

## Milwaukee Reentry Council

Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### Meeting Minutes

**Participants:** Conor Williams (Community Advocates), Mandy Potapenko, (MCJC), Adam Procell (Partners in Hope), Jamie DeJesus Sr. (Innovative Educational Solutions), Joan Plumley (HOC), Joseph Moore (UWM), Jenni Sevenich (IT Progressive CHC), Tom LeBel (UWM), Frederick Nelson (Employ Milwaukee), Niel Thoreson (DOC), Karen Coy-Romano (Taskforce on Criminal Justice Reform), Nazir Al-Mujaahid (Ibrahim House), Myeesha Young (Progressive CHC), Liz Schwartz (Wellpath), Stephen McMillan (US Courts), Gretchen Schuldt (Wisconsin Justice Initiative), Michael Haas (EmpowerMKE), Dante Martin (Progressive CHC), Timothy Ehlinger (UWM), Wendel Hruska (Project Return), Terrece Irving (Milwaukee Jobs Work), Amanda Smith (Project RETURN), Dawne Herbert, Claire Hackett (HUD), Kaelin Rapport (Northwestern University), Shannon Ross (The Community), Tom Reed (Public Defender), Sylvester Jackson (EXPO), Marisola Xhelili Ciaccio (Marquette), Patricia Gorence (Retired, Federal Court), Tiodolo Delagarza (Milwaukee LGBT Community Center), Natraj Shanker (Rotary), Laura Hawks (Transitions Clinic Network), Janet Robinson (Alma Center), Alyssa Doman (WPF/CCJC), Lavansa Jackson (CHW-Aurora), Ivan Mitchell, Maryam Bey (Reentry Counselor, City of Newark), Joel, alimmit, Dominee Meek, Jeremy, Eva Anochi, (Newark Workforce Development Board), Eli Rivera (ShyftFly), Julie Grace (Badger Institute), William Lipscomb (JS Attorney), Katie Lynch (Benedict Center), \*791, Nicole Wooters, Ron Schroeder (EXPO), Christine Apple (DOC), Maya Thomas, Joseph Ellwanger (Project RETURN), Bri Perez, Quentella Perry (CWI), Laurie Tenpenny (DOC), Christal Arroyo (MKE Free Campaign), Tai Minor, Nyla Al-Mujaahid (Spread the Vote), Lance Wiersma (DOC), Terri Strodthoff (Alma Center), Nochia Perry (Benedict Center), Troy Moore, Robert Agnew Jr.

1. **Welcome** – Conor called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.
2. **Networking and Dialogue** – Individuals were divided into small groups for introductions and discussion. The question discussed was “If COVID-19 were to disappear tomorrow, where would you travel, who would you see, or what you do that you haven’t been able to do due to COVID-19?”
3. **Task Force Updates/Ad Hoc Committee Updates**
  - a. **Healthcare Task Force** – There are four community health workers who have started seeing patients internally. Two workers are at Aurora and two are at Progressive. Brochures will be available detailing eligible individuals for the program. Christine Apple and Artis Landon will take over the Co-chair positions for the task force, replacing Jenni Sevenich and Lars Brown.
  - b. **Home to Stay Online** – Program information to include on the website should be directed to Gretchen Schuldt (gretchen@wjiinc.org). Resources can include anything that communities may need or desire. Connectivity has shifted online and keeping the information updated is critical to the home to stay efforts and programs. <https://www.mkehometostay.org>
  - c. **Housing Task Force** – A “renting to Those in Reentry” virtual town hall meeting is planned. It is designed to educate landlords about realities facing those returning home from incarceration. A big emphasis will be on rent assisted housing and what the federal and local guidelines are to help landlords. It is currently planned for March 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Those interested in being involved can contact Joseph at josephrmoore1983@gmail.com.
  - d. Update on **Reentry Entrepreneurship Initiative** – The Milwaukee Reentry Network held an initial meeting to advance reentry entrepreneurship opportunities in Milwaukee County. The initial meeting centered around developing a scope statement to pinpoint who to target and leverage existing programs for the venture. The initiative is scheduled to begin mid-February and will likely evolve as the group gets legs. Those interested in participating are encouraged to reach out to Ken Gales.

4. **Presentation by Department of Corrections, Community Corrections on Newly Implemented Policy Changes** – Lance Wiersma from the WI Department of Corrections presented on the recently implemented policy changes for WI DOC Community Corrections. Throughout 2019 DOC leadership, in partnership with the community, reviewed and ultimately revised several policies related to the conditions of- and responses to violations of community supervision. Five focus areas were identified. 1 – Rules of Supervision, which resulted in an overall reduction of rules and provided additional rules in certain conviction categories. 2- Evidence Based Response to Violations, which uses low, medium, and high categories that people can be identified as based on their conviction and other criteria. 3 - Short-term sanctions and associated timelines. 4 - Alternative to Revocations Programming; ATRs are shifting from institution-based to community-based at MSDF, but there will be some institution-based programming at other facilities. 5 - The fifth and final area for policy change was in the Revocation Process. Lance encouraged all participants to view the Town Hall video where a full presentation and Q & A is available. That video can be accessed [here](https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/TownHalls/TownHallsHome.aspx) (<https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/TownHalls/TownHallsHome.aspx>).
5. **Short Presentation/Overview of Policy Analysis on DOC's Implemented Changes** – Badger Institute was unavailable and will be present at the next meeting to discuss the brief.
6. **Project and Partner Presentations**
  - a. **“Alma Brothers”** – The Alma Center is scheduled to finish their project evaluation and will be discussing it comprehensively at a later meeting.
  - b. **Wisconsin Decarceration Platform** – The platform has started an information advocacy group. It is providing legislative updates as they come in and is working to keep people updated on COVID-19 vaccinations. It is additionally providing resources and interactive tools for individuals on its website.
  - c. **Circles of Support, Peer Support and Leadership Circles** – Circles are continuing as scheduled. There is a planned circle of support for families with an incarcerated family member and is expected to start on Monday. Any referrals should be connected with Circles of Support staff. A flyer will be distributed to the group email with details.
7. **Central Door/Reentry Hub** – There are ten identified departments needed for the Central Door project. Each department lists what is needed of the individuals and what is focused on in that department. Marquette has agreed to audit the process for donors. Students will additionally help initially staff Central Door.
8. **Public Comment and any Other Business** – The Medical College needs additional information to help put together a proposal. Individuals interested in participating in a survey with a \$25 stipend should be connected to Dr. Laura Hawks. The survey is expected to take up less than an hour of time. (lhawks@mcw.edu)

In the month of February, the ACLU and others will be hosting a series of panels on restorative justice. A flyer will be sent out with additional details.

Within the chat, Quintella Perry from Covering Wisconsin offered her support and services for those seeking healthcare coverage. Quintella can be contacted at - qperry@wisc.edu, 608-250-9222.
9. **One-Word Evaluation and Adjourn** – The meeting closed with a one-word evaluation posted to the chat. The next meeting is scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup> via Zoom from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 3:24pm.