**Reentry Advisory Committee (RAC)**

2nd Quarter 2023 Meeting Minutes

In person/Zoom

Thursday, April 6, 2023

**Call to Order**

* Meeting called to order by Assistant Secretary, Louis Reine at 9:36 am.

**Roll Call**

* Chelsea Jones, Reentry Program Consultant- DPS&C
* 9 members out of 21 were physically present. No Quorum achieved.
* Meeting minutes from November 2022 and February 2023 could not be approved, due to no quorum.

**Welcome & Introductions, Louise Reine, Chairman**

* Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Opening Remarks, Deputy Secretary Malcolm Myer**

* Thanked everyone for participating the meeting.
* Members were reminded of the importance of attending meetings in person or to have a proxy present.
* Commended the department on the all the work they are doing to contribute to the success of the department as a whole. He also challenged everyone to step up and do more because there is still a lot of work to be done.
* Commending the organizers of the Return for Good Forum on how informative it was and the Reentry Program Managers on all of their hard work assisting the population in the post release process.

**Return for Good Forum and Calendar Events: Jessica Byrd, DPS&C**

* Jessica advised that the Return for Good Campaign would be ending with April being Second Chance Month. She thanked everyone for their participation and attendance for the Second Chance Forum.
* She briefly discussed the calendar events. She listed the areas in which job and resource fairs will take place across the state for Second Chance Month. These events will be hosted by the Reentry Program Managers in those areas with the help of resource providers, employers, and the local coalitions.
* Jessica reminded everyone about the Second Chance Month Close out event; Untapped Talent Summit hosted by the Board of Regents.

**Second Chance, First Steps Event: Valerie Meade, Crime and Justice Institute**

* Valerie briefly invited everyone to attend the Second Chance, First Steps Event today from 1:30pm until 3:00pm at the East Baton Rouge Parish Library or via Zoom.
* The will be to discuss Emergency Transitional Housing (ETH) and how it has contributed to reduction of the barriers in Louisiana. Nicole George will give an overview of the ETH Program and an ETH Provider will speak about the program and his specific experience with the program.
* Valerie encouraged everyone to attend.

**SNAP Updates: Amber Delone, DPS&C**

* Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and The Department of Corrections addressing information sharing for the purposes of completing SNAP applications for incarcerated offenders. The pilot program started in January. It is currently at DCI, Caddo and LTCW.
  + - The offenders are releasing with $281 in SNAP benefits and will receive their cards 7 to 10 days after release. The first month is prorated, depending on the release date for that offender.
    - Our transition specialists are setting up monthly interviews with the offenders that are releasing in 30 days and phone interviews are conducted between the offenders and the DCFS Case workers. The Transition Specialist is present in the room. However, it is a private conversation between the offender and the caseworker.
    - To date. DCI has serviced 21 offenders and LTCW has serviced 33 offenders. DCFS Caseworkers for the Caddo area are setting up interviews for that for that region, and they are expected to do 9 interviews this month.
* The plan is to continue the pilot program and to try to work out the kinks and get more DCFS case workers trained before further deployment of the program.
  + An open discussion was held after Amber’s updates due to concerns with the time frame the offenders have to wait to get their SNAP Benefits card.

**LWC Training Updates: Kelsey Osman, DPS&C**

* DOC received 2 proposals for programs for the Wagner Peyser Funds received from the Louisiana Workforce Commission in May 2022.
* The programming is provided at the Regional Reentry Centers. In addition, DOC put programming at Franklin Detention Center, which is our Northeast Regional Reentry Center and at the Louisiana Transitional Center for Women in Madison Parish.
* The programs operated through Louisiana Delta and are Forklift, NCCER Core, Heavy Equipment Operation Level One and OSHA 10.
* The programs offered at Rapides through Central Louisiana Technical Community College (CLTCC). Rapides is offering Introduction to the Construction Trades, which includes NCCER Core, Forklift, and OSHA 10.
* Since the program started in June 2022;
  + 23 Participants have completed all the portions or at least one of those class courses within the continuum at Franklin.
  + 47 have completed at LTCW.
* OSHA 10 has been delayed because La Delta has only one OSHA 10 instructor who is currently working on another initiative, OSHA 10 will be offered via computer through a software program through La Delta. Approval was recently received for Career Safe. The Participants will be able to do all of the OSHA 10 curriculum and programs. The software will be securely uploaded on our DOC’s ATLO devices
* Once everything is finalized and installed on the ALTO devices, the Career Safe Program will take 2 days for the participants to complete.
* An instructor is not required for the program, only the ATLO devices and a facilitator for that program. Once the previous steps are completed, the participants will have completed that curriculum.
* At Rapides:
  + - 66 participants enrolled in the Intro to Construction Trades Curriculum.
* 52 have successfully completed the program.
* 14 participants is expected to complete the program next week.
* Rapides will conduct one more group to hit the 75 mark before the end of the fiscal year.
* DOC has over 50 participants who either have released to Probation and Parole District, or discharged full-term. A list of these participants was sent in February to the Louisiana Workforce Commission to try to determine ifthose participants have obtained employment since their release.
* Open discussion about employment issues/hiring of second chance population and how to ensure the population is being hired for the right reasons and into jobs where they can succeed.

**Medicaid Update: Jennifer Ingram, DPS&C**

* Jennifer stated she has travelled and trained the facilities and Regional Reentry Centers on the Medicaid application process and all of them are submitting applications.
* A procedure is in place where applications cannot be submitted for inmates having more than 9 months left on their sentence.
* This protocol was put in place to eliminate needing a renewal process while incarcerated.
* There is a current plan to form a Medicaid Training Regulation.
* Reporting from all of the State facilities are being submitted, and the Regional Reentry Centers to start sending their reports in on their monthly reports.
* Open discussion about Medicaid/ application process availability to whole offender population.

**Other Business**

* None

**Public Comments- Judge Fred Crifasi**

* Judge Crifasi discussed his experience while participating in the Reentry Simulation. He stated that it was a stressful experience trying to complete the tasks as an offender post release.

**Next Meeting: TBA**

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:48am by Chairman, Louise Reine**

* Motion by Louise Reine
* Second by Rhett Covington