

the Green sheet



Family is Reason for Success of Graduates of Allegheny Reentry Program

We don't always know the catalyst for an individual to finally decide to kick a drug and alcohol habit, but for some it's family.

On August 17, the Board's court-based Allegheny Reentry Program held the first graduation of its intensive supervision program designed to help offenders with substance abuse issues. Two parolees graduated and 32 others are still participating.

Parolee Kimble is serving a 5-10 year drug sentence. His children provided his incentive to succeed. After five years in prison he felt they had suffered enough. He has missed much of their lives and is now focused on being a father. In the program his greatest challenge was the required programming he felt he didn't need. Despite

that belief, he successfully completed all requirements keeping the needs of his children in mind.

Parolee Goodwine, who is currently serving a 1 ½ to 3 year drug sentence, also attributes his success to his family. He let them down for so many years; he doesn't want to do it again. He states that his greatest challenge is avoiding people, places and things that influence bad behavior. He moved from his old neighborhood, which he believes helps him stay on the correct path.

The Allegheny Reentry Program is led by Parole Board Member Craig McKay and Judge Anthony Mariani of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. It includes parole board staff, court staff, representatives from local drug and alcohol and mental health services, and community-based providers Renewal Inc., Geo Services, and Gaudenzia Erie of Pittsburgh.

The program began in 2014, based on the National Association of Drug Court Professionals model, and provides individually tailored continuity of service, maximizing each parolee's ability to succeed in the community. The program provides intensive supervision and treatment over four phases, lasting approximately 12-18 months.

The Board also established reentry programs in York (2005) Lackawanna (2008), Berks (2009), Dauphin (2013), and Philadelphia (2014) counties.



Pictured left to right are: Judge Mariani, two reentry program graduates, Board Member McKay and Agent Filson.