**Reentry Advisory Committee (RAC)**

3rd Quarter 2022 Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom

Thursday, August 18, 2022

**Call to Order**

* Meeting called to order by Assistant Secretary, Rhett Covington at 9:30 am.

**Roll Call**

* Chelsea Jones, Reentry Program Consultant- DPS&C

**Welcome & Introductions, Rhett Covington, Assistant Secretary- DPS&C**

* Assistant Secretary Rhett Covington welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Opening Remarks, Secretary James Leblanc**

* Secretary Leblanc gave updates on the JRI Fiscal Savings.
  + As of 2022, the saving are down to $437,000.00.
  + CJI is starting there Deep Driven Revaluations concentrating community
  + The Annual report is overdue and should be out within the next month.
* The next IST meeting will be scheduled within the next 30days.
* Secretary Leblanc gave updates on the ground breaking on the new women’s facility (LCIW). Construction will take about 2 ½ years to complete.
* There are 56 staff members with Probation and Parole working as back at 4 Juvenile Justice Centers.
  + Preparations are being made to the Winter housing area at Jetson and to the old reception center to possible house juvenile offenders.

There are 56 staff members within the department and 9 offenders who currently have Covid.

Secretary Leblanc thanked everyone for their contributions.

**JRI (Justice Reinvestment Initiative) & CIG (Community Incentive Grant) Updates: Nicole George**

* Evaluation- Met with CJI and they will be looking at the overall success of the program (i.e. - did the individuals find housing, did they continue substance abuse and mental health treatment or jobs in their fields?).
* Tier 2 contracts are coming up for renewal in October. The Nofo with look the one for the tier 1 parishes. The tier 2 parishes are Ouachita, Bossier, Rapides, Calcasieu, Terrebonne and Lafourche.
* ETH Updates (Emergency Transitional Housing)
  + There was 24 applications submitted.
    - 15 of the applicants were previously applicants.
    - 9 were new applicants.
  + ETH are providing housing in 12 parishes across the state.
  + The next time housing providers can apply is during the fall cycle in September or October.

**DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) Presentation: Tanisha Matthews, Director**

* The presentation was an introduction and overview of what DEI is, who Tanisha Matthews as the director of DEI and the goals of the new department with the Department of Corrections.
* Redesign of the training academy.
* Implementing a 5-day Leadership Academy.
* Focusing Indigent offenders and offender visitation searches.

**Unite Us Presentation- Rhett Covington, Secretary, Cassandra Large and Mara Hahn**

* Discussed the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, which a partnership between DOC and DCFS where they use data sharing between to two agencies to services the justice involved populations.
* Discussed the goal of Digital Ecosystem, essentially to build a digital ecosystem that links together all of the healthcare providers, government providers and social service provider. When providers are working jointly with an individual, they will have a way to see what services the others providing and collaborate in real time.

**BJA-LA Veterans & Drug Court Expansion Grant- Stephanie Webb- P&P**

* Is a 4-year BJA expansion program that will present specialized caseloads in Amite and Covington areas that will focus on training Probation and Parole staff, as well as other staff involved on how to deal with specialized cases i.e. the Veteran Population and the Mental Health Population.
* expansion program is a four year program that we're looking to present some specialized caseload Amite and Covington areas that will focus on training probation and parole staff, as well as other staff involved on how to deal with specialized cases, especially the veteran population and the mental health population
* The end goal is to implement this program across the state.
* There is staff on board at both the 21st and 22nd districts as well as the P&P Officers that will be assigned identified these cases.
* Trainings are scheduled in September for the Mental Health First Aid.
* Updates will be given at the next meeting.

**IST Meeting- Assistant Secretary Rhett Covington**

* Updates were given from the most recent IST Meeting.
  + Subcommittee Updates from Housing and Legal Committees
* The Core Correctional Practices Training Updates.
  + More trainings are scheduled. The most recent training was successfully with 25 community partners in attendance.

**Second Chance Month Summary/Suggestions- Robert Vehock, DPS&C**

* Discuss the events that took place during Second Chance Month and discussed planning and suggestion for next year.

**Other Business**

* Presentations by the Department at the ACA Conference August 2022.
* LCA Conference October 9th -12th in Lake Charles, La

**Public Comments**

**Closing:** **Assistant Secretary Rhett Covington.**

**Next meeting: TBA**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:45am by Assistant Secretary Rhett Covington.**