

**REENTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC)
MEETING MINUTES**

Dept. of Corrections Headquarters
Thursday, September 22, 2016

Attendees Present:

Chairman Louis Reine, LA AFL-CIO
Secretary James LeBlanc, Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections
Assistant Secretary Rhett Covington, Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections
Joseph Ardoin, LA State Building and Construction Trades Council
Michael 'Mike' Cazes, LA Sheriff's Association
Rachel Mackey, Designee for Ava Dejoie , Louisiana Workforce Commission
Judge Jules D. Edwards, III, 15th Judicial Court (Telephone Conference)
Robert D. Hanser, University of Louisiana at Monroe (Telephone Conference)
David Helveston, Designee for Monty Sullivan, LA Community and Technical College System
Jennifer 'Jen' Katzman, Department of Health and Hospitals (Telephone Conference)
Reverend Paul Murray, Elyan Hunt Correctional Center
Chris Newton, Designee for Dale LeBlanc LA Association of Builders and Contractors
Joseph Prejean, Big Poppas Fitness Gym
Sheryl Ranatza, Committee on Parole
Dr. Raman Singh, Department of Public Safety and Corrections
James Dixon, Louisiana Public Defender Board

Absent:

Judge Arthur Hunter Jr., Orleans Criminal District Court
Senator Daniel Martiny, LA Senate
Representative Steve Pylant, LA House of Representatives
Marketa Walters, Department of Children and Family Services
Bridget Dinvaut, LA District Attorneys Association

Others:

Keith Nordyke, TIGER
James Logan, Mayor's Office City of New Orleans
Mark Walters, The Micah Project
J. Wise, LA Pardon and Parole

Dept. of Public Safety & Corrections Headquarters Staff:

Malcolm Myer, DOC Headquarters
Natalie LaBorde, DOC Headquarters
Perry Stagg, OAS Headquarters
Jill Angelle Office of Offender Reentry
Kristen Canezaro, Office of Offender Reentry

Tammy Jetson, Office of Offender Reentry
Gretchen McCarstle, Office of Offender Reentry

Meeting Called to Order at 9:37 a.m. by Louis Reine

Approval of Minutes

- Motion by Louis Reine to approve the January 2016 board meeting minutes. Motion was unanimously accepted.

Opening Remarks from Secretary James LeBlanc

- Welcome, Appreciation of Service of Attendees and Congratulations to Louis Reine as Chairman of Louisiana Reentry Advisory Council (RAC)

HCR 82 – Justice Reinforcement Task Force (JRI)

- HCR 82 created the LA Justice Reinvestment Task Force to evaluate, analyze and undertake a comprehensive review of the state's adult criminal justice system and use a data-driven approach, develop sentencing and corrections policy recommendations for legislative consideration to reduce the prison population, provide better use of resources and reduce recidivism.
- One year taskforce that will terminate at the end of the next session.
- Goal is develop recommendations for the 2017 session in regards to general criminal justice reform.
- Membership is widespread and is made from a good representation of the criminal justice system, legislature, and community areas that are willing to provide a collaborative effort.
- The first meeting was in June, with monthly meetings held since. Next meeting is Monday, September 23, 2016.
- PEW provides data analysis based on past results and future expectations on where we want to go.
- Data focuses on the last ten years of habitual and non-violent offenders.
- Secretary Leblanc believe these offenders are not the driver of the problem in our state having the highest incarceration rate in the world. Instead it is the following three issues that are truly the driver and failure to address these issues will result in the continuance of our state having the highest incarceration rate in the world, double the national average.
 - Issue One: Local Level - the driver of our prison population. 50% of DOC offenders housed in local jails with 13,000 of 17,000 being discharged from local jails with little to no programs for when they transition.
 - The reduction in the prison population is a reflection on what we are doing through the reentry and day reporting centers, though there is still a lot of room for improvement. We now have transition specialists in twenty-six local jails. We have cut 2,000 positions in state prisons, closed three prisons, and cut one-hundred-eighty million dollars.

