

Milwaukee Reentry Council

Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 2pm via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Participants: Conor Williams (Community Advocates), Mandy Potapenko, (MCJC), Tom Reed (Public Defender’s Office), Ken Gales (US Attorney’s Office), Jenni Sevenich (IT Progressive CHC), Niel Thoreson (DOC), Karen Coy-Romano (Taskforce on Criminal Justice Reform), Terrece Irving (Milwaukee Jobs Work), Claire Hackett (HUD), Kaelin Rapport (Northwestern University), Shannon Ross (The Community), Sylvester Jackson (EXPO), Patricia Gorence (Retired, Federal Court), Alyssa Doman (WPF/CJC), William Lipscomb (JS Attorney), Katie Lynch (Benedict Center), Ron Schroeder (EXPO), Christine Apple (DOC), Joseph Ellwanger (Project RETURN), Robert Thibault (PAM), Alyssa Spies (Marquette), Adrena Luckett (UHCP), Orlando Owens (Joseph Project), Gwendolyn Luckett (America Works), Jamie Reif (Wellpath), Kim Tardin (WCS), Jenny Craig (DOC), Adam Procell (Partners In Hope), Betty Erby (New Dawn Jobs Connection), Michael Haas (EmpowerMKE), Grisel Delgado (Generation of Excellence Trendsetters), Marty Calderon (God’s Touch Milwaukee), Terry Butler (Inn Towne), Leslie Fenninger (CBM), Veronica Stanton (Share The Love), Amanda Smit (Project RETURN), Kendale Allen, Shaquan Jefferson (Alverno College), Corinna Brown (Transform Milwaukee Jobs), David Rebey (Breaking the Chains Church), Lindsay Blumer (WRTP Big Step), Dionte Reed (MYKMYG), Tim Ehlinger (UWM), Paul Truess (Office of US Senator Ron Johnson), Julie Thoms (WCS), Karina Gonzalez (Cream City Conservation), Maya Thomas, Dashal Young (WCS), John Thomas (DWD), Laurie Tenpenny (DOC), Peggy West-Schroder (EXPO), Tasha, Michelle Waite (Versiti), Shawna Whitehead Starks (It Take A Village Foundation), Natraj Shanker (Rotary Club), Joan Plumley, Carsie Poe, **Phone # 608****222**

1.	Welcome and introduction of people new to the Council – Conor called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm and invited all new attendees to introduce themselves.
2.	Presentation: Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division – Crisis Mobile - Services – The presentation has been postponed until next month’s reentry meeting.
3.	Presentation: God’s Touch Milwaukee – Marty Calderon (martinedwardcalderon@gmail.com) provided an overview of his organization. The Christ-based organization assists men who need assistance with drug and alcohol addiction, providing resources to help find stability in their lives and build relationships with their families. Relationship building is the biggest aspect of the organization and its programs to help rebuild and provide structure, accountability, and sobriety. Ten men from HOC have been housed and successfully completed the program. The organization works with local housing to provide housing assistance with lower rent payments while they are working through the program. God’s Touch Milwaukee also occasionally works with organizations to bring in training programs and opportunities. Website - https://godtouchmilwaukee.org/
4.	Networking and Dialogue – Attendees broke out into small groups to network and discuss the proposed topic. The question for discussion was: “Is there one thing in particular that you would like to see changed in Milwaukee that exists currently?”
5.	Transform Milwaukee Youth Jobs Program – Corinna Brown from Equus Workforce Solutions, briefed attendees on the Transform Milwaukee Jobs program, which aids in helping Milwaukee’s youth find part-time and full-time employment. This program specifically focuses on youth involved in the criminal justice system in some capacity or in foster care. There are usually slots open for additional youth to participate, and anyone with potential participants should contact Corinna - Corinna.Brown@EquusWorks.com .

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<p>6.</p>	<p>Brief Updates –</p> <p>Reentry Health Care Task Force – Jenni Sevenich and Dr. Christine Apple reported out on behalf of the Healthcare Task Force. Jenni noted the Community Health Workers at the Transitions Clinic are now accepting referrals. Jenni outlined priority criteria. DCC/MSDF staff are coordinating efforts to provide patients for the Transitions Clinic Network, and some have already met with the healthcare workers.</p> <p>Reentry Housing Task Force –Conor reported out on the Housing Task Force’s work. A group of individuals have been working on a list on Project RETURN’s website that will have continually up-to-date information on reentry efforts with the goal of hosting housing opportunities and resources for individuals in reentry in one central location. Any known housing resources should be sent to Wendell Hruska and Gwendolyn Lockett.</p> <p>Reentry Employment Efforts – New Dawn has employment specialists and a few opportunities available, and It Takes a Village has fifty positions in manufacturing for all shifts. Both organizations have transportation available to assist in those who need transportation for work. Home To Stay is still operating virtually and will continue to do so for the time being. A follow-up email of additional job postings will be sent to the reentry council later.</p> <p>Central DOOR – Adam Procell reported out on his progress related to the Central Door. Most recently, Adam met with Commander Aaron Dobson from the Milwaukee County Jail. He reported that the jail will be introducing a new inmate tablet program filled with educational materials. Commander Dobson is willing to consider pre-loading the tablets Central DOOR’s information to aid in reentry efforts. The Milwaukee Bucks Foundation have also committed to aiding the Central DOOR concept, as well.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>It Takes a Village Foundation – Reentry Program. – There are two reentry program locations, one in Milwaukee and the other in Racine. The foundation works with youth and adults from, offers job preparation and placement, and education for individuals who have not received a high school diploma. Contracts through Milwaukee, Racine, and Oak Creek help the foundation in its reentry efforts. Website - http://www.reentry-ittakesavillage.com/</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Reentry Council Book Group – Conor Williams would like to re-launch the group’s collaborative book club. The first book chosen is <u>Halfway Home – Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration</u> by Reuben Jonathan Miller. The book provides a first-hand account on incarceration and trying to help people as they reenter their communities. Book discussion is open to anyone who is interested, and the meeting to discuss will be on June 10th at 6:30pm via Zoom.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Public Comment and any Other Business –</p> <p>EXPO will be sponsoring a Welcome Home event with individuals who have come home from incarceration over the past two years. A flyer will be sent out in the next few weeks. Interested participants can also reach out to Sylvester via email - sylvester@expowisconsin.org.</p> <p>Progressive is offering COVID-19 vaccinations and testing for the public. Individuals do not need to be a registered patient to receive either services.</p>

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	<p>EmpowerMKE has partnered with the police department for barbershop and beauty shop talks to offer constructive discussions with police officers and Milwaukee’s districts. These events are monthly, held at different districts, and the subjects vary. MPD and EmpowerMKE cover the costs. Email: empower.mke@yahoo.com, Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Empower.MKE</p> <p>The Blessed Savior Circle of Support has started on occurs on Mondays. Friends and family of incarcerated individuals are welcome to attend and learn how to support those incarcerated. Contact Amanda Smit for more information - amanda@projectreturnmilwaukee.org.</p> <p>Orlando Owens paid tribute to the passing of Pastor Jerome Smith. The Joseph Project is always looking to help people in need of employment. Orlando can be contacted here - Orlando_Owens@ronjohnson.senate.gov. Website - https://www.josephprojectwi.org/</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>One-Word Evaluation in Chat and Adjourn – Conor adjourned the meeting at 3:13pm. Attendees entered a one-word evaluation into the chat before leaving.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, 2021, from 2:00-3:30pm via Zoom.</p>