



STATE OF WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON OFFENDER REENTRY ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023

STATE OF WISCONSIN INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON OFFENDER REENTRY



COUNCIL ON OFFENDER REENTRY CHAIR MESSAGE

Ray Woodruff, Reentry Director, Department of Corrections

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

The Council met several times during Fiscal Year (FY) 23, discussing various educational and programmatic initiatives available to youth and adults impacted by the justice system in Wisconsin. As we look ahead to the future, I am excited and hopeful to build on the progress made during FY23 by identifying areas for improved collaboration among partner agencies, including opportunities to share data, research, and measurement resources related to reentry initiatives.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 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 FY23, the Council met on the following dates:

- September 14, 2022
- December 14, 2022
- March 2023 - Cancelled*
- June 14, 2023

**Due to vacant Chair position*

STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE COUNCIL ON OFFENDER REENTRY

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\(5\)](#)

FY 2023 COUNCIL MEMBERS



COUNCIL MEMBERS DURING FISCAL YEAR 2023

Chairperson ¹	Silvia Jackson, Reentry Director, DOC	Law Enforcement Officer	Nicole Miller, Patrol Sergeant, UW La Crosse
Department of Corrections	Melissa Roberts, Assistant Deputy Secretary	Victim Services	Elizabeth Lucas, Director of the Office of Victim Services, Department of Corrections
Department of Workforce Development	Michele Carter, 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	Sharlene Lopez, Behavioral Health Administrator, St. Croix County Health & Human Services
Department of Children and Families	Vacant	American Indian Tribe / Band	Eric Boulanger, Chief of Police, Oneida Nation
Department of Transportation ²	Reginald Paradowski, Director, Bureau of Driver Services	Non-Profit Organization	Jeanne Geraci, Executive Director, Benedict Center
Attorney General	Winn Collins, Assistant Attorney General	District Attorney	Emily Hynek, District Attorney, Jackson County
Parole Commission	Shannon Pierce, Parole Commission Member	State Public Defender ³	John Padgham, Deputy State Public Defender
Department of Public Instruction	Paul Manriquez, Assistant State Superintendent	Academic Professional, Criminal Justice	Dr. Marguerite Burns, Assistant Professor, UW-Madison, Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work
Judge	Honorable Carl Ashley, Branch 33, Milwaukee County Circuit Court	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)		

¹ Chairperson: Silvia Jackson served through 12/2022. On 04/2023, Ray Woodruff, Reentry Director, Department of Corrections, was appointed.

² Department of Transportation: Reginald Paradowski served through 10/2022. On 12/2022 Corey Kliet, Director of Bureau of Driver Services was appointed.

³ State Public Defender: Jon Padgham served through 03/2023. The position was vacant for the June Meeting.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



DIALECTICAL BEHAVIOR THERAPY & PARENTING INSIDE OUT

The Council's first meeting had presenters highlight efforts to assist youth impacted by the effects of incarceration through Cognitive Behavioral Therapy programs in the DOC.

September 14, 2022

DIALECTICAL BEHAVIOR THERAPY

Lance Horozewski, Assistant Administrator, Division of Juvenile Corrections

Lance Horozewski presented on the application of Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) within the Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC). DBT is the primary treatment program for all youth under the care of the DJC. Youth start the pretreatment component the week they arrive and continue to attend DBT Skills Groups until the day they leave. DBT is an evidence-based cognitive behavioral therapy that helps youth who struggle to control their emotions and behaviors. DBT Skills Groups teach youth skills in five key areas that directly respond to the five major skill deficits that are associated with adolescents who experience emotional dysregulation (*see table to the right for skill areas targeted in DBT*).

DBT favors reinforcement or reinforcement plus punishment over punishment alone. A key component in the application of DBT is being dialectical. Rather than approaching youth by telling them what to do or dismissing youth's feelings and issues, the staff work to meet the youth halfway and validate their experiences with the philosophy that youth are doing the best they can and they can do better through staff assistance.

