



Council On Offender Reentry 2019 Annual Report

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Message from the Council Chairperson Silvia R. Jackson, Ph.D., Wisconsin Department of Corrections Reentry Director:

The Council on Offender Reentry was formed in 2009 to bring together diverse perspectives from throughout the state to promote successful offender reentry and recidivism reduction initiatives. Collaborative efforts are facilitated by appointing leaders representing key criminal justice stakeholders and relevant state agencies.

With the growing demand for workers in today's labor market, employers from around the state are continuing to express a keen interest in employing returning citizens. Accordingly, the Council focused its first two quarterly meetings on the collaborative efforts between state agencies, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations to strengthen and expand innovative employment programs, such as the newly developed, state-of-the-art Job Center located within Oakhill Correctional Institution. Additionally, work is underway to expand vocational training academies at our technical colleges to our work release inmates, and open new mobile lab classrooms for inmate training in medium security institutions. These programs provide inmates with the required skills for obtaining employment in high demand fields, earning a living wage.



Maintaining continuity of care from prison to the community for military veterans and inmates with disabilities and severe mental illness has a direct and positive impact on offender rehabilitation, community safety, and recidivism reduction. For the third quarterly meeting, the Council focused on the pre- and post-release processes for assisting returning citizens with obtaining public benefits such as social security benefits, VA benefits, FoodShare, and OARS, an intensive case management service for severely mentally ill individuals.

For the final Council meeting in FY19, the spotlight was placed on victim-centered issues. Presentations were delivered by the Office of Victim Services & Programs, and the Reentry Unit addressing evidence-based treatment programs that target criminogenic factors which drive violent behavior. The first meeting of FY20 will focus on community-based victim programs and initiatives.



On behalf of the Council on Offender Reentry and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, I am pleased to bring you the 2019 annual report highlighting the past year's accomplishments.

Statutory Authority for Council on Offender

The Council on Offender Reentry is dedicated to coordinating reentry initiatives across the State of Wisconsin and providing a public forum for the various stakeholders of the Criminal Justice System. The Council was created by 2009 Wisconsin Act 28. The statute articulates the purpose of the Council, as well as its membership. It also illustrates the meaning and content of the Annual Report, which is distributed to the legislature.

Creation of Council on Offender Reentry:
Wis. Stats. 15.145 (5)

Purpose of Council on Offender Reentry:
Wis. Stats. 301.095

Membership to the Council on Offender Reentry:
Wis. Stats. 15.145(5)

Statutory Authority for Council on Offender Reentry

Wis. Stats. 301.095, "Council on Offender Reentry," delineates the Council's purpose as follows:

1. Inform the public as to the time and place of council meetings and, for at least one meeting per year, encourage public participation and receive public input in a means determined by the chairperson.
2. Coordinate reentry initiatives across the state and research federal grant opportunities to ensure initiatives comply with eligibility requirements for federal grants.
3. Identify methods to improve collaboration and coordination of offender transition services, including training across agencies and sharing information that will improve the lives of the offenders and the families of offenders.
4. Establish a means to share data, research, and measurement resources that relate to reentry initiatives.
5. Identify funding opportunities that should be coordinated across agencies to maximize the use of state and community-based services as the services relate to reentry.
6. Identify areas in which improved collaboration and coordination of activities and programs would increase effectiveness or efficiency of services.
7. Promote research and program evaluation that can be coordinated across agencies with an emphasis on research and evaluation practices that are based on evidence of success in treatment and intervention programs.
8. Identify and review existing reentry policies, programs, and procedures to ensure that each policy, program, and procedure is based on evidence of success in allowing an offender to reenter the community, improves the chances of successful offender reentry into the community, promotes public safety, and reduces recidivism.
9. Promote collaboration and communication between the department and community organizations that work in offender reentry.
10. Work to include victims in the reentry process and promote services for victims, including payments of any restitution and fines by the offenders, safety training, and support and counseling, while the offenders are incarcerated and after the offenders are released.
11. Annually submit a report to the governor, any relevant state agencies, as identified by the council, and to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2) that provides information on all of the following:
 - a. The progress of the council's work.
 - b. Any impact the council's work has had on recidivism.
 - c. The effectiveness of agency coordination and communication.
 - d. The implementation of a reentry strategic plan.
 - e. Recommendations on legislative initiatives and policy initiatives that are consistent with the duties of the council.



Above: Council Meeting on March 21, 2019.

