

**REENTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MINUTES
Wednesday, July 31, 2013**

Advisory Council Members Present

Whalen Gibbs, DPS&C Designee
Kim Mattherne, LDFS
Louis Reine, AFL-CIO
Dale Simoneaux, La. Sheriff's Asso.
Greg DeClouet, LWC
Patricia Felder, LCTC
Sue Austin, LDHH
Ernest Stevens, LCTCS

**Advisory Council Members
Not Present**

Alvin Bargas, ABC
Elbert Guillory, Senate
James Landry, LABI
James M. Le Blanc, Secretary

Others Present

Rhett Covington, Office of Reentry
Gretchen McCarstle, Office of Reentry
Tammy Jetson, Office of Reentry

Item # 1: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. at DPS&C Headquarters in Baton Rouge by DPS&C Designee Whalen Gibbs.

Item #2: Approval of the Minutes of the Advisory Council Meeting of March 14, 2013

Mr. Gibbs asked for the approval of the minutes from the meeting of March 14, 2013. Mr. Simoneaux motioned the minutes of the Advisory Council Meeting be approved and the motion was seconded by Mr. DeClouet. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Item #3: Opening Remarks

Designee Gibbs welcomed all the new attendees and informed them of the history and the goals of the council.

Item #4: 2013 Legislation (Attached)

Mr. Gibbs went over significant bills relative to reentry that were passed in 2013 regular legislative session and explained the impact they would have on the DPS&C.

Item #5: LWC Skilled Craft Plan (See attached from the Louisiana Workforce Commission)

Mr. Gibbs indicated that the availability of 86,000 jobs over the next five years presents an excellent opportunity to plug ex-offenders into the workforce. The Council members discussed the shortage of skilled labor in Louisiana and the great need for training programs. Mr. Reine asked about DPS&C training and Mr. Gibbs indicated that the state prisons all have various vocational trades that are made available to the offender population. Additionally, he mentioned the Reentry Court program at Angola wherein offender mentors, who have received certifications in various trades, are used as instructors for those offenders sentenced through the Reentry Courts. (See attached from the Louisiana Workforce Commission)

Item #6: All Crafts Day Event (To be held August 1, 2013)

Mr. Gibbs advised that the Capital Area Reentry Coalition and Baton Rouge Local 198 were having a presentation for career training which is open for all who want to attend. (See attached)

Item #7: Transitional Work Program Update

Mr. Reine asked about the information that he had previously requested regarding success of the various Transitional Work Programs. Mr. Gibbs advised that statistics are being gathered and would be made available when received. Mr. Gibbs advised that the program was being redesigned as far as the screening process and the initial screening was now centralized at Headquarters. Upon receipt of the list of those eligible for consideration the information is reviewed and the names of those who have been approved is then sent to the wardens. The wardens then have the opportunity to express their opinions if for some reason they do not agree with the recommendation. Mr. Reine then reiterated his feelings about offenders being paid the same wage as those working side by side with them. Mr. Gibbs indicated that paying TWP participants scale wages is included in the Employers Transitional Work Program Agreement.

Item #8: Reentry Advisory Council (Update Election of Chair and Co-Chair appointment and reappointment of members)

Mr. Gibbs advised that the Chairman was appointed by the Governor and that Senator Guillory would remain the Chairman. Mr. Reine then nominated Sheriff Cazes for Co-Chairman which was seconded by Mr. Matherne. All were in favor. Mr. Gibbs advised that Dale Leblanc had been nominated to represent The Association of Builders and Contractors and that he would be checking on the others appointments.

Item #9: Sentencing Commission Update

Rhett Covington made a power point presentation (attached). There was a lively discussion regarding the Education Department concerns regarding GED (which is

scheduled to go online January 14, 2014) being computerized and costing a \$120 per offender. Mr. Covington advised that Kim Barnette, DPS&C Education Director is presently working on a new certificate, a High School Equivalency (HSE) to replace the GED which would be accepted the same as the GED. Mr. Reine asked whether it could be used to register for college. Mr. Gibbs indicated that he will check with Director Barnette, but it was his understanding the High School Equivalency would be accepted the same as a GED.

