor's to county chairs, especially because we cover a regional area i'm sure that was one of the

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00:18:56.790 --> 00:19:09.420

Alan Zais: Partnerships we signed not Delaware when they were reaching out, the local reentry programs the pro program partnerships to bring employment, education, health and mental health services.

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00:19:11.100 --> 00:19:14.070

Alan Zais: furnishings much like homeless programs.

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00:19:16.860 --> 00:19:32.160

Alan Zais: families need the very basics furniture, we have partnerships to bring that in a towel silverware soap cleaning supplies to get started the things that

will make a family successful.

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00:19:33.330 --> 00:19:33.840 Alan Zais: Thanks so much.

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00:19:35.070 --> 00:19:40.830

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: To put you in sort of in the hot seat, but it's fresh in my mind you've had a number of stakeholder

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Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: meetings, if you will, you've outreached out to 30 plus people and to get them involved and you've had multiple conversations with them how have you seen that sort of help with making sure that people are aware of what's going on, or or build support and community.

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00:19:59.490 --> 00:20:10.920

Alan Zais: Oh it's so important, and again I have to give appreciation to VeraI don't mean to embarrass you but it's been so helpful and doing that and we've had this with a number of other programs to that are new and

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00:20:12.630 --> 00:20:18.690

Alan Zais: that people don't understand that brings a sense of ownership, because we do sincerely invite that.

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00:20:19.920 --> 00:20:27.840

Alan Zais: What what the needs are that they see to help craft those policies and programs so that they're inviting and welcome by the Community.

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00:20:30.240 --> 00:20:40.890

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: Nicki do you have any other additional partners that you would add to the list and you tell us a little bit if you've how and how you engage presidents.

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Nikki Ratliff: Sure, so it locally, we like to see partners in our workforce development arena.

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00:20:47.220 --> 00:20:52.440

Nikki Ratliff: You know it's already hard enough for people who don't have justice system involvement to find affordable housing and employment.

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Nikki Ratliff: And so we know we believe that stronger partnerships that involve creating real pathways for employment will help create increased stability and decrease

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Nikki Ratliff: reincarceration for folks who are just you know coming out and then seeking housing.

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00:21:07.920 --> 00:21:15.660

Nikki Ratliff: And as far as residents are concerned, we were very intentional about involving our residents in the process of revising our admissions policies.

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Nikki Ratliff: We knew that this would affect you know public housing communities in a number of ways and not necessarily in negative ways.

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Nikki Ratliff: The changes in our policies republished and open for public column comment.

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Nikki Ratliff: And all five of our communities, we met with our Resident Advisory Board to present the changes and open dialogue on how these changes could impact families and individuals

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Nikki Ratliff: living in our communities, and you know, thankfully, the response to our policy changes were overwhelmingly positive residents express their appreciation for giving people a second chance and commented on how this could help reunite families and strengthen them.

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00:21:50.970 --> 00:21:52.650

Nikki Ratliff: Thanks so much Nikki it was really great.

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Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: And I know you also held office hours with stakeholders to make them aware of this, so that's a really awesome way to engage folks and Jessica, I have a question.

00:22:02.160 --> 00:22:20.010

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: In terms of PhAs or other types of houses, they if they don't have a working relationship with your DOC or probation or parole agency and but they want to rethink their policies what tips, would you have about starting that conversation.

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00:22:23.310 --> 00:22:40.260

Jessica Cline: Um so first I think you know, looking at at lessons learned I think it's important to have a clear idea of the path one wants to go on listening to Nikki everything she said they did was exactly what happened in Delaware.

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00:22:41.550 --> 00:22:50.550

Jessica Cline: With the presentations to the different housing authorities the resident advisory committees, and we also had an overwhelming positive response from the resident.

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00:22:51.660 --> 00:22:58.740

Jessica Cline: That the communities that's important, I think, to have that Community and stakeholder buy in

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00:22:59.520 --> 00:23:13.530

Jessica Cline: to start a conversation with the DOC what we found is for a project of this magnitude and this importance to really make sure that decision makers are at the table so really kind of start at the top

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Jessica Cline: and try to get those people involved, like, I think, Alan said he has multiple stakeholders at the table the ones that can say yes.

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Jessica Cline: And make it happen, especially when you're changing, for example, admissions policies or you need board approval really changing the way we do business so.

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00:23:33.450 --> 00:23:52.380

Jessica Cline: Having those decision makers upfront and involved every step of the way I would reach out to the to the highest level of the Department of Correction in the jurisdiction for Deleware we have a commissioner other states there they're called different things um so and then.

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00:23:55.590 --> 00:23:56.610 Jessica Cline: it's really.

00:23:59.610 --> 00:24:12.390

Jessica Cline: A matter of timing and comfort level of everyone involved right, so our timing actually from our lesson learned last week, no one predicted coven so that definitely had an impact on our

149

00:24:13.050 --> 00:24:30.750

Jessica Cline: rollout of this program no one's enthusiasm weaned it just sort of stalled the delivery and the comfort level we're looking at comfort level of landlords, tenants, relatives of incarcerated loved ones, the reentrance themselves right now I think we're in.

150

00:24:32.160 --> 00:24:41.010

Jessica Cline: sort of a exploring whether the slow start off in addition to the covert effects is due to.

