



Milwaukee Reentry Council

Wednesday, July 28, 2021, 2:00 – 3:30 pm via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Conor Williams (Community Advocates), Mandy Potapenko, (MCJC), Tom Reed (Public Defender’s Office), Jenni Sevenich (IT Progressive CHC), Karen Coy-Romano (Taskforce on Criminal Justice Reform), Claire Hackett (HUD), Kaelin Rapport (Northwestern University), Sylvester Jackson (EXPO), Alyssa Doman (WPF/CJC), Katie Lynch (Benedict Center), Veronica Stanton (Share The Love), Dr. Whitehead Starks (It Takes A Village Foundation), Joseph Moore (UWM), Myeesha Young (Progressive), Tom LeBel (UWM), Lavansa Jackson (Aurora), Stephen McMillan (HOC), Erin Perkins (CJC), Tasha Dotson (Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative), Tiodolo Delagarza (MKE LGBT Center), Frederick Nelson (Employ Milwaukee), Jamie Reif (Wellpath), Joyce Ellwanger (MICAH/EXPO), Joe Ellwanger (Project Return), Robert Thibault (Prison Action Milwaukee), Joel Cole (DWD), Anthony Dodd Sr. (HOC), Dionna Clemmons (DOC), Paul Truess (The Joseph Project), Maya Thomas, Alyssa Spies (Marquette), Dionte Reed (MYKMYG), Crispin Lewis, Kiandra Lewis (House of Restoration), Ken Gales (US Attorney’s Office), Christine Apple (DOC-DCC), Adrena Luckett (UHCP), Gwendolyn Luckett (America Works of Wisconsin), Mary Balchunas, Orlando Owens (Senator Johnson’s Office), Lisa (iPhone), *255, Lakesha Reid (Center for self Sufficiency), Betty Erby (New Dawn Jobs Connection)

1.	Welcome and introduction of people new to the Council – The meeting was called to order by Conor at 2:02pm. All new attendees were invited to introduce themselves. Mentimeter was available for individuals to record their thoughts and answer the breakout questions.
2.	Presentation & Dialogue: Preventing and Resolving Pandemic Warrants – Tom and Mandy discussed the types of warrants, the various reasons why people may receive them, and the damaging and disrupting consequences of them to the group. The pandemic intensified the problem of the warrants and the instructions sent to individuals were oftentimes confusing. Tom and Mandy are looking to pull a group of individuals and community organizations together to provide resources and help individuals with warrants learn how to resolve them. Approximately two thousand warrants were issued throughout the pandemic. Given that there were fewer case filings, some of these warrants may be unintentional and are disproportionate. Individuals who suspect they may have a warrant are encouraged to call the Public Defender’s Office (414-227-4130) to work through the next steps. Individuals are not at risk if they call and find out they do have a warrant.
3.	Networking and Dialogue – Attendees broke out into sessions to discuss the Bucks’ victory and what that means for everyone as a community.
4.	Event: Correcting the Narrative – <u>Details and Registration</u> – Correcting the Narrative is scheduled for August 31, 2021, from 5:30-8:30pm and will feature featuring Judge Mosley, Ruben Gaona, Eli Rivera, Adam Procell, and Shannon Ross. The event is scheduled to be held at No Studios with a virtual livestreaming option. The collective of organizations is focused on the narrative of criminal justice reform, breaking stereotypes, and creating opportunities for individuals. Mandy and Conor will send a registration link out.
5.	Update and Brief Review of Grant Writing Training held 7/9 and 7/16 – This month’s CJC hosted Grant Writing Training recently completed which filled almost immediately. The training was held across two trainings and the surveys showed an overwhelmingly positive response. The CJC is hoping to bring additional training back in the future and is brainstorming on how to reach additional information.
6.	Circles of Support: Circle Keeper Training is scheduled for Friday, Sept 3 rd from 10.00 am – 3.00 pm through Project RETURN. Individuals who have previously been incarcerated are highly encouraged to sign up. Contact Conor Williams cwilliams@communityadvocates.net or Amanda Smit amanda@projectreturnmilwaukee.org . There are over twenty circles of support at various locations, both in person and virtually, each month.



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7.	<p>Updates on Task Forces:</p> <p>Reentry Health Care – The last meeting was a brief check-in. August 17th at 9:30am meeting will have the Milwaukee Women’s Center warden discuss the healthcare needs of women in reentry and incarceration.</p> <p>Reentry Housing – The group is looking to expand housing opportunities for men and women returning from incarceration. Project RETURN will host a training program that explains the rights and responsibilities as a tenant. Certificates will be available at the end of the training program that can be provided to landlords. This will hopefully become a regular occurrence.</p> <p>Reentry Employment Efforts – Fair Chance Thursdays event this week will host Keystone Staffing with 70+ open positions available for interview. Interested individuals should contact Fred Nelson.</p> <p>MKE Reentry Network. The Employment Strategy Team recently met and are brainstorming events over the next year, including reentry job and resource fairs, as well as restarting the Home to Stay events.</p> <p>Central DOOR – Adam Procell has been meeting with people across the county to create the Central DOOR and redefine how the reentry process works. An in-person meeting at the state and county level was recently held to discuss appropriate space for the concept alongside probation and parole in the county. Region Three is seeking new space at the moment and part of the conversation involved how the space is envisioned, timing, and the community component potential co-location of Central DOOR. The current timeline is estimated at fourteen months to put all the pieces together.</p>
8.	<p>Wisconsin Decarceration Platform – The new website launched from the Wisconsin Justice Initiative - www.wisdp.com for up-to-date, centralized information pertaining to reentry services and events.</p>
9.	<p>Participants Needed! Plea Negotiations in Milwaukee County – flyer here – The SJC Milwaukee site is looking to reduce the jail population and resolve racial disparity issues as part of the MacArthur grant. The Loyola Project at Loyola University in Chicago is looking for participants who have plead guilty in Milwaukee County within the past two years. There is no good study of plea negotiations and how the defendants feel about the plea bargaining process and the project is looking to study the process. Qualified participants will be compensated with a \$30 gift card.</p> <p>Email for more information - ewebster1@luc.edu</p>
10.	<p>Next Meeting – Next month’s Reentry Council meeting will include a presentation by San Francisco’s Reentry Services Team. San Francisco is a peer site with a strong reentry council and several initiatives under their umbrella.</p> <p>https://www.reentrysf.org/ https://sf-goso.org/</p>
11.	<p>Public Comment and any Other Business – The Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative is hosting a Reentry Conference on August 26th at the Italian Community Center. The conference will include speakers who have gone through reentry and can share success stories as well as resources. There will be entrepreneurship, mental health, legal rights, and other pertinent topics for discussion with monthly support groups. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, and people are asked to register ahead of time. Tables and sponsorship packages are available. A flyer will be sent out within the coming weeks.</p>
12.	<p>One-Word Evaluation in Chat and Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:23pm with a one-word evaluation. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 25, 2021, from 2:00-3:30pm via Zoom.</p>