

## Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility

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Racine, WI 53404

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# RACINE AREA COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD (RACRB) MEETING MINUTES

DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021  
TIME: 1:00 PM  
LOCATION: 1414 ALBERT ST.  
RACINE, WI 53404

| Attendee                     | Title                          | Organization   |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Lisa Avila                   | Superintendent                 | Sturtevant Transitional Facility (STF)                 |
| Sara Bellis                  | Corrections Program Supervisor | Racine Correctional Institution (RCI)                  |
| Deborah Beuttler             | Corrections Program Supervisor | Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility (RYOCF) |
| Steve Brick                  | Supervising Officer 2          | Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center (REECC)        |
| Duncan Cortez                | Recreation Supervisor          | City of Racine   |
| Ronda Davis                  | Education Director             | Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility (RYOCF) |
| Dan Derler                   | Education Director             | Racine Correctional Institution (RCI)                  |
| Michael Giernoth             | Supervising Officer 2          | Racine Correctional Institution (RCI)                  |
| Charlotte Jones              | Corrections Program Supervisor | Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center (REECC)        |
| Ronald Molner                | Chief                          | Kansasville Fire Rescue/ Town of Dover                 |
| Sarah Moskonas               | Corrections Program Supervisor | Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center (REECC)        |
| Greta Neubauer               | State Representative           | State of Wisconsin                                     |
| Tami Staehler                | Superintendent                 | Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center (REECC)        |
| Je'Leslie Taylor             | Warden                         | Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility (RYOCF) |
| Joyce Wadlington             | Citizen                        | Community Racine Kenosha BNA                           |
| Jerry Wadlington             | Citizen                        | Community Representative                               |
| Jason Wells                  | Warden                         | Racine Correctional Institution (RCI)                  |
| Others were present via Zoom |                                |  |

The meeting was hosted at the Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility (RYOCF) Training and Conference Center. It was called to order and presided over by RYOCF Warden Taylor.

Attendees were welcomed by Warden Taylor. She provided background information about the inception and evolution of the community relations board. She explained that the Department of Corrections wants to continue to grow relationships with community stakeholders.

### Kenosha Correctional Center (KCC)

- Warden Taylor informed the meeting members that Kenosha Correctional Center Superintendent was out and will not be presenting at this meeting.

### Racine Correctional Institution (RCI)

Warden Jason Wells

- Warden Wells explained that he is a brand-new Warden at RCI and currently has vacancies in the Deputy Warden and Security Director positions. He explained even with that there are many positive things happening at RCI and STF. He introduced Sara Bellis a Corrections Program Supervisor, Lisa Avila STF Superintendent, Captain Giernoth Administrative Captain, and Dan Derler Education Director accompanied him today.
- Warden Wells stated there has been many challenging months with the pandemic and several staff vacancies. With this overtime is high and many staff are working doubles and back to back shifts. In

addition to uniformed staff there is a need for nurses and treatment specialists. He assured that recruitment is continuing.

- Warden Wells went through some statistics for RCI
  - o FY20 operating expenditures was \$58,451,616.
  - o Current staff – 462
  - o Average age of PIOC – 40
  - o PIOC population – 1,572
  - o Oldest PIOC – 90
  - o Youngest PIOC – 19
  - o About 43% have mental health needs
  - o More RCI statistics can be found in the Annual Report and on the facts sheet on page 9. <https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/OffenderInformation/AdultInstitutions/AnnualReports.aspx>
- RCI is now starting to bring visitors into the institution.
- Warden Wells went through some programs for RCI
  - o Earned Release Program - individuals that qualify can go through the program and release earlier.
  - o Anger Management
  - o Domestic Violence
  - o Pre-Release Services
  - o Sex Offender Treatment
  - o Thinking for a Change
  - o Vocational
  - o Custodial
  - o Secondary Education
  - o He explained during the pandemic and with staff vacancies many programs have been put on pause.

Education Director Dan Deler discussed education programming

- RCI offers GED and HSED courses.
- November 4, 2021 RCI will have an in-person graduation. Previous graduation was held on Zoom because of the pandemic.
- RCI offers vocational programming, custodial, and CNC.
- Secondary education is offered through – UW Parkside, Marquette University, and UW Madison.
- There is a pilot course where 6 students from UW Parkside come to RCI to meet with 10 RCI students.
- Marquette University is offering an Inside Out program to RCI and STF students for credit. They take classes inside the institution then upon release they can continue if they choose to. Those credits will transfer to other colleges.
- UW Madison is offering English 100 to RCI students. Students will earn credits for that as well.
- In January RCI would like to offer a MC39 program C++ Programming and Software Development.

