



Meeting Summary September 16, 2020

Members Present: Jolie Scott, Co-Chair, Patti Echsner, Co-Chair, Amanda Hall, Angela Rae, Steve Durham, Mane Martirosyan, Terrie Willis, Dan Goyette, and John Fleming.

Staff Present: Miranda Deaton

Guests Present: Maryam Ahmed, Jessie Schook, Alexandra White, Ben Goldman, Bradley Bringardner, Libby Mills, Adil Elmednoub, Millie Dee Stevens, Dr. Brian Schafer, Dr. Jennifer Ortiz, Cierra Dober, Jackie McGhee-Rutledge, and Faith Augustine.

I. Introductions/WebEx Protocol

Miranda Deaton welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting. Due to the virtual format, she asked everyone to introduce themselves by adding their name and organization to the chat. She reminded attendees to stay on mute throughout the meeting unless presenting or speaking and advised that the audio/video controls are located at the bottom of the screen.

II. Opportunity Network Updates

A. ON Operation and Transitions

Miranda announced that she is leaving her position with the Opportunity Network effective October 2, 2020. Faith Augustine, Director of the Criminal Justice Commission will be posting the position to fill the role. Faith noted that the Public Protection Coordinator position is a full-time, grant-funded position within the Office of the Criminal Justice Commission that is 100% dedicated to the Opportunity Network. Requirements include that the candidate have a combination of education and experience of 7 years. She explained that candidates with lived experience are encouraged to apply. The position pays \$22.04/hour (salaried) and comes with full benefits, vacation, comp time, sick time, and is currently a telework/remote position. The posting closes on Friday, September 25th.

B. Reentry Workbook Research

Miranda introduced Dr. Brian Schaefer, Indiana University Southeast to provide an update on the Reentry Workbook Research. Dr. Schaefer noted that due to COVID-19, the workbook research project is being modified to align with the new challenges that COVID

has presented. Dr. Schaefer and Dr. Jennifer Ortiz presented the following changes to the proposal:

This research proposal focuses on three central research questions:

1. To what extent do ONWP involved individuals utilize the reentry workbook during their reentry process?
2. What are ONWP involve individuals' perceptions of the workbook's utility in their reentry process?
3. What are the overall strengthens of the workbook and what are potential areas for improvement?

Dr. Schaefer explained that the ONWP program targets males who are serving a sentence for a misdemeanor or class C or D level felony at a Kentucky jail. Individuals in up to four Kentucky jails will be offered the workbook to complete during the one to six months of their incarceration. 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 interview 50 recently released individuals within the first seven days of their release, and to follow up with these individuals 90 days post release. In exchange for their time, the individuals will receive a \$20 VISA gift card. The follow up interview will explore how the individuals have utilized the workbook in their first three months post-release and the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the workbook. These interviews will last approximately 60 to 90 minutes and will occur via phone. Individuals who participate in follow up interviews will receive an additional \$20 VISA gift card.

C. Kentucky Reentry Resource Guide

Miranda advised that the Kentucky Reentry Resource guide was assembled by reentry groups and individuals across the state. It directly addresses the needs that came up from individuals and service providers when facing reentry challenges before and during COVID. This document is updated every 3months by Kentucky Voices for Health. It is available on their website and on the Smart on Crime website as well. The guide was emailed to members as a PDF document and can be accessed at the following websites:

<http://kysmartoncrime.com/kentucky-government-non-profit-and-private-sector-groups-launch-reentry-resource-hub/>

<https://kyvoicesforhealth.org/>

III. Member Updates

A. Goodwill

Miranda introduced Dennis to provide an update on Goodwill. Dennis shared information about Goodwill's expansion of their program focus to look at holistic ways of addressing poverty. He noted that Reintegrating Individuals Successfully Everyday (RISE), is a job readiness training designed to empower individuals that have multiple barriers to obtaining gainful employment. Utilizing a holistic approach, the program gives

participants the knowledge they need to reintegrate into the workforce. Sessions in RISE cover a broad range of topics, including but not limited to, financial literacy, digital literacy, communication skills, health and nutrition, and behavioral health. Upon completion of the program participants will receive certificates marking their achievements and can earn a stipend, a laptop, get individual financial counseling, legal assistance and a gym membership or equipment. Having been giving these opportunities participants can embark on their next steps to employment and eventually on a career path that leads them out of poverty. Goodwill will continue to help guide them through these personal journeys, and with renewed hope the success of each participant is now a foreseeable reality.

B. Greater Louisville Inc.

Information was provided to members about the Job Seeker Connection Program through Greater Louisville, Inc. (GLI). Jessie Schook or Bradley Gardner can provide additional information by contacting them at jschook@greaterlouisville.com or bbringardner@liveinlou.com. You may find more information about the job seeker connection program at liveinlou.com/job-seekers.

C. Opportunity Network Strategic Plan Tracking

Miranda 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.

IV. Adjourn/Next Meeting:

Miranda thanked members for attending. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2020 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.