FY19 Meeting Dates

The Council is directed to hold meetings at least four times a year. All meeting notices are posted via the DOC public website and members of the public are encouraged to attend meetings. In FY19, the Council met on the following dates:

- September 20, 2018
- December 5, 2018
- March 21, 2019
- June 12, 2019

Membership: Wis. Stats. 15.145(5)

The Council shall consist of 21 members, and the appointed members shall serve for 2-year terms and may be appointed for a maximum of two consecutive terms. The Chairperson of the council shall be the Secretary of Corrections or the Reentry Director, as decided by the Secretary of Corrections. The Chairperson may appoint subcommittees and the Council shall meet no less frequently than four times per year at a date and location to be determined by the Chairperson. Members of the Council shall include the Secretary of Corrections, or his or her designee; the Secretary of Workforce Development, or his or her designee; the Secretary of Health Services, or his or her designee; the Secretary of Children and Families, or his or her designee; the Secretary of Transportation, or his or her Designee; the Attorney General, or his or her designee; the Chairperson of the Parole Commission, or his or her designee; the State Superintendent of Public Instruction; the Reentry Director as appointed by the Secretary of Corrections; current or former judge, as appointed by the Director of State Courts; an individual who has been previously convicted of, and incarcerated for, a crime in Wisconsin, as appointed by the Secretary of Corrections; and the following persons, as appointed by the governor:

- (a) A law enforcement officer.
- (b) A representative of a crime victim rights or crime victim services organization.
- (c) A representative of a faith-based organization that is involved with the reintegration of offenders into the community.
- (d) A representative of a county department of human services.
- (e) A representative of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state.
- (f) A representative of a nonprofit organization that is involved with the reintegration of offenders into the community and that is not a faith-based organization.
- (g) A district attorney.
- (h) A representative of the office of the state public defender.
- (i) An academic professional in the field of criminal justice.
- (j) A representative of the Wisconsin Technical College System.

Council Members during Fiscal Year 2019

Chairperson	Silvia Jackson, Reentry Director, DOC	Law Enforcement Officer	Jon Nejedlo, Police Officer, City of Green Bay
Department of Corrections	Shannon Carpenter, Assistant Deputy Secretary	Victims Services	Angela Mancuso, Executive Director, The Women's Center
Department of Workforce Development	Chytania Brown, Administrator, Division of Employment and Training	Faith-Based Organization	Robert Koebele, Wisconsin Inmate Education Association
Department of Health Services	Beth Dodsworth, Director, Bureau of Community Forensic Services	County Department of Human Services	Antwayne Robertson, Director, Waukesha County
Department of Children and Families	Bianca Shaw, Director Office of Urban Development	American Indian Tribe/Band	<i>(Pending Appointment)</i>
Department of Transportation	Ann Perry, Director, Bureau of Driver Services	Non-profit Organization	Karen Cumblad, Professional Counselor, Family Service of Waukesha
Attorney General	Winn Collins Assistant Attorney General	District Attorney	<i>(Pending Appointment)</i>
Parole Commission	John Tate II, Parole Chairperson	State Public Defender	Paul Rifelj, Deputy State Public Defender
Department of Public Instruction	Barbara Van Haren, Assistant State Superintendent	Academic Professional, Criminal Justice	Michael Knetzger, Instructor, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
Judge	Honorable Stephanie Rothstein, Branch 25, Milwaukee County	Wisconsin Technical College System	Mary Davies, Associate Dean of Economic Workforce Development, Moraine Park Technical College
Formerly Incarcerated Ex-Offender	Jerome Dillard, Lead Organizer, Expo (Ex-Prisoners Organizing)		

Meeting I— September 20, 2018

PREPARING FOR EMPLOYMENT UPON REENTRY — PART I

The Council's first meeting focused on various vocational/educational initiatives to prepare inmates for the job market upon release.

DWD, Division of Employment and Training (DET) — Overview of the Collaborative Employment Initiatives

Steve Laesch, Assistant Administrator, Division of Employment and Training

Becky Kikkert, Office Director, Office of Special Initiatives, Division of Employment and Training

In Spring 2018, the DWD and DOC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for a number of initiatives, including the creation of the Job Center at Oakhill Correctional Institution; a new industrial maintenance diploma program at Redgranite Correctional Institution; a welding mobile lab at Taycheedah Correctional Institution; and a industrial maintenance mobile lab at Jackson Correctional Institution. Other DWD initiatives include:

- ◆ Mobile Job Center – This outreach center will travel to rural areas and state correctional facilities offering the opportunity to apply for employment and obtain information and skills to improve employability.
- ◆ Advanced Manufacturing Mobile Lab – DWD in partnership with various Workforce Development Boards (WDBs), will deliver the advanced manufacturing curriculum around the north-west and north-central parts of Wisconsin, including area correctional facilities.
- ◆ Targeted in-reach to military veterans who will release from prison within 60-90 days to connect them to the necessary resources within their communities.
- ◆ Specialized reentry initiatives in Workforce Development Areas 2, 3, and 5 that focus on the talent pipeline (from prison to employment) by connecting inmates to employment opportunities pre- and post-release.