DBT is a validated approach to reducing suicidal behavior and non-suicidal self-injury. It assists juveniles with emotion-dysregulation and coping skills to manage stress. DBT is a milieu-based approach; all staff use DBT in their interactions with youth, not just during therapy. Through the application of Dialectical Behavior Therapy in DJC, staff have noticed a positive change in the culture within DJC. For more info related to the work DJC does for youth on supervision, please visit the DJC page on DOC's Public Website ([DJC Home Page](#)).

PARENTING INSIDE OUT

Dr. Pajarita Charles, Assistant Professor, UW-Madison, Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work

Leticia Longoria-Navarro, Executive Director, The Pathfinder Network

Dr. Pajarita Charles and Leticia Longoria-Navarro shared statistics on incarcerated parents and families (1 in 14 children in the United States experience parental incarceration) and raised the questions, "What are the implications for families and children of incarcerated parents?" Research shows increased risk for trauma, stigma, instability with housing and childcare, and reduced household income. For the children there are risks of behavioral and psychosocial problems, academic difficulties, and increased risk of being involved in the criminal justice system. However, research also suggests a strong family connection and high-quality parenting may ease negative relationships between parents' criminality and children's risk of justice involvement.

This formed the basis of the Parenting Inside Out (PIO) program as an intervention for incarcerated parents. PIO is a program that entails cognitive-behavioral parent management skills for the participants with focus on expanding communication techniques, problem solving skills, positive reinforcement, non-violent discipline, and age appropriate monitoring to assist strong parent-child relationships. PIO is currently offered in four Wisconsin state prisons, the Dane County Jail, and the Wisconsin Resource Center. This collaboration between the University of Wisconsin-Madison and DOC was implemented in 2021 and at the time of this meeting, there had been 12 cohorts, which have served 80 mothers and fathers, with a completion rate of 75%.

SKILL AREAS TARGETED

Mindfulness Skills

Distress Tolerance Skills

Emotional Regulation Skills

Interpersonal Effectiveness Skills

Walking the Middle Path Skills

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



PELL GRANT ELIGIBILITY & TRINITY INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

The Council's second meeting had presenters highlight efforts to assist and expand educational offerings to Persons in our Care

December 14, 2022

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS TO REENTRY & PROSPERITY (COR SUBCOMMITTEE)

Faiza Chappell, Program Associate, Unlocking Potential, Vera Institute of Justice

Ben Jones, Education Director, Division of Adult Institutions, DOC

Faiza Chappell presented on the benefits indicated by research of Postsecondary Education offered in prison that noted reduced recidivism, taxpayer savings, improved reentry outcomes, facility safety, and racial equity. Additionally, Faiza presented on the restoration of Pell Grants for students incarcerated in federal or state penal institutions through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Simplification Act passed on December 27, 2020. This law ties Pell Grant Eligibility to enrollment in an eligible prison education program (PEP), creates a new definition of a "prison education program," and adds specific requirements for approval, reporting, oversight, and evaluation of such programs. The provisions of the FAFSA Simplification Act related to incarcerated students have an effective date of July 1, 2023.¹ The pre-approval and final approval process was detailed for the Council.

Ben Jones updated the Council members on the statement of deliverables for the COR Educational Subcommittee, Educational Pathways to Reentry and Prosperity to:

- Serve as a guiding and advisory team for consortium partners and programs
- Integrate educational and reentry strategies for justice involved people in the transition from incarceration to community
- Create a linkage for Division of Community Corrections and community-based resources
- Assign and create measurements on strategic priorities
- Identify and pursue funding sources for Educational and Employment Training

Additionally, based on the new Pell regulations taking effect July 1, 2023 the subcommittee was approved by the Council to operate in the interim as an advisory committee for Pell restoration and to assist colleges becoming a Prison Education Program (PEP). Information for colleges to be a Prison Education Program has been posted to the DOC's Public Notices Page.²

1 "Prison Education Programs," Federal Student Aid, 11/01/2022, <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/prison-education-programs>

2 "DOC Public Notices," State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections, 04/17/2023, <https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOC/PublicNotices.aspx>

TRINITY INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Robert Koebele, Treasurer, WI Inmate Educational Association; Council Member

Craig Long, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Trinity International University

The Trinity International University Biblical Studies baccalaureate program is offered through a partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Trinity International University, and the Wisconsin Inmate Educational Association (WIEA). Trinity provides the staff and curriculum and WIEA pays 100% of the tuition leaving no costs for the students or the state. The program began in 2017 in Waupun Correctional Institution for individuals serving sentences between seven years and life with the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Ministry and a minor in Psychology.