Corrections Program Supervisor Sarah Bellis oversees re-entry, recreation and chaplain services

- Volunteer services were stopped during the pandemic, there are approximately 165 volunteers that are starting to come back to RCI.
- RCI has a program where PIOC can take their drivers test prior to release to help with obtaining employment.
- RCI's Job Center is currently under construction with a temporary opening date of November 4, 2021.
- RCI continues to look for religious base volunteers for services or studies.

### **Sturtevant Transitional Facility (STF)**

Superintendent Lisa Avila

- Superintendent Avila explained that STF is the minimum portion of RCI.
- There are currently 138 PIOC assigned to STF.
- 18 PIOC are currently on work release.
- Since the pandemic, work release was suspended and slowly started coming back on July 6, 2021.
- STF currently works with 11 employers through the southeastern part of Wisconsin.

- Superintendent Avila explained that STF has health, dental, and psychological units.
- 43 years old is the average age of the population assigned to STF.
- The pandemic also stopped in-person visits, however since July they have resumed. Visits are important to the facility to maintain a family atmosphere.
- Some programs available at STF include:
  - o Anger Control
  - o Thinking for a Change
  - o Cognitive Behavioral Interventions
  - o Employability
    - Do to vacancies cannot provide all at this time but they continue to provide programming as much as possible.
- STF staff ensure PIOC get their vital documents; social security card, ID, etc. prior to release.

### **Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility (RYOCF)**

Warden Je'Leslie Taylor

- Warden Taylor stated she has been the Warden at RYOCF for almost 3 years.
- Warden Taylor went through some statistics for RYOCF:
  - o Current population of the PIOC is 299, operating capacity is 460.
  - o PIOC age range is 18 to 24 years old.
  - o Average stay for a PIOC to stay at RYOCF is about 2 to 2 ½ years.
  - o PIOC come from all parts of the state.
  - o Normal staffing numbers are 255, current staffing is at 155. This has affected programming at the facility as RYOCF has tried to keep operations safe.
  - o Approximately 199 PIOC and 100 staff are fully vaccinated.
  - o PIOC are tested for COVID-19 every other month. Staff are tested bi-weekly.
  - o RYOCF has health services, dental services, and psychological services units.
  - o There are 2 general population housing units at RYOCF, North and South. South holds some restrictive housing PIOC but we also have a Main Restrictive Housing Unit.
  - o More RCI statistics can be found in the Annual Report and on the facts sheet on page 8. <https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/OffenderInformation/AdultInstitutions/AnnualReports.aspx>
- She mentioned that RYOCF starting offering 1 face to face visits in July along with 1 video visit both were an hour long. Now we are offering 2 face to face visits and 1 video visit, still both an hour. Starting in December we will offer 2 face to face and 2 video visits. Warden Taylor believes it is important for the PIOC to stay in touch with loved ones especially through the holidays.
- Warden Taylor outlined RYOCF's involvement with the community:
  - o RYOCF hands out candy for Halloween and offers scanning candy bags.
  - o RYOCF added a community box outside of our institution this year to donate books to the community. She shared a story that a community member that comes and takes 1 book each week saw a whole series of books they wanted, Warden Taylor encouraged the community member to take all of them. She loves that RYOCF can engage the community.
  - o Staff donates food during thanksgiving to feed the local families.
  - o Staff donate school supply at the beginning of the school year and they are given to a local school.
  - o RYOCF coordinates meals for PIOC from local restaurants and proceeds are donated to local businesses.
- She explained RYOCF's goal is to be a treatment and programming facility.
- She also wanted to mention that even with our staff shortages, staff still show up and work together. She expressed that she appreciates our staff because without them RYOCF wouldn't be able to accomplish what we have.

Education Director Ronda Davis

- Education Director Davis introduced herself as she is new to the Department of Corrections. However, she has been in education 20 plus years.
- She explained that RYOCF has GED and HSED programing plus 2 vocational teachers.

- Vocational programming includes green clean custodial and a new program offered through Gateway, Mechatronics lab. The new program was opened in June of 2021 and the first 9 PIOC will complete the program and graduate in December 2021. The PIOC complete a 14-week program and then take a math and communication course. It is planned to take the graduating PIOC into the job center to apply for employment upon their release.
- Madison Area Technical College is offering small business entrepreneurship courses to PIOC. Currently there are 8 PIOC in the program and 50% of them made the dean's list last semester.
- Education Director Davis explained RYOFC's school was named after Warren Young, he believed in the power of education to change one's life.
- Warren Young School will have their first in-person graduation since the pandemic shut down on October 12, 2021, 45 men will be graduating.