Item #10: Proposed Legislation 2014 (Attached)

Mr. Gibbs discussed the possibility of the Council supporting amending R.S. 15:866.1 which currently provides that "The Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall promulgate rules and regulation to determine which prisoners shall be provided transportation to their residence upon release from prison. No inmate, otherwise eligible, shall be provided transportation to a residence outside of the state of Louisiana." He indicated that based on our Department's Legal interpretation that the Department cannot pay the cost of a bus ticket or any other means of transportation for offenders who are releasing to an out of state residence. Such offenders must depend on donation from inmate clubs and organizations, a faith-based organization, and staff members when they do not have the monetary support from family to return to a residence out of state.

Item #11: Transaction of such other business that may properly come before the Council

Mr. Reine asked about the status of the project by Tulane and Mr. Covington advised that they were working on the grant application.

Mr. Reine made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and it was seconded by Mr. Simoneaux and passed by the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 a. m.

**REENTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
MEETING**

**NOTICE OF AND AGENDA FOR
A MEETING OF THE REENTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2013
9:30 O'CLOCK A.M.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Reentry Advisory Council and Workforce Development meeting will be held Wednesday, July 31, 2013, at 9:30 A.M., at the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, **Conference Room A**, located at 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

AGENDA

- Item 1:** Call to order.
- Item 2:** Approval of the Minutes of the Advisory Council Meeting of March 14, 2013.
- Item 3:** Opening Remarks
- Item 4:** 2013 Legislation (Summary)
- Item 5:** LWC Skilled Craft Plan
- Item 6:** All Crafts Day Event (August 1, 2013)
- Item 7:** Transitional Work Program Update
- Item 8:** Reentry Advisory Council (updates Election of Chair and Co-Chair, Appointment and reappointment of members)
- Item 9:** Sentencing Commission Update
- Item: 10** Proposed Legislation 2014
- Item 11:** Transaction of such other business that may properly come before the Council.

866.1. Transportation for released prisoners

The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall promulgate rules and regulations to determine which prisoners shall be provided transportation to their residence upon release from prison. No inmate, otherwise eligible, shall be provided transportation to a residence outside of the state of Louisiana.

Acts 1978, No. 575, §2; Acts 1988, No. 378, §1.

§866. Payment to released prisoners

The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall promulgate rules and regulations to determine which prisoners are eligible upon release from prison to receive a temporary maintenance payment not to exceed the sum of twenty dollars. Payments shall be made from a source determined by the secretary.

Acts 1988, No. 377, §1.



PRESENTS



Baton Rouge Local 198

All Crafts Day!!

Apprenticeship Programs:

- Welders.
- Carpenters.
- Metal Workers.
- Millwrights.
- Electricians.
- Heating and Air.
- Plumbers.

August 1st, 2013
10AM to 2PM
Baton Rouge Local 198
5888 Airline Highway

The bureau of Labor Statics predicts that of the top ten largest metro areas in the US will show the greatest job growth by 2020, Baton Rouge is 7th! One of those fastest growing industries is construction! You can be a part of that growth! You need to get trained to start your career now!



GED Required!

Free Hamburgers and Hot dogs!!

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Welcome to Boards And Commissions Online

During the 2009 legislative session Governor Jindal signed Act 12 which provides additional accountability and transparency for Louisiana's regulatory boards and commissions. The act directs the Commissioner of Administration to "establish and maintain a website to post the information designated" by the act.

The Division has developed an online system for boards and commission to enter the information required by Act 12. Information is provided on each regulatory boards and commissions' statutory authorization, contact information, member information, employee information, financial and budget information and the rules, regulations and procedures of the board. Meeting notices and minutes will also be posted as they become available throughout the year.

Most boards and commissions do not submit budgets to the Division of Administration. The budget information posted here is supplied by each board.

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LOUISIANA

COMMISSION

Craft Task Force Report Overview

With \$60 billion of plant expansions and new plants announced in Louisiana – and the very real prospect of more projects on the way – Louisiana faces an industry demand for more than 86,000 new crafts workers through 2016.

