



## **MEDIA ALERT**

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### **WORKFORCE CENTERS OF SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS HOSTING GENDER RESPONSIVE SUMMIT**

**WICHITA, KS** - The Workforce Centers of South Central Kansas will host a second Gender Responsive Summit "Criminal History: A Discussion of Unintended Consequences" on Friday, August 18 from 8am – 10am at the Wichita Workforce Center, 2021 N. Amidon.

The Summit is an opportunity for employers, policy makers and service providers to discuss gender-specific challenges for women who have been incarcerated and are transitioning back into society. The discussions will focus specifically on employment barriers individuals face upon release. The agenda for the summit includes remarks by Sedgwick County Commission Chairman, Dave Unruh, a panel discussion composed of women transitioning out of prison and special guest speaker, Roberta Meyers, director of the H.I.R.E. Network.

Myers has worked with policy makers and advocates around the country to identify public policy priorities that affect employment and other reentry opportunities for people with criminal records as well as helped develop strategies to strengthen existing legislation or enact model policies. She has trained hundreds of workforce, corrections, behavioral health, and reentry staff on strategies that best serve individuals who have criminal histories and has authored guidebooks and policy briefs on criminal record policies that impact employment and other re-entry needs.

"There are many employment barriers for individuals transitioning out of prison face," said Keith Lawing, president and CEO of Workforce Alliance. "It is important for our community and business leaders to come together, discuss these issues and find solutions."

The Summit is the second in a series of convenings on barriers and challenges. (Agenda attached)

*The Workforce Alliance Local Workforce Development Board (WA) operates employment and training programs through the Workforce Centers of South Central Kansas in Butler, Cowley, Sedgwick and Sumner Counties. For additional information on the Workforce Alliance please visit [www.workforce-ks.com](http://www.workforce-ks.com)*

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