#### Corrections Program Supervisor Deborah Beuttler

- Corrections Program Supervisor Beuttler introduced herself, she has been in her current position for 3 ½ years.
- She mentioned RYOFC re-opened to volunteers on July 7, 2021 since the shut down from the pandemic.
- RYOFC has partnered with DWD to open a job center available to the PIOC. The job center completed a soft launch on September 14, 2021. The center will have 4 DWD staff on a rotating schedule come into RYOFC to help PIOC with resume, applying for jobs, interview questions, etc. It was noted that most of the PIOC at RYOFC have zero job experience so we are grateful that DWD can provide instruction on the process.
- Windows 2 Work programming at RYOFC has completed their first group and is starting on their second. PIOC who complete the program are connected with a job coach when released.
- UW Extension facilitates a lot of programming at RYOFC. They recently wrote a grant that provides a new book to each child visiting a PIOC. This program helps promote a positive relationship.
- Master gardeners is another program RYOFC offers PIOC. They are taught about how to garden and the produce is either used by the facility or donated to a non-profit local organization.
- Volunteers will be putting together a PIOC cookbook, coming up with recipes from the items on canteen and making them healthier.
- RYOFC will be hosting a re-entry fair on November 16, 2021 where PIOC can make community connections.
- Suits for Success is a program RYOFC recently added. 100 items of clothing were donated to the facility for PIOC to pick from when going for an interview.
- RYOFC is starting to offer more programming since the pandemic shut down. Thinking for a Change will be instructed by two uniformed staff members and they will also offer think tank groups.
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) just completed a group and another has started.
- RYOFC offers Sex Offender Treatment programming.
- CPS Beuttler explained how RYOFC is trying to be proactive with the PIOC and provide programming for those who are sent to restrictive housing. RYOFC Chaplain is providing men mentoring men programming to them. Psychological services unit will be offering coping skills programming as well.
- RYOFC is working on strengthening their working relationship with the Archdiocese. Chaplain Bell is working on providing many different religious programs.
- This year RYOFC had music studio equipment donated for the PIOC to have jam sessions.
- RYOFC PIOC are also working on painting walls and murals around RYOFC.
- CPS Beuttler stated that she is happy to be partnering with so many volunteers in our community.

#### **Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center (REECC)**

- Superintendent Tami Staehler
- Superintendent Staehler introduced herself and the staff that accompanied her. She has been Superintendent for about 1 year. She explained that REECC has not experienced the shortages as much as other facilities. At REECC the PIOC population is about 339 and there is 130 staff (security/non security).
- She stated REECC has treatment, education, and work release for the PIOC.
- There are 11 work release sites that work with REECC and 28 individuals on work release at this time.

- There are 2 project sites with REECC and approximately 14 individuals approved
- There are 11 participates in CNC program and they will graduate in December.
- With the pandemic they have been flexible to still bring in programs virtually such as their CNC program until July 6th when the participants were able to return.
- REECC has increased their in-person visits to 90 minutes, 2 in person and 1 video visit per week. With Zoom technology they have extended the opportunity for PIOC to attend funerals virtually.
- As of July 6th, individuals who meet the criteria may attend family member funeral and/or deathbed visit
- Superintendent Staehler stated REECC has a health service, dental services, and psychological services unit available for PIOC.
  
- Corrections Program Supervisor Sarah Moskonas
- CPS Moskonas explained that REECC offers GED and HSED course work. In 2020-2021 they started focusing on diversity and ethnicity. The education department is completing heritage projects each month. These projects are well received by PIOC and staff as they have learned quite a bit about different cultures.
- REECC offers a vocational program through Gateway in software application. This course work is set at the PIOC own pace.
- She described opening a DWD job center virtually through the pandemic, recently it was able to open up to in-person. PIOC who are in earned release programming or are within weeks of releasing can benefit from the job center.
- Primary program Parenting Inside Out is available at REECC and is a 33-week program. This program helps with mandated court ordered programming.
- They are looking forward to working with UW Extension.
- It was explained that Moving On program for REECC PIOC is essentially Thinking for a Change that the other facilities have. Beyond Violence program is also offered which is essentially the Anger Management program.
  
- Corrections Program Supervisor Charlotte Jones
- CPS Jones explained REECC has SUD, ERP, and alternative to revocation. She described group sizes have increased from 6 to 11. These groups help women recover from traumas.
- REECC transports PIOC that need to complete community service.
  