- We need to address the per diem rate: with only \$24.39 a day, sheriffs and jails are very limited in the provisions we can provide other than basic care, medical needs and the programming at the reentry centers
 - The new reassessment tool, TIGER, is a big step in that direction: it will assess those coming into the system and create a case plan. Until the plan is complete they will not qualify for additional good time credits and will earn 360 days when they finish the plan.
- Issue Two: Probation and Parole - 55% of our intake is revocation of probation and parole offenders. We need to invest in that part of our criminal justice system. Probation officer's overwhelming amount of cases is difficult to manage in providing success to the offender, though the culture of thinking has begun to change.
- Issue Three: on the other side of this - Education & Poverty is also a driver of the incarceration rate
- The Justice Reinforcement Task Force will address the following additional reforms: Geriatric Parole Performs, Medical Parole Reforms, Habitual Offender Statutes, Sheriff's Housing Per Diem, General Sentencing Reform, Expansion of Programs at the Local Level, Further Investment In Community Based Treatment, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services
 - Geriatric Parole: controversial issues associated with the cost of large group of prisoners with major medical issues that are no longer capable of committing crime and no quality of life vs. the astronomical cost of keeping them imprisoned

Louisiana Prisoner Reentry Initiative (LA-PRI)

- Starting at the local level and working its way to the RAC. RAC will play a major role in sustaining and implement the recommendations of this taskforce.
- Major focus is creating transitional and permanent jobs and discovering affordable housing opportunities.
- Three IST Workgroups at the State and Local Level: developing Three Phase Case Plan to address offender's risks and needs.
 - Phase 1 – Getting Ready
 - Phase 2 – Going Home
 - Phase 3 – Staying Home
- Reform effort structure: Implementation Team → State Level → Re-entry Council → Justice Reinforcement Taskforce (JRI)
- Progress has been made and the prison population is down by about 4700-4800, saving \$40 million dollars annually.

Transitional Work Programs (TWP)

- We have roughly 2,100 – 2,200 offenders in programs now, but with proper implementation could have 4,000-5,000.
- Would be ideal to have everyone, but for now to have as many as we can have leaving the system involved in transitional work programs and to open avenues on the front end on getting them to work rather than sitting in prison.
 - Ex. If the offender qualifies as a first time offender with no major medical issues, with four years or less on his sentence, he can be sent straight to transitional work release programs from the court rather than coming to us and then being transferred into it.
- Chairman Reine would like Mr. Covington to put together the wish lists for TWP's explaining where the activities are happening (certain work release programs or transition centers) to create a better understanding of what the targets are for transitions, the ideal goals and where we stand.
- Mr. Covington recommended adding this to the agenda for the next meeting and mentioned that Reentry is working partnerships with the work force commission and LCTS to revamp vocational training, partnering with apprenticeships pre-release.

Remarks from Deputy Assistant Natalie LaBorde

- Encourages a representative from the RAC to attend the public comment meetings of the JRI Task Force at end of October and November.
- Secretary LeBlanc mentioned the public hearing is online so those interested in viewing, but are unable to attend can log in remotely. <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/home.aspx>
- Ms. LaBorde is going to email Mr. Covington the presentation of high level overview and data presentations of the JRI Task Force for distribution to the RAC members.

Remarks from Assistant Secretary Rhett Covington

Justice Reinvestment Initiative Grant (JRI)

- **Maximizing State Reforms Grants** – a JRI grant out of the Department of Justice that Louisiana received and partnered w/ LSU to create a new state of the art risk needs assessment tool.
- **Targeted Intervention Gaining Enhanced Reentry "TIGER" Update** to replace LA Risk Needs Assessment
 - Mr. Keith Nordyke provides status update as being half-way through the 36 month grant
 - Have already risk assessed 1000 probations and 3500 offenders that will be released within the next 30 days. It is about 133% more accurate than the previous assessment.
 - Now beginning the needs assessment samples to determine the needs and resources needed on the ground to enhance the risk assessment. The needs assessment is now down to 113 questions to populate predictions of the needs of the inmate population.
 - The needs assessment will provide an accurate count of offenders with substance abuse, mental health, GED needs for us to acknowledge where resources are lacking. Additionally the

tool will inform us where they are coming from geographically and whether they are being released from a local or state facility.

