

Council on Offender Reentry Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2018 @ 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare, 635 N 26th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53233

Council Members present:

Silvia Jackson (DOC), Chytania Brown via phone (DET), Karen Cumblad (Family Services), Beth Dodsworth (DCTS), Karley Downing, (DOC), Michael Knetzger (NWTC), Robert Koebele (Equity Enterprise, Inc.), Angela Mancuso (The Women’s Center), Sue Opper (District Attorney), Paul Rifelj via phone (OSPD), Antwayne Robertson (DHHS), Stephanie Rothstein (District Court Judge), Dashal Young (DCF).

Council Members not in attendance:

Jerome Dillard (Dane County), JoAnn Hall (MPTC), Constance Kostelac (DOJ), Steven Landreman (Parole Commission), Jon Nejedlo (GBPD), Ann Perry (DOT), Carolyn Stanford-Taylor (DPI)

Guests:

Niel Thoreson (DOC/DCC), Joy Neilson (DOC/DCC), Holly Akinsanya (DOC/DCC), Patrick Roberts (JusticePoint), Lane Miller (JusticePoint), Clarence Johnson (Wisconsin Community Services (WCS)), Jim Bartos (WCS), Artis Landon (WCS), Terri Strodthoff (Alma Center)

Notetaker: Michele Krueger (DOC)

AGENDA

Call to Order

Silvia Jackson called to order the quarterly meeting of the Council on Offender Reentry at 1:30pm on March 8, 2018.

Introductions

Members of the Council were greeted by Ms. Jackson and introduced themselves. Berney Hall appeared in place of Ann Perry, and Mary Davies appeared in place of Chuck Brendel, who has since retired. Member Dashal Young welcomed all the visiting guests.

Approval of Minutes

Review Minutes from December 6, 2017 meeting. Request motion to approve; approved and seconded. No Discussion. All approved. Minutes accepted as written.

Council Members Bios/Agency Description

Beth Dodsworth, Bureau of Community Forensic Services, Director, Division of Care and Treatment Services, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Karen Cumblad, Licensed Professional Counselor, Family Services of Waukesha

**Principles of Effective Intervention #6:
Engaging On-going Support for Returning Citizens in Natural Communities**

Overview of Region 3 Purchase of Goods and Services (POGS)

WIDOC, Niel Thoreson, Regional Chief, Region 3 (Milwaukee), Joy Neilson (Program & Policy Analyst-Advanced) and Holly Akinsanya (Program & Policy Analyst-Advanced)

- Niel provided an overview of the Division of Community Corrections (DCC), which is one of four divisions in WIDOC. Explained that we are a bifurcated state, in that we handle both probation supervision and post-prison release supervision. The DCC Administrator is Stephanie Hove, and the Asst. Administrator is Lance Wiersma. Explained that DCC has 8 regions, which cover the entire state. Each region has a Regional Chief and an Assistant Regional Chief, with the exception of Region 3 (Milwaukee), which has a Regional Chief and three (3) Assistant Regional Chiefs.
- Niel provided a breakdown of Region 3 (Milwaukee)
 - Offender Population: 12,500 - 14,000 active supervision, 7000 DAI offenders returning to Milwaukee, 1900 absconders
 - Region 3 Staff: 374 staff, 275 agents, remainder supervisors and support staff
 - Region 3 Offices: S. Chase Ave, (5 units), Port Washington Road (PWR) (12 units), State Office Building (5 units on 1st floor and 2 units on 2nd floor), W. Mill Road (5 units)
 - Region 3 Specialty Units: Mental Health, Sex Offender (5 units), agents who work with DV offenders, Pre-Sentence Investigations Unit, OWI offenders, female offenders, Vet court, Mental Health pilot court, Family Drug Treatment Court, pilot county for Woman's Risk Needs Assessment
- Importance of engaging with community partners is based on the 6th Principle of Effective Intervention. Niel encouraged others to access the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) library which includes a wealth of resources and research on this specific principle and all other principles. Agents are training in "10 Steps to Risk Reduction", which provides a structure and prioritization by design of how we walk through helping offenders change their behaviors. Step 9 "Anchor Community Support", is specifically dedicated to this Principle.
- Principle #6 in Practice:
 1. Involvement in Community Initiatives
 2. Fostering Futures/Trauma Informed
 3. Crime Victims Committee
 4. Engaging and Contracting with Innovative Organizations
- Holly and Joy presented on how Principle #6 drives how DOC engages and contracts with innovative organizations. They explained how DOC/DCC works with public and private vendors to ensure offenders have access to all services to address their criminogenic needs.
- The POGS process:
 - The DCC has a separate "pot" of money allocated solely to purchasing offender services
 - The services must be secular, evidence-based, and must serve one or more of the 8 criminogenic need(s). We must be a payer of last resort; which means if the offender has the ability to obtain their own resources via insurance or otherwise, they are responsible for paying for the services.
 - Types of Services:

- Direct Services – One-Time or gap services (less than \$5000/year per vendor)
- Contracted Services – All EBP programming and all residential services including AODA programming, psychiatric evaluations, halfway houses, cognitive-behavioral programming, etc. All DOC-contracted programs/services are evaluated for fidelity and adherence to evidence-based practices through the Correctional Program Checklist (CPC). Offenders who are assessed as medium or high risk to reoffend are eligible for programming referrals. Lower risk offenders are not eligible for DOC resources, and, in line with evidence, low risk individuals tend to self-correct with intensive interventions.
- Partnerships - (outside of the procurement process) Two examples:
 - Integrated Reentry Employment Strategies Pilot with Employ Milwaukee – Provide reach-in services at four (4) institutions throughout the state, for offenders who are medium or high risk. 30 days prior to release they complete an OWRA (Online Work Readiness Assessment) to determine if the offender is more ready or less ready to obtain employment. Upon release, they receive case management services specific to employment and/or obtaining appropriate job skills coaching and education development.
 - Vivitrol Pilot with Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility and Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division. This partnership was brought together without additional funding to address the urgent needs of opioid overdoses. This pilot ran for one year, which ended at the end of 2017. The experimental group included 50 offenders who voluntarily engaged in the Vivitrol program. The control group included 50 offenders who chose not to engage in the program. Offenders were given the Vivitrol shot and released from custody and expected to enter AODA treatment directly upon release. Of those who engaged in the Vivitrol pilot, one (1) individual had an overdose incident. Of those who didn't engage in the pilot, seven (7) individuals had an overdose incident.
- DCC Contracting Process:
 - Simplified Bid process (Max of \$49,999 in 3 years)
 - Request for Bid (RFB) – Lowest bidder; 2 year initial contract with option for renewal
 - Request for Proposal (RFP) – Awarded to the best solution at the lowest cost. 2 year initial contract with option for renewal. DOC offers a 5% scoring increase for minority, disabled and woman-owned businesses.
 - Procurement Process for RFP – Identify Need, Develop Proposal, Issue Proposal, Proposals Due, Evaluate Proposals, Issue Award, Administer Contract. Subject Matter Experts are utilized to assist in the development of the proposal. A panel reviews the proposals and selects the best candidate. Once awarded, Program & Policy Analyst's monitor the contracts.
 - DCC budget runs on fiscal year July 1 – June 30
 - Large contracts are centrally procured to ensure a fair and competitive bidding process.

- All contracts are awarded through the Department of Administration procurement process. All bids, proposals, and contracts can be found on eSupplier <https://esupplier.wi.gov>

Questions Taken:

- Beth Dodsworth: How would you address when someone bids and they can't provide what they were awarded to provide? Response: The contract is awarded to the lowest bidder who is considered to be the most responsive and responsible. This has happened in the past, but we try very hard to make sure the specifications and requirements laid out in the RFB are very clear, to ensure that only those who can meet every specification and requirement apply for the contract. Additionally, vendors are evaluated every year. There are ramifications for not providing the services promised. DOC works closely with their vendors through action planning and improving as needed, but ultimately, a contract violation could lead to termination of the contract.
- Dashal Young: Can you explain VendorNet? Response: It is a separate portal, but it is transitioning from VendorNet to ESupplier.

Principles of Effective Intervention #6
Overview of Community Programs and how they relate

JusticePoint

Patrick Roberts, Program Director, and Lane Miller, Coordinator – Cognitive Behavioral Program

JusticePoint is a member/subsidiary of The Difference Principle, Inc., a 501 (c)3 nonprofit social justice organization dedicated to providing administrative services to social justice nonprofits