The OCI Job Center

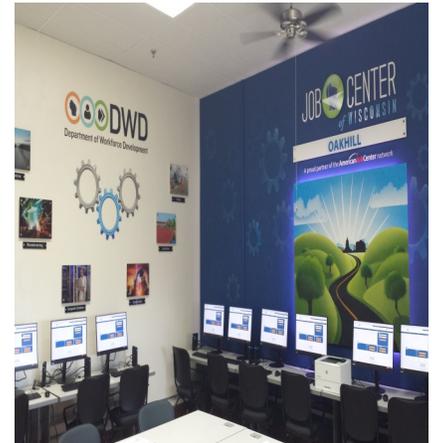
Seth Lentz, Deputy Director of WDBSCW

Ray Woodruff, DOC Employment Program Manager

Jennifer Brikowski, Employment & Training Specialist, Workforce Development Area 10

Dave Shaw, DWD District Director, Workforce Development Area 11

DOC established a partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin (WDBSCW) in 2018 to create the first institution-based job center in the state of Wisconsin at the Oakhill Correctional Institution (OCI). The OCI Job Center is located in the school building, and operates with staff from DWD and the WDBSCW. The goal of the partnership (and the creation of the space), is to provide inmates with access to a host of programs and services, including: career readiness programs, job search assistance, resume development, services for veterans, registered apprenticeships, and assistance for individuals with disabilities. Fundamental to this project is the ability for incarcerated inmates to create unique Job Center of Wisconsin (JCW) accounts, which can then be accessed when the individual is released to the community.



Above: Oakhill Correctional Center's DWD Job



Above: OCI inmates who painted the wall mural in the Job Center.

The OCI Job Center officially opened its doors in October, 2018. More than 120 individuals have created JCW accounts and received workforce development services in the space since that time. Incarcerated men at OCI have created resumes, searched for active employment opportunities, completed mock interviews, applied for jobs, and interviewed for open positions in the community. DOC, DWD, and WDBSCW are committed to the continued success of this project, and all partners are consistently looking at mechanisms to improve the continuum of care from incarceration to the community.

Due to the success of the OCI Job Center, DOC and DWD are currently in the process of establishing institution-based job centers in the Wisconsin Women's Correctional System (WWCS) at Taycheedah Correctional Institution (TCI), Robert Ellsworth Correctional Center (REECC), and the Milwaukee Women's Correctional Center (MWCC).

Windows to Work Program

Anna Neal, DOC Reentry Program Coordinator

Wendy Tougas, Windows to Work Coach – Employment and Training Association

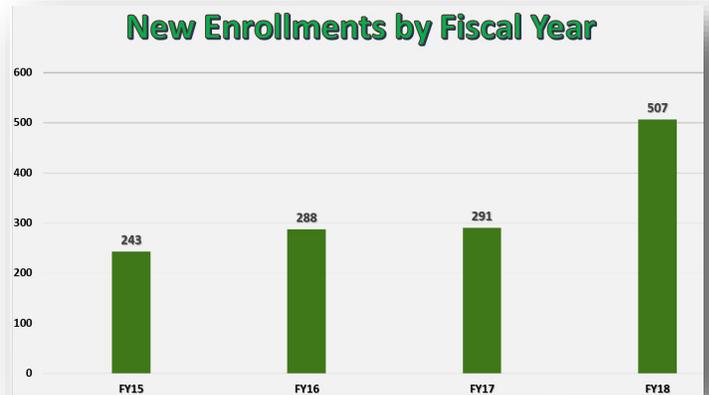
Brent Sanderfoot, Windows to Work Coach - Fox Valley Workforce Development Board

The Windows to Work program is a pre- and post-release program designed to address criminogenic needs that can lead to recidivism. WIDOC contracts with each of Wisconsin’s eleven Workforce Development Boards (WDB) to provide, or subcontract to provide, a Windows to Work program at thirteen state correctional institutions and five county jails in each workforce development area.

Eligible participants are enrolled approximately three to nine months prior to release, and focus on five main components: *Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Offenders Seeking Employment (CBI-EMP)*, which addresses attitudes and beliefs surrounding obtaining and maintaining employment, General Work Skills and Expectations, Financial Literacy, Community Resources, and Job Seeking, Applications and Resumes. Programming continues in the community following a participant’s incarceration.

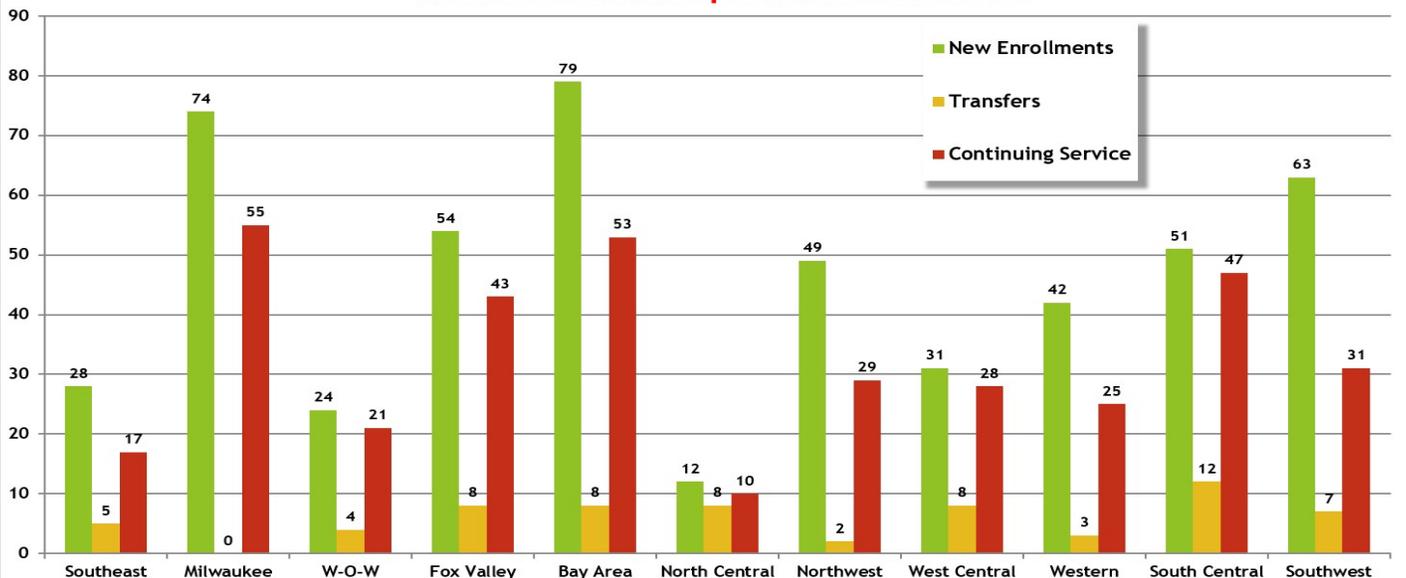
The Windows to Work Coach will collaborate with the participant’s Division of Community Corrections (DCC) agent about services relating to job search and employment stability for approximately 12-18 months after release. The Windows to Work Coach will meet with the participant within the community to provide services and access to community resources (food, shelter, work supplies, clothing, transportation), reducing barriers to employment.

The Windows to Work program is funded by Becky Young Community Corrections Recidivism Reduction funds. In the fiscal year 2018, the Windows to Work program received an additional \$250,000 to expand the program to Redgranite Correctional Institution, Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution, and Adams County Jail. With the added funding, the program was able to increase transfers between Workforce Development Board Areas, and bring most positions to full-time. As a result of these expansion efforts, enrollments increased by 216 participants, and transfers increased from 13 in FY17 to 65 in FY18.



Above: This graph represents the number of Windows to Work enrollments between FY15 — FY18.

FY18 Data Analysis by Workforce Development Board Areas



Below: This graph represents the number of Windows to Work new enrollments and transfers in FY18.

Meeting 2 — December 5, 2018

PREPARING FOR EMPLOYMENT UPON REENTRY — PART 2

The Council's second meeting continued its focus on various vocational/educational programs within the institutions, and introduced members to the Incarcerated Individuals Task Force, which focuses on maximizing existing best practices between the Wisconsin Technical College System and the DOC in order to expand new programs throughout the state.

Bureau of Correctional Enterprise—An Overview of Badger State Industries (BSI)

Wesley Ray, Director

The BCE has four major program areas: Agriculture, Industries, Logistics, and the Transitions Program. **Agriculture Program**—Twenty-six employees train and guide 90 inmate workers on the operations of two farms. This program cares for 1,100 dairy cows, which produces 45,000 pounds of milk every day.

Industries Program—Forty-one employees train and guide 354 inmate workers across eleven correctional facilities. There are 12 different industries divided between the maximum, medium, and minimum-security institutions. The types of industries include, but are not limited to, upholstery, metal furniture and fabrication, medical equipment refurbishing, wood and sign fabrication, and metal stamping.

Logistics Program—Nineteen employees train and guide 18 inmate workers. The employees drive the trucks and bring the inmates to assist with the delivery and installation of BSI products. Additionally, BCE works with contract installers to meet the needs and timelines of the customers.

The Transitions Program—The Transitions Program is a voluntary program for inmates who have worked for one of the BCE program's. This program offers services one-year pre- and post-release, which include resume and cover letter assistance, interviewing assistance, targeted job leads, additional funds for work-related items like tools, rent, transportation, specialized clothing, and employer references.

Correctional Career & Technical Education (CTE)

Benjamin Jones, DAI Education Coordinator

Ray Woodruff, DOC Employment Program Manager

There are 19 accredited CTE programs, delivered by the Wisconsin Technical College System, available in the Wisconsin Prison System and the Wisconsin Correctional Center System. Due to the success of these short-term academies at MATC and Madison College, the DOC received funding in the 2017-2019 biennial budget to expand these academies at correctional centers throughout Wisconsin. In the fiscal year 2018, 151 individuals enrolled in the 14 Reentry Career & Technical Education academies in CNC, Welding, Industrial Maintenance, Dairy Worker Training, and Construction/OSHA. Over the past three years, 295 inmates completed one of these short-term training programs. As of September 2018, 157 inmates have been released and are eligible for employment, of which 149 obtained employment

Between January 2016 and October 2018, the average number of inmates who are on a CTE waiting list is 8,460 per month. The average number enrolled in a CTE program is 566 per month. The average number of inmates who complete a CTE program and earn a certificate or diploma is 66 per month.

WTCS President's Association of Incarcerated Individuals Task Force

Jo Ann Hall, Dean, Economic Workforce Development, Moraine Park Technical College

Approximately two years ago, as the DOC and the State started to move toward short-term credential programs, the WTCS President's Association noticed several pockets of success between individual institutions and technical colleges, but no joint coordination to share and replicate best practices. As a result, the WTCS President's Association created the Incarcerated Individuals Task Force, which includes members from WTCS, the DOC Reentry Unit, and Division of Adult Institutions. During FY19, this task force defined their joint Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which are 1) Program Alignment, 2) GED Attainment, 3) CTE Program Completion, 4) Post-release Employment, 5) Post-release Education, and 6) Post-release Criminal Behavior.



Above: Council members during BCE presentation

Meeting 3— March 21, 2019

PUBLIC BENEFITS AND JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS RETURNING TO WI COMMUNITIES

The Council's third meeting concentrated on the pre-release process, and the types of public benefit programs offered to eligible individuals prior to their release to the community.

Pre-Release Process

Lisa Reible, Reentry Project Manager

The DOC begins the release planning process six to nine months before an inmate is scheduled to release. Various steps are completed to provide the individual with basic needs and supplemental support. For example, the institution social worker requests the inmate's social security card, birth certificate, and WI ID card. The social worker screens inmates with severe physical or mental illnesses for social security benefits and encourages all releasing inmates to apply for Medicaid. The institution social worker and the Probation & Parole agent work with the inmate to explain the rules and expectations upon release. They also discuss housing, employment, finances, transportation, community resources, and required programming. The agent submits housing and programming referrals, intending to have these services available on or soon after their release date.

DOT ID Project

Corey Kleist, Qualification and Issuance Section Chief, Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles

The DOC and DOT have a Memorandum of Understanding to provide all inmates with a renewal or duplicate ID card before their release. The DOC sets aside \$27,000 of Becky Young funds each year to pay for identification costs. In 2018, the DMV processed and issued 1,217 ID cards for DOC inmates.

The DOC and DOT are currently reviewing possible program improvements. These may include adding driver's licenses to the MOU, and using the Electronic Verification of Vital Events program to verify birth records. A DOT ID Workgroup was established to investigate other possible program improvements. Findings and recommendations will be reported at the December 2019 Council meeting.

Application for Medicaid Programs

Lars Brown, Reentry Disabilities treatment Director, DOC

The DOC, in partnership with the Department of Health Services and the Income Maintenance Consortia, developed a process that allows individuals to have Medicaid eligibility determined shortly before their release from prison using the inmate telephone.

- ◆ In FY18, 9,227 inmates were released from DOC incarceration after serving at least 30 days.
- ◆ During FY18, 67.6 percent of offenders releasing from incarceration (6239 inmates) applied for and were determined eligible for Medicaid.
- ◆ The Disabled Offenders Economic Security (DOES) Project paralegals confirmed approved health care coverage for 1,357 inmates.



Above: Council members during the March 21st meeting.

FoodShare Program

Rebecca McAtee, Director, Bureau of Enrollment Policy and Systems, Division of Medicaid Services, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

FoodShare Employment & Training Program (FSET) provides opportunities to gain skills, training, and experience needed to improve employment prospects for able-bodied individuals. FSET offers comprehensive, individualized services, and helps participants meet the FoodShare ABAWD (Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents) federal work requirements.

For individuals with a drug felony in the past five years, they must submit to and have a negative drug test to be eligible for, or to maintain their FoodShare eligibility. If the individual refuses to submit to a drug test, they will not be eligible for FoodShare until they take a drug test. If they take the drug test and if the result is positive, they cannot re-apply for FoodShare for one year.

For incarcerated individuals, FoodShare outreach agencies such as Feeding Wisconsin and Second Harvest, assist individuals in applying for and maintaining eligibility for benefits. Currently, there is one outreach specialist who assists incarcerated persons with filling out applications, which are submitted on their day of release.

Disabled Offenders Economic Security (DOES) Project

Katie Alft, Director, DOES Project, Legal Action of Wisconsin

Legal Action of Wisconsin is a non-profit law firm that provides free civil legal services to lower-income individuals. Since 2011, one of the most significant grants at Legal Action of Wisconsin has been the DOES Project grant. Currently, the DOC Becky Young funds cover the cost of nine attorneys, three paralegals, and one legal secretary. There are three Legal Action offices: Milwaukee, Madison, and Oshkosh. The DOES Project serves 14 prisons in Wisconsin.

