

1. What is your greatest concern about transitional/reentry housing in Tarrant County?

- it is in a neighborhood where drugs and alcohol are prevalent, meaning other tenants are not supportive of a changed lifestyle
- That there is not enough available and that there is such a need.
- Quality of services/accommodations and lack of unity in the reentry community. Significant amount of individualism that creates isolationism, leading to a relatively disenfranchised group of people providing significant services to our community.
- Balance of easy access and neighborhood acceptability.
- Not enough quantity available; most seem to be 'slum lord'
- There is limited availability
- Lack of it affordable and transportation accessible housing for those reentering
- Ex-offenders accessibility to transportation to become gainfully employed yet return to housing within the expected time frame per parole guidelines.
- Not enough of them. Often they are released with no family support and nowhere to go. Leaving them homeless or forced into the same familiar circles of people. We need more places they can go to get their feet firmly planted.
- There is not an easy accessible list of apartments that are low income. There are many programs that offer assistance, but if there was a list of apartments in the Tarrant County area that were just low income or income restricted apartments this would help those that have some income to be able to locate a place. Currently people have to call or go to every apartment complex to find out if they are low income or not and this can be very time consuming and costly.
- There is not enough QUALITY housing in Tarrant County and ex-offenders are left going to substandard facilities.
- The need to move to Housing First option with long term affordable housing addressed
- The lack of it. The lack of funds to make acquisition of available housing and the ability to sustain it over time.
- That it's hard to find.
- No standard of measure.
- Costs and Affordability
- There isn't enough of it
- There is not enough quality reentry housing available. Most are in areas that are not introducing a new way of life. Most are right back in the same environment.
- There is not enough provided by landlords who understand the needs of the resident
- There is not enough housing to meet the needs
- My greatest concern is the lack of reentry permanent housing / community mental health homes for the homeless/mentally ill i.e., outpatient commitment (See #3 below). The research suggests that approximately 50% of this population reentry county jails and eventually prison within three years of release because of inadequate treatment and rehabilitation
- The lack of education regarding what is available.
- Lack of facilities
- That the homes are clean
- There is greater demand than supply.

2. What do you think we, as a community, could do to improve the transitional/reentry housing situation in Tarrant County?

- Improve infrastructure with low cost transportation
 - Very good question w not enough answers
 - Actively uphold and promote reentry as being foundational to future crime prevention. Likewise, support those serving the community in reentry with as many resources, services and financial rewards as possible based on their contribution to the community and those that they serve.
 - Education and awareness of the needs that reentry men & women face.
 - Create more programs like Grace - Grapevine for women; programs that totally support re-entry not a one stop shop (which is a nice progression, but not complete)
 - Make more structured housing available
 - Purchase and manage property or at least identify property that offers decent, safe, affordable housing. Also provide support in a housing environment that will allow them to take GED classes, job skill training, and employment opportunities that would qualify them to re-establish themselves. We need more entities working together to rent to ex-offenders - give them an opportunity to prove their readiness to become a productive member of society.
 - I would like to see a structured housing community. Maybe apartment style housing. Self ran community with classes, resources and health clinics. Programs 1-2 years to prepare for re-entry into the community. Many are released that are not prepared to be in their own. A safe place for parents to take parenting classes and be restored to their children. Resources that work at making them successful in re-entry. We dint prepare them well enough because we dint have the Housing!!
 - The database Tarrantcares.org should be more user-friendly, it is very confusing to attempt to look for an apartment because you have to look through all the programs that assist with rental payments. If the list were divided between programs that help with assistance versus actual apartment complexes would be helpful. Also having programs and property for the Austin area adds more useless information for Tarrant County residents.
 - Work with apartment managers throughout Tarrant County allowing for just one or two units to be leased to ex-offenders per building site so that offenders are not bunched together.
 - Work with City and County to put together funding packages with affordable units
 - Think outside of the box. Use your collaborative power to identify, fund and develop sustainable services in a coordinated effort. Change your paradigms of traditional housing concepts of entitlements to opportunities for growth depending on the efforts of the recipients. Determine upfront the different levels of success and its definitions. Utilize the faith-based community and demand unity among all stakeholders. Develop a plan to span over a five year period to allow for learning curves and problem solving. Get away from the egotistical ideas that any entity or agency or church is better than another. There are plenty of problems and opportunities for everyone. You must develop an environment where the recipients have modeled for and to them the expectations of progress and the responsibility to become givers instead of takers. It takes time to change.
 - Come together and work out a plan and start the process with goals, dates.
 - Provide unique listing that defines and rates housing.
 - Develop across the board standard of service.
- Encourage funding and development of appropriate housing in appropriate areas of the community with access to transportation.
- More interviews on the front end. Getting to know the prospect beforehand and finding out if they are willing to change.
 - Find out what we have now and design a plan for how much we think we need
 - Revisit the rules of Section 8 to suspend the drug charge related exception
 - Be committed personally and politically to effective reintegration as well as housing and set meaningful and reasonable goals and meet them.
 - Educate community partners on the availability.
 - Partner with Oxford House Inc and other established, reputable entities. None

