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Inmates prepare for job interviews after incarceration

WALNUT GROVE – At Walnut Grove Correctional Facility, individuals nearing release are participating in mock job interviews designed to help them transition back into the workforce.

This week, staff, including case managers, A&D counselors, and administrative personnel, interviewed 13 participants. They discussed employment gaps, highlighted strengths, and addressed common workplace challenges. Participants were asked about their skills, interests, and approaches to job-related situations.

“This is an opportunity for them to prepare for the real thing,” Case Manager Devon Moore said. “Sitting down and answering questions similar to what an employer would ask helps them build confidence and prepare for employment opportunities.”

Many of the inmates have earned educational and vocational certifications. Facilitator Vickie Barton emphasized the importance of applying those certifications and accomplishments beyond the facility.

“This type of preparation reinforces that the work they have done through programs, certifications, and classes can be carried forward as they reenter the workforce,” Barton said.

Participants were encouraged to be transparent about their incarceration by explaining how they productively used their time through programs such as anger management, life skills, and vocational training.

“Just because someone has a felony conviction does not mean they do not meet the qualifications for employment,” one participant said.