DOES staff assist inmates with potentially disabling severe mental illness, developmental disabilities, and physical limitations as they near release from prison. The goal is to obtain economic security by streamlining the SSI/SSDI application process and maximizing the chance of receiving these benefits before their release. DOES staff continue working with the individual as they transition into the community, and provide representation during the entire application process. DOES staff may also assist clients in obtaining other benefits such as health insurance, vocational programs, FoodShare, housing assistance, employment training programs, and auxiliary legal issues.

Fiscal Year 2018 DOES Project Results:

Initial applications	Reconsideration	ALJ Hearing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide approval rate: 35.6% DOES approval rate: 59.17% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide approval rate: 17.6% DOES approval rate: 24.7% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide approval rate: 46.5% DOES approval rate: 57.14%
<p>*Total combined closed cases: 57.69%</p>		

Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS)

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

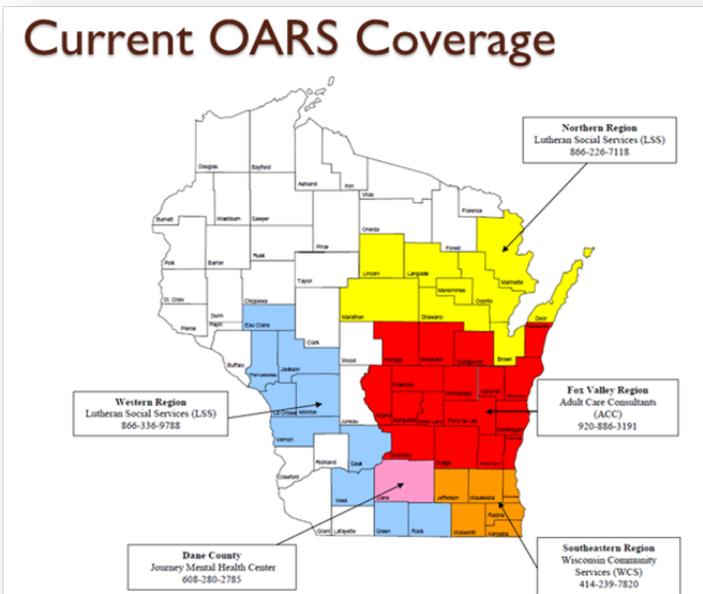
Lars Brown, Reentry Disabilities Treatment Director, DOC

OARS is a joint partnership between DOC and DHS that provides an intensive case management program linking moderate to high risk incarcerated individuals, who have a severe mental illness and are preparing to return to the community to a case manager. OARS enrollment begins between six to nine months before release and can last up to two years post-release. The case manager and agent work collaboratively to ensure that housing, psychiatric treatment, and other required services are available to the client post-release. The case manager's involvement is extensive initially and recedes as the individual acclimates to the community.

	Rate of Recidivism		
	1-year post-release	2-year post-release	3-year post-release
Control Group	18.2%	27.1%	35.6%
OARS Treated	13.8%	18.2%	31.7%

Above: Graph reflecting recidivism rates for individuals who would be OARS eligible if it were available in their areas, versus those who were OARS eligible and OARS treated.

Current OARS Coverage



The OARS program receives \$2.9 million in funds through the Becky Young Community Corrections Appropriation. This funding provided services to 164 participants across 44 counties during the fiscal year 2018. However, every year, approximately 200 individuals release to OARS counties who cannot receive services due to funding limitations. Likewise, there are 28 mostly rural counties without OARS programming.

As part of the 2019-2021 biennial budget, the OARS Program will receive \$1,198,000 in additional funding each year. During the biennium, the OARS Program will expand to include seven additional counties (Barron, Chippewa, Douglas, Polk, Sawyer, St. Croix, and Washburn), and serve an additional 50 participants in existing OARS-covered counties.

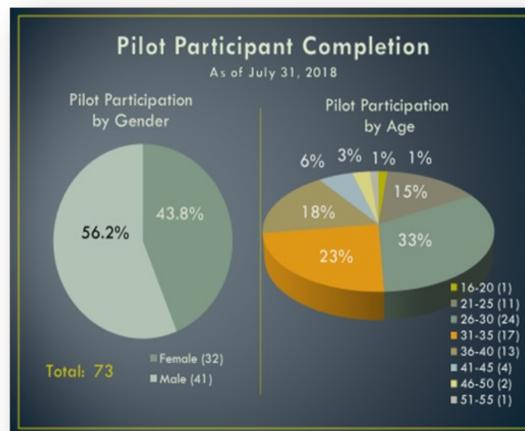
Vivitrol Program

Judy Foss, Director, Office of Management & Budget, Division of Community Corrections, DOC

In the 2015-17 biennial budget, the legislature provided the DOC with \$1.67 million to develop and implement a heroin treatment program using Vivitrol. After a year of research, in April 2016, the Division of Community Corrections (DCC) implemented the Vivitrol Pilot Program in Region 4 (Brown, Calumet, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Waupaca and Winnebago counties). Participation in this pilot program is voluntary, and participants have to pass a medical assessment. The inmate participants receive the Vivitrol injection one week before their release date.

