

Tony Evers  
Governor



State of Wisconsin

**Wisconsin Council on Offender Reentry**  
**Meeting Minutes for the Wisconsin Council on Offender Reentry**  
**July 30, 2024 | 1:30pm – 3:30pm**  
**Conducted Remotely via Teams**

**Council Members Present:** Sharlene Lopez, Elizabeth Lucas, Jeannie Geraci, Carl Ashley, Winn Collins, Ray Woodruff, Marguerite Burns, Michele Carter, Andrew Murphy, Emily Propson, Corey Kleist, Jo Ann Hall, Adam Plotkin

**Council Members Not Present:** Melissa Roberts, Nicole Miller, Eric Boulanger, Emily Hynek, Shannon Pierce/Jon Erpenbach, Paul Manriquez, Jerome Dillard

**Guests:** Bonnie Macritchie-Titze

**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 July 30, 2024.

There were no requests to amend the minutes from the March 20, 2024 Council. Carl Ashley made a motion to approve the minutes, and seconded by Marguerite Burns. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Ray Woodruff, chair, provided a few updates to the Council. The new Secretary of the Department of Corrections, Jared Hoy, was appointed in May to lead the department. Additionally, Mary Kay Sergio was appointed as Deputy Secretary for the Department of Corrections July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Additionally, the Department of Corrections, Department of Health Services, and Medical College of Wisconsin have been working on an application to the Council of State Governments for the Medicaid and Corrections Policy Academy.<sup>1</sup>

The Policy Academy is a dedicated forum and intensive training and technical assistance opportunity for policymakers leading state corrections, Medicaid, and behavioral health agencies. These cross-agency

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<sup>1</sup> Sarah Wurzburg, "Apply Now: Medicaid and Corrections Policy Academy," *The Council of State Governments*, [https://csgjusticecenter.org/2024/07/08/apply-now-medicaid-and-corrections-policy-academy/?\\_sm\\_au\\_=-iVV1n54NtNPfH7Q6FLQtvKtpMGMvF](https://csgjusticecenter.org/2024/07/08/apply-now-medicaid-and-corrections-policy-academy/?_sm_au_=-iVV1n54NtNPfH7Q6FLQtvKtpMGMvF).

teams will work together to develop a shared vision for reentry services, build partnerships, and identify strategies to harness Medicaid (to include the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)) potential to improve access to health coverage, care, and reentry outcomes. Teams will develop action plans to address the challenges of implementing reentry best practices related to Medicaid.

Ray shared this is an excellent opportunity for the Council on Offender Reentry to help strategically implement and to assist and drive how we move forward as a state in this space. Ultimately, this ties to ensuring Medicaid is accessible for clients returning to the community.

Adam Plotkin shared that previously, DHS would terminate individuals from Medicaid once they were incarcerated. This would result in the individual having to restart the application and would delay benefits for individuals up to six months after they were released. The DOC and DHS worked together to change that "termination" of Medicaid for incarcerated individuals to "suspended," which has individuals reentering their community with health coverage as they leave the institutions.

## **II. Council Appointments**

Ray introduced two new members to the Council:

1. Adam Plotkin, Director of Government Affairs, State Public Defender's Office
2. Marlon Skenandore, Councilman, Oneida Nation

## **III. Presentation – Opioid Use Disorder Recovery Program**

*Bonnie Macritchie-Titze, Opioid Initiatives Director, Department of Corrections*

Bonnie Macritchie-Titze presented to the council on the Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Recovery Program taking place at Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF). Bonnie's position is a new position at the DOC to bring together stakeholders, launch new initiatives, and direct the DOC's Opioid Recovery programs.

The goals of the MSDF OUD Program are to increase access to medication for those with OUD incarcerated at MSDF, reduce overdoses for those with OUD released from MSDF, and increase MSDF DOC staff behavioral health disparities knowledge and mitigation strategies.

For individuals at MSDF, all individuals have access to this OUD Recovery Program. First, intakes at MSDF go through a screening and assessment that gauges if persons in our care (PIOC) are on medication for OUD or if they seek a referral. If they are on medication, the nurse clinician verifies and works with the medication provider to ensure medication continues. The individual also works with a treatment specialist who they meet one on one for an assessment, diagnosis, gauge interest in peer support, recovery support, housing referrals for safe and sober living, as well as identifying Milwaukee County programs that could assist. If the PIOC notes an interest in medication, then they would be routed back to the nurse clinician.

Since February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

- 71 individuals participated in at least one component of the program (medication, peer support, other recovery support services)
- Almost 200 1-to-1 meetings with program participants and OUD Recover Program-dedicated treatment specialist
- 28 patients continued on medication and 40+ have indicated an interest in medication to assist with OUD recovery
- 0 overdoses at MSDF since OUD program began

This program's importance is to assist PIOC's continue medication. A program participant noted, by being able to continue his medication (buprenorphine), "I feel balanced and even." Having individuals feel balanced and in control allows individuals to fully participate in program for OUD recovery without the effects of withdrawal symptoms.

The DOC has expanded the OUD Recovery Program to the Women's System starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, the DOC plans for systemwide expansion and working with county jails to ensure continuing medication, but requires responsibly expanding the program as the DOC and institution sites are prepared to implement the program.

The Councilmembers had a few questions regarding the OUD Program:

- Are peer specialists paid and can they work with the peer specialist once they are released?
  - o *Yes, peer specialists are paid and DOC contracts with Wisconsin Community Service, who can work with PIOC's as well once they are released into the community.*
- Are individuals with a dual diagnosis (SUD and MH Disorder) assisted by this program?
  - o *Yes, individuals with a dual diagnosis are able to be assisted by the program*
- If an individual would like to start medication, does initiation start at institution or at release?
  - o *Depends on length of stay at MSDF, if there is enough time for their stay at MSDF, then yes initiation begins at MSDF. If they are in the women's system, at Taycheedah Correctional Institution would be where the initiation begins. Eventually, for the men's system, the plan is for Dodge Correctional Institution to initiate medication request, which is considered DOC's intake institution for the men's system.*
- How do you track overdoses for individuals who are released?
  - o *In collaboration with the DOC's Research and Policy Unit, who also provides public dashboards related to overdose information that can be found [here](#).*

#### **IV. Agency Report Outs**

Council Member Carl Ashley noted that at last COR meeting, they had applied for a grant with the Department of Housing to provide housing for individuals getting out of custody. They were notified they received the award to provide housing support for individuals releasing from the county jail and not prisons.

Council Member Marguerite Burns noted that she is co-leading a research group at UW-Madison and are working on numerous studies that are concerned with improving outcomes for individuals as they are released from incarceration. They received funding to test a pilot at Columbia Correctional Institution and Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Facility to test the feasibility of care transition and integrate care and supports for individuals with Substance Use Disorder during those first 30 days after release. Plan to do follow up studies on individuals to measure outcomes related to recidivism, housing, employment, and resources utilized.

Council Member Jo Ann Hall shared 3 Second Chance Pell Schools are working towards Pell restoration and are hoping to receive accreditation by January for Moraine Park Technical College, Madison College, and UW-Green Bay. The hope is by next fall, there will be new academic programs available

under Pell and create pathway from an Associates Degree to a Bachelor's Degree and potentially a Master's Degree down the road.

Council Member Michele Carter shared that DWD has 12 job labs within DOC institutions assisting individuals create resumes and access Job Center of Wisconsin (JCW). Additionally, the DOC and DWD have worked together to provide job labs at two regional Division of Community Corrections (DCC) offices in Janesville and Milwaukee to provide guided access and support to JCW with the help of DCC agents and staff.

V. **Next Council Meeting**  
October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM