



# STATE OF WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON OFFENDER REENTRY ANNUAL REPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2025

Council Agendas and Minutes can be found on the [DOC's Public Notices Page](#).

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# COUNCIL STATUTES AND MEMBERS

## FISCAL YEAR 2025 MEETING DATES

All meeting notices are posted via the DOC public website and members of the public are encouraged to attend meetings. In FY25, the Council met on the following dates:

- October 16, 2024
- January 15, 2025
- May 14, 2025

## 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\(5\)](#)

## COUNCIL MEMBERS DURING FISCAL YEAR 2025

Chairperson	Ray Woodruff, Reentry Director, DOC
Department of Corrections <sup>1</sup>	Melissa Roberts, Assistant Deputy Secretary
Department of Workforce Development	Michele Carter, Administrator, Division of Employment and Training
Department of Health Services	Emily Westover, Director, Bureau of Community Forensic Services
Department of Children and Families	Vacant
Department of Transportation <sup>2</sup>	Corey Kleist, Director, Bureau of Driver Services
Attorney General	Winn Collins, Assistant Attorney General
Parole Commission	Vacant
Department of Public Instruction	Vacant
Judge	Honorable Carl Ashley, Branch 33, Milwaukee County Circuit Court
Formerly Incarcerated Ex-Offender	Jerome Dillard, Lead Organizer, EXPO (Ex-Prisoners Organizing)
Law Enforcement Officer	Nicole Miller, Patrol Sergeant, UW La Crosse
Victim Services	Elizabeth Lucas, Director of the Office of Victim Services, Department of Corrections
Faith-Based Organization	Andrew Murphy, Board Member, Wisconsin Inmate Education Association
County Department of Human Services	Sharlene Lopez, Behavioral Health Admin, St. Croix County Health & Human Services
American Indian Tribe / Band	Marlon Skenandore, Councilmen, Oneida Nation
Non-Profit Organization	Jeanne Geraci, Executive Director, Benedict Center
District Attorney	Emily Hynek, District Attorney, Jackson County
State Public Defender	Adam Plotkin, Director of Government and Public Affairs, State Public Defender's Office
Academic Professional, Criminal Justice	Dr. Marguerite Burns, Professor, UW-Madison, Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work
Wisconsin Technical College System	Jo Ann Hall, Dean of Economic Workforce Development, Moraine Park Technical College

<sup>1</sup> Department of Corrections: Melissa Roberts served through 01/2025. On 02/25 Kari Beier, Assistant Deputy Secretary, was appointed.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Transportation: Corey Kleist served through 04/2025. On 05/25, Leah Fix, Driver Qualification & Issuance Section Chief, was appointed.

# COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



## October 16, 2024

New Appointments to Council on Offender Reentry

- Marlon Skenandore, Oneida Nation Councilman, Tribal Representative

Wisconsin was previously accepted into the Medicaid and Corrections Policy Academy and the Council of State Governments (CSG) was asked to provide an overview of the Policy Academy and current Medicaid Policy with recent federal legislation. Lacy Adams and Samon Rouhani from CSG presented to the Council and discussed historically that Medicaid has had an "Inmate Exclusion Policy" which prohibited the use of Medicaid funds for people who are incarcerated. This can in turn lead to Medicaid coverage issues upon release from incarceration. Some recent Federal and State Policy efforts and impacts were discussed such as the Medicaid Section 1115 Reentry Demonstration Waiver, which allows Medicaid coverage for specific reentry benefits.

CSG then discussed the Medicaid and Corrections Policy Academy, which is a "cross-agency team composed of leaders from state corrections, Medicaid, and behavioral health agencies to develop a shared vision for implementing best practices related to Medicaid." Wisconsin is not a Medicaid expansion state and Act 370 prohibits Wisconsin from putting forth a Medicaid Section 1115 Reentry Demonstration Waiver, but Wisconsin is examining existing practice and policies to see where the state can enhance current operations for the correctional population.

## January 15, 2025

Chair Ray Woodruff invited Jessica Gross, Bureau of Health Services (BHS) Director, Department of Corrections to present to the Council to discuss current operations of Healthcare in the DOC.

Jessica provided an overview on the structure of BHS to provide oversight and standardization of healthcare over the 36 institutions in the DOC to "deliver cost-effective, safe and high-quality patient centered health care, health promotion and preventive care in accordance with professional and community care standards." All 36 institutions are considered Primary Care Clinics and BHS has been working to streamline operations to increase the capacity of the DOC to assist Persons in our Care (PIOC). The DOC also has two Infirmaries, two inpatient units, and an Assisted Needs Unit to assist with surgery rehab and activities of daily living. The DOC is planning on creating a "Green Unit" which would be akin to a Nursing Home type Unit to reflect the needs of DOC's aging PIOC population. BHS is working to optimize the DOC's Electronic Medical Records (EMR) to allow for ease of use and increase providers ability to see more patients per day. Additionally, BHS is working to increase continuation of Medication for Opioid Use Disorders (MOUD) throughout the DOC system.

## May 14, 2025

New Appointments to Council on Offender Reentry

- Leah Fix, Driver Qualification & Issuance Section Chief, Department of Transportation

Ray shared with the Council that April was 2nd Chance Month and highlighted two events to share with the Council. 2nd Chance Month is a nationally recognized effort to highlight opportunities and initiatives for individuals with justice involvement to successfully return to their communities after incarceration.

1. The DOC hosted its first Friends and Family Forum at Fox Lake Correctional Institution on April 9th, which provided an opportunity for attendees to ask questions, offer feedback, and positively contribute to our state's corrections policies. More information can be found on the [DOC's Public Website](#). A [newspaper article](#) also discussed the event.
2. The DOC held an event at Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution's (KMCI) Job Lab on April 29th to recognize the partnerships that provide pre-release employment services and employment opportunities for the justice involved population at KMCI's Job lab. The DOC now has opened 17 institution-based job labs since 2019.

Ray asked Council Member, Kari Beier to discuss the ongoing contracted assessment of the DOC by Falcon Correctional and Community Services that began in 2024. Falcon is analyzing a scope of DOC practices that is not limited to the following examples: behavioral health, health care, restrictive housing, employee wellness, recruitment, and programming for the justice involved. Falcon analyzed data across topics, held over 20 group workshops and 15 onsite visits to evaluate DOC practices. Falcon is expected to submit its findings to the DOC in the coming weeks and the DOC plans to make the findings of the report public and share with the Council. The Council then discussed the Biennial Budget submitted by the Governor and their potential impacts on the justice involved.