Louisiana must implement an accelerated program of craft workforce education and training so that these high-paying jobs – \$15 to \$33 / hour or more – go to Louisiana residents. *If we fail to train Louisiana workers to fill the jobs that these new plants and plant expansions will create, then we risk the positive economic impact of these investments flowing out of state rather than to Louisiana communities and residents.*

Complete skills training will be required for high school graduates, under-employed Louisiana workers and high school dropouts who have no construction experience.

Less training will be required for unemployed (or under-employed) craft workers, long-term unemployed who have construction in their backgrounds, workers in occupations that require similar skills, and many veterans leaving the armed services from the Fort Polk, Barksdale and Belle Chase military bases.

Perhaps most importantly, employers will need to encourage their existing entry-level and helper workforce to pursue advanced training so that Louisiana can close a critical gap in more experienced journeymen workers.

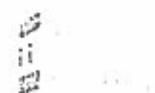
This report provides the details of how a multi-agency team – LWC, LCTCS, LED, LDOE, BOR and private organizations, including Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) and the AFL-CIO – has identified training resources and innovative new training methods that can help Louisiana meet the challenge of preparing Louisiana residents to fill these high-wage jobs.

To successfully prepare Louisiana residents to fill the high-wage crafts jobs that will be created by these unprecedented capital expansions, Louisiana must implement the attached plan, and various stakeholder entities must consider the following critical action steps:

- WIC and LWC
 - Oversee plan and implement tracking and reporting mechanisms
 - WIC must re-emphasize the importance of career and technical education in high schools
- Governor and Legislature
 - Add craft training for additional funding in the 2014-15 State budget and beyond

- Louisiana Office of Student Financial Aid
 - Continue to enhance LA Connect to provide a user-friendly experience with connections to Louisiana Star Jobs
- Department of Education
 - Prioritize Carl Perkins funding specifically to include craft training
 - Continue to drive development and adoption of enhanced career track diploma
 - Catalyze the continued adoption of Louisiana Connect
 - Ensure career coaching is provided to all middle and high school students
- Congressional delegation
 - Enact changes in law, specifically related to Pell Grants, to enable greater flexibility to respond to state and local needs
- Plant owners, contractors and their associations
 - Drive training of existing workforce: helpers to journeymen
 - Work to drive down high attrition rates
 - Maintain or enhance existing levels of funding for craft training
 - Post all jobs with LWC in HiRE/Star Jobs
 - Ramp up outreach to high school students in person and in Louisiana Connect
- LCTCS
 - Continue momentum at campus level to ensure LCTCS meets the demand for quality training to industry specifications by prioritizing funding and leveraging training capacity at ABC, high schools and unions
- Schools and school boards
 - Make NCCER or the equivalent training available to every Louisiana high school student through alliances with LCTCS campuses and other training organizations
 - Provide career coaching to all middle and high school students, from staff or through partnerships with Career Compass or similar entities, to make students aware of high-wage, high-demand career opportunities and pathways to success
 - Ensure full use of Louisiana Connect to expose students to employers, colleges, education and training, and financial aid
- Local elected officials
 - Work with Workforce Investment Boards and other stakeholders to ensure alignment with the needs of your parishes
 - Grow local employment by engaging business and industry in Star Jobs and LA Connect to recruit, train, and hire local residents

As Louisiana decision-makers review the projections and recommendations of this report, we hope they start to formulate the practical steps (and budgetary allocations) we need to make in order to *make sure* that the economic benefit of the \$60 billion in plant investment stays in Louisiana to build long-term prosperity for our workers, our communities and our state.



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HB 572 – Wesley Bishop

Abstract: Establishes the Fatherhood First Initiative.

Present law establishes a program to be known as the "Fatherhood Initiative" to promote the positive involvement and interaction of fathers with their children with an emphasis on children eligible or formerly eligible for services funded by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant.

Proposed law retains present law but renames the program to the "Fatherhood First Initiative".