- JusticePoint was founded in 2013, and is a spin off from Justice 2000, which is a now defunct program. JusticePoint has expanded significantly throughout the state.
- JusticePoint is the contracted service provider for Milwaukee County Circuit Court programs:
 - Universal Screening, Pretrial Supervision, Early Interventions Programs (Drug Treatment Court, etc.,) Central Liaison Unit, TAD Program, cognitive based programs (SBI-SA, T4C, etc.), Access Point, Recovery Support Coordinator (RSC), Comprehensive Community Services (CCS)
- JusticePoint is the Region 3 (Milwaukee) contracted service provider since 2016 for the Department of Corrections, Division of Community Corrections, cognitive-behavioral programming, Thinking for a Change (T4C) version 4.0.
- T4C developed by NIC in 1998, is research based and focuses on cognitive interventions. The program is 25 sessions in length and runs for 1-2 hours 1-2 days per week. There is mandatory homework, and in Milwaukee, they run gender-specific groups. Each group consists of 12-16 participants.
- Target DOC population: must be on DOC supervision; specific disqualifiers: only offered in English; un-medicated/un-treated mental health issues; low risk individuals; absence of a top 4 criminogenic need (Anti-social personality, anti-social cognition, anti-social peers, family/marital); overrides can be approved. Program is targeted to address anti-social cognitions.

- T4C group is offered at the following P&P Office locations: Port Washington Road, Mill Road, Chase Ave and two downtown locations (Public Safety Building and one on Highland Ave). These groups are offered both in the afternoon and in the evening.
- T4C capacity per fiscal year: 448 – 672 offenders
- Current statistics: Of the 459 individuals who started T4C, 173 completed successfully, 141 were terminated, and 128 are still currently enrolled. 55% success rate.
- Completed a CPC Evaluation: Group Assessment – The group was found to be in full compliance
- With respect to Principle #6, JusticePoint considers their organization to be a part of a pro-social network; facilitators are invested in modeling prosocial skills and using positive reinforcement. The hope is the participants will take the skills taught in the program and use them while interacting within their communities and homes.
- The skills taught in T4C address positive and realistic interactions with family, significant others, and peers; and problem solving and pro-social conflict resolution w/ employers, law enforcement and service providers.
- Recidivism rates – hoping by Fiscal Year 2019 they will know if their program is making an impact in recidivism.
- The DOC is encouraged to use the Recovery Support Coordinator (RSC) and Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) services for their clients. RSC case management is intensive services that work with IV drug users, etc. These services are paid for by the county. They are screened for appropriateness. CCS is a client driven case management service for those with a desire to work on substance abuse needs and/or Mental Health needs.

Questions Taken: No questions/comments received regarding JusticePoint presentation

Wisconsin Community Services

Clarence Johnson, Executive Director, Jim Bartos, Community Building Milwaukee Project Manager, and Artis Landon, Community Reintegration Services Administrator

Wisconsin Community Services, Inc. (WCS) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit agency with more than 40 programs that provides a variety of services in southeastern Wisconsin.

- History of WCS – also work with vulnerable and disenfranchised individuals.
- WCS has over 40 programs, serving over 15,000 individuals annually, throughout various counties in Wisconsin.
- WCS contracts with DOC/DCC in Region 3 to provide services for up to 36 males via the Joshua Glover DOC Residential Reentry Center. The program also offers post-release programs, such as Workforce Services, Community Building, Wiser Choice and OARS/CR.
 - 2017 served 167 individuals; 79 completed successfully (57%)
 - Incorporates EBP into its service delivery by following the dosage principle for Moderate Risk persons (230 therapeutic hours) and for High Risk persons (250 therapeutic hours)
 - How Joshua Glover RRC relates to Principle #6 – 4 concepts: Social, Recreational, Familial, Vocational
- Community Building Workshops (began in 1980, came to Milwaukee in 2006), which is provided to residents of Joshua Glover; Milwaukee has the largest CBW's in the nation.

- Community Building is an intense interpersonal group process and experience that promotes social and emotional learning and improves or builds on the core competencies of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship building, and responsible decision-making skills in participants. Participants are guided by trained facilitators who take the group through a process that demonstrates how to look beyond the cultural, political and religious differences that often prevent us from embracing our common humanity. Once “in community” through a CBW, members function as a highly effective decision-making group.
- The Pre-CBW Workshop reflects a “group belonging” score of 2.09, and a Post-CBW Workshop reflects a score of 4.23, which is a 100% improvement in “group belonging” after participation.
- CBW’s relating to Principle #6 – they promote and develop skills and characteristics which improve communication and relationships with community supports such as family members, friends, and co-workers. They promote and develop the following: speaking with authenticity, deep listening skills, respect for others, and empathy. CBW’s also help to heal trauma; while the groups are not considered group therapy, they are therapeutic.
- Workforce Services
 - Employment & Training Services – readiness classes, job training, job development, placement and retention and case management.
 - Community Improvement & Job Training Program – job training and supportive employment services for individuals, ages 16-23, targets high risk and gang members.
- Center for Driver’s License Recovery and Employability (CDLRE) – Discovered that 50% of those who are unemployed are without a driver’s license. CDLRE provides legal services to assist with negotiating payment plans. This program has a 68% success rate in driver’s license recovery. CDLRE is staffed by 2 WCS case managers and 2 staff attorneys from Legal Action of Wisconsin
- Conditional Release (CR)/Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS)
 - CR provides community placement/monitoring and supportive case management for persons adjudicated NGI. CR average daily population of 117 in FY 16/17
 - OARS provides wrap-around case management services to high risk/high need individuals with mental illness who are releasing from Wisconsin State Prison System. OARS Average Daily Population was 78, in FY 16/17.
- Wiser Choice Services – provides programming for people seeking drug and alcohol treatment with vouchers to pay for a range of appropriate community-based services. WCS Access Point – Central Intake Unit to screen and admit individuals. WCS Recovery Support Coordinator Unit – wraparound type services that help address all issues facing a person seeking to treat their addiction.
- Other Reentry Related Programs – electronic monitoring, Day Reporting Centers, Parson’s House (Federal Bureau of Prisons) (serves between 170-200 per year), Federal Probation and Pretrial, Prisoner Reintegration Program

