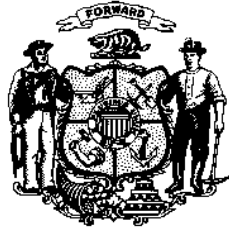


Tony Evers
Governor



State of Wisconsin

**Wisconsin Council on Offender Reentry
Meeting Minutes for the Wisconsin Council on Offender Reentry
January 15, 2025 | 1:30pm – 3:30pm
Conducted Remotely via Teams**

Council Members Present:

Ray Woodruff, Emily Hynek, Jeanne Geraci, Elizabeth Lucas, Melissa Roberts, Winn Collins, Andrew Murphy, Michele Carter, Emily Propson (Westover), Jerome Dillard, Marlon Skenandore

Council Members Not Present: Corey Kleist, Sharlene Lopez, Adam Plotkin, Carl Ashley, Shannon Pierce, Paul Manriquez, Jo Ann Hall, Nicole Miller

Guests: Jessica Gross, 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 1:32 PM, on January 15th, 2025.

Ray shared with the Council that the Fiscal Year 2024 Becky Young Recidivism Reduction Annual Report has been published on the [DOC's public website](#). The DOC's Reentry Unit is responsible for administration of Becky Young Funding (Appropriation 11200) throughout the state and this report details the utilization of those funds and programs supported by Becky Young Funds.

II. Presentation – Bureau of Health Services – "Healthcare in Corrections"

a. Jessica Gross, Bureau of Health Services (BHS) Director, Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Ray invited Jessica Gross, BHS Director, to the Council to discuss current operations of Healthcare in the DOC.

Jessica shared the structure of BHS and to ensure effective oversight of Healthcare in the DOC, the need to bring some additional oversight, which has included a Medical Director and Nursing Director to streamline and provide oversight over the 36 institutions in the DOC. BHS has focused on centralizing operations and standardization throughout the facilities to increase capacity of the DOC.

The 36 institutions are all considered Primary Care Clinics for Persons in our Care. The DOC has two Infirmaries and inpatient units at Dodge Correctional Institution and Taycheedah Correctional Institution. Additionally, the DOC operates an Assisted Needs Unit at Oakhill Correctional Institution to assist surgery rehab and assist with Activities of Daily Living. Additionally, the DOC is planning on creating a “Green Unit” which is akin to a Nursing Home type unit. This is an acute need with DOC’s aging population that reflects demographic trends.

Jessica discussed next BHS Service Standards and focus on creating service standards and that care for Persons in Our Care shouldn’t be different compared to care received in the community. These Service standards focused on quality of care, Patient and Clinical Interactions, and Clinic Availability. The mission statement of BHS is “to deliver cost-effective, safe and high-quality patient centered health care, health promotion and preventive care in accordance with professional and community care standards.”

Currently, BHS is working to optimize the DOC’s Electronic Medical Records (EMR) to allow for ease of use and consistency of scheduling patients on a provider’s template. Currently, providers are seeing 7.25 patients per eight-hour day, and BHS is working to increase this to 12 patients per day by optimization of provider schedules. Additionally, appointment lengths vary by provider and facility, and BHS is working towards standardization appointment types and times. Additionally, BHS is working on improvements for Patient Scheduling to facilitate cross coverage and move scheduling to a standardized practice and away from Medical Assistants and Registered Nurses working on scheduling, which not the best use of their time and skillset.

In the past few years, BHS has expanded its Nursing Education Team to facilitate and improve educational practices and trainings for nurses in the DOC. In addition, BHS has supported a Nurse Extern program in which nursing students work with the DOC for 12 weeks, full time, and is a paid externship. Summer 2023 was the first year and had 3 students participate. In 2024, there were seven students. Additionally, Medical/Provider Students are able to do rotations within the DOC and there were over 60 students that rotated through the DOC in 2024.

Jessica discussed Medication for Opioid Use Disorders (MOUD) in the DOC and DOC currently offers continuation medication of MOUD at Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility, Wisconsin Women’s Correctional System, and Dodge Correctional Institution. The next phase is to roll out MOUD continuation throughout the state and the final goal is to be able to continue MOUD for all PIOC who enter the DOC system, as well as initiate MOUD for those who could benefit.

Jeanne Geraci had a few questions for Jessica Gross after her presentation.

Q1: Are incarcerated people given the choice which medication they are receiving in treatment for MOUD? Or is DOC mandating one over the other

A1: The DOC has a protocol and the DOC currently doesn’t offer injectables. DOC doesn’t currently offer Methadone unless if they are pregnant. This is specific to incarcerated population.

Q2: How does women’s health and reproductive, pre-natal, and post-natal care work in the institutions?

A2: DOC upholds community standard of care and individuals can expect same appointments and treatment that someone in the community would receive. What is medical necessary is considered the standard of care.

III. Proposal: Creation of a Subcommittee

Ray proposed the potential of creating a subcommittee of the Council on Offender Reentry that focuses on reentry policies for justice involved population (DOC, County Jails, short-term holds, etc.) and reconnecting to the healthcare system. As mentioned at a previous meeting, the Medicaid and Corrections Policy Academy, would be of assistance to this subcommittee, but would not be comprised of just the steering committee on the Policy Academy, but would include a more robust representation outside of the DOC and DHS.

The DOC and DHS are working through policy and data sharing agreements to evaluate how we can better connect 7,000 – 8,000 every year back to the healthcare system and leverage resources to better serve this population.

Members of the Council spoke up in with interest included Emily Westover, Jerome Dillard, Jeanne Geraci, and Marlon Skenandore.

Ray plans to start to formalize specific goals and objectives and tentatively bring subcommittee proposal to the Council for feedback.

IV. Next Council Meeting - April 16th, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.