While the actual pilot ended in July 2018, the Vivitrol program is still fully operational due to ongoing funding through the current biennium. The findings from the two-year pilot program are as follows:

- 355 participants received treatment (from 1 month up to 12 months of treatment)
- 85.4% of participants were already on community-based supervision, while 14.6% of participants were from the institution.
- Participants by gender: 56.2% = female / 43.8% = male
- Participants by age: The largest majority (33%) were between 26 and 30 years of age.



Above: Chart reflects pilot participant by gender and by age.

Next Steps:

- The DOC Research & Policy Unit continues to measure program outcomes to determine if the Vivitrol program is effective at reducing opioid use, reducing overdoses, and reducing recidivism based on relapse.
- Program review for expansion or modification, depending on funding.
- Work with the DOC Reentry Disabilities Treatment Director to determine Medicaid eligibility for those in the Vivitrol program. Since Medicaid pays for these services, the DOC can stretch their funding dollars to reach more individuals who do not have Medicaid or an ability to pay on their own.
- Opioid Program Toolkit – The research and resources collected over the past four years were compiled into a comprehensive toolkit to provide information, documents, and resources to agencies that are planning to implement an opioid addiction treatment program with medication-assisted treatment. This toolkit is published on the WI DOC public website.

Meeting 4 — June 12, 2019

REENTRY INITIATIVES WITH A VICTIM PERSPECTIVE

The Council's fourth meeting focused on the various evidence-based programs within the DOC that focus on reducing recidivism and more specifically violent reoffending.

Violent Crimes Data

Alison Shrift, Research Analyst, Research & Policy Unit, DOC

As of April 30, 2019, there were 23,507 inmates incarcerated in a WIDOC facility. Of those inmates, 66% (15,631) have at least one active violent offense. Likewise, 30% (19,622) of current offenders on community supervision have at least one active violent offense. When measuring recidivism rates for violent offenses, Research & Policy considered three variations:

1. The recidivism rate for offenders whose original offense was violent
 - ◆ Between 2000 and 2015, recidivism reduced from 36% to 29%.
2. The recidivism rate for offenders whose original offense was violent and their recidivism offense was violent
 - ◆ Between 2000 and 2015, recidivism has reduced from 11% to 9%.
3. The recidivism rate for offenders whose recidivism offense was violent
 - ◆ Between 2000 and 2015, recidivism has reduced from 8% to 7%.

Domestic Abuse Enhancer 968.075

- ◆ Currently, 5% of inmates have a conviction involving a 968.075 offense statute.
- ◆ Currently, 8% of offenders on supervision have a conviction involving a 968.075 offense statute.

{Note: Consider these statistics alongside the fact that most domestic violence offenses are either not reported, underreported, or charged under a different statute without the enhancer.}

Office of Victim Services and Programs (OVSP)

Christine Preston, OVSP Director, DOC

The WI DOC, Office of Victim Services and Programs (OVSP) oversees six key areas:

- ◆ **Information and Advocacy**—This is the bulk of OVSP's workload, and includes responding to phone calls and emails from victims, victim advocates, DOC staff, family members, and others every Monday through Friday from 7:45 am—4:30 pm.
- ◆ **Notification Services**—OVSP uses the VOICE System to enroll victims and anyone else with a safety concern to receive notifications. OVSP also sends out notifications on behalf of DHS for Chapter 980 offenders (sexually violent offenders law), and for those found Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect, and committed to the Department of Health Services. OVSP services the victims of all the individuals under community supervision and in prison, including those on the Sex Offender Registry (23,000 inmates, 65,000 on community supervision, and 25,000 on the sex offender registry).
- ◆ **Restorative Justice**—OVSP, in partnership with the UW-Madison Law School's Restorative Justice Project, oversees the Victim-Offender Dialogue program. The victim initiates the contact with the DOC, requesting to meet with their perpetrator in-person in the institution. This interaction will only occur if the inmate takes responsibility for their offense, is not appealing the conviction, and is willing to meet with the victim. The in-person meeting is managed by an experienced mediator from the UW-Law School Restorative Justice Project.
- ◆ **VINE** (Victim Information Notification Everyday) - This notification system is open to the general public, and notifies registrants of jail inmate movement.
- ◆ **VPO** (VINE Protection Order) – A recently deployed notification system that tells victims when their perpetrator received their protection order. This notification system will be implemented statewide.
- ◆ **Training/Policy Recommendations**—Train new DOC staff; attend the DOJ Victim Coordinator Meetings; provide input in all victim-centered policy
- ◆ **Media Requests**—Since 2008, OVSP provides recommendations on DOC media requests. When determining whether to allow access to a DOC offender, OVSP considers the nature of the offense, the victim impact, and the nature and purpose of the request (newspaper, television).

