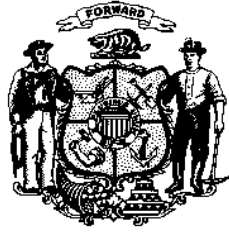


Tony Evers
Governor



State of Wisconsin

**Wisconsin Council on Offender Reentry
Meeting Minutes for the Wisconsin Council on Offender Reentry
September 20, 2023 | 1:30pm – 3:30pm
Conducted Remotely via Zoom**

Council Members Present:

Ray Woodruff, Winn Collins, Emily Propson, Carl Ashley, Melissa Roberts, Michele Carter, Jo Ann Hall, Jeannie Geraci, Marguerite Burns, Elizabeth Lucas, Eric Boulanger, Emily Hynek, and Sharlene Lopez

Council Members Not Present: Paul Manriquez, Nicole Miller, Shannon Pierce, Jerome Dillard, Corey Kleist

Vacant Seats: Department of Children & Family Services, Faith Based Organization, and State Public Defender

Guests/Public: Linda Palmer

Minutes:

Cawley Hubner, Department of Corrections

I. Chairperson's Welcome & Approval of Minutes

Ray Woodruff called to order the quarterly meeting of the Council on Offender Reentry at 1:30 PM, on September 20, 2023.

There were no requests to amend the minutes from the June 14, 2023 Council. Marguerite Burns made a motion to approve the minutes, and seconded by Sharlene Lopez. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

II. Council Appointments

Ray introduced two new members to the Council:

1. Emily Propson, Director, Bureau of Community Forensic Services, DHS
2. JoAnn Hall, Dean of Economic and Workforce Development, Moraine Park Technical College

III. Public Comment

Ray opened the floor for comments from the public. There were no comments from the public, but questions were asked by Council Members regarding public notice of the Council and when and where to set aside time in the agenda to be allow for Public Comment.

IV. Department and/or Agency Representative Report Outs

Ray asked for individuals in the Council to report out on their agency projects/initiatives that support a reduction in recidivism and improved outcomes for justice involved persons.

<p>Ray Woodruff, Reentry Director, Department of Corrections</p>	<p>Ray shared information regarding the Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS) program, in partnership with Department of Health Services, has expanded service offerings statewide to all counties beginning 9/20/2023. Previously, the program was only available in 51 counties. This program is for individuals leaving prison who have serious mental health illness (MH-2 classification) that provides a host of services including case management, housing, healthcare, transportation, and other wraparound services to assist reentry.</p> <p>Additionally, Ray shared information regarding the Wisconsin Reentry Access for Providers (WRAP) application that will planned to be shared with a walkthrough at a future Council Meeting.</p>
<p>Elizabeth Lucas, Director, Office of Victim Services and Programs (OVSP), Department of Corrections</p>	<p>Elizabeth shared information regarding a recent State Supreme Court Decision that is summarized here: ("Wisconsin releases sex offenders from GPS bracelets after Court Ruling") that results in some individuals no longer required to wear a GPS device.</p> <p>As a result, OVSP, has been working diligently to review the lists of individuals who have had GPS removed and notifying victims of this recent change.</p>
<p>Emily Hynek, Jackson County District Attorney</p>	<p>Emily shared working with the Jackson County Sherriff to talk with the public about updating Jackson County jail facilities. Additionally, Jackson County hired a treatment provider to assist with substance abuse / mental health and looking to expand services. Additionally, Jackson County has expanded transportation opportunities.</p>
<p>Dr. Marguerite Burns, Assistant Professor, Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, UW-Madison</p>	<p>Marguerite shared information related to Medicaid and Section 1115 Demonstrations (Section 1115 Demonstrations) that has the potential to provide new opportunities for states to help increase care for individuals who are incarcerated in the period immediately prior to their release to help them during reentry. This could allow state Medicaid programs to cover services that address various health concerns including substance use disorders and other chronic health conditions. (New Medicaid Reentry Section 1115 Demonstration Opportunity to Increase Healthcare for People Leaving Carceral Facilities)</p> <p>DOC and DHS have had preliminary discussions into this topic/opportunity.</p>
<p>Sharlene Lopez, Behavioral Health Administrator, St. Croix County Health and Human Services</p>	<p>Sharlene shared a new Western Regional Office opened recently and shared some challenges, difficulties that St. Croix County and other smaller counties face with transportation, affordable housing, and the creative/elaborate offerings that result from overcoming those barriers like partnering with neighboring counties and increasing telehealth opportunities to neighboring counties.</p>
<p>Emily Propson, Director, Bureau of Community Forensic Services, Department of Health Services</p>	<p>Emily echoed Ray’s excitement regarding OARS expansion. Additionally, she discussed DHS efforts to address the Outpatient Competency Examination Program’s waitlist (link). She mentioned the jail based Competency program that is available in 39 counties that is available to everyone in which treatment can occur at the jail without being housed by DHS and opening up bed space.</p>

	Supervised Release had a change of contractors from a statewide contractor to regional contractors that assists in getting localized case managers for clients and assisting getting them to service and treatment.
Michele Carter, Administrator, Division of Employment and Training, Department of Workforce and Development	<p>Michele noted DWD working with DCC, authorized ARPA funds for job net computers use in community corrections sites. Working through Milwaukee / Madison areas first and looking to have computers within 8 sites.</p> <p>Additionally, shared series of workshops, called “Winning with Wisconsin’s Workforce” with employers and other DWD contacts for employers considering to meet labor shortage by considering justice involved individuals to meet their labor concerns.</p>
JoAnn Hall, Dean of Economic and Workforce Development, Moraine Park Technical College	<p>JoAnn shared information related to 2nd Chance Pell restoration (July 1, 2023) in which Madison Area Technical College, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and Moraine Park Technical College are offering Pell Programs through colleges in the DOC.</p> <p>Additionally, colleges are working together to systemize process to make it easier so process is pretty similar from institution to institution. There is a review of policies in November by the Higher Learning Commission, which JoAnn anticipates will lead to more colleges looking to expand opportunities within institutions.</p> <p>Moraine Park Technical College is requesting for expansion into Stanley Correctional Institution and looking at Oshkosh Correctional Institution, and Green Bay Correctional Institution.</p>
Jeanne Geraci, Executive Director, Benedict Center	Jeanne discussed the effectiveness of Certified Peer Specialists hired by Benedict Center and how effective it is to have these individuals connect with women and share their experiences to assist these women reenter into the community. She also shared she will be visiting Taycheedah Correctional Institution on October 5 th for their Reentry Fair.
Judge Carl Ashley, Circuit Court Branch 33, Milwaukee County	<p>Judge Ashley shared attending a “Correcting the Narrative” event attended on August 31, 2023 attended by formerly incarcerated, victims, DOC staff, police officers, judges, and lawyers.</p> <p>Judge Ashley shared the importance of this meeting and how this type of event can really assist judges looking at sentence adjustments in a new way and how to change the viewpoint for how to best assist these individuals.</p>

The Chair noted next Council meeting’s agenda will focus on data collection and data analysis for data-informed decisions.

V. Next Council Meeting
December 13, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 2:16 PM