



State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Council on Offender Reentry

Meeting of the Wisconsin Council on Offender Reentry

September 11, 2019 @ 1:30pm – 3:30pm

**WI Department of Corrections, 3099 E. Washington Avenue, Madison, WI
Secretary's Conference Room**

Council Members Present: Chytania Brown, Shannon Carpenter, Karen Cumblad, Silvia Jackson, Robert Koebele, Angela Mancuso, Antwayne Robertson, John Tate II, Barbara Van Haren

Council Members Not Present: Winn Collins, Mary Davies, Jerome Dillard, Beth Dodsworth, Michael Knetzger, Jon Nejedlo, Ann Perry, Paul Rifelj, Stephanie Rothstein, Bianca Shaw

Guests: Deborah Mejchar, Sue Kastensen, Diara Parker, Kelly Moe-Litke, Sue Sippel, Renee Schultz, Carmen Pitre, Sharon Lewandowski, Linda Palmer

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Silvia Jackson called to order the quarterly meeting of the Council on Offender Reentry at 1:30 pm on September 11, 2019. Ms. Jackson greeted the members of the Council and guests.

Approval of Minutes

Reviewed the June 12, 2019 meeting minutes. Antwayne Robertson moved to approve the minutes of June 12, 2019. Angela Mancuso seconded the motion. Motion carried, minutes approved.

Public Comment

Sue Kastensen, FairShake Founder and Director, provided information on the FairShake online reentry resource hub. Serves reentering citizens, and provides resources for corrections staff and employers.

2. Reentry Initiative – Partnership between WI DOC and the UW Law School Restorative Justice Project

Deborah Mejchar, Chaplain at Fox Lake Correctional Institution, introduced the 60-Minute video segment featuring a story on Victim-Offender Dialogue. The segment included interviews with four incarcerated individuals in the Wisconsin State Prison System, and their respective victims. Each individual shared their experience with the restorative justice process, and the impact that process has had on their lives.

3. Victim-Centered Initiatives

Council member, Angela Mancuso, Executive Director of The Women's Center, coordinated the following presentations, and provided opening remarks.

a. Statewide Coalitions

i. End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Diara Parker, Director of Policy and Systems Change

Diara Parker provided an overview of the Coalition’s programs, and reported on the Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report.

1. The role of this Coalition is to provide various programs and technical assistance to the direct service providers and other multidisciplinary teams. Their programs are: Education and Membership Services, Legal Advocacy Support, Youth and Prevention, Community Outreach, Public Policy Advocacy, Homicide Prevention, and Coordinated Community Response.
2. Homicide Prevention Program
 - a. Training and Technical Assistance – Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). The LAP provides an opportunity for victims to be more quickly linked to domestic violence services upon contact with law enforcement. Currently, 33 counties and 141 law enforcement agencies are trained in LAP in WI.
 - b. Annual Homicide Report – FY18 Homicide Report Figures
 - i. 40 homicide deaths, 8 perpetrator suicides
 - ii. 54% happened in rural areas, 46% urban areas
 - iii. 65% perpetrated with firearms, with 29% being legally prohibited from possessing the weapon at the time of the homicide.
 - c. Resource Development
 - i. LAP Database (www.wilap.org) This site is both a resource and a data collection and analysis tool for End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin and LAP implementing communities.
 - ii. Domestic Violence Homicide Response Plan - A toolkit for Domestic Violence Programs

ii. Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Abuse (WCASA)

Kelly Moe Litke, Associate Director

Kelly Moe Litke provided an overview of WCASA’s services, priorities, anti-oppression framework, and program development initiatives.

1. WCASA is a crisis agency that covers the state of Wisconsin. This Coalition has a membership of sixty (60) Sexual Assault Service Providers, who provide services such as 24-hour crisis response, personal advocacy, system advocacy, information & referral, support groups, accessible services, and community outreach and prevention.
2. WCASA Priorities – best practices in advocacy, prevention, organizational development, reproductive & sexual health, systematically and historically oppressed communities/individuals and their role in addressing oppression.
3. Anti-Oppression Framework – Developed in collaboration with the National Women of Color Network, who provided technical assistance to WCASA, both internally and externally (<https://wocninc.org>). This framework helps direct WCASA’s policy development, hiring practices, and best practices, as well as their engagement with various external Women of Color networks and consortiums.
4. Program Development Initiative (PDI) – Increase individual and organizational capacity to meet the diverse needs of all survivors of sexual assault. WCASA looks to the national model, The Sexual Assault Demonstration Initiative, in developing their PDI.

Questions & Answers:

Are there service gaps in certain areas of the state? Yes, this is due to insufficient funding. Also, some programs cover several counties.

When a need arises that the provider cannot cover, do they reach out to the network? I would defer to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Also, they can reach out to neighboring programs to request the use of their services. We do try to connect programs.

b. Governor’s Council on Domestic Abuse

Sue Sippel, Executive Director

Sue Sipple provided an overview of this Council’s purpose and structure. The Council on Domestic Abuse advises the Governor, DCF, and the Legislature on matters of domestic abuse policy and funding, and consists of three committees.