- Ideally, this tool would be initiated upon entry into the system and run again at the sentencing phase or prior to discharge to the community. Currently partnering with the 22nd JDC to have up and running in the next couple of months. The next step would be to have something up at the Elayn Hunt Reception and Diagnostic Center (HRDC).
- The new system categorizes more people into low/moderately low and better identifies high risk offenders.
- As it stands now, 17% is to the maximum amount of recidivism reduction we were able to determine from existing DPSC programs for which we have at least a thousand subjects. For example, if inmates took all available programs that we had studied, we should be able to reduce recidivism 17.4% overall.
- The objective tool is currently at 80.05% accuracy providing a better guideline of objective risk of re-offense, analyze the needs of each offender and inform the communities on target capacity of resources needed in an area. If these needs are not addressed once the offender is released into the community, it is likely the offender will return to prison.
- LSU data shows by increasing a person's reading level by four grades recidivism reduces 10%. This data forms the building blocks of the case plans along with additional information based on offender's criminogenic needs, sentencing, and court decisions.
- The key point of the needs tool is to identify the highest risk and treat those first. New tool also addresses which offenders need to be treated first and which program to implement first if the offender has multiple needs.
- Data shows if you utilize resources for the treatment of the moderate to high risk you have a better chance at making a difference with them. With low risk, you may over treat and actually hinder their success by putting them around people of higher risk actually resulting in an increase in recidivism by 10-30%. This also helps target limited resources toward those with the most need and where applying the resources will be most effective.
- If/Then statements were created to determine a hierarchy of treatment to be programmed into the tool during the automation phase that will assign a "prescription bundle".
- The "prescription bundle" will reflect which programs an offender will need and the timeline on which they are to be implemented. The projected target date for the automation is August 15, 2017.

- **Louisiana Prisoner Reentry Initiative**

- Prioritize services with limited resources within the community and within DOC by establishing high risk and needs assessments based on discharge proximity and provide the skills needed to reduce recidivism, build the safety of the community and save the state money in the long term. If open slots remain, we work backwards based on time left to serve before release.
- PRI takes the TIGER'S prescription and creates the initial Reentry Accountability Plan (REAP) that can be passed to parole while in transition to continue previously established plan rather than rebuilding a new plan. If offender returns to prison, the PRI shows what happened,

reassess to determine if needs are the same and then return to or build upon the already initiated case plan.

- These plans can be taken into the community to assess changes the community can make in support and assist them to keep the cycle of recidivism and crime from repeating. Reentry is not a DOC issue, but a community issue based on resources and failures of community support system, home life and education.
- Reentry Advisory Council Structure (see attached)—identifies needs of the criminal justice system and community policy in order for the state to review policy and legislation.
- Local Level Structure (see attached) - local community structure based on the community's needs and how to use the pipeline data to assess those needs and resources.
- Judge Edwards suggests changing the name of the program to Louisiana Corrections Initiative
- Chairman Reine suggested a name change to Louisiana Reentry Initiative.

Remarks from James Logan, Reentry Services Program Manager Mayor's Office, City of New Orleans

Statewide REAL Coalition

- In 2012, the mayor started a murder reduction strategy called "NOLA for Life" to study crime victims and perpetrators in New Orleans. The majority of people affected is of a specific age population and had criminal history. City and local resources are being leveraged to help these groups
- Re-entry Alliance of Louisiana was created with the goal to bring the local reentry coalitions together to start talking to one another about what the statewide issues were from community to community and how to implement solutions. REAL is now focused on training, educational resources and best practices for all the coalitions.
- New Orleans Re-entry Task Force –consists of 60 agencies that work in re-entry in some fashion (workforce, health, substance abuse, housing) that focuses on reentry through prevention, intervention, reinforcement and rehabilitation and bringing people together to provide services and resources within the city.
- City's post-release program targets the high risk population between the ages of 16 and 35 with felony convictions. Right now recidivism is 8% a year with 160 people active in the program.
- Implementation steering team committee's goal is to create a sustainable taskforce that can exist beyond the city and tie directly into the LA-PRI model for providing services for those coming home based on the resources needed.
- Tied to community providers in creating opportunities for reentry returners to continue building a higher skill level through local colleges like Delgado, large scale employers like Oschner, and the labor unions.
- Population participating in the city's reentry efforts is primarily focused on those coming back into Orleans parish and referral from Probation and Parole, transition specialists from the institutions and from word of mouth of those about to come out or have a friend that has recently come out.
- Challenges are not really knowing when people are coming home, what their needs are or what the inside plan was when they come out. Discussed the need for the creating strategic pipeline data with the communities from the front end of release to show capacity issues and aids in outreach.

- The main issues in New Orleans right now are: housing, mental health and transportation and transportation is directly related to housing making it harder for them to get back and forth to jobs.
- In a discussion of opportunities for providing half-way or transitional housing, Dr. Singh informed the council that DOC is working with the Department of Health and Hospitals and Louisiana Housing Corporation to access permanent supportive housing options and to design housing resources for individuals about to be released.
- Mr. Mark Walters discussed opportunities for community providers to attend faith community engagements and build them into the prisoner engagement strategy.

