



Missoula At-Risk Housing Coalition

Partners for Reintegration (PFR) Leadership Team
Quarterly Meeting Agenda

August 20, 2019 \* 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Salvation Army – 355 S. Russell Street, Missoula MT 59801

Attendees:

Table with 2 columns listing attendees and their affiliations, including Joshua Parish, Stephanie Hotchkiss, Michelle Cares, Jen Buckley, Steve Zellmer, Megan Bailey, Chery Sobol, Suzin Kratina, Jana Staton, Theresa Williams, Frank Knaack, Aaron Ancieux, Kate Ybarra, Jordan Larson, Kristin Jordan, Quinn Ziegler, Brenda Erdelyi, Laurie Pope, Katie Sorenson, Kiel Harris, Levi Leavens, and Stephen Ferguson.

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, September 17, 12:00-1:15 pm, Probation & Parole
Next PFR Leadership Meeting: Tuesday, November 19, 12:00-1:30 pm, Salvation Army

1. Introductions and Approval of May 2019 minutes

- Case Managers from Montana State Prison Stephanie Hotchkiss & Joshua Parish
New members: Ivan Macdonald, Urban Indian Health Center; Chery Sabol, Job Service

2. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

- Michelle reported on new Msla County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, funded by MacArthur Foundation. Website at Msla Co. has more
Mission: to use a data-driven approach to study Missoula County's adult and juvenile criminal justice system; identify challenges; raise public awareness; consolidate efforts; and formulate policy, plans and programs to improve the system.
PFR can become an Expert Working Group under CJCC umbrella, providing direct access to the Criminal Justice System. Next meeting in September will determine composition, process for these subcommittees.
Michelle Cares is the City Council member on CJCC and can represent PFR this fall.
Reentry population is impacted by local jail and criminal justice policies, sequential intercept mapping.
Quinn Ziegler discussed need to access local data on criminal justice population issues, patterns; major focus of MacArthur funding.

3. In-Reach Projects at MSP Deer Lodge and MWP Billings

- Montana State Prison: Jana Staton reported on Pilot In-Reach program at MSP; first visit to meet with parolees coming to Missoula Sept. 9, 2019.

- Welcome Back has recruited 3 community mentors & 2 Peer Support Specialists (Laurie Pope, Greg Arciello) for pilot project
  - Monthly visits planned every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, working with 5-10 individuals on parole planning and discharge.
  - Case Managers will facilitate follow-up phone contact, assistance
  - Returning citizens who become peer support specialists will be approved for In-Reach visits ( See # 4 for training information.)
  - Welcome Back will recruit, train, clear more mentors for expanded project Fall 2019
  - Long discussion about support services and peer support assistance for returning citizens, especially help with 'life skills' – shopping, managing bills & money, navigating system.
- WORD Reentry Program – Suzin Kratina reported on new women's support project
    - Initial effort: provide facilitated groups for women in Missoula at WORD office.
    - Case Management with eventual funding –Rapaport Fdn, other sources.
    - MWP will not release women to shelters; must have housing, so Crosswinds house critical to this project
    - WORD will coordinate with everyone to invite participants, provide services.

#### **4. Warm Discharge” Issue:** Jen Buckley, Katie Sorenson and all

- Much discussion on difficulties of meeting needs of returning citizens for mental health/addiction/life skills training/ community support – one value of PFR meetings is this open airing of difficulties facing reentry efforts.
- **Peer Support Specialists** can fill some of the reentry 'gaps.' Training is currently free from approved providers under SAMHSA grant, including Sunburst Foundation in Missoula, listed on [Board of Behavioral health website](#). Contact Megan Bailey for info: [mbailey@sunburstfoundation.org](mailto:mbailey@sunburstfoundation.org).

#### **5. DOC Housing Vouchers: Kate Ybarra reported conversation with Megan Coy DOC**

- IPPOs (at prisons) will decide who gets 3-month vouchers from new 400K fund.
- Rent vouchers will go to Landlords directly.
- PO's have access to transitional assistance funding for others who need it; POs require verifiable, sustainable housing plan, generally limited to \$500.
- POs must to do paperwork for transitional assistance; not something agencies can help with (much discussion on this point).
- Kate pointed out that double deposits were most effective with landlords during HRC Supportive Housing grant project.
- Having immediate transitional housing available (Crosswinds, 5-Star) is critical to get people housed on release, while funding is sought for permanent housing.
- HRC currently has modest funds for emergency food and shelter for Hamilton, Missoula. Contact Kate, [kmy@hrcxi.org](mailto:kmy@hrcxi.org) or Jordan, [jal@hrcxi.org](mailto:jal@hrcxi.org), 532-8356.

#### **6. Reentry Grant Possibilities**

- Rapaport Letters of Intent for reentry projects from Welcome Back, Parenting Place, WORD, & Missoula County. Sunburst submitting for Billings Urban Indian Health Ctr.
- Commissioner Slotnick called Rapaport directly to suggest that Missoula projects are able and willing to collaborate on funding if granted.

## 7. Forensic Peer Support Workshop for PFR members – Katie Sorenson

- Katie Sorenson is leaving MT Peer Network training position, but is willing to offer the workshop she developed to PFR leadership Team on peer support concepts and basics. Jana will follow up.

## Information Sharing

### 8. Job Service: Job Fair with LOTS of Employers, Sept. 13, 12-6:00 Southgate Mall.

Job Service has free workshops MONTHLY on finding good work, including how to get a job after a felony record. Call, email Chery for more info: [csabol@mt.gov](mailto:csabol@mt.gov), 542-5748.

### 9. Interim Study of Occupational Licensing– Jana Staton

- Committee Vote to Support, Sept. 11, You can watch/listen live at <https://www.leg.mt.gov/> “Watch & Listen” button.
- Comments can be sent online to Rachel Weiss [rweiss@mt.gov](mailto:rweiss@mt.gov) and will be included in committee records.
- Jana Staton & Welcome Back members plan to attend & make public comment Sept. 9; PFR will need personal stories for testimony later this year when the study is on the agenda.

**10. Statewide Reentry Guide** - Frank Knaack reports that he has arranged for a pro bono legal assistance and a social work practicum student to create a Montana statewide reentry guide for all things legal that reentry requires (Phase I). Phase II will include pages for local coalitions such as PFR, and personal stories of reentry now being audiotaped by. Welcome Back. Model for MT is at <http://wareentryguide.org/>

**11. MT Correctional Offenders Network (CONWEB)**- Frank Knaack, MT Innocence Project, is working *with* DOC to encourage changes to Administrative Rules that keep folks listed 3 years and beyond completing supervision.

**12. Reentry Coalitions** one-day meeting during MT Board of Crim Control in Billings, Oct. 8-10, 2019. No information from DOC yet on possible meeting.

**13. Inventory of MT behavioral health treatment facilities.** ACLU is pushing Law & Justice Interim to do an inventory of treatment of Mental health services for criminal justice.

## Leadership Changes: Co-Facilitator and Recording Secretary

Michelle Cares is willing to serve as PFR Co-Facilitator;  
Jenea Buhler will become new Recording Secretary in September

**Co-Facilitator: Michelle Cares**

**Recording Secretary (temp): Jana Staton**

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