

Milwaukee Reentry Council

Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Participants: Conor Williams (Community Advocates), Mandy Potapenko, (MCJC), Tom Reed (Public Defender’s Office), Kimberley Quetschke (Advocate Aurora), Ken Gales (US Attorney’s Office), Jamie DeJesus Sr. (Innovative Educational Solutions), Joan Plumley (HOC), Joseph Moore (UWM), Jenni Sevenich (IT Progressive CHC), Frederick Nelson (Employ Milwaukee), Niel Thoreson (DOC), Karen Coy-Romano (Taskforce on Criminal Justice Reform), Myeesha Young (Progressive CHC), Stephen McMillan (US Courts), Wendel Hruska (Project Return), Terrece Irving (Milwaukee Jobs Work), Claire Hackett (HUD), Kaelin Rapport (Northwestern University), Shannon Ross (The Community), Sylvester Jackson (EXPO), Marisola Xhelili Ciaccio (Marquette), Patricia Gorence (Retired, Federal Court), Tiodolo Delagarza (Milwaukee LGBT Community Center), Alyssa Doman (WPF/CJC), William Lipscomb (US Attorney), Katie Lynch (Benedict Center), Ron Schroeder (EXPO), Christine Apple (DOC), Joseph Ellwanger (Project RETURN), Joyce Ellwanger (MICAH/EXPO), Bri Perez, Tai Minor (Advocate Aurora CHW), Robert Thibault (PAM), Paul Geenan (First Unitarian), Aldira Aldape (Americans for Prosperity Foundation), Alyssa Spies (Marquette), Adrena Lockett (UHCP), Erich, Young (WCS), Orlando Owens (Senator Johnson’s Office), Gwendolyn Lockett (America Works), Lisa Vlatch, Jamie Reif (Wellpath), Kim Tardin (WCS), Ella Dunbar (SDC), Natraj Shanker (Rotary Club MKE), Lavansa Jackson (Advocate Aurora CHW), Jamila Carney (WAATPN), Timothy John (Prison Action Milwaukee), Jenny Craig (DOC), Erin Perkins (CJC), Juan Casso (UMOS), Darren Wheelock (Marquette), Stephen McMillan (US Courts), Brandon Hutchins (DOC), Rick Barricelli (WCSC), Tom Moore (UWM), Gabby, Ben, Allison Gorrilla (UWCTI), Joni Theobald (UMOS), Kim Malone (Both Sides of the Fence), Selena Price, Robert Agnew Jr., Paul Truess, Liz Schwartz (Wellpath), James Watkins (MATC)

1.	Welcome and introduction of people new to the Council – Conor Williams called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm and invited all new attendees to introduce themselves.
2.	<p>Presentation: Community Health Workers for Transitions Clinic Network –Community Health Workers from Progressive Community Health Center and Advocate Aurora presented on their roles in the newly established partnership with the Transitions Clinic Network (TCN). The TCN is a nationwide program that trains primary care teams to be culturally competent and cognizant of the needs commonly tied to those who are returning from extended periods of incarceration. This medical model is coupled with community health workers, who serve as peer navigators, as they too have lived experience of incarceration. The TCN, nationally, has documented outcomes of fewer ED visits, fewer preventable hospitalizations, and a reduced average length of stay, and 25 fewer days in jail on average. Any individuals who meet the program criteria should be connected with a CHW. Individuals that don’t meet the criteria can still be served in the program if they are in need of a primary care provider.</p> <p><u>Progressive Community Health Centers</u> Dante Martin 414-935-8000 extension 1166; Dante.Martin@progressivechc.org Myeesha Young at 414-935-8000 ext. 1167; Myeesha.Young@progressivechc.org</p> <p><u>Advocate Aurora</u> Lavansa Jackson at lavansa.jackson@aah.org Tai Minor at tai.minor@aah.org</p>
3.	Networking and Dialogue – Attendees were divided into four breakout rooms to network and have small group discussions related to the role of Community Health Workers.
4.	Tobacco Prevention Initiatives - Jamila Carney, Coordinator of Faith Based Activities, Wisconsin African American Tobacco Prevention Network (jamila.carney@gmail.com), presented on their state-funded tobacco prevention initiatives. Jamila works to combat the high rates of smoking among people of color. Jamila identified that smoking

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	<p>while incarcerated is widely accepted, but less so in the broader community. The network offers tools and resources for smoking cessation. The Smoke-free Housing subcommittee works to educate residents in Milwaukee and provide residents to quit smoking. No Menthol Sunday is coming up May 16th with the virtual kick-off on April 16th to celebrate successes and provide toolkits to individuals about tobacco usage and how to quit.</p>
5.	<p>Reentry Housing Virtual Town Hall – Conor Williams and Joseph Moore provided an overview of the virtual Reentry Town Hall event that was hosted on 3/18/21. The event offered resources for landlords and individuals trying to readjust and find housing and employment opportunities. Overall, the feedback from the event was positive. Conor anticipates holding a follow-up event in the next 6 months. Contact Conor Williams or Joseph Moore to be added to the Reentry Housing Task Force - cwilliams@communityadvocates.net</p>
6.	<p>CCAR Recovery Coach Academy Free Training– Tiodolo A. Delagarza III, AODA Therapist-Recovery Coach Professional, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, provided information on the free CCAR Recovery Coach Academy training that starts April 15th. Training will occur at the Milwaukee LGBT community Center to allow individuals to become Recovery Coach professionals and pursue the national credentials. Recovery coaches work remove personal and environmental obstacles to recovery and links the individual to the recovery community, serving as a personal guide and mentor. There are 6 available spots are available. Interested persons are encouraged to reach out to Tiodolo directly - 414-292-3066, tdelagarza@mkelgbt.org</p>
7.	<p>Updates on Reentry Employment – Fred Nelson, Employ Milwaukee, provided updates on their Fair Chance Thursdays program, which provides a bi-weekly opportunity to interview for open positions virtually. Employ Milwaukee is hosting an informational event on April 1st on how to get a job at MCTS; there are several similar events in the weeks following. All events are open to the public. More information can be obtained through Fred Nelson - 414-335-5208, Frederick.Nelson@employmilwaukee.org</p>
8.	<p>Update on Central Door – Adam Procell was unable to join the meeting; however, he provided Conor with an update in advance. Adam reports continuing to meet with State, Federal, and local entities. All have been supportive of the idea to create a Central Door for reentry. Adam has an upcoming meeting with DA Chisholm to further discuss his goal and plans. If you have an idea or would like to support Adam’s efforts, he can be contacted at 414-397-2534, aprocell@thecommunitywarehouse.org</p>
9.	<p>Update on Statewide Criminal Justice Data Transparency and Expungement Efforts - Paul Geenen, First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, presented on his efforts to draft a statewide Criminal Justice Data Transparency bill; the bill will match and de-identify foster care, juvenile, and adult justice system data. Paul has reached out to UW and UWM for a potential partnership in to store the data and hire the data analysts. For more information, reach out to Paul Geenan at 414-510-1436, Paul.geenen9@gmail.com</p>
10.	<p>Public Comment and any Other Business – There was a brief discussion on the work underway to provide incarcerated individuals with objective information regarding COVID-19 and vaccination information. Shannon Ross and Dr. Laura Hawks have been developing materials for TheCommunity newsletter. Conor asked attendees to join a vaccination taskforce to support messaging. Anyone interested in joining can reach out to Conor Williams (cwilliams@communityadvocates.net) for additional information.</p>
11.	<p>One-Word Evaluation in Chat and Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm. Conor asked participants to leave a one-word evaluation in the chat. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2021, from 2 to 3:30 pm via Zoom.</p>