RAC Membership Structure

- Additional memberships were created to better reflect the Justice Reinforcement Task Force as it continues to develop in the amount of programs it offers.
- Secretary LeBlanc discussed the importance of keeping up with those that are appointed to the organization and making sure that we keep track of those in attendance. This council will play a major role, especially in dealing with the legislation and communities as the session approaches.
- Mr. Covington emphasized the importance of finding the role in which members can contribute to the council through ideas, thoughts, recommendations or concerns regarding barriers in our communities hindering the successes of those reentering.
- Mr. Joseph Prejean addressed the importance of motivating offenders to do great things in the community and to change their lives once they have received the treatment they need.
- Mr. Covington agreed in that "relationship trumps process" every time and discussed the top three needs this case plan addresses in aiding the offender to overcome: antisocial thinking and personality antisocial peers, antisocial identity.
- Chairman Reine explained the ultimate responsibility belongs to the individual, but what this council will ensure is that no one lacks the opportunity to better themselves if they so choose to do so.
- Reverend Paul Murray acknowledged the holistic approach he utilizes at Elayn Hunt Correctional Center of beginning reentry as soon as they enter the facility and by encouraging offenders to invest in them by learning a trade and learning to follow the rules associated with jobs rather than to earn "easy money".
- Mr. Chris Newton offered at Angola they also encourage offenders to invest in themselves and to start by getting a job and showing dependability. Angola has lifers who serve as mentors and they encourage others to focus on opportunities of where they are going and not where they have been.

Election of Vice Chairman:

- Chairman Reine opened the floor for nominations of the Vice Chairman position.
- Joseph Ardoin nominated Mike Cazes. No additional nominees were brought to the floor.
- Chairman Reine held a vote and the universal acceptance of Mike Cazes for Vice Chairman was established. Congratulations to Sheriff Mike Cazes on his new position of Vice Chairman!

2016/17 Meeting Schedule

- Schedule change: tentative date for next meeting moved to December 15th.
(1) Sheriff Cazes motions to change the meeting dates to the third week of the month;
(2) Chairman Reine seconds the motion.
- Revised 2017 Meeting Schedule will be provided at the December meeting for review of further schedule conflict or approval discussion.

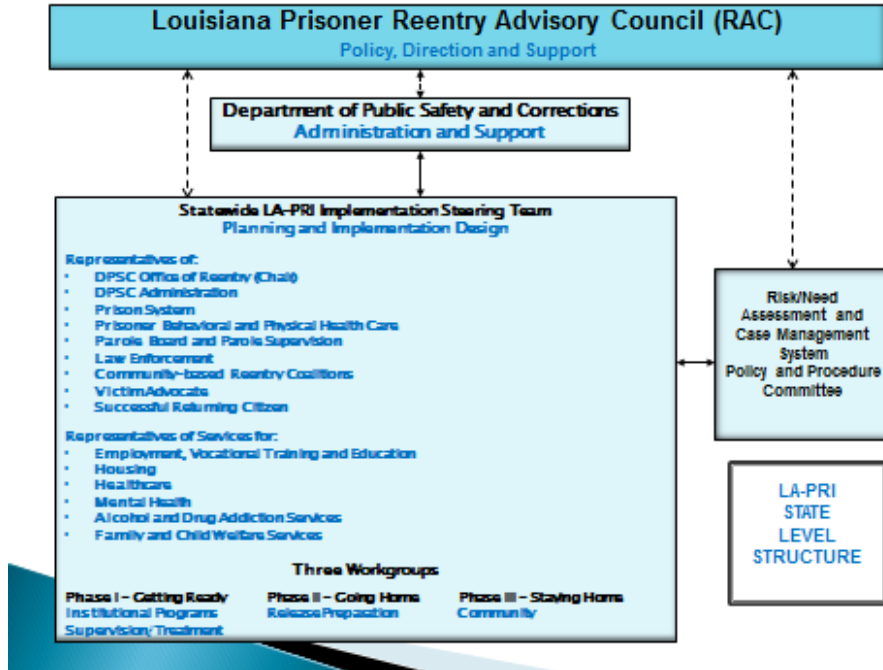
Other Business:

- No new business was announced.
- No members of the public were in attendance for open commentary.

Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m. by Chairman Louis Reine.

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL STRUCTURE



LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL STRUCTURE