151

00:24:41.340 --> 00:24:51.150

Jessica Cline: Maybe a mistrust in the Community, I think it's hard to build that trust right, so if we were to do it over again, I think we would introduce the Community.

152

00:24:51.810 --> 00:24:57.600

Jessica Cline: Right up front and not wait till towards the end when we had the public hearings and things like that we would.

153

00:24:57.870 --> 00:25:13.890

Jessica Cline: Get that buy in upfront and have them involved the whole way, so they really took ownership and understood you know this is real we're helping where we unifying families, bringing them in at the end some people expressed.

154

00:25:15.150 --> 00:25:17.010

Jessica Cline: Some concerns like they felt they were.

155

00:25:18.450 --> 00:25:29.400

Jessica Cline: kind of left out of the loop, or they weren't made aware of everything that was happening so that would be our biggest lesson learned so to start the conversations off I would definitely have decision makers at the table.

156

00:25:30.270 --> 00:25:35.700

Jessica Cline: Get that Community involvement gauge the comfort level of the administration and changing these things.

00:25:36.600 --> 00:25:47.160

Jessica Cline: Here at DOC we're always willing to try new things, but there is a comfort level even with with our staff we have actually specific.

158

00:25:47.760 --> 00:26:01.080

Jessica Cline: rules and policies in place where certain types of reentrance aren't allowed to reside in publicly funded housing, so we actually have to even take a look at our policies and make adjustments and be comfortable with allowing that so.

159

00:26:04.110 --> 00:26:19.050

Jessica Cline: Definitely that I would stick my first my two big big ones would be Community engagement, the comfort level of the Community and the administration and having decision makers and then you can kick it off and then bring in some worker bees that can make it happen.

160

00:26:21.240 --> 00:26:31.650

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: Thank you JESSICA, those are really great tips Nikki Alan anything that you all would add in terms of engaging DOC or parole probation in this discussion.

161

00:26:33.240 --> 00:26:39.600

Nikki Ratliff: I think, for us it was just big to keep the human aspect of this in front of us, the entire time.

162

00:26:40.590 --> 00:26:50.370

Nikki Ratliff: You know where we concerned, where we scared that we wouldn't get it right, of course, but you know, ultimately, these are people's lives, and we have to treat them gently and.

163

00:26:51.300 --> 00:27:06.090

Nikki Ratliff: Making sure that people are afforded the basic of needs, housing, which helps eliminate a lot of other levels of discomfort you know in their last can help you know, change the trajectory of of what you know what's to come in the future for them.

164

00:27:09.750 --> 00:27:24.960

Alan Zais: I don't know how to follow the perfect words that Nikki just said, it really is the story of a person's life and that's in those stories are very powerful very impactful and we've used them in presenting our programs, and what we're trying to do.

00:27:27.120 --> 00:27:29.820

Alan Zais: So important Thank you all, is there

166

00:27:29.880 --> 00:27:36.510

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: any last words anything of the big takeaway that you would that you would leave folks that are joining us today with.

167

00:27:38.850 --> 00:27:45.030

Nikki Ratliff: I want to ask that if housing authorities or any other housing providers are just trying to decide whether or not to do it.

168

00:27:45.510 --> 00:27:57.090

Nikki Ratliff: To just just give it a try go ahead and do it because you know we can only be as great as our neighbors and so, if we're not willing to help them out, then you know we can't expect our society to change.

169

00:28:00.090 --> 00:28:00.930

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: JESSICA, Allen.

170

00:28:01.770 --> 00:28:07.140

Alan Zais: Well, we are housing authority, and we are doing it so you're quite correct Nikki.

171

00:28:09.060 --> 00:28:24.420

Alan Zais: You know, but and we just one of the players in this, you know, working with the Department of Corrections working with our local leaders, working with the residents that's well put by JESSICA i'm working with people to make this happen, thank you.

172

00:28:28.350 --> 00:28:41.100

Jessica Cline: And I will agree with everyone is keeping that human perspective upfront and you know, realizing that our goal here is to help people be successful and

173

00:28:41.610 --> 00:28:45.300

Jessica Cline: thrive in the Community, and you know and

174

00:28:46.110 --> 00:28:57.780

Jessica Cline: Change change their their ways if that's necessary and in the way to do that is to promote those support systems, the family reunification, having a

stable place to live, so you can get a job and.

175

00:28:58.140 --> 00:29:14.430

Jessica Cline: Take care of your children, I mean it really fundamentally boils down to housing and you know housing for, especially our reentrance is so vital in starting them off in a stable supportive environment for to.

176

00:29:16.470 --> 00:29:19.680

Jessica Cline: You know, to work towards that continued success in the Community.

177

00:29:21.750 --> 00:29:30.570

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: Thank you, thank you so much, I wanted with that I want to thank you all for participating for sharing what work you've been doing, how it's going.

178

00:29:31.050 --> 00:29:44.070

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: Really, making sure that folks are encouraged and not scared to be part of this word we really appreciate you sharing your expertise with us today and I encourage all the participants to find resources at various website.

179

00:29:44.610 --> 00:29:54.480

Jacqueline Altamirano Marin: As well as the national reentry resource Center where you can get more information there as well, but thank you all for joining us and we wish you all a great rest of your day, thank you.

180

00:29:55.320 --> 00:29:55.770

Alan Zais: Thank you.

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