



Meeting Summary November 18, 2020

Members Present: Patti Echsner, Co-Chair, Angela Rae, Steve Durham, Mane Martirosyan, Terrie Willis, Jeff Cooke, and John Fleming.

Guests and Staff Present: Jessie Halladay, Debora McGill, Stacey Ayers, Amanda Newton, Jamaal Crawford, William West, Yvette Goodwin Jamison, Ben Goldman, Bradley Bringardner, Millie Dee Stevens, Dr. Brian Schaefer, Rosell Hamilton, and Faith Augustine.

I. Welcome/Call to Order

Since Jolie Scott had a conflict and Patti Echsner was running late, Jessie Halladay opened the meeting. She welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and reminded attendees to stay on mute throughout the meeting unless presenting or speaking. She introduced Debora McGill Debora McGill, Public Protection Coordinator, and new staff member to the Opportunity Network. Debora comes to the ON with 30 years of experience working with justice-involved individuals. Many of you may know her from when she worked at the Kentucky Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole. Her experience with working collaboratively with Probation and Parole, treatment providers and the local community to address the needs of individuals returning to the community will be a great asset as we continue to move the ON work forward. Debora introduced herself to the group and noted how she is looking forward to working with everyone. Steve Durham gave her a special welcome.

II. Approval of the September 16, 2020 Meeting Summary

The September 16, 2020 meeting summary was unanimously approved as submitted.

III. Opportunity Network Updates A. Reentry Workbook Research

Jessie introduced Dr. Brian Schaefer to provide an update on the Reentry Workbook Research. Dr. Schaefer reminded members that due to COVID-19, the workbook research project is being modified to align with the new challenges that COVID has presented. The research proposal focuses on three central research questions including the extent the ONWP involved individuals utilize the reentry workbook during their reentry process, the perceptions of the workbook's utility in their reentry process, and the overall strengthens of the workbook and potential areas for improvement.

Dr. Schaefer explained that once the workbook is printed it can be rolled out at the Louisville Metro Department of Corrections first since they have agreed to pilot. The workbook will contain a flyer explaining the study and requesting that individuals utilizing the workbook contact the research group upon their release. The goal is to begin conducting interviews in January or February and have follow-up interviews in April and May. Individuals who participate in follow up interviews will receive an additional \$20 VISA gift card. Jessie added that Goodwill also expressed interest in piloting the workbook.

B. ON Membership

Jessie Halladay reminded attendees that the Opportunity Network membership includes 24 slots; 12 stakeholder representatives and 12 community representatives including service providers and those with lived experience. All members serve two-year terms. She suggested creating a membership committee to see which members would like to continue to serve, and if any vacancies need to be filled. She asked for volunteers to assist Debora McGill with the committee. Mane Martirosyan volunteered to participate on the committee. Jessie advised that a committee meeting would be scheduled to consider membership nominations.

C. ON Strategic Plan

Jessie Halladay brought attention to the Strategic Plan Tracker in the meeting packet. The tracker shows the percentage of strategic priorities that have been accomplished in the last year and is broken down by workgroups. The Opportunity Network has completed 51% of their overall network goals after 1 year of operation. She asked attendees to review the document and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting initiatives that the ON should advance in the next 12 months, and specifically what initiatives members would like to be involved with in 2021.

IV. Member Updates

Jessie asked members to provide updates. Dennis introduced Rosell Hamilton to the group and spoke about the 3-year Ignite Grant that will focus on 18-24 years olds in partnership with JCTC. He agreed to present more information on the Ignite Grant at a future meeting. He added that Goodwill would like to be involved with the Reentry Workbook. He noted that Goodwill continues to assist with expungements virtually and will be opening a resource center at 9th and Broadway in January and another one at 28th and Broadway in 2021. Open House Tours will be made available to ON members.

Jamaal Crawford reported that he is the Regional Director for YAP. Although the contract with Kentucky ended due to COVID, he noted that he continues to work with the CSYA. Amanda Newton, Renew Recovery Kentucky, advised that she may have someone else step into this role in 2021 as they continue to respond to the impact from the pandemic. She noted that telehealth services continue, and the focus at this point is on the Medicaid waivers for the justice involved population. Mane Martirosyan reported that she now serves as the Offender Services Manager for LMDC, and the focus continues to be COVID. John Fleming recommended that Kenny Boyd should participate on the ON; Mr. Boyd is formerly with Youth Alive and now with JCPS.

Jeff Cooke noted that recidivism is an ongoing issue and the ON is important work. Patti Echsner thanked Jessie for stepping in to Chair the meeting and noted that due to COVID she is in the office every other week. Angela Rea noted that the office continues to adapt to COVID as well.

V. Adjourn/Next Meeting:

Jessie thanked members for attending. She noted that she is now working in the Mayor's Office and coordinating the Synergy Project and the Group Violence Intervention. She reminded members that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2021 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. but may be rescheduled since it is Inauguration Day. Members will receive a meeting notice prior to the next meeting. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.