- Superintendent Tami Staehler
- Superintendent Staehler stated REECC had an LTE employee who has not returned so they is looking for a part time Chaplain to increase the religious services that are offered as this is another huge part of the facility programming.
- She declared REECC built a green house in November 2020 and they have 100 plants. This is therapeutic for the PIOC.
- She explained that REECC also has a focus group where they pick a topic to discuss with 10 PIOC. The next topic to be focused on is parenting.
- REECC also has a certified Peer Supporters that were trained and are now able to help peers with goals and problem solving. The Peer Support program has about 50 appointments per week along with being available for emergencies. This program launched in January and has had a positive response.
- Superintendent Staehler stated REECC also has a Dress for Success program that is a great resource for the PIOC.
- REECC also has a Restorative Justice committee for PIOC to bring awareness such as Domestic Violence Awareness month. With our population we are focusing on them as a victim and how they can assist others.

## **Division of Community Corrections (DCC) Region 2**

DCC Region 2 Chief Lisa Yeates

- Chief Yeates explained what the Division of Community Corrections does to provide services to clients on parole or extended supervision.
- Drug and domestic violence programming are offered through DCC.
- There are residential programs, half way houses and temporary living sites.

- Currently there are 2800 people on supervision in region 2.
- Region 2 has three different sites to work from. Depending on the where the case population is, the staff can split their time between the offices.
- During the civil arrest last summer, a region 2 site burnt down. However, the new facility is near completion.
- Region 2 is working with the City of Racine to continue a positive police community relationship.
- Chief Yeates stated in January 2021 there has been a lot of significant changes to the Division of Community Corrections. She did not want to go through the information at this time but noted there is a lot of information on the DCC public website. She directed anyone interested to click on the area within data and research area. There were updates to the way they complete revocations, violations, custody, and short-term sanction.
- DCC also participated in a town hall with Secretary Carr where he went over the changes in policy regarding DCC's response to violations and revocation. The meeting was recorded and are available for viewing.

### **Community members**

66th District State Representative Greta Neubauer

- State Representative Neubauer mentioned she was a part of the Joint Finance committee and if anyone would like to connect on staffing wages, she would be happy to set up a meeting.
- She had a question regarding on what the facilities were providing regarding LGBT services.
  - o REECC Response:
    - CPS Moskonas explained that REECC has been in contact with MWC and offering services to those specifically that are non-gender conforming or transgender.
    - She stated REECC was also going to partner with the UW college system to have them come on site or via zoom to answer specific questions PIOC might have.
    - REECC provides legal services for those who are LGBT.
    - REECC is partnering with LGBT Rainbow Readers book club to receive books for PIOC to read and discuss. REECC will have their first book club talk this coming week.
    - CPS Moskonas stated in the month of June REECC had programming available for PIOC and staff.
    - CPS Moskonas has also been approached by the PREA Compliance Manager to put together a training for LGBT and the correlation with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). She has facilitated the training at several facilities.
  - o RCI Response:
    - Warden Wells explained at RCI there are one on one services available to LGBT. He has been approached by PIOC during his rounds regarding needs of the LGBT in the facility.
    - He is looking in to getting more resources at RCI.
    - He mentioned that ultimately as a department there is more to come as far as resources for all facilities in the state. Warden Wells mentioned that now they are focusing on getting the message out to be patient and treating people with dignity and respect.
  - o RYOCF Response
    - Warden Taylor stated it is something RYOCF was looking into before the pandemic that was put on hold because of institution operations. It is a goal of hers in 2022 to have more programming and resources available at RYOCF.

Kansasville Fire Rescue/ Town of Dover Chief Ronald Molner

- Chief Molner wanted to mention and applaud REECC for the remarkable job they have done to limit the calls in the last 3 to 5 years. He stated the staff there are doing a great job and they are grateful for the collaboration. He wanted to thank them for the dedication to the safety of the community.

In closing

- Warden Taylor stated the Racine Community Relations board will meet 2 times per year, once in April the other in October. She is hoping to continue this collaboration and work together to protect the community. She thanked everyone for coming and participating.

