**Reentry Advisory Committee (RAC)**

4th Quarter 2022 Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom

Thursday, November 17, 2022

**Call to Order**

* Meeting called to order by Assistant Secretary, Rhett Covington at 9:30 am.

**Roll Call**

* Chelsea Jones, Reentry Program Consultant- DPS&C

**Promising People Enterprise Presentation**

* Fred Stone, Director of Sales and Marketing

**Approval of the February and August 2022 Minutes- Louise S. Reine**

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

* Chairman, Louise Reine welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Opening Remarks, Secretary James Leblanc**

* Secretary Leblanc gave updates on the following:
* Covid-19 ( all facilities are fully functioning, receptions centers and transfers are open),
* About 40 Probation and Parole and DOC Officers are still working at OJJ facilities (Swanson, St. Martinville and Acadia). Estimated end time is January 2023.
* There are 8 Juvenile offenders currently housed are Angola.
* The Correctional Officer Training Academy will change from a 4-week training to 6 weeks January 2023.
* Updates to the Prison Management System should be complete and up and running by mid-summer.
* My Case Software is expected to launch in the first of the year. This software will help with time computation.
* Logs Books used by Correction Officers in the institutions are being replaced with interactive automated tablets that will allow staff to input and extract data.
* Allen Correctional Center is fully opening and currently working on staffing of the Institution.
* The whole female population is currently housed at Jetson. There was ground breaking on the new LCIW and the estimated completion date of the new facility is projected for the end of 2024.
* Building 4 at EHCC was converted into an Assist Living Area to help free up space in the Infirmary.
* Warden Bordelon was selected as the new Head Warden of EHCC.
* All of the facilities are using Electronic Health Records and DWCC will the last facility to implement the Electronic Health Records.
* October had 28 medical releases (12 Compassionate Releases, 9 medical Paroles and 7 Furloughs).
* Over the pass few month there has been a rise in the prison population and parolees.
* Secretary Leblanc briefly discussed prison reform and opened the floor for questions.

**JRI (Justice Reinvestment Initiative) & CIG (Community Incentive Grant) Updates: Nicole George**

**JRI Updates**

* We recently open and closed our application cycle for the tier 2 parishes. We are still in the midst of drafting the intent to awards, but they should go out this week.
* We have received ten applications, and eight of the applications are either from organizations that requested a renewal, or is a new organization as a direct contractor, meaning they were a subcontractor on a previous contract.

**ETH Updates (Emergency Transitional Housing)**

* We have opened and closed that application cycle. As of the 9th of this month we have received 14 applications, with the majority of them being renewals, meaning that we were able to retain those as our continued housing partners.
* Annual Report is currently on our website, and we do have some more detailed information on the number of providers that we have in each parish and how many participants are served for parishes.
* We served approximately 982 unique participants since inception of the program back in 2019. This past fiscal year we had close to 500 to go through the program.

**CIG (Community Incentive Grant)**

* + We have served approximately 2,700 participants and as of June 2022 we have currently approximately 300 people that are actively in the program at this time.

**Pell Advisory Group Explanation: Andrea Buttross, Deputy Assistant Secretary- Reentry**

* The purpose is to identify colleges working in the best interest of the department and with our incarcerated students.
* To make sure that we select quality prison education programs, we are developing MOUs with all of these schools that we're going to continue to work with and operate with over the years.
* Recommendations will be made based on the results of this work. The committee is really going to ensure that the colleges, university and schools that we're working with are quality schools, and ensuring that our students are getting what they need.
* The group will consist of some headquarters staff to include our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Department, The Board of Regents, The Louisiana Department of Education, some formally incarcerated students, and some currently incarcerated students.

**Return for Good 2023 Campaign Presentation- Jessica Byrd, Director of Workforce Strategy- DPS&C**

**New Beginning Grant Update**

**Pay for Success Presentation- Kyle Doran, Director with Social Finance**

**2023 RAC Meeting Schedule- Rhett Covington, Assistant Secretary DPS&C**

**Other Business**

* 211/Unite Us Referral Platform with presentation at next RAC Meeting.

**Public Comments- Chair Louise S. Reine**

* None

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

**Next Meeting: TBA**

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:15am by Chairman, Louise S. Reine.**