**Reentry Advisory Council (RAC)**

2nd Quarter 2018 Meeting Minutes

Department of Corrections Headquarters

Thursday, April 26, 2018

**Attendees Present:**

Joseph Ardoin, Jr., LA State Building and Construction Trades Council

Rhett Covington, Dept of Public Safety and Corrections

Robert D. Hanser, University of Louisiana at Monroe (Telephone Conference)

Jennifer Katzman, Department of Health

Dr. John Morrison, Department of Public Safety and Corrections

Reverend Paul R. Murray, Elayn Hunt Correctional Center

Sheryl Ranatza, Committee on Parole

Emily Campbell, Designee for Monty Sullivan, Louisiana Community and Technical College System

Nicole Sweazy, Louisiana Housing Corporation

Lydia Scales, Proxy for Marketa Garner Walters, Department of Children and Family Services

**Absent:**

Chairman Louis Reine, LA-AFL-CIO

Courtney L. Baker, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry

Michael ‘Mike’ Cazes, Louisiana Sheriff’s Association

Ava Dejoie, Louisiana Workforce Commission

Bridget Dinvaut, Louisiana District Attorney’s Association

James T. Dixon, Louisiana Public Defender Board

Judge Jules D. Edwards, III, 15th Judicial District Court

Arthur L. Hunter, Jr., Orleans Criminal District Court

Secretary James Le Blanc, Dept of Public Safety and Corrections

Daniel R. Martiny, LA Senate

Joseph Prejean, Big Poppas Fitness Gym

Steve Pylant, LA House of Representatives

**Other:**

Sherreta R. Harrison, Metromorphosis

Mark Johnston, Louisiana Housing Corporation

Karissa Page, Louisiana Department of Health

Dennis Schrantz, MCCD, Center for Justice Innovation

**Dept of Public Safety & Corrections Headquarters Staff:**

Amanda Mayeux, Office of Offender ReEntry

Henry Sanders, Office of Offender ReEntry

Robert Vehock, Office of Offender ReEntry

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Assistant Secretary Rhett Covington at 9:37 am.

**Roll Call**

Roll was called but a quorum was not established.

**Approval of the February 2018 Meeting Minutes**

The February 2018 minutes were not adopted because there was no quorum.

**Welcome and Introductions, Malcolm Myer, Deputy Secretary**

Deputy Secretary Myer welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their dedication and participation on behalf of Secretary Le Blanc.

**Opening Remarks, Rhett S. Covington, Assistant Secretary**

Assistant Secretary Covington reported that the first stakeholder meeting of the first 5 LA-PRI parishes occurred in Baton Rouge, LA on Tuesday, April 24th. He stated that the next meeting will be in St. Tammany and is set to take place on May 4th.

On the subject of Justice Reinvestment, he reported that there will be 2 RFPs that are set to be released to the public in late May. He stated that the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Council must approve the RFPs beforehand on the next meeting date which would be May 11th. The larger RFP would be for anything that reduces recidivism and fills unmet reentry needs. Another RFP would ask for proposers to put in proposals for halfway houses or any type of transitional living arrangement for those who are high need and risk coming out into the population that do not have a place to go. He stated that he expected awards to take place sometime in July based on funding availability.

**TIGER Update, Keith Nordyke, Louisiana State University**

Keith Nordyke reported that there were 3 risk tools. The Supervision risk tool which could be used for Probation & Parole is a static predictor and highly accurate based on 60,000 people on parole and probation. He stated that the Institutional risk tool was accurate to 70.78%. The risk tool for “old timers” or those who have served over 20 years is accurate to almost 95%. There are 2 needs assessments, a full version and a cut down version called the mini Tiger which consisted of 72 questions and is a highly accurate tool. He stated that automation is in full swing. The web-based version was out and he invited everyone to test. The needs assessment has been automated. The treatment bundles have been handed over for coding. He expected that roll out would be in mid-summer. He said that he would send a link to explore the web-based tool and test. Dr. Nordyke asked that anyone who tested the tool would call him once they had the opportunity to test with suggestions, etc. His team planned to train DOC staff and Probation and Parole officers to administer test, he asked that non-DOC personnel please look at the tool and give feedback on the tool.

**LA-PRI Update, Dennis Schrantz, Center for Justice Innovation**

Dennis Schrantz reported that all 5 tier I parishes (Caddo, St. Tammany, EBR, Orleans, Jefferson) that account for 40% of population organized are organized. He stated that there was an organizational steering team meeting in Jefferson last week, which was being held by the Chamber of Commerce, they are getting steering team members appointed and exploring funding opportunities.

In regards to the Tier II parishes there are 5 active.

Lafayette has adopted the LA-PRI model, formed a steering team, currently appointed a community co-chair and has signed the MOA.

Calcasieu, is performing similarly to Lafayette. They have formed a committee, organized and trained on subject matter.

Ouachita has been fully formed, they have adopted the LA-PRI model, formed a steering team, they have had 2 steering team trainings, and they are reportedly ready to form committees.

Terrebonne/Lafourche is being led by Sheriff Webre. They have paused to bring in Terrebonne as a partner parish to Lafourche, held a joint meeting, adopted the LA-PRI model, they are working to form steering teams. Mr. Schrantz reported that he had a scheduled a call with them later that week.

Rapides has been organized under Sheriff’s leadership. They had a preliminary organizational meeting a few weeks before. They were set to have their 2nd meeting in May. They are just starting out.

Mr. Schrantz reported that they were developing an approach for organized parishes to respond to the RFP in order to fund projects that help coordinate services and programs which taken together will reduce recidivism. He stated that a Comprehensive Community Reentry plan has been developed with 10 parishes at the table helping to improve it. He hoped to have it completed by April 30th and stated that they are fine tuning it now. He noted that Secretary Le Blanc endorsed the concept of allowing these comprehensive plans be considered and attached to the response to the RFP as a way to demonstrate that these parishes possess a different set of offerings that they provide. He mentioned that intermediary agencies will work to pull groups together and help with recommended programming.

In regards to the Second Chance Act Grant, he updated everyone on its status and stated that they had finished the section on evidence-based practices where they looked specifically at barriers and gaps to performing these evidence-based practices. He stated that next they will be exploring the development of performance measurements, improved data systems and evaluation which will tie in with what the RFP should detail.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

Assistant Secretary Covington entertained the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was adopted by Rev. Paul Murray and was seconded by Joseph Ardoin, Jr. and the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 am.

The next meeting will be held on August 30th at 9:30 AM at the *Department of Public Safety and Corrections Headquarters, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA*.