**NEXT MEETING:**

April Date TBD

Respectfully Submitted by Ashley Larson

*c: Community Relations Board/Meeting Participants  
Institution Leadership Team  
DAI/Posting/Meeting Minutes  
DOC Secretary  
DOC Deputy Secretary*

*DOC Assistant Deputy Secretary  
DOC Legislative Liaison  
DAI Administrator  
DAI Assistant Administrators  
File*



# Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility

Medium



June 30, 2020

**FY20 Operating Expenditures.....\$21,121,676**      **FY20 Number of Staff.....207\***

Persons in Our Care (PIOC) Population

**PIOC Population..... 401**      **Reported Military Experience..... 0%**

**Age**

Average Age..... 21  
 Youngest PIOC..... 18  
 Oldest PIOC..... 24

**5 Most Frequent Religions**

Protestant/Other Christian..... 61%  
 Islam..... 14%  
 Catholic..... 10%  
 No Preference/Unknown..... 6%  
 Native American..... 5%

**Race**

White..... 26%  
 Black..... 70%  
 American Indian/Alaskan Native..... 3%  
 Asian or Pacific Islander..... 1%  
 Of these:  
 Hispanic Origin..... 6%

**Highest Grade Completed**

9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade-no HSED..... 60%  
 HSED/GED..... 37%  
 Some Grad. work/Vocational School..... 3%  
 Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD..... 0%

**Mental Health Diagnosis †..... 45%**      **First Wisconsin Incarceration..... 81%**

Current Offense Information

**Time Left to Serve (6/30/2020 forward)**      **Active Sex Offense..... 15%**

Less than 1 year..... 25%  
 1 year..... 18%  
 2 years..... 14%  
 3 years..... 13%  
 4 years..... 7%  
 5 years or more..... 22%  
 Life..... 0%

**Most Serious Offense Type**

Violent Offense..... 77%  
 Property Offense..... 13%  
 Drug Offense..... 6%  
 Other Public Order Offense..... 4%

Interesting Facts

**Programs**

- Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- Anger Management
- Domestic Violence
- Sex Offender Treatment
- Thinking for a Change

**Vocational**

- Custodial
- Masonry
- Microcomputer Specialist Certificate
- C - Tech

The PIOC population includes those serving Wisconsin sentences, Federal sentences, or sentences from another state. It also includes those who have been temporarily confined due to violations of community supervision. Budget information is all operation costs, which include DAI administration, food, and health care. Offense information is based on each PIOC's most serious active offense. PIOC without a serious active offense are removed from this part of the analysis.

The listed percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.  
 \* Excludes BCE and BOCM staff who are coded separately from institution staff  
 † Includes mild to serious



# Racine Correctional Institution

Medium



June 30, 2020

**FY20 Operating Expenditures.....\$58,451,616<sup>^</sup>      FY20 Number of Staff.....462\***

Persons in Our Care (PIOC) Population

**PIOC Population..... 1,572      Reported Military Experience..... 6%**

**Age**

Average Age..... 40  
 Youngest PIOC..... 19  
 Oldest PIOC..... 90

**5 Most Frequent Religions**

Protestant/Other Christian..... 58%  
 Catholic..... 13%  
 Islam..... 13%  
 Pagan..... 5%  
 No Preference/Unknown..... 4%

**Race**

White..... 47%  
 Black..... 49%  
 American Indian/Alaskan Native..... 2%  
 Asian or Pacific Islander..... 1%  
 Of these:  
 Hispanic Origin..... 13%

**Highest Grade Completed**

9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade-no HSED..... 24%  
 HSED/GED..... 51%  
 Some Grad. work/Vocational School..... 19%  
 Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD..... 5%

**Mental Health Diagnosis †..... 43%**

**First Wisconsin Incarceration..... 46%**

Current Offense Information

**Time Left to Serve (6/30/2020 forward)**

Less than 1 year..... 22%  
 1 year..... 19%  
 2 years..... 11%  
 3 years..... 10%  
 4 years..... 6%  
 5 years or more..... 30%  
 Life..... 3%

**Active Sex Offense..... 38%**

**Most Serious Offense Type**

Violent Offense..... 72%  
 Property Offense..... 8%  
 Drug Offense..... 11%  
 Other Public Order Offense..... 8%

Interesting Facts

**Programs**

- Anger Management
- Domestic Violence
- Earned Release Program
- Pre-Release Services
- Sex Offender Treatment
- Thinking for a Change

**Vocational**

- Culinary Arts Program
- Custodial Services Program

The PIOC population includes those serving Wisconsin sentences, Federal sentences, or sentences from another state. It also includes those who have been temporarily confined due to violations of community supervision. Budget information is all operation costs, which include DAJ administration, food, and health care. Offense information is based on each PIOC's most serious active offense. PIOC without a serious active offense are removed from this part of the analysis.

The listed percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

<sup>^</sup> Racine Correctional Institution and Sturtevant Transitional Facility budget

\* Excludes BCE and BOCM staff who are coded separately from institution staff