**Reentry Advisory Committee (RAC)**

1st Quarter 2022 Meeting Minutes

In person/Zoom

Thursday, February 23, 2023

**Call to Order**

* Meeting called to order by Assistant Secretary, Rhett Covington at 9:37 am.

**Roll Call**

* Chelsea Jones, Reentry Program Consultant- DPS&C
* 9 members out of 21 were physically present. No Quorum achieved.

**Welcome & Introductions, Rhett Covington, Assistant Secretary**

* Rhett Covington welcomed everyone to the meeting.
* Members were reminded that in order to be counted as present to participate in voting and for quorum purposes, they must be present in person for the meeting.

**Opening Remarks, Deputy Secretary Malcolm Myers**

* Thanked everyone for participating the meeting.

**Reentry 2030 Presentation: Nicole Jarett, Council of State Governments (CSG)**

* This presentation discussed the Reentry 2030 Initiative to scale up access to education skill training, behavior health treatment, and stable housing for successful reintegration. Also, to clear away barriers to opportunities and advancing racial equity by reducing disparities, recidivism, and reintegration outcomes.

**DPS&C and RAC role:**

* Set bold goals regarding reentry success and how outcomes are measured.
* Collaborate with partner stakeholders to overcome barriers and identify ways to measure success
* Set performance measures with partners to measure outcomes such as post-release housing, employment, and access to services. For example, how can we determine the percentage of those released are in stable housing 6 months after release.
* CSG is seeking funding for federal agencies to assist providing resources to the Reentry community.

**Pell Advisory Group Presentation: Muriel Leewright, DPS&C**

* The department created the Pell Advisory Committee and nominations were sent out on February1, 2023, and they were due on February 17, 2023. Nominations are being reviewed, and the first meeting will be held on February 9, 2023. During the meeting, the committee will go over the proposed MOU for Pell 2023 to make ensure it has the language needed provide quality programs.
* Also during the meeting, there will be a review of the application for institutions to apply for a PEP for the education program, the application formal letter, and mapping of our programming state to ensure that we are putting programs in the areas they are needed. That way when participants release, they can get a job, and we can enroll enough students into the program and not over saturating one area with programs.

**Return for Good 2023 Campaign: Jessica Byrd, DPS&C**

* + The Clothing Drive collected over 10,000 clothing items (which included clothing, hygiene kits, 600 laundry kits, backpacks, and hand sanitizer).
  + Partnered with the Board of Regents to assist with a Prom Dress Drive in St. Helena Parish.
  + Participated in Financial Aid Awareness Month, where LCIW December graduation was highlighted.
  + The focus of the campaign is shifting to focus on education and job opportunities for the Second Chance population.
  + Return for Good Forum will be held on March 30, 2023 at LSU Health and Sciences Center in New Orleans.
  + 20 plus job and resource fairs scheduled across the state as a part of the Return for Good Campaign. Information shared for participation/attendance.

**United Us Implementation Update: Renee Delouche, DPS&C**

* Unite Us is a platform that is used to connect probation or a pre-parolee in need of services with does services in the community. Can join the platform and identify the person’s needs they can address and work directly with the person in need.
  + The issues that we are having is some of the rural areas do not have any providers.
* Louisiana United Way 211 is acting as case management “backup”. Their case managers can work with those not connected to resources to identify needs and try to find the resources. 211 also works to bring the resources and providers to the areas in need.
* Unite Us allows tracking of met and unmet needs to inform reentry coalitions and LA-PRI committees.
  + 160 additional licenses have been funded to allow Probation and Parole districts in some of the Tier 1 parishes to join the platform.

**New Beginnings Grant Update: Robert Vehock, DPS&C**

* They are 106 clients enrolled. The target numbers 110, but they are beginning to slow down intakes because the grant to schedule to end September 30, 2023.
* There is a 3 month close out period. They currently have 27 pre-release and 18 post release that are active.
* The DPS&C is committed to transitioning the project from a Grant funded initiative to a State funded initiative.

**Grant Presentation- Robert Vehock, DPS&C**

* Robert gave a brief overview of various federal grants that are available related to assisting with reentering person.
* Robert mentioned he would email a copy of the powerpoint presentation to those who attended the meeting.

**Other Business**

* None

**Public Comments- Deputy Secretary Malcolm Myers**

* He stressed the importance of the board participant in the RAC Meetings.

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

**Next Meeting: TBA**

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:50am by Assistant Secretary Rhett Covington**

* Motion by Chaplain Paul Murray
* Second by Francis Abbott