

BRADLEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

“SMARTER SENTENCING” EXPLAINED TO BCEDC

Coleman Dowda from SEACBEC presented a program on Smarter Sentencing to the BCEDC Board of Directors. Mr. Dowda explained that the Smarter Sentencing program started at Columbia and Union Counties in 2011. Both counties have seen a 25% drop in their recidivism rate since beginning the Smarter Sentencing program. Mr. Dowda stated that from 2011 to 2012 the number of people put on parole dropped 75 to 80%. The prison system is severely overcrowded and we must find a better way of dealing with the situation. The Smarter Sentencing program aids the state by reducing cost, reducing crime and producing an educated employable citizen. Mr. Dowda went on to explain that in one year Columbia County saved Arkansas \$4 million by implementing Smarter Sentencing. The calculations show that based on the current growth the amount saved in 10 years to the State will be over \$10 Billion. The State is motivated to fund and expand the program in all counties of Arkansas.

Mr. Dowda advised that Bradley County has a chance to help lead the way. The State has reached out to SEACBEC by aiding with funding for the Smarter Sentencing Adult Education Program. He explained that David Butler the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Magnolia is very much behind the Smarter Sentencing program. Mr. Butler will soon be taking the office of Circuit Prosecuting Attorney and has begun talk of expanding the program in his 5 county area.

Mr. Dowda explained that under the Smarter Sentencing program, a judge may sentence those convicted of non-violent, felony, first offences to complete an adult education program instead of serving prison time. The offender will be regularly evaluated by the school. While they are in school detailed records are kept on attendance, behavior, grades, etc. This information is forwarded to the sentencing judge and an appointed court – educational facility liaison. The offender has to appear quarterly before the judge and liaison for a review of the compliance records. If they are not compliant; missing class, tardy, poor

grades, misconduct, etc. the judge may give the offender a second chance or immediately revoke the Smarter Sentencing and send the offender to prison. If the offender satisfactorily completes the program they will not be sentenced to prison or have a felony record.

Coleman Dowda explained that he has been working with the Bradley County Judges and Public Defenders to implement the program. SEACBEC is working with the State to work out the program funding. Mr. Dowda is an instructor at SEACBEC and since school has begun he has less time to devote to the promotion of Smarter Sentencing. Mr. Dowda was asked, if his teaching schedule prevents him from working with the program who will run the program. Jonalyn Reep explained that her goal is to employ Mr. Dowda and Jamie Courtney part-time for this program.

John Lipton stated that a lot of this program was developed from the Pew System that the State Legislature passed a few sessions ago.

Jonalyn Reep stated that SEACBEC’s ultimate goal is for the people in the Smarter Sentencing program to complete and leave the SEACBEC program, then go on to make good employees for the community, which will also improve the individual’s home life and quality of life. Statistics shows that the program reduces the number of repeat offenders, therefore reducing the crime rate.

The BCEDC Board agreed they would like to schedule a second meeting on Smarter Sentencing and include the Judges and Prosecuting Attorneys.

Meet at Molly’s
Every Monday at 7:00 am
Please join this public forum meeting to discuss the topics important to Bradley County residents.
BCEDC wants to hear what’s on YOUR mind.

HOW CAN BCEDC HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES?

BCEDC can help your business in such areas as:

- Land and building acquisitions
- Financial packaging
- Demographic and economic data
- Incentive packaging
- Workforce training
- Plant expansions
- Entrepreneurial and small business development

WARREN ONE OF *TEN* SAFEST CITIES IN ARKANSAS

Safe Choice Security consulted the 2012 FBI Crime Data for over 100 cities in Arkansas in order to determine the state’s 10 safest cities. Safe Choice Security compared both property crimes and violent crimes to determine a 2014 list of Arkansas’ safest cities.

Warren is very proud to be named the 10th Safest City in Arkansas for 2014. The reported statistics indicated

- Violent Crimes per 1000: 4.66
- Property Crimes per 1000 27.94
- Crime index: 22 (Safer than 22% of US cities)

Warren was one of the smallest cities to make the list, but with low property and crime rates it was determined to be a desirable place to live and do business.