HCR 48 – Rep. Pat Smith

Requests the Louisiana Secretary of State, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, the Louisiana Commissioner of Elections, the Louisiana Registrar of Voters Association and the secretary of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to meet and develop reasonable, practical solutions that allow pretrial inmates who are held in parish prisons the ability to exercise their right to vote, including possibly a special program for voting by incarcerated persons similar to the program for disabled voters residing in nursing homes, and to report their findings and recommendations to the legislature prior to the 2014 R.S.

HCR -111 – Rep. Patrick Jefferson –

Requests the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to study the feasibility and cost effectiveness of transferring elderly and infirm inmates to nursing home facilities and to report its findings to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2014 R.S.

SB 8 – Sen. Gallot

CRIME/PUNISHMENT: Authorizes sheriffs to use prisoners for manual labor upon churches and other religious buildings. (gov sig)

SB 52- Sen. Lopinto

Abstract: Provides relative to Contraband in Penal Institutions

Present law provides that whoever violates any provision of present law relative to Contraband in penal institutions is to be fined not less than \$250 nor more than \$2,000 and imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than five years.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that, notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, whoever introduces the contraband of a controlled dangerous substance, as defined in proposed law, upon the grounds of any state correctional institution, or any municipal or parish prison or jail, is to be punished in accordance with the penalties for the distribution of the controlled dangerous substance provided in present law relative to controlled dangerous substances.

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Reentry & Evidence Based Programs Committee Louisiana Sentencing Commission

Presented by: **Rhett Covington,**
Deputy Assistant Secretary

July 18, 2013

Committee Working Groups

- ◆ Team 1: Workforce Development
 - Formerly Transitional Work Program Team
 - Leads: Asst. Sec. Whalen Gibbs and Sheriff Mike Cazes
- ◆ Team 2: Substance Abuse Treatment Options
 - Lead: Rob Reardon, Lafayette Sheriff's Office
- ◆ Team 3: Education
 - Lead: Kim Barnette, Education Director
- ◆ Team 4: Housing
 - Lead: Randy Nichols, CAH Director
- ◆ Team 5: Social Supports
 - Leads: James Windom and Elaine Ellerbe

Team 1: Workforce Development

1. Transition Work Programs as an option at sentencing for the court and as an option for the District Attorney through sentencing or as part of a diversion.
 - R.S. 15:711 authorizes any sheriff, or the superintendent of the correctional facility to establish and administer a work release program for offenders of any jail or prison under his jurisdiction.
 - Lafayette Parish and West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Offices currently have parish jail and/or diversion type programs in place
 - Clear policy and procedure needs to be in place for current and future programs
 - Legislation may need to be updated if non-sheriff operated programs are to be allowed to operate a diversion transitional work program

Team 1: Workforce Development

2. Improving the ability of the current TWP to move clients to where the jobs are and their specific skills are needed.
 3. Develop mechanisms that will assist clients in keeping their jobs when they are paroled or released through other means.
 4. Coordinating TWP participation with available job training programs
- ◆ The DPS&C has established internal policy and procedure to address these issues and continues to monitor and improve the process in collaboration with TWP programs

Team 1: Workforce Development

5. Examining best practices for TWP and how they might apply in Louisiana
 6. Outcome study- how are programs currently working, are they successful?
 7. The need to make certain that eligible deserving offenders have the opportunity to participate in the TWP regardless as to where they are incarcerated.
 8. Expansion of work release beds, we need to make certain that additional beds that come online are in the right location (i.e., more beds needed in the SE region of Orleans and Jefferson parishes).
- ◆ These issues still need more discussion with the team and DPS&C

Team 2: Substance Abuse Treatment Options

1. What works in Drug Treatment?
 2. Review financing structures for DHH relative to substance abuse programs to determine various systems in place.
 3. Review and or set-up guide line criteria for approval of substance abuse service providers that the DPS&C will allow for good time credit.
 4. Suggest legislation that would provide for funding for services on a local level.
 5. Review the Department of Corrections' plan for providing substance abuse treatment in adult facilities. This would include designated beds for the treatment of substance abuse in the adult facilities as well as selected parish facilities. What might such items include?
- ◆ See handout "What Works in Drug Treatment"

