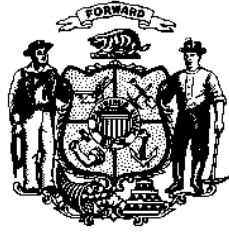Tony Evers
Governor

State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council on Offender Reentry
Meeting Minutes for the Wisconsin Council on Offender Reentry
December 13, 2023 │ 1:30pm – 3:30pm
Conducted Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Council Members Present: Sharlene Lopez, Andrew Murphy, Melissa Roberts, Ray Woodruff, Emily Hynek, Michele Carter, Marguerite Burns, Winn Collins, Corey Kleist, Jeannie Geraci, Emily Propson

Council Members Not Present: Eric Boulanger, Carl Ashley, Shannon Pierce, Nicole Miller, Jerome Dillard, Paul Manriquez, Jo Ann Hall, Elizabeth Lucas

Vacant Seats: Department of Children & Family Services and State Public Defender

Guests: Nicholas Zabloudil, Bryan Huebsch, Linda Palmer, Ellie Hartman

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 1:32 PM, on December 13, 2023.

There were no requests to amend the minutes from the September 20, 2023 Council. Marguerite Burns made a motion to approve the minutes, and seconded by Emily Propson. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

II. **Council Appointments**
Ray introduced a new member to the Council:
　　1. Andrew Murphy, Board Member, Wisconsin Inmate Education Association

III. **DOC Data and Research**
Zach Baumgart, the Research and Policy Director at the Department of Corrections presented on the DOC's process for collecting and storing of data. Zach discussed the areas the DOC tracks that includes Demographic Information, Rehabilitative and educational programming, recidivism and community violations, risk to recidivate, employment, and financial obligations.

Zach discussed programming while incarcerated, which is summarized in the Primary Programs Report Programming (Office of Program Services – see Primary Programs Report PDF). This tracking includes program priority, enrollment, and completion, as well as evaluation of programming utilizing recidivism measures. R&P is developing a comprehensive evaluation of all community programming and reworking how this data is maintained to measure outcomes.

Research and Policy collaborates with numerous external organizations that includes:
- University of Wisconsin's Institution for Research on Poverty (IRP)
- University of Michigan's Criminal Justice Administrative Records System (CJARS)
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)
- Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD)
- Wisconsin's Statewide Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and its members.

The Research Review Committee at the DOC reviews all unsolicited research proposals which include employees and persons in our care as research subjects. For more information about conducting research at the DOC, see here: https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/DataResearch/ConductingResearch.aspx.

Zach shared some active research projects within the DOC that includes:
- *Health Systems innovations for supporting transitions of care for incarcerated people living with HIV, hepatitis C, and opioid use disorder*
- *Assessing the effect of incarceration on lifetime labor force participation and retirement security*
- *Higher education in prisons analysis*

Lastly, Zach shared the Population and Interactive Dashboards that Research and Policy regularly updates. See here: https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/DataResearch/InteractiveDashboards.aspx

- Dr. Marguerite Burns informed the council that working with R&P at the DOC is a pretty straightforward process and they have been easy to work with.
- Emily Hynek had a follow-up question for Zach based on measuring outcomes beyond recidivism.
  - Zach discussed measuring employment, Residential Programs impact on stable housing, as well as desistance, which means to recidivate at a lower crime

IV.   Department and/or Agency Representative Report Outs
After the presentation on DOC's Data and Research, Michele Carter (DWD) and Ray Woodruff (DOC) discussed data sharing agreements between the DOC and DWD to assist tracking of employment related outcomes alongside recidivism outcomes to assist a holistic review of outcomes for clients returning to their communities.

This data sharing helps the DOC and partners to review and evaluate outcomes and if resources are being appropriately used to assist clients and/or if resources should be shifted to more appropriate avenues/programs, which are showing proven data outcomes. Data sharing allows the DOC and partners to better serve our clients.

This began a discussion with the Council for considerations of additional data sharing to assist correctional clients and how could this data sharing be mutually beneficial for all stakeholders involved in successful reentry outcomes for clients.

Andrew Murphy discussed the Trinity International program and tracking the two graduating classes that are spread out throughout the state. As the numbers expand over the years, there are opportunities for the DOC and the Wisconsin Inmate Education Association to track and check how the graduates are doing and opportunities for these graduates within these institutions.

An additional data-sharing opportunity discussed was between the DOC and DOT to track how the DOC is assisting individuals with vital documents (Social Security Card, ID Card, Driver's License, etc.) obtainment, which could track at a population level and at a specific institution for how the DOC is assisting individuals obtain these vital documents. This process is currently individualized, but this opportunity could assist at looking at the whole process and how it is working to assist individuals and how specific institutions are doing to assist with vital documents obtainment.

Finally, there was a discussion of the Program Data Collection System (PDCS) the DOC utilizes with contracted community vendors to enter data for the programs contracted with the DOC. There is an additional data-sharing component the DOC is working on called Wisconsin Reentry Access for Providers (WRAP), which would allow clients to have access to some pertinent information that the clients can choose to share with providers. This system would also allow providers to enter information and assist clients in the community, DCC Agents, and Community providers to assist clients and navigate different resources for clients.

V. **Next Council Meeting**
    March 20, 2024

    Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM