



Governor's Re-entry Council

Meeting Summary November 20, 2013

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST)
Hall of Heroes
4190 Aumsville Highway
Salem, OR 97317

CHAIR: Colette S. Peters

NOTE TAKER: Kelli Ketchum

ATTENDEES: Colette S. Peters, Mark Royal, Dick Withnell, Patrice Altenhofen, Rod Underhill, Heidi Moawad, Lisa Nisenfeld, Greg Hamann, Sandy Dugan for Erinn Kelley-Siel, Margaret Van Vliet, Tim Moore for Dan Staton, Jerry Moore, Seantel Heisel for Fariborz Pakseresht, Bronson James, Paul Solomon, Rep. Kevin Cameron, Tom McClellan, Kim Brockamp; Cindy Booth,

OBSERVERS: Marie Garcia, Dale Primmer, Matt Meier, Patrick Vance, Pegge McGuire, Kevin Grant

1. Approval of Meeting Summary

DISCUSSION:	No comments to the minutes, no objections
ACTION:	The council approved the meeting summary for September 12, 2013
ATTACHMENTS:	 091213GovernorCouncilMeetingMinutes.pr

2. Past Accomplishments/Present Status/Future Direction of the Council PowerPoint

DISCUSSION:	Cindy Booth reviewed the Re-Entry Council Progress Report PowerPoint designed to provide members (many of whom are new) an overview of how and when the council was established, as well as progress made on those re-entry focus areas the council first identified:
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- Housing
- Employment and Education
- Continuity of Care (physical and mental health)
- Transition Service (One-Stop) Centers

Discussions around the major accomplishments confirmed focus areas for which the newly-forming implementation teams will be responsible:

- Aging Populations
- Business Community
- Education
- Family and Community Connections/Engagement
- Juvenile Re-entry
- Sex Offender Level System (HB 2549 from 2013 session)
- Veterans

These teams will be led by council member agencies, and subject matter experts representing other agencies and organizations, as well as individuals, will be asked to serve.

Dick Withnell asked what baseline measures have been established and Director Peters explained this is where the council has struggled in the past, so each team will be responsible to develop processes that measure improvements across partner agencies as they relate to re-entry concerns. Representative Cameron stated he believes the baseline for the council is the recidivism rate and these are strategic objectives to measure the baseline/recidivism.

Heidi Moawad asked for clarification on what definition of recidivism the implementation teams will use. Director Peters stated DOC continues to measure recidivism as has traditionally been done through the years – to continue to track that trend – and will also track and report using the recidivism measures outlined in HB 3194. All definitions of recidivism will be used by the implementation teams.

Paul Solomon reminded the council that some work the implementation teams will move forward is already being tracked including the Valid With Previous Photo, Social Security Replacement Card applications, etc.

Mr. Solomon also commented that the Transition Service (One-Stop) Centers were the idea of former council member Ross Shepard who recently passed away. Mr. Shepard played an integral role in the Byrne Grant funding for Lane County and spearheaded the work group convened to develop the Transition Services Centers. Recently, Sponsors renamed their resource center the “Ross Shepard Reentry Resource Center.” Link to article from Sponsors, Inc., November 2013 Newsletter: [Saying Goodbye to Former Public Defender Ross](#)

	Shepard - Sponsors Inc
	None
ATTACHMENTS:	 11-20-13 Progress Report.pdf

3. Discussion / Suggestions for Change; Approval to Move Forward

DISCUSSION:	<p>Director Peters drew attention to the seven Implementation Team focus areas and asked for council agreement to move these forward.</p> <p>Members asked that prior work group efforts around housing and employment not fade or get overlooked in the implementation work, and Margaret VanVliet suggested a housing representative participate on each Implementation Team. Members agreed so housing, employment and other re-entry stabilization efforts will be incorporated into each Team’s charge.</p> <p>Chief Moore asked how many person released from prison are homeless, and asked whether the Mission is considered to be viable housing. Cindy Booth stated that, on average, close to 50% do not have viable housing at release. Matt Meier with Marion County stated the Mission is considered housing for release purposes. Mark Royal explained that services vary from county to county and confirmed that around 50% come to the county with no housing. Community Corrections is then able to talk with them and identify other options. Umatilla County requires persons check in daily to report what they have done that day to obtain housing on their own. Some counties find persons are more willing to identify housing options after they are released from prison even though they are required to provide several housing options as part of release planning.</p> <p>Director Peters suggested these issues might improve should DOC make improvements to in-person and video reach-in capabilities which the department is working on. Members discussed how post-release housing is tracked in the DOC400 and that Community Corrections agencies specifically report data for the first 180 days post release. Representative Cameron asked if there is a correlation between a pre-release reach-in and post-release housing. Kim Brockamp reminded the group of DOC’s CORE process and how we will be looking at the system and educating staff and PO’s on how to track reach-ins, housing, and other re-entry supports. Bronson James brought up the fact that having an address is good, however we need to keep an eye on how many addresses they have in that timeframe and for how long they stay at an address – indicators of stability.</p>
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Margaret VanVliet mentioned the certificates of relief and rehabilitation process that Pegge McGuire brought up at the Re-Entry Housing Conference held in September 2013. The certificates concept is designed to help landlords identify those persons who have made positive changes since release from prison so landlords would be more willing to take a chance on persons transitioning from prison. Representative Cameron stated we would likely see a lot more employers willing to take more risks and hire someone if these certificates were in place. Cindy Booth mentioned the Employment Department is working to clear the backlog of Work Opportunity Tax Credits (WOTC's) and the Governor's Closing the Employment Gap (CEG) initiative is developing an employer education campaign to help employers benefit from hiring those releasing from prison, Veterans, and persons receiving TANF.

