



## JJPOC Re-Entry Subgroup Meeting

AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2022

1:00 PM- 2:00 PM

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

**THIS MEETING DOES NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES**

### Meeting Summary:

#### 1. Identify Additional co-chair

- Martha Stone from CCA will be one chair of this group, if anyone else is interested in being a chair email Brittany LaMarr and Marth Stone

#### 2. Follow up on DOC & SSD discharge and/or re-entry policies and procedures

- There is one reentry counselor for every facility, they are now at county jails as well, these counselors work with the community, discharge planners, and re-entry staff
- Discharge planners work with the higher need populations that are being released
- There is a DCF discharge liaison at each facility, this is the liaison that works with DCF youth, it was suggested that a DCF liaison could be included in one of these meetings
- DOC relies heavily on their community resources, and they participate in re-entry round tables to learn about new programs that can be provided to individuals being released
- DOC has a discharge check list, which is run by a CN 9305 form, it is filled out 60 days before release, it helps to figure out what services the person needs, ID procurement, transportation, and more
- DOC has created a relationship with the DMV, they come into the facilities and issue identification documents to the individuals in need of them
- There are services that help them to receive prescriptions at local pharmacies at no charge when they are released, and DOC works with 211 to find housing
- DOC closes all accounts like the inmate trust fund, and works to match people to programs to help them find employment post-release
- All this is documented by directive on the CN 9305 form, individuals can choose to waive these services as it is all a voluntary process



- DOC uses the same policies for youth and adults, re-entry counselors are specialized depending on facility they are at, so at MYI they are more familiar with youth
- It was asked if the DCF liaison are employed by DOC or DCF, it was clarified that they are employed by DCF, the group would like to see the job description for this position
- There are 3 DCF liaisons, there is an MOU in place, and each liaison has an office on site, one liaison is specifically for the youth at MYI, the others work at multiple facilities
- It was asked if all these re-entry staff connected, is there a team that comes together to discuss the process, there is collaboration between these entities to get the service that people may need, they do not all work together when communicating with the client, mainly behind the scenes
- It was suggested that a chart of the CSSD and DOC re-entry processes could be created, the group agreed that this would give clarity
- A lot of the information mentioned in this meeting is focused on adults, maybe the recommendations this group makes could focus on unifying practices for youth to create a smoother transition
- It is clear from this conversation that many of these pieces are not connected, some were wondering why education seems to be missing, and why school districts are not included in these conversations
- Over the last year DOC added a program called know your rights, it was a two-day program that, provided information about youths rights when returning to their communities
- Currently DOC is working to create a program to connect people to work, creating training so that when they are released getting a job will be easier
- There is also an OPP liaison that works with the 16-25 populations, assess what the youth have interests in, and help building resumes, this makes youth more inclined to use this service after
- There was a question about how family is engaged during the discharge process, is this done, this is done through the DCF liaison, some were wondering if this is for youth who are not DCF involved
- A large portion of youth are DCF involved, even for those who are not, DOC works to bring every entity to the table to include the family to discuss transition
- Right now, DOC is working with a workgroup on writing some youth specific policies that cover things like education, and mental health during re-entry
- Re-entry planning includes re-entry counselors, administration, family, the youth, custody and treatment staff, a snapshot of every part of the process is there to help with the transition to back to society



- Families are engaged by the re-entry counselor to address ID Issues, housing, and the transition back into the community
- There are family meetings, covid interfered with this, but before DOC tried to meet with family members regularly to go over needs, challenges, and successes that the youth had
- Some of the re-entry challenges that come with youth is that their age restricts what resources they can access
- Letting young people have a voice is important in this process, DOC offered to bring some young people to this committee so they can share what the barriers and challenges there are for re-entry, the group thinks this would be great

### **3. Discuss youth re-entry feedback from CSSD**

- There is data from 2020-2021, then any data entered through 2022, there were 93 youth that agreed to participate in this survey
- This data was sent out to the group prior to this meeting
- There were 78 questions asking about how prepared they feel to enter back into the community, how important well-being and community activities are, do they feel they learned something while in the regions program, were they apart of their treatment plan, and more
- All regions programs participate in this survey
- Questions 27 and 28 where youth say they need more information or more help during re-entry stood out, this is something that could be looked into
- The next information that was asked for by this group was the focus group data, there were 4 regions programs that convened groups
- In the focus groups there were questions asking about needs, barriers, and gaps in services, the responses were provided to this group prior to this meeting
- Discuss CSSD re-entry survey results
  - Some challenges that the youth face is going back to their community, not being surrounded by positive friends, wanting a job, wanting to feel prepared, and being in need of positive community support
  - Many expressed that they felt their life was on hold while in regions, being away from their communities is hard
  - Many are really need of positive influences, they feel that they are obligated to help families which adds pressure, many want and need assistance
  - It was stressed by many of the youth that they would like to have job skills before being released
  - Gaps in services included things like needing an ID, and re-engagement with school, especially in summer



- It was asked if in the survey the young people are able to disclose what types of job training, they wanted, that is not on the survey but when youth enter the regions program, they fill out an interest inventory which helps identify what career interests they may have
- DOC is currently working on a vocational training, at MYI their re-entry counselor works with the young men to prepare them to go to job interviews, feel that job training is important, it can help to take a load off during re-entry
- There is an OJDP document that CSSD has reworked for the regions program, it's a workbook that staff do with youth, to build up support team, and deciding what needs to be done during re-entry, this document can be shared with the group
- It was asked if DOC could expand the time frame of their job training so that all youth who are released can participate, the group agreed with this idea
- There seemed to be a trend of youth not wanting to go back to their community, if was wonder if anyone has any suggestions about how to tackle this challenge
- Some at DOC visited a facility in Maine with a great program, there were halfway house for youth, the youth still get all the same resources they got in the facility, they were able to do things that would prepare them to go back into the community like getting jobs and saving up money, maybe this is something that could be looked into
- In Maine, the school system has to be linked to youth when they are in the system, this helps improve engagement
- There are close to home facilities in New York that operate like halfway houses, these could also be a helpful resource
- A work program was started for the adult population, this could be explored for youth T
- CSSD has an RFP out for a transitional living program, potentially more information could be shared on this

#### **4. Next Steps**

- There will be a regular meeting schedule created for this group