

## Milwaukee Reentry Council

Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 2:00 – 3:30 pm  
 Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### Meeting Minutes

01.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Conor Williams called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. First-time attendees were encouraged to unmute and introduce themselves to the group.</p>
02.	<p><b>Presentation on Reentry Needs of Milwaukee</b></p> <p>Earlier this year, Alyssa Spies, a student at Marquette University, distributed a survey to Reentry Council participants to collect information on the most pressing reentry needs in Milwaukee. The survey was part of a research project for credit. Today, Ms. Spies provided an overview of her findings. She indicated that 95% of survey respondents said creating and adhering to a reentry plan influences individual success. Additionally, respondents believed coordination between organizations was the most critical conceptualization of success. Success was ranked differently between individuals and organizations, yielding an interesting consideration for organizations when defining success. Individuals reported the most significant barrier to success was bureaucracy – government and institutional obstacles. Ms. Spies encouraged members of the Reentry Council to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to clarify and advance specific improvements to the reentry system. Ms. Spies provided the Council with a link to her survey presentation <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
03.	<p><b>Oxford House</b></p> <p>Ryan Clevenger from Oxford House was invited to provide an overview of their housing opportunities. Oxford House is a democratically run, self-supporting, and drug free home. They have several housing locations accessible to individuals with justice involvement and some homes for individuals on the sex offense registry. All houses are within a mile of public transportation routes. Partners assist with employment, resume building, staffing, and other essential reentry-related services. A list of Oxford Houses in Wisconsin can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>. Interested individuals can reach out to Ryan directly at <a href="mailto:ryan.clevenger@oxfordhouse.org">ryan.clevenger@oxfordhouse.org</a>.</p>
04.	<p><b>Upcoming Event(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Home to Stay</b> – Relaunching in May! The CJC and Reentry Council partners will restart the monthly, in-person reentry resource fairs on the first Wednesday of each month. The events will be held at Partners in Hope for the remainder of 2022. Participants do not need a formal referral or RSVP, just show up between 10a-2pm. For more information contact <a href="mailto:hometostay@milwaukeeccjc.org">hometostay@milwaukeeccjc.org</a>, <a href="#">Home to Stay webpage</a>, <a href="#">Event Flyer</a></li> </ul>
05.	<p><b>Developing a Reentry Dashboard and Measures of Collective Success</b></p> <p>At last month’s meeting, there was conversation about creating a Reentry Dashboard to allow for shared measures and understanding around the trends of reentry in Milwaukee County. Mandy Potapenko asked attendees for input on measures they would like to see included. Some suggestions included: employment rates, graduation rates,</p>

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	housing/homeless, individuals engaged in training or educational programs, and metrics on numbers of employers willing to employ returning individuals. Ms. Potapenko plans to bring these suggestions to the CJC’s Data Analysis and Research Committee for additional insight and to determine feasibility.
<b>06.</b>	<p><b>Networking and Dialogue</b></p> <p>Attendees were split into breakout rooms to network and discuss stories of restoration and reentry success as part of National Reentry Month.</p>
<b>07.</b>	<p><b>Municipal Reentry Leaders Network</b></p> <p>The National League of Cities (NLC) invited CJC Director, Mandy Potapenko, to its Criminal Justice Policy Advisors Network (CJPAN) several years ago. Ms. Potapenko continues to participate in the network, which meets at least quarterly to share and learn about different criminal justice policy-related initiatives happening within cities across the country. The network is partially funded by the MacArthur Foundation. Because of the success garnered within the CJPAN, NLC chose to launch another network of Reentry Leaders, which met for the first-time last week. Ms. Potapenko will continue to keep the group apprised of upcoming discussions and invite participants and/or presenters as topics come forward. More information can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>08.</b>	<p><b>Updates on Task Forces and Aligned Initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reentry Health Care</b> – Dr. Christine Apple, Reentry Healthcare Task Force Co-Chair, indicated the task force did not meet formally in April, as to allow members to attend a mental health-related <a href="#">event at Marquette</a> instead. The next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2022, and there will be two speakers to speak on the Bloomberg Initiative on opiate overdose reduction.</li> <li>• <b>Reentry Housing</b> – Project RETURN continues to work toward building a 30-person complex to create dedicated reentry housing.</li> <li>• <b>Reentry Employment</b> – Eli Rivera indicated the Way Out has four hundred individuals who have expressed interest in their services. They are working to build a pipeline with employers and have other resources ready for those individuals when released. Orlando Owens indicated <a href="#">the Joseph Project</a> is still looking for individuals to connect with its employers. Transportation is available. There are paid opportunities available for individuals to get Lead Abatement Certification. The Milwaukee Reentry Network (MRN) is focused on employment and access to training programs, thus considered the Reentry Council’s employment arm. The next MRN meeting is in June. Anyone interested in joining is welcome to reach out to <a href="#">Mandy Potapenko</a>.</li> <li>• <b>WPP/Reentry Rising MKE</b> – No updates.</li> <li>• <b>Central DOOR</b> – Adam Procell was unable to join the meeting. Conor indicated a small group of people continue to discuss how to make the Central Door plans happen.</li> </ul>
<b>09.</b>	<p><b>Upcoming Event - Reentry Resource Fair at Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility</b></p> <p>A Reentry Resource Fair is planned for May 11, 2022, at Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility (RYOC). Any</p>

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	individual that can offer services or employment is encouraged to reach out to <a href="#">Deborah Beuttler</a> , 262-638-2920
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Public Comment and Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Mandy Potapenko announced that City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County requested ARPA funds from the Governor’s Office to support public-safety and criminal justice related services impacted by COVID-19. On March 15, 2022, Governor Evers announced a nearly <a href="#">\$16M investment in Milwaukee County’s criminal justice system</a> and an additional \$40M to law enforcement across the state. As part of the award, the HOC will provide additional vocational programming at the House of Correction. This investment will serve approximately seventy-five individuals over the next year.</p> <p>Reverend Joseph Ellwanger shared the Department of Correction’s Cheney Center may be torn down or transition to a youth facility. A final decision has not yet been made, but advocates are concerned that a youth center should not be placed there, nor should the DOC close a transitional placement center.</p> <p>The City and Employ Milwaukee have a youth focused Earn and Learn Program, which provides a stipend to young individuals throughout the summer. They are still looking for host organizations, as well as participants. <a href="#">Learn more here.</a></p>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>One-Word Evaluation in Chat and Adjourn</b> – Conor adjourned the meeting at 3:29pm and encouraged all attendees to leave a one-word evaluation in the chat.</p> <p>The next CJC Reentry Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 2:00pm via Zoom.</p>

**04/27/2022 - Meeting Attendees:** Conor Williams, Karen Coy-Romano, Dionna Clemmons, Edwin Aleman, Alyssa Spies, Swats, Mary Balchunas, Ryan Clevenger (Oxford House), David Goines, Orlando Owens, Jennifer Priebe, Steve Sand, Gwyn Truman, Dashal Young, Ruben Gaona, David Rebey, Timothy Ehlinger, Eli Rivera, Krystina Kohler, Joseph Ellwanger, Kofi Ali, Ken Gales, Kyle Ashley, Nicole Wooters, Laura Vuchetich, Jane Howell, William Lipscomb, Sylvester Jackson, Amanda Smit, Tom Reed, Joyce Ellwanger, Dr. Shawna Whitehead Starks, Robert Thibault, Peggy West-Schroder, Mike Lappen, Joni Theobald, Elianne Alvarez, LaTonya Baker (Generation of Excellence), Sonya Psaki (UMOS), Christine Apple, Servant Ventae Parrow Bey, Jose Hernandez, Lizzie Addison (HOC Housing Navigator), Lenard Simpson, Maya Thomas, Vincent, Karen Gaylord, Bianca Shaw, Trevor Morris, Julie Thoms, Natraj Shanker, Kim, Joan Plumley, Shannon Ross

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