



CI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2022, 9AM – 11AM

Location: Virtual TEAMS

PRESENT

Committee Members: Terri Fortner, Suzanne Cook, Marilyn Kennedy, and Chris Elwell.

CI/DOC Staff: Sean Murphy, Danielle Armbruster, Sarah Sytsma, Jamie Dolan, Ryan Sadler, Todd Cunnington, Alissa Meshesha, Steve Petermann, John Kristen Morgan, and CI CMT Members

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

WELCOME

Correctional Industries (CI) Director Sarah Sytsma welcomed everyone to the meeting, conducted an official roll call and discussed the potential of an in-person meeting next quarter.

Sean Murphy welcomed everyone to the CI Advisory Committee. He discussed the good things that are happening in CI and the difficulties that remain for CI.

Danielle Armbruster welcomed everyone and conducted housekeeping items.

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of 6/2/22 Meeting Minutes

There was not a quorum to approve 6/2/2022 meeting minutes. No questions were asked.

Questions re Operational Reports

No questions were asked.

Aerospace Joint Apprentice Committee (AJAC) Grant:

Steve Peterman reviewed CI being awarded \$777,000 to contract with AJAC to provide Manufacturing Academy. We have completed 3 pilot classes and have graduated 25 individuals from the Academy. 7 individuals have secured employment. We finished our program and implementation guide, and it was approved by the Bureau of Justice, and we have signed contracts in place. We have given several presentations to Graduated Reentry (GRE) and Electric Home Monitoring (EHM) staff in hopes to roll the academy out to partial confinement and EHM individuals.

State Board of Community and Technical College has provided funding for computers for GRE and EHM individuals to have technology to take the Manufacturing Academy. The anticipated timeline for this is 2023.



Ongoing talks with South Seattle Community College about the possibility of enrolling some individuals through the college to have individuals earn up to 20 college credits for attending the 10-week Manufacturing Academy.

Next steps are continued talks with Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) and Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women (MCCCW) to find out about running another cohort and running it from the minimum custody level to the medium security campus. The goal for 2023 is to get 60 program participants through and another 80 in 2024.

Clallam Bay Corrections Center (CBCC) Textiles

Todd Cunnington reiterated the outcomes of the Strategic Meeting and the need to consolidate our textiles operations. We made the decision to discontinue the textiles operation out of CBCC. Notifications were made to the staff impacted and the union. The union filed a demand to bargain regarding the 2 positions assigned to the operation however, only 1 is currently filled. We are anticipating it to be scheduled mid-October. We continue to have discussions with Superintendent Boe and our education partners to see if something new can be in that space once textiles is no longer operating at CBCC. CBCC Textiles operations will be absorbed into other textiles shops throughout the state.

License Plates

Todd Cunnington discussed the ongoing complications with License Plates over the last 18 months to 2 years. The primary issues are lack of incarcerated workers from the units and equipment issues. We are working with the Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) leadership to find solutions or opportunities to receive more consistency in incarcerated worker numbers. CI also submitted for new equipment funding. New equipment will not make the need for incarcerated workers any less.

NEW BUSINESS

CI & Education Partnership

Kristen Morgan gave an overview about the education department. The overview included Department of Corrections (DOC) contracts with the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges to provide basic education and career and technical associate degrees at each of the state's 12 adult facilities. Both CI and Education offer a variety of pre-apprenticeships programs statewide. Individuals who participate in correction education programs have a 43% lower of returning to prison than individuals who do not (2014, RAND Corporation). Every dollar invested in education up to \$19.80 is saved from reduced recidivism.

Education Navigators consist of 26 facility and community-based navigators that assist incarcerated individuals to ensure successes in career and academic development, as well as develop guided pathways for students releasing back into the community. Navigators also provide support around transcript requests, financial aid eligibility and applications, education enrollment and registration, and identifying job employment connections.

The CI Advisory Committee took a 5-minute break and resumed at 9:50am.



WASHINGTON STATE
CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

OLD BUSINESS

No old business for discussion.

Guest Speaker

Tony Powderface a current incarcerated individual spoke to his experience working for CI. He provided some of his background such as this being his second time incarcerated. The first time he was incarcerated was for 10 years, and his current incarceration is 16 years. Mr. Powderface discussed the need for desire to be able to work. He has worked for CI about 4 years and is currently a level 4 worker. He has earned numerous certificates like 2 Certificate of Proficiency (COP), and **CWP**. Working with CI has given him the desire and passion to work which makes him feel amazing for what all he has accomplished. He thanked CI for the opportunity to work.

CI Advisory Board Member Terri Fortner asked Mr. Powderface what department within Correctional Industries that he works, which he then responded with Laundry Department.

Sarah Sytsma asked him about his newfound desire to work and wanting to know what had changed and why now. Mr. Powderface discussed his 4 daughters and how he missed many things with them now that they are in their teenage years. CI is viewed as a real job like if he was out of prison. He recognized that he needed to leave his selfish motivations behind and do things that showed his loved ones he has good motivation. She further brought up laundry and getting through the challenges of COVID-19. He mentioned that his leadership was the reason they were so successful during the pandemic and making sure that his frame of mind was just to continue to do his job no matter what.

Everyone thanked him for his time and sharing his story.

Action Items:

No action items for discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

OPEN FORUM 10:25 AM

DOC CI Advisory Committee Members rejoined to the meeting to start the open forum. The open forum concluded at 10:26 a.m.

Conclusion of meeting.