In the fiscal year 2019, OVSP is phasing out the VOICE system and replacing it with a new system called DOC NOTIS (Notification, Information, Support). Phase I will be deployed on July 1, 2019. This new system will have more user functionality and a mobile app interface. For example, it will allow the victim to hide the inmate's DOC photo, so they don't have to see the individual when they log into their account. Further, they will get to select which notifications they want to receive.

Overview of Evidence-Based Program Standards (EBPS)

Erin Thorvaldson, Evidence-Based Program Manager, DOC

The DOC follows two guiding principles when implementing programming and services. The first evidence-based principle is the Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) Model.

- ◆ Risk principle: Match the level of service to the person's risk to re-offend.
- ◆ Need principle: Evaluate the criminogenic needs and target them in treatment.
- ◆ Responsivity principle: Tailor the treatment to the person's ability to learn from a rehabilitative intervention.

The other guiding principle is that programs and services should utilize a cognitive-behavioral approach. This approach includes structured social learning (modeling of new skill); role-plays to practice the new skill and receive feedback; graduated practice to practice the skill in increasingly more difficult situations.

To ensure all DOC programming operates within an evidence-based standards framework, WI DOC implemented Executive Directive (ED) #84. ED #84 sets the parameters for appropriate interventions, programs, and services delivered by Department staff and contracted agencies that are designed to address criminogenic needs. This policy directs the department to utilize EBPS to establish oversight, program delivery, and monitoring of interventions, programs, and services designed to address criminogenic needs. Evidence-Based Program Standards have been implemented in the following programs: Employment, Sex Offender Treatment, Substance Use Disorder Treatment, and Cognitive-Behavioral Programs.



Above: June 12, 2019 Council Meeting

Sex Offender Treatment Program

Kris Zanon, Psychology Supervisor, Sex Offender Treatment Program, Oshkosh Correctional Institution, DOC

Current sex offender treatment in Wisconsin is based on use of the Risk-Need-Responsivity Model. The level of sex offender treatment is determined by the individuals level of risk as defined by the COMPAS risk and needs assessment, and sex-offender specific assessments (Static-99R and Stable 2007). There are four levels of Sex Offender Treatment provided in DOC facilities:

- **High-Risk Level = SOT-4** (2-year program, minimum of 400 hours, includes Group Therapy)
 - 1,498 individuals are on the waiting list (as of June 10, 2019)
- **Moderate-Risk Level = SOT-2** (1-year program, minimum of 100 hours, includes Group Therapy)
 - 1,819 individuals are on this waiting list (as of June 10, 2019)
- **Low-Risk = SOT-1** (Pilot program going to start at OSCI, 18-hour program, 1 ½ hour group; 12 sessions)
 - 228 inmates are on this waiting list (as of June 10, 2019)
- **Child Sexually Explicit Material Only Group – (Child Pornography Only)** (1-year pilot program, includes Group Therapy)
 - Research results are inconclusive whether this offender type is a lower risk or a higher risk to re-offend.
 - Previously, this group of offenders attended SOT-2 programming. However, they saw themselves as “different” because they didn’t have a “hands-on” offense. As such, they struggled to engage in the treatment and therapy process. Therefore, WIDOC elected to pilot a Child Pornography Only program.

The Objective of Treatment:

- 1) Increase Protective Factors – Factors that mitigate risk (like work, structured leisure, problem-solving skills)
- 2) Reduction of Dynamic Risk Factors – Those things that can change over time

The Restorative Justice Program

Deborah Mejchar, Chaplain, Fox Lake Correctional Institution, DOC

The restorative justice program, “Victims, Community, and Offenders: Coming Together to Heal the Harm Done by Crime,” is a 12-session group at Fox Lake Correctional Institution, and is offered twice a year. Chaplain Mejchar, along with 5-6 volunteers, run this voluntary group. The most recent group had 123 inmate applications for 35 placements. Inmates are expected to sign an expectations contract two months before the group starts. During this two-month process, the inmate is not allowed to accrue any conduct reports. If they do receive a conduct report, the inmate will need to wait a full year before re-applying for the group. Once the inmates graduate from this program, they can participate in the Restorative Justice at Work program.

The Restorative Justice at Work program serves the communities of Wisconsin through fundraising events and community projects. In 2018, this group raised \$14,000, which went back into the community. Recently, the group made and filled 100 bags of personal care items, hats, mittens, and scarves knitted by inmates from donated yarn scraps. The group selected four different organizations serving the homeless in the Madison and Beaver Dam areas, and each agency received 25 bags.



Council on Offender Reentry Members: (Front Row L-R): Michael Knetzger, Karley Downing, Sue Oppen, Silvia Jackson, Beth Dodsworth, Carolyn Stanford-Taylor, Jerome Dillard (Back Row L-R): Jon Nejedlo, Daniel Gabler, Mary Davies, Dasha Young, Constance Kostelac, Robert Koebele.

Council Members not present in this photo: Chytania Brown, Angela Mancuso, Sue Oppen, Ann Perry, Paul Rifelj, Antwayne Robertson, Stephanie Rothstein