Questions Taken: No questions/comments received on WCS presentation. Michele informed guests to email her if they are interested in receiving the presentation materials.

Public Comment Taken: Dashal Young and Silvia Jackson opened the floor to take public comment. All members of the public in attendance introduced themselves, and the agencies they work for, as well as why they attended this Council meeting. Several members of the public indicated they came to the meeting to learn more about the Council and what services were offered so they can bring the information back to their agencies. A formerly incarcerated individual attended to learn more about available services in the Milwaukee area, and wanted to connect with the various service providers after the meeting.

The Alma Center

Terri Strodthoff, Ph.D., Founder

The Alma Center, Inc., launched in 2004 as an evidence-based trauma-informed alternative to prevailing punitive methods of working with domestic violence offenders.

- The Mission is to heal, transform and evolve the unresolved pain of trauma that fuels the continuation of cycles of violence, abuse, and dysfunction in families and community.
- The men who receive services at The Alma Center, have been raised around significant physical, verbal, emotional, psychological abuse and trauma.
- Trauma Informed – Instead of asking ‘What is *wrong* with you?’ they are asked ‘What *happened* to you?’
- Trauma Impact #1: World View – given what they have endured, it makes sense that their world view is what it is (no emotion, manipulate others, disregard authority, take what you need, immediate gratification, might=right, self-medicate, etc.)
- Trauma Impact #2: Adaptive Behaviors – the set of behaviors a child develops to survive the adversity in their home/environment
- Trauma Impact #3: Cognitive Development – the impact of toxic stress on brain growth & development
- Trauma & Criminogenic Need aligns: Negative World View = Anti-Social Cognition; Survival Adaptive Behavior = History of Anti-Social Behavior; Brain Development = Anti-Social Personality; ACE happen in family = Family/Marital
- Explained ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) – 10 questions that are linked to health outcomes, and the more ACE’s an individual has, the higher the likelihood of serious health outcomes (substance misuse, physical health, etc.). The items relate to child neglect, substance abuse within the home, family criminality, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, from the ages of 0-10.
- If we can work to resolve trauma the theory of change suggests there will be a reduction in criminal behavior.
- Trauma is not an excuse. The only way out of trauma is healing.
- The Alma Center’s work is to hold space and create opportunity for people to heal.
- How to hold space – establish a sense of safety and trust, enhance systems of support and practice and teach emotional and behavioral regulation, provide education on the effects of trauma, reframe and reintegrate traumatic experiences, meaning-making, incorporate mindfulness practice.
- Programs Offered:
 - Men Ending Violence Battering Intervention Program
 - Restorative Fatherhood Program
 - Wisdom Walk to Self-Mastery (dives into trauma recovery)
- Services Provided:
 - Alma Brothers: A Healing Community for Milwaukee Men Returning Home from Incarceration. This program includes five previously incarcerated men, who will do reach-in services with currently incarcerated males. Upon their release from prison,

these individuals will attend a Welcome Home Ceremony, which includes a council of elders to encourage and support their return to the community, and provide expectations and wraparound services.

- Domestic Violence Court Central Intake
- The Alma Center serves approximately 250 men per year. The idea is to dig deeper and grow qualitatively with the individuals.
- Recidivism Rate – Over an 18-month period, Men Ending Violence graduates show an 86% reduction in recidivism compared to those who do not complete a domestic violence program.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

Next meeting date:

June 21, 2018 @ 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Wisconsin Department of Corrections

3099 E. Washington Avenue, Madison WI 53707