- I would like to see better maintained homes
- I support convening as a community to access current capacity and strengths and create a plan it fill gaps.

3. What programs or ideas from other cities or states have you heard of that are working well that we should consider here?

- Reentry people living in the same complex for moral support...
- 'The Gatehouse' in Grapevine Texas which is currently being build and is scheduled to open this spring for women who have experienced domestic abuse, incarceration, tragic divorce or poverty. It's a supportive living community where women and their children in crisis can discover a new path for permanent change. Check out gatehousegrapevine.com for more information.
- The problem is we are the best in the nation. Yet, we need to raise the bar still by moving closer to involving and serving those serving outside the public sector and related agencies. I realize that collaborating with those that can help in acquiring future grants and awards is necessary, but the folks that are doing the actual reentry in our communities do it on a shoe string with limited financial support.
- I have not studied or been made aware of other successful programs.
- Time and dollars to support reentry with 'community based currency' options partnered with jobs
- None
- Groups purchasing and managing apartment complexes and tying them into reentry programs, focusing on transistioning from there into homes and apartment of their own within 2-5 years based on gains in employment and education. They also learn valuable life skills that enhances their parenting and family relationships.
- Not sure
- I haven't researched this.
- I would like to see an expansion of programs like the Oxford Houses that are self-governing sober living facilities.
- Tax credit properties or SRO models with supportive services dollars
- Consider Grace Place Properties in Duncanville, Texas.
- Looking at Galveston and Houston right now. HMOU
- Oxford House and individual dwellings.
- A quality house manager is crucial. Location is important, along with transportation. New Name Ministries (Male Sex Offenders) does a great job! ROD Ministries in Dallas has a good program as well. Both are very selective on the front end of their candidates. Money stewardship is important.
- The City of Fort Worth's plan for Permanent Housing for the homeless
- Seattle has a program that has an apartment complex with ex offenders exclusively renting in it through a housing program that is successful by having on site support services come in and offer services.
- Also known as outpatient commitment (OPC), it is a civil legal procedure whereby a judge can order an individual with a serious mental illness to follow a court-ordered treatment plan while living in the community. An evaluation of New York State's Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) by Gilbert and colleagues (2010) examined whether individuals had lower arrest rates when receiving AOT or voluntary enhanced services than before initiating either one. Gilbert and colleagues (2010) found that the odds of arrest in any given month for participants who were currently receiving Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) were significantly lower than the odds for participants in the pre-AOT and pre-voluntary agreement group (the reference group). The odds of arrest were nearly two thirds lower for participants currently receiving AOT, compared with the odds of arrest for the reference group.
- I am unaware of what other states or cities have implemented.
- I don't know but would love to hear from others.