*Information taken from www.safechoicesecurity.com/blog/safest-cities-arkansas

September 2014 Jobs Update			JOB OPENINGS AT:
Bradley Co. Employers	# Emp.	Openings	
AR Superior Federal CU	13	0	<p>Armstrong Flooring: Has Ongoing True Temp positions. Interested candidates must apply at Employers Staffing of America in Monticello at 870-367-2727, must be available to work 1st or 2nd shift.</p> <p>Bradley Co. Medical Center: Has job openings for 2 C.N.A.'s, 4 RN's, 2 LPN's and 1 Director of Medicine Records. For information on job openings and to apply go to — www.bradleycountymedicalcenter.com/jobs</p> <p>Hermitage Schools: Has an opening for an Art Teacher. Call Hermitage School District. 870-463-2246</p> <p>Ouachita Hardwood Flooring, LLC: Is seeking a Product Specialist. This position will be responsible for purchasing and management of lumber inventory, product development, communicating with lumber suppliers and completing reports. Applicants should have: proficient computer skills, knowledge of lumber a plus, but not necessary and the ability to multi task. Full time salaried position with benefits. Mail resume to Ouachita Hardwood Flooring, 501 Pennington, Warren, AR 71671.</p> <p>Potlatch Corporation: For job openings and to apply please go to www.potlatchcorp.com careers section. EEO/AA employer</p> <p>SE AR Community Action Corp. Has an opening for a County Outreach Worker. Call Carolyn Davis at SEACAC at 870-226-2668 x 307</p> <p>SE AR Human Development Ctr.: Has job openings for—10 Residential Care Assistants, 5 Temp</p>
Armstrong Flooring	260	0+	
Ashcraft Wood Products	17	0	
Bradley Brand Furniture	5	3	
Bradley County	69	1	
Bradley Co. Medical Ctr.	244	9	
Chapel Woods Health & Rehab	unavailable	unavailable	
City of Hermitage	6	0	
City of Warren	51	2	
First State Bank of Warren	31	0	
Fulghum Fibers	10	0	
Hermitage Schools	77	1	
New Beginnings, CASA	22	0	
Oasis Trading	40	0	
OK Foods	14	0	
Ouachita Hardwood	43	0*	
Potlatch	160	0	
SE AR Community Action Corp.	81	1	
SE AR Human Dev. Ctr.	266	23	
Super Valu Foods	57	1**	
The Mad Butcher	60	2***	
Townsend Flooring	33	0*	
UAMS/KIDS FIRST—Warren	18	0	
Union Bank	6	1	
Warren Bank & Trust	38	0	
Warren School Dist.	285	3	
TOTAL	1906	47	

HOW CAN BCEDC HELP

BCEDC

110 N. Myrtle St.
Warren , AR 71671

Phone: 870-226-3760
Fax: 870-226-3770
websites:
www.bcedcar.com
arkansassitesselection.com
E-mail:
bradleycountyidc@sbcglobal.net

Residential Care Assistants, 1 Auto Mechanic, 2 Apprentice Skilled Tradesmen, 1 Residential Care Shift Coordinator. For information go online to www.arstatejob.com

Warren School Dist.: For details on job openings and to apply contact the Warren School Dist at 870-226-6738 or online at www.edline.net/pages/warren_sd

If your company would like to list job openings in the BCEDC Newsletter call 870-226-3760 or email bradleycountyidc@sbcglobal.net

*Taking Applications **Applications on Thursday ***Applications on Mondays, 1-4 pm

?????DO YOU KNOW?????

Do you know how Warren ranks with surrounding cities? The chart provided indicates some little know facts. **Notice** that Warren's sales tax rate is less than any surrounding city, which is a good reason to shop local. **Notice** that Warren's income both per capita and household is higher than Monticello's. Are you surprised? And Warren's unemployment rate is lower than Monticello's. **Notice** the cities educational stats. Warren's are the lowest, but all other cities have a college in their city. It makes a difference.

This chart shows things we should be proud of and things we should work to improve.

*Statistics provided by Bradley County Chamber of Commerce.

	WARREN	MONTICELLO	EL DORADO	CAMDEN	CROSSETT
POPULATION	5,960	9,778	18,491	11,836	5,411
RESIDENTS YOUNGER than 18	23%	24%	25.7%	25.3 %	24.4%
RESIDENTS OLDER THAN 65	18.3 %	13.8%	15.7%	17.4	18.9%
RESIDENTS W/ HS DIPLOMA	69.3	81.7%	77.3%	85.5%	83%
RESIDENTS W/ COLLEGE DEGREE	10.3 %	24.2%	20.5%	16.4%	15.4%
FOREIGN BORN RESIDENTS	9.1 %	2.9%	3%	0.4%	0.7%
INCOME PER CAPITA	\$16,398	\$16,186	\$20,435	\$18,684	\$17,872
INCOME PER HOUSEHOLD	\$28,565	\$28,020	\$28,904	\$ 30,438	\$29,474
SALES TAX RATE	9.5%	10%	9.75%	10.25%	10.25%
RACE – WHITE	45.3%	60.1%	46.1%	40.7%	54.9%
RACE- AFRICAN-AMERICAN	40.9%	36.4%	49.9	56%	42.2%
RACE – HISPANIC	15%	2.3%	4.3%	1.6%	2.2%
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	8.3%	9.8%	7.9%	7.6%	10.0%