Team 3: Education

1. Relationship between educational levels and adult / juvenile criminality.
2. Relationship between success in school (academic) and eventual involvement in the adult or juvenile or justice systems.
3. Relationship between disciplinary issues and how handled by school with subsequent involvement in the adult or juvenile justice system.
4. Review the implications of the findings developed in exploring items 1-3 for the juvenile justice and educational systems and make recommendations to the appropriate agencies and/or governing bodies

Team 3: Education

5. Review the effectiveness and availability/accessibility of educational programming of adult inmates in the prevention of recidivism and success under supervision.
6. Review the effectiveness and availability/accessibility of educational programming of adults under supervision in the prevention of recidivism and success under supervision.
7. Review the implications of the finding developed in exploring items 4-6 above for the structure, availability and access to such programming for persons under the jurisdictional custody of the Louisiana Department of Corrections
8. Examine best practices in the utilization of educational programming both academic and vocational, in the prevention of recidivism and success on supervision and how they might be applied in Louisiana

◆ See Handout summarizing Dr. Guin (LSU) study to date

Team 3: Education

9. Assess the impact of the high cost of computerized GEDs, per the 2014 mandate by GEDTS
 10. Examine the possibility and impact of processing offenders who qualify for Vocational Rehabilitation
 11. Examine the impact of 2012 HCR95 (alternative diploma or certification to the GED).
- ◆ Team members are following these issues and advocating for a GED alternative

Team 4: Housing

1. Examine current state and local barriers and restrictions to housing faced by reentering offenders and suggest policy and/or legislative changes to reduce or eliminate them if not directly impacting community safety.
2. Identify housing options, especially with regard to halfway house or transitional housing for releasing offenders. Are there models in place in the state or nationally that we could replicate? How are they funded?
3. Attempt to link with LIACH and assist in completion of the strategic plan for the state with regard to housing
4. Identify housing options and possible funding models for special needs populations, such as the mentally ill, and hard to place populations, such as sex offenders

Team 4: Housing

5. Identify partners (e.g. Homeless Continuums of Care) who share the mission of housing homeless clients.
 6. Promote the development of Affordable Housing encouraging housing for reentry clients.
 7. Educate landlords and property managers about the needs and successes of reentry clients advocating for the acceptance of reentry applicants particularly if they are working with a parole officer or supportive services provider.
 8. Educate landlords, property managers, and the public about the different levels and corresponding limitations for housing related to Sex Offenders, Registered Sex Offenders, and Lifetime Sex Offenders.
- ◆ Louisiana Policy Academy through the LIACH is developing a strategic plan and organizing the stakeholders and resources to minimize homelessness.

Team 5: Social Supports

1. Review mentoring programs and provide a list of best practice program curricula for the DPS&C and the Reentry Advisory Council, as well as examples of such programs that are in operation and contact information for the program. Recommend guidelines for certifying mentoring training and mentoring programs.
- ◆ Mentoring programs have been reviewed and a list is being constructed. Example policy for use of these programs in correctional settings has been identified. The DPS&C is currently reviewing to update its policy in this area.

Team 5: Social Supports

1. Research the use of ex-offender support groups in assisting offenders after release to identify best practices, training for facilitators and/or peer support persons involved with the group. Provide best practices for use with community organizations that want to become involved in facilitating such groups.
- ◆ The team is still working on this, but has identified at least two such groups in place in the state (Baton Rouge and Monroe).
2. Identify any legislation needed to support the development of mentoring and/or ex-offender support group programs around the state. Are there any legal protections or other incentives that need to be addressed to foster such programs in the community?
- ◆ The team is still working on this issue.

Team 6: Reentry Court

- ◆ The Committee has identified a need to establish a working group comprised of Reentry Court stakeholders to review and revise this program in an on-going basis in light of recent expansions to new jurisdictions. This will assist in creating consistency and prioritization of resources. Working group membership will be drawn from each court with such a program and DPS&C staff as appropriate.