



23rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD OF BERKS COUNTY

Judge Thomas G. Parisi – Chair
Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt – Steering Committee Chair

2/3/2017

To Whom it May Concern

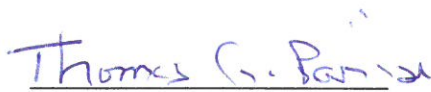
I am writing to offer the Berks County Criminal Justice Advisory Board's support of Berks Connections/Pretrial Services (BCPS) application for the Small Business Administration's Aspire Challenge.

BCPS has provided services in Berks County to individuals involved in the criminal justice system and their families for over 40 years. Since 2010, they have provided reentry case management and workforce development within the Berks County Jail System's Community Reentry Center. In 2016 their reentry services expanded to include individuals returning to Berks County from the state prison system.

BCPS is very well suited to expand their reentry services to include an entrepreneurship initiative within their programming for state offenders. They have an established track record of success with that population and an efficient referral and service delivery system in place. In addition, their workforce development outreach work has resulted in well established relationships within the business community in Berks County that would be very helpful to this new initiative.

The CJAB is Berks County's comprehensive justice system organization and recognizes how such an initiative will benefit state offenders. This initiative would be part of one of the six goals recognized by the CJAB as part of the Strategic Plan that was approved by general members on July 21, 2011, and last modified on September 29, 2016. To reduce recidivism and jail overcrowding and increase public safety through the use of cost effective and efficient reentry initiatives. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Judge Thomas G. Parisi
CJAB Chair


Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt
Steering Committee Chair