**Reentry Advisory Committee (RAC)**

3rdQuarter 2023 Meeting Minutes

In person/Zoom

Thursday, August 31, 2023

**Attendees Present:**

Chairman Louis Reine, LA-AFL-CIO

Joseph M Ardoin Jr., LA State Building & Construction Trades Council

Dennis Grimes, Louisiana Sheriff’s Association

Rhett Covington, Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections

Robert D. Hanser, University of Louisiana at Monroe

Karissa Page, Department of Health

Randy Lavespere, Department of Public Safety and Corrections **(Zoom)**

Tony Bacala, LA House of Representatives **(Zoom)**

Camille Conaway Designee for Dr. Monty Sullivan, Louisiana Community and Technical College System

**Absent:**

Ava M. Cates, LA Workforce Commission

Bridget Dinvaut, Louisiana District Attorney’s Association

James LeBlanc, Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Headquarters

Christian Rhodes, LA Association of Business and Industry

Franklin J. Foil, LA Senate

Joseph Prejean, Big Poppas Fitness Gym

Judge Fred Crifasi, 19th Judicial District Court

Judge Arthur L. Hunter, Orleans Criminal District Court

Paul R. Murray, Elayn Hunt Correctional Center

Rémy Voisin Starns, Louisiana Public Defender Board

Sheryl Ranatza, Committee on Parole

Winona Connor, Louisiana Housing Corporation

**Vacant:**

Association of Builders and Contractors seat

Department of Children and Family Services

**Call to Order**

* Meeting called to order by Chairman, Louis Reine at 9:37 am.

**Roll Call**

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

**Welcome & Introductions, Rhett Covington, Assistant Secretary**

* Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Opening Remarks, Assistant Secretary Rhett Covington, DPS&C**

* Thanked everyone for participating the meeting.
* Members were reminded of the importance of attending meetings in person or to have a proxy physically present and the proper authorization form signed.
* Commended everyone the work they are doing. He also stressed the importance of working together and having partnerships with other agencies and community partners to ensure the success of the reentry population reentering our communities.

**JRI/ CIG Updates: Nicole George, DPS&C**

* Currently, the CIG Program has 10 organizations with 14 contracts across 17 parishes (Tier 1 and Tier 2, Avoyelles, Caldwell, Franklin, Grant, Richland).
  + As of the end of FY23, the program has served 628 individuals, and since the beginning of the program, 3,770.
* As a refresher, CIG Providers visit with their clients 6-9 months prior to release to discuss the needs and barriers post-release. Once released, they will continue providing case management services and work towards eliminating barriers.
  + Some examples includes:
    - Assistance with finding employment, housing, transportation, mentoring, family reunification, etc.
    - Additionally, the Providers can provide clients financial assistance such as purchasing work uniforms, deposits for rent/utilities, bus passes, etc.

**Child Support Enforcement- Employment & Training Presentation: Katreena Moses & Brandi Williams, DCFS**

* CSE E&T program helps parents with employment barriers gain skills, education, training, job readiness, and job placement that leads to successful, long-term employment. The goal is to reduce poverty, increase money flow into households and provide parents with the ability to sufficiently support their families.
* The CSE E&T program is specifically designed for parents with open child support cases within the Department of Children and Family Services. The program is family centered and assists families in building resiliency. Both non-custodial and custodial parents have access to the services. However, custodial parents must be below an income threshold. Neither parent can receive federal cash assistance or participate in a DCFS Workforce Development employment and training program.

**Angel Tree Presentation: Dale White, PFM Angel Tree Ministries**

* + Angel Tree serves incarcerated parents and their children by registering and connecting them churches within the organization to offer support. The churches reaches out to the caregivers of the children to see what the child may need for Christmas and purchases the gift in the parent’s names. This is a way to keep the parent and child connected. The Angel Tree services have expanded to offer dental care of the children and other activities such summer camp scholarships so the children can participate and connect with their peers.
  + Mr. White wants to work with local jails and state facilities to bring in this program and identify community faith-based partners to sustain them.

**Pell & LCTCS Partnership Update Updates: Kelsey Osman, DPS&C**

* The application has now been made available to all those who want to submit a proposal to be a prison education program through Pell.
* The Memorandum of Understanding is also ready. It is in the contract office, and we should have it all approved and ready to submit to those applicants next week.
* A document that has all the requirements of the oversight entity (DPS&C) has been created and is available upon request.
* The only applications that DPS&C has received so far is the application from Louisiana Delta Community and Technical College (Delta). They have already been involved in our system and they have been very successful. Their programs are of good quality. The likelihood of them being approved is very good. Now we are just waiting on further applications.
* The programs for the next 2 years for Delta, once they are approved are going to be evaluated to determine the quality, if they are in the best interest of the student, and if the geographic region they are reentering to is lucrative for them to be employed in those industries in which they are being trained.
* DPS&C expects to begin receiving applications in the next few months, and plans to implement those Pell programs that are approved in January (spring semester).
* DPS&C has a data sharing agreement amendment that is going to be added to the Memorandum of Understanding or we might provide a data sharing agreement as a separate document to address all the requirements that a Prison Education Program provider has to provide to the Feds.

**Medicaid Update: 1115 Waiver Proposal: Karissa Page, Medicaid**

* DPS&C is currently working with the Department of Health on drafting a proposal for an 1115 Waiver for the state of Louisiana.
* 1115 Waivers are when a state wants to do something Medicaid Services or Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) typically does not allow.
* Louisiana has an 1150 waiver for substance abuse treatment right now.
  + A 1115 Waiver like the one California was granted would be centered around Medicaid paying for services up to 90 days pre-release. The state would have to determine what our eligible population is going to be.
* There are 3 things that are required under this proposal.
  + Enhanced Case Management.
  + Mapped or Medicaid Assistant Treatment for substance abuse.
  + Provision of 30 days’ supply of medications or durable medical equipment, such as Oxygen, Wheelchairs, and C-Pap machines would all be covered by Medicaid 1115 Waiver Proposal.

**Other Business**

* None

**Public Comments: Karissa Page**

* By end of October, Medicaid participants will be able to access their Medicaid Health Plan Card in LA Wallet.
* Updated were made to the Medicaid Self Service portal so that you can look up your record and using your social security number.

**Next Meeting: TBA**

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:47am by Chairman, Louis Reine**

* Motion by Louise Reine
* Second by Rhett Covington