Paul Solomon asked whether DOC is using criminogenic assessments to determine who to serve and to ensure enough of the right resources. Dick Withnell asked for an economic analysis to ensure we are measuring what needs to be measured.

Director Peters provided a recap of discussions concerning the Implementation Teams:

- The Council agreed on the focus areas for the seven Implementation Teams and agreed to include housing and employment concerns into the work of each team.
- Teams will establish baseline measures for all focus areas.
- For each focus area, a cost/benefit analysis will be developed.
- In addition, the department will develop a process to review housing at release against those who have a 'reach-in' during release planning.
- A Council member will be asked to lead and guide an Implementation Team, invite subject matter experts from the former Steering Committee, etc.
- DOC will have a content expert on each team.
- Legislative issue identified by any Implementation Team will be brought to the Council's attention for review, consideration and vote of action.

Rod Underhill suggested victims and restitution should also be addressed. This includes providing employment while incarcerated to pay on child support, court fees, fines and victim restitution -- accountability as to these issues remain after release. However, not everyone will be getting a job after release; some have retirement, others are not well enough to be employed, etc. Mr. Underhill suggested embedding 'self-sufficiency' into each Implementation Team's charge and council members agreed.

A suggestion was also made to create a reentry savings account while incarcerated so people have a better start when they are released, and they would be in a better position to pay fees and fines owed to courts once released. The department has an “Inmate Reentry Savings Account” (IRSA) project for persons housed at the Powder River Correctional Facility (PRCF) in Baker. This facility has long served as a releasing facility for male inmates who participate in a residential alcohol and drug treatment program the last six months of incarceration. The department has long planned to take the IRSA process statewide once a computer system is in place that can handle the process (which is currently a manual accounting process).

Implementation Team Specifics:

- Aging Population: Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is the lead agency and the Department of Human Services (DHS) is supporter. Focus on the Affordable Care Act (Medicaid Expansion), develop cross-jurisdictional processes and supports. Establish baselines and targets.
- Business Community: Dick Withnell is lead; Representative Cameron is supporter. Director Peters discussed how it varies across the state; some prisons have a large Prison Advisory Committee (PAC) while the PAC for others has been dissolved. We need to breathe life into the PACs and establish an outcome they will focus on – be it housing or employment, etc.
- Education: Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) is the lead. Research has shown that the higher the education level achieved, the lower the recidivism rate. This impacts adult and youth corrections education and work efforts. The Implementation Teams need to engage Inside/Out, OSU, PSU, UofO and Willamette University.
- Family and Community Connections/Engagement: The DHS is the lead; Family Building Blocks is supporter. This Implementation Team is to focus on both in-custody and in-community engagement to positively impact on recidivism. A recent study showed that 59% of Oregon adults in custody were not receiving visits while inside. Receiving visits while in custody and maintaining those connections when in the community each have their own sets of issues. Heidi Moawad suggested connecting with the Early Learning Council that the Governor’s office is involved with.
- Juvenile Reentry: OYA is the lead agency. This is a broad category involving state and county agencies, so the team will be asked to determine and develop their team’s mission.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sex Offender Level System: Board Parole and Post-Prison Supervision (BOPPPS) is the lead agency. The Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD), Oregon Defense Attorney’s Association (ODAA) and Sponsors, Inc., would like a representative on Team. ▪ Veterans: Department of Veteran’s Affairs is lead agency; Sponsors, Inc., is supporter. The Implementation Team will focus on housing, employment and other supports that lead to self-sufficiency. <p>Members are asked to check assignments with their staff and email Cindy Booth by December 15th the names of those assigned to each team. A January 2014 meeting with team leads will be scheduled where team assignments and meeting schedules will be discussed.</p>
ACTION:	Schedule a January 2014 meeting for team leads.
ATTACHMENTS:	

4. Good of the Order

DISCUSSION:	<p>Pegge McGuire provided an overview of the Reentry Housing Conference held on September, 19, 2013. Dick Withnell and Patrice Altenhofen gave feedback on their take aways from the event.</p> <p>Recap of HB3194 impacts: Director Peters gave an update stating is normally a slower intake season for DOC; however we are having more intakes and fewer releases so our prison population is higher than the forecast.</p>
ACTION:	None
ATTACHMENTS:	None
NEXT MEETING:	<p>Date: March 5, 2014 Time: 2:30 to 4:30 PM Location: DPSST, Hall of Heroes 4190 Aumsville Highway Salem, OR 97317</p>
FUTURE MEETINGS - AGENDA ITEMS:	<p>January 2014: “Implementation Team leads” meet to review team assignments, team membership rosters, and any data for subject categories</p> <p>March 5, 2014: Reentry Council meeting (all members) to hear reports from each Implementation Team Lead/Sponsor on their team’s work, direction, etc. The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) is invited to present on the Re-investment Grants authorized by HB 3194 (2013).</p>