



CI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2022, 9AM – 11AM

Location: Virtual TEAMS

PRESENT

Committee Members: Terri Fortner, Suzanne Cook, Danny Carrao, Marilyn Kennedy, Chris Elwell, and Karen Dove

Guest Speaker: Mac Pevey

CI/DOC Staff: Cheryl Strange, Sean Murphy, Danielle Armbruster, Jamie Dolan, Ryan Sadler, Todd Cunningham, Alissa Meshesha, Steve Petermann, and CI CMT Members

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME

CI Assistant Director Jamie Dolan welcomed everyone to the meeting, conducted an official roll call and discussed how COVID-19 impacts CI daily operations.

Cheryl Strange, and Sean Murphy welcomed everyone to the CI Advisory Committee. Secretary Strange showed a photograph of Department of Corrections Headquarters staff in a facility helping CI Staff complete their mission. Danielle Armbruster welcomed everyone and conducted housekeeping items.

Jamie welcomed the new CI Advisory Committee board members Chris Elwell for Business, Karen Dove for Labor, and Danny Carrao moved to General Public. All board members reintroduced themselves for the new board members.

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of 12/9/21 Meeting Minutes:

Motion was made for approval and seconded. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Questions re Operational Reports:

No questions were asked.

Workforce Development:

Jamie Dolan discussed the changes Workforce Development is currently going through. Jamie gave an update on hiring for a Workforce Development Manager and a Community Employment Specialist. Danielle Armbruster discussed how Reentry Navigators and CI Workforce Development work as a team. She also gave an update on Reentry efforts to ensure every incarcerated individual has an Identification (ID) card upon release.

NEW BUSINESS

Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC):

Steve Peterman gave a brief TRAC update due to limited time before public open forum. This included recognition of class #61 and shared how those two graduates of this class have joined apprenticeships.

OPEN FORUM: 9:20 AM

Anna Ivanov brought up the Operational Report, specifically Food Manufacturing and the delay of time food was being served during COVID-19. Danielle Armbruster confirmed that the delay is due to limited staff, and we are constantly learning and working to improve for the future. Anna also brought up the limited commissary items due to COVID. Jamie talked about looking at different vendors.

Jeff Chambers, a formerly incarcerated individual, commented that the job skills that CI trains individuals for are not living wage jobs. He also has concerns around the training to be successful in the community. Danielle mentioned what CI considers when deciding programming opportunities and how it goes beyond job title such as time management, accountability and much more. We are continuing to look for more opportunities for individuals and expansion.

A suggestion to move the open forum to the end of the CI Advisory Committee.

Open forum concluded at 9:27 a.m.

AJAC Continued:

Steve Peterman introduced Chris Pearson from AJAC, who discussed the Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant, called the Second Chance Grant Act which aids in adult education, reentry, treatment, and recovery. The purpose of the Second Chance Grant is to reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and acknowledging the growing populations in the prison system. It focuses on four major areas such as jobs, housing, treatment, and families. We received \$770,000 out of the \$900,000 that was asked originally. The amount is decided based on a point system. CI partnered with AJAC for this grant, and AJAC offers a pre-apprenticeship called the “Manufacturing Academy”.

Chris Pearson gave background on AJAC and how it is a statewide 501C3 non-profit, their values, mission and how they are majority state funded. Chris provided clarity that even though aerospace is in the name they also focus on many other manufacturing jobs such as food manufacturing. Annually, AJAC trains a little more than 150 individuals and have an 85% completion rate, with a 75% placement rate.

Steve continued the conversation with the plan to expand the AJAC Pre-Apprenticeship. The plan is to continue the program at Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW), and Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women (MCCCW). There has been expressed interest in AJAC by Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) and Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC) for the end of 2022 to early 2023. CI is also looking to expand the program potentially to Graduated Reentry (GRE) and Electric Home Monitoring (EHM).

Class I Industries Overview:

Wes Marcum, General Manager for CI at WSP started the conversation by giving some background on Class I Industries. Class I Industries works with external partners and focuses on production work and the goods are sold on the open market. National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA) has a Prison Industries Enhancement Certification Program (PIECP) which is out of Baltimore, Maryland. They oversee all PIE programs, to include Washington State. In 2004 Washington Supreme Court stopped Class I Industries due to unfair business practices in the contracts. In 2007, the amendment was brought back after further review, but the recession hit, and it was delayed again. In 2015, domestic prices increased significantly, and discussions started about bringing Class I Industries back. We found that portions of the language in our RCW’s didn’t match the amendment. In 2017, Representative Dan Griffey sponsored Bill 1248 that aligned CI’s language with Bureau of Justice Assistance. It was signed by Governor Jay Inslee in 2017. In 2019, COVID-19 hit, and it was once again delayed. We do have interest from external organizations for potential partnerships of Class I Industries. As conversations are starting back up, we are looking at space and number of incarcerated individuals to support this program.

CI Success Stories:

Jamie Dolan took time to share two success stories of previous CI incarcerated individual workers. The first one works in one of our business offices and has worked in multiple CI shops around Washington State. She shared a letter written by the individual about being excited to put all the skills he's learned to use and that he was accepted and granted a full scholarship into a coding bootcamp through Microsoft. She also shared from a staff members point of view that the individual held himself to a high standard and is a positive and valued worker at CI.

The second individual was incarcerated for over eight years and has been released. He too, worked a variety of positions within CI. He now works for the Household of Faith Ministries and is enrolled in classes to be a Substance Abuse Counselor. In his spare time, he helps incarcerated individuals connect with available resources to get back on their feet.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business for discussion.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Mac Pevey, Assistant Secretary for Community Corrections presented on "The Introduction to Community Corrections". He mentioned his time deployed to help CI and his appreciation for all the knowledge he learned and the work we provide to the incarcerated individuals.

The Community Corrections Division has about 1,100 employees and supervises over 13,000 individuals that have been court ordered for supervision. In 2009, 65,000 were under supervision but due to change in legislation it has significantly lessened, according to research. There are 84 field offices that are spread throughout the state which are based on community populations or opportunities for office space.

Washington State Institute of Public Policy (WSIPP) focuses on science-based ways to reduce crime such as focusing on higher-risk populations, referrals to programs, crime deterrence and face-to-face between Community Corrections Officers (CCO) and supervised individuals. Referrals could be, but are not limited to, Thinking for a Change, Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence, Mental Health and Sex Offender Treatment.

Community Corrections is continuing to implement multiple Senate House Bills to include 2417, 2393 and 2394. They are continuing to get up-to-date workload studies continuing to partner with WSIPP and collaborate with the community and justice system stakeholders

Action Items:

John Campbell will join the next CI Advisory Committee as he was unable to join this meeting.

Conclusion of meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.