To date, undergraduate education has been provided to more than 70 men, with 30 students having graduated with their BA in Biblical Studies. Additionally, many of these attendees and graduates are serving as mentors who counsel, support, and guide fellow persons in our care throughout the Wisconsin prison system. The program is relocating to Fox Lake Correctional Institution in Summer 2023.³

3 "Trinity's Program for Incarcerated Men Moves to Fox Lake (WI) Correctional Facility," Trinity International University, July 13, 2023, <https://www.tiu.edu/news/archive/prison-education-moves-to-fox-lake/>

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT-OUTS

This Council's meeting focused on introducing the new chair to the Council and Agency Report-Outs for work and initiatives that are assisting justice involved clients.

June 14, 2023

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT-OUTS

The new Chair of the Council, Ray Woodruff, asked the Council for each individual to report out on their agencies' projects and initiatives that support a reduction in recidivism and improved reentry outcomes for justice involved individuals. The following is a summary of Council Member Report-Outs and what initiatives, updates, and/or projects the Council Members shared with the Council.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT-OUTS	
Ray Woodruff, Reentry Director, Department of Corrections	The DOC collects and reports out data to create interactive data dashboards that can be found on the DOC's Public Website. ¹ The dashboards provide a point-in-time snapshot of prison populations, community supervision, program enrollment, recidivism rates, and more.
Emily Hynek, Jackson County District Attorney	The District Attorney's Office in Jackson County reviews sentences carefully and looks for opportunities to enroll individuals in the Earned Release Program to assist in Reentry.
Sharlene Lopez, St. Croix County Health and Human Services Behavioral Health Administrator	The St. Croix County board provided funding to hire two co-responders that work in tandem with law enforcement in their crisis program. These individuals allow for law enforcement to disengage when the situation does not arise to a level of emergency detention.
Mary Davies, Associate Dean of Economic Workforce Development, Moraine Park Technical College	The Wisconsin Technical College System has 8 colleges offering 20 programs that provide instruction and programming in the prison system across the state. Additionally, work release sites allow individuals to attend on-site campus for instruction and certifications in programs. Additionally, Mary discussed the expansion of 2nd Chance Pell for incarcerated individuals and the expansion of potential programs for individuals incarcerated in Wisconsin.
Beth Dodsworth, Bureau Director for Community Forensic Services, Department of Health Services	Department of Health Services oversees several community release programs that includes the Supervised Release Program, ² Conditional Release Program, ³ and the Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) Program. ⁴
Michele Carter, Administrator of the Division of Employment and Training, Department of Workforce Development	Department of Workforce Development partners with the DOC on job labs in 11 correctional facilities and are currently working with the Division of Community Corrections to utilize Job Net Computers for clients on community supervision at DCC offices.
Corey Kleist, Director of Bureau of Driver Services, Department of Transportation	The Department of Transportation works with the DOC in the PIOC ID Program to ensure individuals have IDs prior to their release from the DOC site through a Driver's License or State ID Card.

1 "Interactive Dashboards," Wisconsin Department of Corrections, <https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/DataResearch/InteractiveDashboards.aspx>

2 "Supervised Release Program," Wisconsin Department of Health Services, <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/sr/index.htm>

3 "Conditional Release Program," Wisconsin Department of Health Services, <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cr/index.htm>

4 "Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS)," Wisconsin Department of Health Services, <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/oars/index.htm>



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State of Wisconsin
Department of Corrections

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Reentry Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2023