1. Legislative Committee – Focus areas:
 - a. Revocations - keeping victims informed on the revocation process, working with DOC agents and ensuring we maintain relationships with the victims through the revocation process. Creating a roadmap for all involved and identifying the gaps so we can improve upon them. (Members of this committee include: Administrative Law Judge, attorneys, DOC, district attorney, program providers)
 - b. Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Handbook – The committee spent two years creating the GAL Handbook, which is now considered best practice throughout the State.
 - c. Ongoing interest in certification and standards for Abuser’s Treatment
 - d. Gun Surrender
2. Access Committee – Focus areas:
 - a. Anti-Oppression Manual and Trainings
 - b. Recruit, retain, support Bi-lingual, Bi-cultural Advocates and Advocates of Color
3. Budget Committee – This committee is tasked with developing a funding formula in the following areas:
 - a. The “Fair Minimum” Calculation – Fair Minimum document is a tool to inform the boards, communities, and legislators, on staffing patterns needed to for core services carry out the mission, as well as fair pay for individuals working in the field of domestic abuse to maintain staffing. This was key to developing the Long Range Plan, and securing additional funding in the Governor’s budget for staffing increases.
 - b. Worker’s Compensation Rates – Employers working in this field have expressed concern about the cost of Worker’s Comp insurance for staff working at the shelters. The cost is \$4/\$1000 in salary, while clerical staff or social worker staff are \$.20/\$1000 in salary.
 - c. Long Range Plan (LRP) – Every six years, the Council composes a long range plan for domestic abuse services in Wisconsin. The focus for this year is to expand sexual abuse services and services to underrepresented populations.

c. Unique Service Model – Sojourner Family Peace Center

Carmen Pitre, CEO

Carmen Pitre provided an overview of the Family Peace Center.

1. The Sojourner Truth House and the Task Force on Family Violence merged to create the Sojourner Family Peace Center (SFPC). This merger of two successful, well-positioned, not-for-profit organizations provided the foundation necessary to secure fifteen critical partnerships, including the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Children’s Protection Center, and the Milwaukee District Attorney’s Office. With these highly-recognized partnerships, the Family Peace Center was able to generate funding through donors and a two-year campaign to raise \$26.5 million to cover 10 years of operating costs and a program endowment fund.

2. SFPC has 15 co-located partners within the building to provide a comprehensive and seamless service to families affected by violence. These services include but are not limited to: domestic violence services, crisis housing, 24-hour crisis hotline, sexual assault services, child abuse services, healing and behavioral health services, law enforcement, prosecution, case management, and legal services. With additional grant funding, Sojourner is developing a central database to store victim's information, that will follow the individual and serve to minimize the amount of times a victim has to re-tell their story. On average, the Family Center services 21,000 clients per year. They have an annual budget of \$7.2 million, of which Sojourner raised \$3.2 million on their own.
3. Initial Work - SFPC developed a Theory of Change and a Logic Model that presents the shared relationships among the resources, activities, outputs, outcomes, and impact for their program. By convening the SFPC Outcomes & Evaluation Committee (O&E), and conducting client evaluation interviews, follow-up interviews, and screening tools, such as LAP, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), the SFPC will be able to measure program success over time.
4. Current Work – Collecting Hope Scale scores data from clients at intake, developing project-specific evaluations (DV High Risk Team, Child Witness to DV), identifying data already collected by partner agencies, developing Key Performance Indicators, measuring community awareness and engagement, and measuring staff well-being.

d. Department of Children and Families – Domestic Abuse Program

Sharon Lewandowski, Domestic Abuse Program Coordinator

Sharon Lewandowski provided an overview of DCFs Domestic Abuse Program role in victim services programming and initiatives.

1. Domestic Abuse Program funding is provided to 62 non-profit agencies and all eleven tribes. All Wisconsin counties and tribal areas are covered by a domestic abuse program; and there are shelters in 42 counties/tribal areas.
2. Advocacy Services are provided at all programs, including legal advocacy, immigration, housing, employment protections, welfare, disability services, and support groups.
3. Children's Programming – Most DV programs in Wisconsin receive a Children's Programming grant. The goals of this program are to actively link services for children/youth with those offered to the protective parent; to repair and heal the damage to the bond between the protective parent and the child; and to provide trauma-informed services to children, youth, and the protective parent.
4. Culturally-Specific Programs – These programs target traditionally marginalized communities, immigrants, and refugees (e.g., Unidos Against DV, Latina Resource Center, Hmong American Women's Association, Freedom, Inc.)
5. Service Trends
 - a. Shelters reported over 24,000 "turn aways" in the last reporting period. "Turn aways" are referred to other nonresidential programs and services.
 - b. Out of 42 shelters, 34 had to turn away persons due to capacity issues.
 - c. Children comprise about 45% of those receiving shelter.
6. Prevention – Beginning in 2017, DCF began partnering with End Domestic Abuse WI to support a Statewide Prevention Initiative. This initiative includes,
 - a. Media and Social Marketing Campaign (Dare2Know) – a challenge and a movement for teens to rally around healthy relationships
 - i. Flyers, posters, digital/social media
 - ii. Paid advertising
 - iii. Teen Ambassador Program
 - iv. <https://dare2knowwi.org/our-story/>

- b. Subgrants to local communities to engage in youth-centered primary prevention work
- c. Statewide Teen Summit.

“The oft-quoted statistic is that someone has to leave seven times before they finally leave the abuser.”

Remaining FY20 Council Meetings:

- **Wednesday, December 11, 2019 @ 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**
WI DOC, 3099 E. Washington Avenue, Madison WI 53707

- **Wednesday, March 11, 2020 @ 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**
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