

Milwaukee Reentry Council

Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 2:00 – 3:30 pm – Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Attendees: Conor Williams (Community Advocates), Tom Reed (Public Defender’s Office), Jenni Sevenich (Progressive CHC), 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), William Lipscomb (US Attorney), Katie Lynch (Benedict Center), Ron Schroeder (EXPO), Adam Procell (Partners In Hope), Veronica Stanton (Share The Love), Amanda Smit (Project RETURN), Julie Thoms (WCS), Dashal Young (WCS), Peggy West-Schroder (EXPO), Dr. Whitehead Starks (It Takes A Village Foundation), Natraj Shanker (Rotary Club), Joan Plumley, Jamie DeJesus Sr. (MATC), Gary Zajc (Hunger Taskforce), Joseph Moore (UWM), Quentella Perry (Covering Wisconsin), Myeasha Young (Progressive), Tom LeBel (UWM), Gretchen Schuldt (WI Justice Initiative), Lavansa Jackson (Aurora), Sequanna Taylor (MKE County Supervisor), Deborah Beuttler (RYOCF), Brandon Hutchins (HOC), Dante Martin (Progressive), Amillia Heredia (UWM), Catherine Pederson (Wisconsin Inmate Education Association), Stephen McMillan (HOC), Jennifer Priebe, Erin Perkins (CJC), Bri Perez, John Thomas (DWD), Mark Lawrence, Juan Casso (UMOS), Ben Vuchetich (PPI), Chantell Jewell (HOC), Vaun Mayes (Community Taskforce MKE), Tasha Dotson (Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative), Eli Rivera (The Way Out), Tai Minor (Aurora), Melissa Ludin (ACLU), LaKasha Reid (Center for Self Sufficiency), Raymond Monk (Partners of Hope), Laurie Tenpenny, Minister Caliph Muab’El (Breaking Barriers), Tiodolo Delagarza (MKE LGBT Center), Frederick Nelson (Employ Milwaukee), Jamie Reif (Wellpath), Joyce Ellwanger (MICA/EXPO), Joe Ellwanger (Project Return), Shannon King (Peace of Heart), Sharon Redic, Doyle Sprewer

Staff Present: Mandy Potapenko, Alyssa Doman

1.	<p>Welcome – Conor Williams called the meeting to order at 2:02pm. New attendees were welcomed.</p> <p><i>Note: the order of the agenda was adjusted slightly to accommodate presenters’ availability.</i></p>
5.	<p>Update on Grant Writing Training and Future MacArthur Foundation Grants – Director Potapenko provided an update and brief overview of Milwaukee County’s work associated with the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge initiative. As part of Milwaukee’s community engagement efforts, the CJC anticipates releasing community subgrants for local nonprofits in the coming months. When sharing this news over the past 6 or so months, Director Potapenko received feedback that many local nonprofits would benefit from receiving grant writing training. Thus, Director Potapenko and the CJC will be hosting an upcoming grant-writing workshop on Friday, July 9th, and July 16th. Registration details will be shared via email later this week.</p>
2.	<p>Presentation by County Supervisor Sequanna Taylor and Community Leaders on Reentry Resources – County Supervisor Sequanna Taylor invited presentations from Breaking Barriers and Community Taskforce MKE to provide an overview of their work. Sequanna.taylor@milwaukeecountywi.gov</p> <p>Vaun Mayes - 262-289-0412, Comforcemke@gmail.com</p>
3.	<p>Networking and Dialogue – Attendees were divided into break out rooms to get to know each other better. <i>What is the right relationship between mercy and justice on our justice system?</i> Responses were recorded via Mentimeter.</p>
4.	<p>Presentation on “Correcting the Narrative” - Shannon Ross, Executive Director of The Community, presented on his Correcting the Narrative campaign, which involves meeting people on both sides of reentry regardless of their circumstances and proactively presenting the community with the successes and agency of individuals with criminal records. The goal is to open the eyes of those who are indifferent or antagonistic towards individuals with a criminal record and humanize them. A national virtual event will be held on July 22nd in the style of a town hall. Additional details will be coming soon. Any individuals interested in the campaign should contact Shannon - shannon@thecommunitynow.us 262-409-6890</p>

6.	<p>Update on Circles of Support - Training on Forgiveness event held on June 4th – Recording available here. Dr. Enright is willing to provide 50 copies of his book “8 Keys to Forgiveness,” for those who are interested. Contact Conor Williams to obtain a copy.</p> <p>Conor noted there will be a Circle Keeper Training with Project RETURN & partners in mid-July and a Community Volunteer Training in late-July. Contact Conor Williams if interested in being involved in either opportunity.</p>
7.	<p>Updates on Task Forces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reentry Health Care Task Force – Jenni Sevenich provided committee and vaccination updates. She also emphasized the importance of getting vaccinated against COVID-19. Progressive is one of many sites with vaccines available to the public. • Reentry Housing Task Force – The group discussed establishing a database for residents. The website has been created and the group is looking for available housing opportunities. The database is displayed on Project Return’s website and updates live. This Friday there will be a standing scheduled Housing Task Force meeting from 10 to 11am. Sylvester Jackson will be providing a tour of properties that are under consideration for reentry programs. • Reentry Employment Efforts – EST meetings are beginning again and hopefully in-person or hybrid programming will begin by July or August. • Central DOOR – An Ad Hoc committee is launching on Monday. MSOE will be creating a course titled Architectural Reentry with Central DOOR and The Community.
8.	<p>Brief update on Wisconsin Decarceration Platform – The Home to Stay website and Decarceration Platform have been merged onto one website here - www.wisdp.com. Attendees were encouraged to spread the website and provide updates and feedback to Gretchen or others on the team. Gretchen Schuldt, Wisconsin Justice Initiative, gretchen@wjiinc.org</p>
9.	<p>CJC Conversation with the Community – Director Potapenko reminded the group of the public forum scheduled this evening at 5:30pm. Participants can pre-register with the link provided.</p>
10.	<p>Public Comment and any Other Business – None noted.</p>
11.	<p>One-Word Evaluation in Chat and Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 3:29pm with attendees leaving a one-word evaluation in the chat. The next CJC Reentry Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 28, 2021, from 2:00-3:30pm via Zoom.</p>

REMINDER: Please visit and share www.wisdp.com for Reentry Resources