



State of Washington

STATEWIDE REENTRY COUNCIL

1011 Plum Street SE - PO Box 42525 - Olympia, Washington 98504-2525 - (360) 725-4000

Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2017

King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
King County Courthouse, 4th
Seattle, WA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Co-Chair Tarra Simmons; Francis Adewale, Lydia Flora Barlow¹, Kim Bogucki², Durell Green, Karen Lee³, Bran Walsh⁴

MEMBERS ABSENT: Co-Chair Dan Satterberg; Linda Olsen, Marybeth Queral, Winona Stevens, Many Uch

STAFF PRESENT: Christopher Poulos (Executive Director)

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. OPEN MEETING AND WELCOME:

Co-Chair Simmons called the meeting to order at 12:41 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS OF ATTENDEES:

Meeting attendees introduced themselves. Mr. Poulos reported that Devon Schrum and Gregory Christopher have both resigned from the Council.

Mr. Poulos discussed the following items:

- Recently visited Spokane to testify on behalf of the Council for the Ban the Box initiative. The measure passed.
- There has been an ongoing theme regarding the lack of safe and accessible housing in Spokane, Seattle and the surrounding areas. Other themes include challenges related to employment and legal/financial obligations.

¹ Via conference call.

² Via conference call.

³ Via conference call; arrived at 1:00 p.m.

⁴ Via conference call.

3. UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mr. Poulos discussed the following upcoming events:

- January 17, 2018: Legislative Lunch from 12:00-1:00 p.m. at the Temple of Justice Reception Room in Olympia.
- January 17, 2018: Statewide Reentry Council meeting at 1:30 p.m. at the Commerce Offices in Olympia (following the Legislative Lunch).
- February 8, 2018: Reentry Simulation event for Legislators from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Columbia Room at the Washington State Capitol in Olympia.

Mr. Poulos noted that by statute the Reentry Council must meet at least four times per year. Since the Legislative Subcommittee meets regularly, Co-Chair Simmons suggested that the Reentry Council meet in January, April, October, November, and December. After a brief discussion, the following 2018 meeting schedule was determined:

- April 25 from 12:30-3:30 p.m., location TBD
- August, time TBD at the Summer Institute in Spokane
- October 10 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women, Belfair, WA
- November 14 from 12:30-3:30 p.m., Seattle location TBD
- December 12 from 12:30-3:30 p.m., Seattle location TBD

Mr. Poulos reported that the Reentry Council Task Force has asked the Reentry Council to co-sponsor the Reentry Simulation event for Legislators on February 8, 2018. The sponsorship requested amount is \$500.

Motion by Mr. Adewale and second by Ms. Simmons to approve the sponsorship request for \$500 to sponsor the Reentry Simulation event for Legislators. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Council Members discussed the importance of having legislators and key decision makers at the Reentry Simulation event.

4. REVIEW AND DISCUSS DRAFT LETTER TO LEGISLATURE AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES/AGENDA FOR UPCOMING SESSION:

There was a general discussion regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Reentry Council Legislative Subcommittee. Mr. Poulos recommended that the Subcommittee conduct weekly conference calls during the legislative session. Mr. Adewale would like all Council Members to be invited to participate in the Legislative Subcommittee conference calls. He does not want anyone excluded from these calls. However, this rose some concerns regarding the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and whether or not the full Council can be invited to participate in the Legislative Subcommittee calls. Mr. Poulos will check with the Department of Commerce office for clarification. In addition, he will work to schedule OPMA training for the Council. Ms. Lee suggested that the Council Charter also be reviewed.

Currently, the Reentry Council Legislative Subcommittee addresses the legislative priorities identified by the full Council. Council Members expressed concern about potentially giving up their authority for

legislative issues. There was general consensus to reevaluate the Subcommittee's role and authority at a future Council meeting.

Ms. Lee reviewed the following from the Reentry Council Bylaws:

11-8: Pursuant to 11-1, the Council shall create a legislative subcommittee in order to advance and oversee the execution of the Council's legislative agenda, its strategy, and other related activities, including positions of support or concern on any proposed legislation pertaining to the cycle of recidivism. The subcommittee shall consist of at least 3 members and no more than 7 members. The subcommittee chair shall keep the council chair, council members, and stakeholders informed of all subcommittee activities. As appropriate, and at the direction of the council chair, the subcommittee chair shall convene stakeholders from time to time for feedback and input.

12-1 No member of the Council will testify on behalf of the Council without approval of the Council, the committee chair, or the legislative subcommittee chair.

Mr. Poulos reviewed the 2017 legislative efforts that will continue in 2018. Specific Bills include:

- Ban the Box for employment
- Reform legal financial obligations
- Issue identification cards prior to exiting incarceration
- Remove employment, housing, other barriers based upon criminal records
- Expand access to education supports (1129/5069 signed by Governor)
- Expand access to housing (5077 signed by Governor).

Potential new reentry topics for the upcoming legislative session include, but are not limited to:

- Identicard for youth
- Vacating convictions
- Family and Offender Sentencing Alternative (FOSA) Expansion
- Graduated Reentry
- Ban the Box for all higher educational institutions
- Creation of an independent Ombudsman for DOC issues
- Creation of a COC Community Review Board

There was a brief discussion regarding Mr. Poulos' lobbying efforts and the potential need for authorization from the Department of Commerce.

When evaluating the Reentry Council's legislative priorities, Ms. Lee suggested that the Council be mindful of the core issues for reentry and whether the Council should play a lead role with the legislative priority or a support function role.

Co-Chair Simmons suggested that two sections be added to the list of legislative priorities. These include:

- Alternatives to incarceration
- Conditions of confinement and oversight

Council Members discussed the necessity of the above priorities. Mr. Adewale expressed his concern regarding nimbleness and the ability of the Reentry Council to respond effectively during the legislative session. He added that the legislative priorities rapidly change and the Legislative Subcommittee should have the authority to act without the Reentry Council's direction or approval. Co-Chair Simmons and other Council Members also expressed their concern.

Motion by Ms. Lee and second by Mr. Adewale to approve the recommendation to add Alternatives to Incarceration to the list of 2018 Legislative Priorities for the Reentry Council. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Motion by Mr. Green and second by Ms. Lee to approve the recommendation to add Conditions of Confinement and Oversight to the list of 2018 Legislative Priorities for the Reentry Council.

Ms. Lee cautioned Council Members about becoming too broad with the legislative priority of "Conditions of Confinement and Oversight." Although conditions of confinement have a significant impact on the reentry process, this issue is a broad issue and could take a significant amount of resources from the Reentry Council. On the contrary, Mr. Walsh views conditions of confinement as a deviation from reentry issues. He would like the Council to stay focused on the main priorities until a more concise legislative roadmap is created.

Mr. Green discussed his viewpoints on how conditions of confinement directly relate to reentry. He added that keeping the legislative priorities broad provides the Legislative Subcommittee flexibility.

Break from 2:50-3:04 p.m.

At the question, motion carried (6-1) to approve the recommendation to add Conditions of Confinement and Oversight to the list of 2018 Legislative Priorities for the Reentry Council.

Motion by Mr. Adewale to empower the Legislative Subcommittee to review and make policy decisions on behalf of the Washington Statewide Reentry Council for legislative issues that directly fall within the purview of the Reentry Council. Motion failed for a lack of second.

Council Members agreed that further discussions need to occur regarding the Legislative Subcommittee's role and authority. In the meantime, the Legislative Subcommittee will work on the legislative priorities identified by the Council. The Legislative Subcommittee will conduct a conference call at 8:30 a.m. on December 8, 2017.

5. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

If a meeting is necessary outside of the regular meeting schedule, Mr. Adewale suggested that the Co-Chairs take the necessary steps to schedule a special meeting.

Co-Chair Simmons expressed her appreciation to fellow Council Members for their support of the amicus brief that was submitted on her behalf. On November 16, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled unanimously that Ms. Simmons "has the requisite moral character and fitness to practice law" and "shall be allowed to sit for the Washington bar examination."

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Barbara Calber

Ms. Calber requested clarification on how the Reentry Council interacts with the Department of Corrections. Co-Chair Simmons discussed some of the interactions including: individual meetings, regularly scheduled meetings, community events, etc.

Jim Harms and Jeff Nelson

Mr. Harms and Mr. Nelson discussed the recent reorganization at the Department of Corrections. The DOC combined three divisions that used to focus on reentry into one. Mr. Harms noted that this is a positive direction for reentry.

Mr. Harms and Mr. Nelson also commended Mr. Poulos for his efforts in getting acquainted with the complex criminal justice program.

Byron Coates

Mr. Coates suggested that recently incarcerated individuals be included in the Reentry Simulation to play an active role as a facilitator or other key position.

Kristie McLean

Ms. McClain a documentary photographer and offered her services to those that might be interested. She has been a volunteer at Twin Rivers teaching non-violent communication workshops and trying to find ways to build a bridge between people that have experienced amazing services on the inside and then carrying these to the outside.

Roger Kluck

Mr. Cluck stressed the importance of raising the issue of countering the institutionalization and changing psychology. He will discuss this issue in further detail with Mr. Poulos.

7. CLOSING:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.