

## Milwaukee Reentry Council

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### Meeting Minutes

<b>01.</b>	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Conor Williams called the meeting to order at 2:00pm. First time attendees were invited to introduce themselves and their representative organizations.</p>
<b>02.</b>	<p><b>Guest presentation – The Family Connections Center, located in New Hampshire</b></p> <p>Kristina Toth, Administrator, Division of Community Corrections, NH Department of Corrections, presented on <a href="#">The Family Connections Center</a>, a family resource center located within all New Hampshire state prisons and minimum-security units. They partner with many community and state agencies for programming to focus on strengthening connections between incarcerated parents, their children, and families. The Center offers video visits, family fun days, parenting wellness checks after leaving prison, and classes. To be eligible, incarcerated individuals must have minor children and complete classes to participate in the center; legal stepchildren and adopted children also qualify. FCC are members of Family Support NH and NH Wellness and Primary Prevention Council.</p> <p>At the conclusion of Ms. Toth’s presentation she recommended the documentary Tre Maison Dasan. <a href="#">Linked here</a> for those interested in learning more.</p>
<b>03.</b>	<p><b>Update from The Way Out (TWO) – Eli Rivera</b></p> <p>Eli Rivera, from <a href="#">The Way Out</a>, provided a demonstration of the updates to their new platform, which should be live by next month/mid-March. The Way Out has created its own CRM system, which is hosted on a HIPAA compliant, government cloud so that all data and information is secure. Eli demonstrated how reentry service providers can build their profile within the platform by entering the services they offer, and through that job and resources seekers will then be matched.</p> <p>The Way Out is launching a free class starting this Saturday “Bridging the Tech Gap for Returning Citizens”. See the attached flyer.</p>
<b>04.</b>	<p><b>UWM Systems Change &amp; Peacebuilding (SCP) Reentry Fellows program</b></p> <p>Professor Timothy Ehlinger (UWM) and Shannon Ross (UWM student and Executive Director of The Community) provided an overview of the Sustainable Peacebuilding Program at UWM. It is through this program, that UWM staff and students have been working to confront mass incarceration and bring partners to the table to create the <a href="#">Wisconsin Decarceration Platform</a> with the <a href="#">Milwaukee Turners</a>.</p> <p>UWM recently created a graduate level Reentry Fellowship program that funds individuals to pursue a graduate degree. <a href="https://uwm.edu/iscp/opportunities/graduate-fellows/">https://uwm.edu/iscp/opportunities/graduate-fellows/</a></p> <p>Tuition is paid, as is health insurance and there a small monthly stipend is provided. Contact Professor Ehlinger (<a href="#">email</a>) or Shannon Ross (<a href="#">email</a>) for additional information.</p>
<b>05.</b>	<p><b>Networking and Dialogue</b></p> <p>Attendees were divided into breakout rooms to network and discuss topics of interest.</p>
<b>06.</b>	<p><b>Reentry Housing Initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Thrive for Life and the Ignacio House</b> (<a href="#">national website</a>)</li> </ul>

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	<p>Ignacio House, which is part of the Thrive for Life Initiative at Marquette University, provides housing for justice-impacted individuals pursuing higher education. Sh’ron Buie was unable to attend today, so Bill Lipscomb, former US Attorney, shared that an agreement has been reached to use the (north) house on the St. Benedict’s grounds, which is next to MATC, as a starting location for its housing projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project RETURN Housing Development – Wendel Hruska, Executive Director</b></li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Project RETURN</a> is working to develop a housing option for individuals leaving incarceration without a stable housing plan or are homeless. They hope to offer low barrier housing so individuals don’t have to worry about the cost of rent, so they can instead first focus on connections to employment, addiction services, and all of the other things necessary to succeed upon leaving incarceration.</p>
<p><b>07. Updates on Task Forces and Aligned Initiatives:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reentry Health Care Task Force</b></li> </ul> <p>Dr. Christine Apple shared an update on behalf of the Reentry Healthcare Task Force. Representatives from WCS’s Hub &amp; Spoke model spoke at the most recent meeting. Hub &amp; Spoke offers a host of services for individuals as well as their families, including wellness coaching, smoking cessation, and referral processes with local health systems. Jenni Sevenich from Progressive Community Health Care shared there is currently a <a href="#">job opening</a> for a Community Health Worker within their Transitions Clinic. This role is specifically for those who have previous justice system involvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Milwaukee Reentry Network + Reentry Employment Efforts</b></li> </ul> <p>John Thomas, Cutting Edge Staffing, shared they are hosting an Employment &amp; Resource Fair on April 21st, 2022, at Partners of Hope. Interested individuals should contact Conor and John Thomas (<a href="#">email</a>) for additional information. John also shared a bit about the training opportunities Cutting Edge Staffing offers. Many of their trainings are paid. Second, John reported that the CJC’s Home to Stay effort will resume the first Wednesday in May. More details will be coming soon.</p>
<p><b>08. Public Comment and any Other Business</b></p>	<p>Shannon Ross, Executive Director with <a href="#">The Community</a>, has been hosting community dialogues regarding the Sex Offense Registry. Interested persons can check out Shannon’s <a href="#">youtube channel</a> for past dialogues. Shannon also encouraged anyone who is on the registry, or is working with someone who is, reach out to him (<a href="#">email</a>) as Shannon has been able to connect with employers who are open to hiring those individuals.</p> <p>Sylvester Jackson (<a href="mailto:Sylvester@expowisconsin.org">Sylvester@expowisconsin.org</a>) hosts a Circle of Support for registrants on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at 6.00 pm at Project Return - Room 108 at 2821 N Vel R Phillips Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53212 Contact Sylvester for more information.</p> <p>SDC is enrolling participants in their Absolute Advantage construction training program (<a href="#">link</a>). This is a paid training program with industry recognized certifications including lead abatement certifications with many opportunities for good employment doing lead abatement work in Milwaukee after completion of the program.</p>
<p><b>09. One-Word Evaluation in Chat and Adjourn</b></p>	<p>Conor adjourned the meeting at 3:31pm. All attendees were asked to leave a one-word evaluation in the chat.</p> <p>The next CJC Reentry Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 2:00-3:30pm via Zoom</p>



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**02/23/2022 – Reentry Council Meeting Attendees:** Conor Williams, Dionna Clemmons, Jenni Sevenich, Karen Coy-Romano, Robert Thibault, Julie Thoms, Conley, Sonya Psuik, Amos Malone (UMOS), Kristina Toth (FCC-NDHOC), Grisel Delgado, Deborah Beuttler, Dasha Young, Paul Truess, Joan Plumley, Niel Thoreson, John Thomas, Eli Rivera, Silvia Jackson, Timothy Ehlinger, Tom Reed, Constance Alberts (Bank On Greater Milwaukee), Ruben Gaona, Nicole Wooters, Wendel Hruska, Patricia Gorence, LaTonya Baker (Generation of Excellence), Jamie Reif, Alan Mast, Katie Lynch, Krystina Kohler (United Way), Jackson Bubolz (Elevated Insurance), Anthony Dodd Sr., Adam Procell, Shacolia Gillespie (Generation of Excellence), Vaun Mayes, Laura Vuchetich (Project RETURN), Edwin Aleman, Laura Hawks, Amanda Smit, Christine Apple, Mike Lappen, Janice Yenter, Frederick Nelson, Laurie Tenpenny, Natraj Shanker, Ken Gales, Peggy West-Schroder, Ray Mandoza, Sylvester Jackson, Carl Wesley, David Rebey, Lavansa Jackson, Adrena Luckett, Dale Darrow, Pearly Wong, William Lipscomb, Judge Joseph, Shaquan Jefferson, Bianca Shaw, Orlando Owens, LaKeshia Reid, Dr. Shawna Whitehead, Swits, Kofi James, Gwendolyn Luckett, Shannon Ross, Quentella Perry, Alexander Ducoffe, Servant Ventae Parrow Bey, Constance Alberts

**Staff Present:** Mandy Potapenko, Alyssa Doman

**Total Attendees: 70**