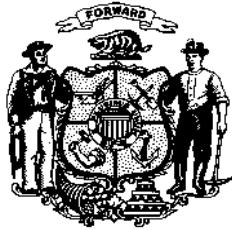


Tony Evers
Governor



State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council on Offender Reentry
Meeting Minutes for the Wisconsin Council on Offender Reentry
August 20, 2025 | 1:30pm – 3:00pm
Conducted Remotely via Teams

Council Members Present: Ray Woodruff, Kari Beier, Winn Collins, Jeanne Geraci, Keeley Crowley, Michael Koenigs, Leah Fix, Marlon Skenandore, Andrew Murphy, Yulonda Anderson, Michele Carter

Council Members Not Present: Jerome Dillard, Emily Westover, Carl Ashley, Paul Manriquez

Guests: Lance Horozewski, Nikia Morton, Marianne Oleson

Minutes:

Cawley Hubner, Department of Corrections

I. Chairperson's Welcome & Approval of Minutes

Ray Woodruff called to order the quarterly meeting of the Council on Offender Reentry at 1:34 PM on August 20th, 2025.

Ray introduced three new members to the Council. All three appointments began on July 15, 2025.

1. Michael Koenigs, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, UW - Madison
 - a. *Academic Professional - Criminal Justice Representative*
2. Keeley Crowley, Director of Victim Services Programs, Department of Justice
 - a. *Crime Victim's Rights/Services Organization Representative*
3. Yulonda Anderson, Client Services Specialist Coordinator, State Public Defender's Office
 - a. *State Public Defender's Office Representative*

Minutes from the Council's meeting on January 15, 2025 were reviewed and a motion was made by Ray to approve the minutes, and seconded by Marlon Skenandore. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Minutes from the Council's meeting on May 14, 2025 were reviewed and a motion was made by Michael Koenigs, and seconded by Yulonda Anderson. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Ray shared the following updates with the Council.

1. Council Member Jo Ann Hall announced her retirement and will no longer be serving on the Council. A replacement is being sought and hopes to fill this position by the next meeting.
2. The DOC held the second Friends and Family Forum on July 28th at Northcentral Technical College in Wausau. The DOC recognizes the crucial role that support from family and friends plays in rehabilitation and successful reentry into the commitment and utilizes this space to directly hear from the loved ones of those engaged with the DOC.
 - a. Ray led a group focused on reentry and community supervision and noted the following (and not limited to) topics were brought up by friends and family: More consistent programming at institutions, begin programming earlier in someone's sentence, better access to information, and the DOC engaging friends and family in release planning process.
 - b. Ray discussed the release planning process and evaluating how can the DOC better work with positive supports in the community of a Person in our Care to assist reintegration into the community.
 - c. Jeanne Geraci noted her support for the DOC to engage with friends and family in release planning and asked when a Friends and Family Forum would take place in Milwaukee.
 - i. Ray and Kari Beier indicated there are plans for one in the fall, but a date is to be determined.
3. DOC leadership across divisions convened at the end of July and announced updated Strategic Priorities for the agency that are focused on safety, security, wellness, and consistency for staff, those that are in our care, and in the public.
 - a. Ray noted the development and creation of a Reentry Strategic Plan that will build off and incorporates the vision and priorities of the DOC's Strategic Priorities. This Reentry Strategic Plan will not be solely contained with the DOC and believes the Council is a great opportunity to develop and follow through on a Reentry Strategic Plan.
 - i. Michael Koenig's noted his support and willingness to aid with supportive literature for best practices in reentry.
 - ii. Marianne Oleson noted her support and importance of included ex incarcerated individuals as part of the process.

II. **Division of Juvenile Corrections – Facility and Program Updates**

Lance Horozewski, Administrator - Division of Juvenile Corrections, Department of Corrections

Nikia Morton, Assistant Administrator - Division of Juvenile Corrections, Department of Corrections

Lance Horozewski discussed [Act 185](#), which was a bipartisan act to reform the juvenile correction system to a “closer to home model.” Currently, youth are sent to Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools (LHCLS) in Irma, which is roughly 3 hours away from Milwaukee and Madison. This “closer to home” model would allow youth to be located at facilities closer to home and have better access to family and services. Additionally, youth can maintain connections to service providers and local resources.

Nikia Morton discussed the current facility in Irma is a much larger facility then is needed in Juvenile Corrections. The LHCLS facility can hold up to 500 individuals, while currently there are only 78 boys & 5 girls at the facility.

A Secure Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCYs) has been opened in Racine County with a location being currently constructed in Milwaukee called the Southeast Regional Care Center for Youth. This facility will have space for 32 boys and is expected to open late 2026. Nikia shared renderings of the Milwaukee facility, which includes a garden, music room, outdoor and indoor recreation space.

Additionally, a second location in Oregon, WI will allow space for 32 beds for boys and 8 for girls. Funds were provided in the 2025-2027 budget and discussions about the design are ongoing.

Once both facilities (facility in Milwaukee and Oregon) are operational LHCLS will transition to an adult institution.

Jeanne Geraci asked what happens when the allotment of beds goes over capacity for girls?

- *DJC has been experiencing 5 - 6 girls over the past 6 months. The Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (MJTC) opened up to serve 10 girls with extensive trauma and mental health concerns. There are plans to increase this capacity to serve up to 20 girls. Once the facility in Oregon is completed and MJTC is expanded, DJC feels these facilities can comfortably serve the needs of young ladies in Wisconsin.*

Michael Koenig asked about staff and if there will be individuals working with the youth that were formerly incarcerated. Will the youth be able to talk with someone who has similar experiences and made changes in their lives?

- *The benefit of this "closer to home model" allows DJC to better connect with local resources and services providers to assist with mentorship and reentry services. The vision is for local resources and providers to be able to work with youth at the institution and continue to work with them in the community to provide wrap-around services to assist community reintegration and success.*

III. Department and/or Agency Representative Report Outs

Marianne Oleson from EXPO (Ex-Incarcerated People Organizing) mentioned that EXPO was honored that Secretary Jared Hoy from the WI DOC will be the guest speaker on October 11th at EXPOnential 2025.

IV. Public Comment

Opened up for Public Comment - No public comments were made.

III. Next Council Meeting – November 19, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM