

Milwaukee Reentry Council

Wednesday, August 25, 2021, 2:00 – 3:30 pm via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Attendees: Conor Williams (Community Advocates), Tom Reed (Public Defender’s Office), Jenni Sevenich (IT Progressive CHC), Claire Hackett (HUD), Kaelin Rapport (Northwestern University), Sylvester Jackson (EXPO), Katie Lynch (Benedict Center), Dr. Whitehead Starks (It Takes A Village Foundation), Myeesha Young (Progressive), Stephen McMillan, Frederick Nelson (Employ Milwaukee), Joe Ellwanger (Project Return), Joyce Ellwanger (MICAH/EXPO), Joel Cole (DWD), Dionna Clemmons (DOC), Maya Thomas, Alyssa Spies (Marquette), Dionte Reed (MYKMYG), Kiandra Lewis (House of Restoration), Ken Gales (US Attorney’s Office), Gwendolyn Luckett (America Works of Wisconsin), Mary Balchunas, Lakesha Reid (Center for self Sufficiency), Kyle Ashley (Unite Us), Ventae Parrow , Lisa Stricklin (Salvation Army), Steve Wallace (Omanhene), Maya Burns, David Rebey, Barbara Hastie Jr. (MC Squared), Shar-Ron Buie (Marquette), Robin Offerman (Fisher Barton Watertown), Milton Bond (MC Squared), Gretchen Schuldt (Wisconsin Decarceration Platform), Ruben Gaona (The Way Out), Steve Adami (San Francisco Adult Probation Department), Andres Salas (San Francisco APD), Adam Procell (Central DOOR), Jamie DeJesus Sr. (Innovative Educational Solutions Institute), Rexanne Biserra (San Francisco APD), Aldira Adape (Americans for Prosperity), Amanda Smit (Project RETURN), Daniel Alvarenga, Dante Martin (Progressive), Destiny Pletsch, Eli Rivera (The Way Out), Estefany Reyes, Eve Lopez-Richardson, Jennifer Priebe (DOC), Laura Hawks (MCW), Jordan Hoelscher (Wellpath), Juan Casso (UMOS), Kim Tardin (WCS), Lenard Simpson (Reentry WTC), Mark Ferrante (AIR), Natraj Shanker (Rotary), Niel Thoreson (DOC), Peter Welch, Ray Mendoza (Team HAVOC), Shannon Ross (The Community), William Lipscomb (US Attorney), Victoria Westbrook, Keino Williams, Terrece Irving (Milwaukee Jobs Work), Vaun Mayes (Program The Parks MKE), Marissa Watson (Forward Service Corp)

Staff Present: Mandy Potapenko, (MCJC), Erin Perkins (CJC), Alyssa Doman (WPF/CJC)

1.	Welcome – Conor Williams called the meeting was called to order at 2:01pm. First time attendees were encouraged to introduced themselves.
2.	<p>Guest Presentation and Learning Opportunity: San Francisco Reentry Services and Reentry Council – San Francisco Reentry Division Director, Steve Ademi, presented on their robust portfolio of reentry services. The reentry division is comprised of 51 reentry programs, 15 residential drug treatment and 5 detox beds. They have recently launched three new initiatives. The reentry division has 16 housing programs, a recovery pathways initiative, housing sites, and a wide range of justice involved populations served. Their newest initiative, Positive Directions TRP Academy, is a therapeutic teaching community and transitional housing program where people can live in a 100% drug free environment. When residents complete a 90-day training, they are granted two additional years to remain in the housing program free of charge. The program curriculum is designed by the TRP staff. The first 90 days are rigorous with a variety of interventions and groups. The impact of its efforts has included accomplishments of reducing homelessness in San Francisco by 48,825 days, 1,167 housing applications completed, and 113 APD clients placed into permanent or stable housing from the transitional housing programs in 2019/2020.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">San Francisco Reentry Council Website: https://www.reentrysf.org/ San Francisco Reentry Resource Guide: https://sf-goso.org/</p>
3.	Networking and Dialogue – Attendees were divided into small breakout rooms to discuss the following question: “What was your biggest takeaway from the San Francisco Reentry Services presentation?” Responses were recorded via Mentimeter.

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4.	<p>Transitions – Sustainable Jobs for Justice Involved – Natraj Shanker, Rotary International & Jamie De Jesus, Innovative Educational Solutions Institute, discusses their innovative employment program. Rotary is providing a network of business who are willing to employ formally incarcerated individuals, provide a job environment that serves as a rehabilitation process, provide a living wage, and create a work pipeline that can be used by agencies to place other individuals. Individuals create a profile through The Way Out and are vetted trainability by IESI and MC Squared. This is currently a pilot program and participant number limits are low. The TRANSITION program will train the selected students to learn a variety of skills where program completion will lead to certifications. Fisher Barton employs individuals in the program. Interested participants should reach out to Natraj.</p>
5.	<p>Community Event Notices and Brief Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08/26/21 - Reentry “Comeback” Conference - The conference will be held at the Italian Community Center this Thursday. Flyers have been sent out to the group. Details can be found at www.simplestepswi.com • 08/31/21 - Correcting the Narrative Event – <u>Details and Registration here</u>, 5:30-8:30pm, No Studios and Virtual • 09/03/21 - Circle Keeper Training – 10am-3pm at Project RETURN – contact Amanda Smit. • Online Survey of Reentry Needs – Alyssa Spies, Student at Marquette University, asked for Reentry Council participants to provide input via a survey she created to evaluate the effectiveness of the Reentry Council. Access survey here. • Book Introduction, “Action and Reaction – Anatomy of the Carceral State” – Servant Ventae Parrow Bey • Care Coordination Software by Unite Us – Kyle Ashley, Community Engagement Manager with UniteUs shared the opportunities provided by the software as a tool to provide services and care coordination by community members easier. The platform is free for community-based organizations to help minimize ER care and increase the use of proper channels and services for people in need. There will be an informational discussion hosted at 11am on September 1st for those interested in learning more about the software. • Central DOOR – Adam Procell, Partners in Hope, met with UWM’s Architecture faculty to develop a course and student-led project to create models of what the Central DOOR could look like. Adam stated they will focus on removing the dehumanizing aspects of incarceration.
6.	<p>Task Force Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reentry Healthcare – Jenni Sevenich provided an update on behalf of the task force. Last month’s taskforce had a presentation by services of the Women’s Correctional System and how women’s needs differ from men and the specialized services offered. Most of the women in the system have been diagnosed with a mental health issue. • Reentry Housing – Conor Williams shared a “Rights and Responsibilities of a Tenant” training will be held in November. The group will explain the housing to grow the number of private sector landlords willing to acknowledge that the training has worth and rent to people coming home from incarceration. • Reentry Employment Efforts – Fred Nelson shared the upcoming Fair Chance Thursday is this week at Employ Milwaukee from 11 to 2. There will be seven employers present doing interviews with minimum

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	wages at \$19 an hour. The only requirement is a driver’s license, CDL encouraged. There will be a training provider for CDL obtainment.
7.	Wisconsin Decarceration Platform – www.wisdp.com – the site has been updated again. Contact Gretchen Schuldt, Wisconsin Justice Initiative, gretchen@wjiinc.org to add content. All attendees were also encouraged to add their events to the platform calendar so it can further become a one-stop-shop.
8.	<p>Public Comment and any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sylvester Jackson shared that EXPO will be hosting a “Locked Up on the Outside” event this Saturday from 4-6pm in-person and will discuss the outs and ins of parole and supervision for incarcerated individuals on how it affects friends and family. Contact Sylvester Jackson for more information
9.	One-Word Evaluation in Chat and Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 3:31pm and concluded with a one-word evaluation in the chat. The next CJC Reentry Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, 2021, from 2:00-3:30pm via Zoom.