

Post-Sentencing and Reentry Subcommittee Meeting
June 2, 2022

Attendees:

Natalie Holbrook (Co-chair)
Ariana Gonzalez (Co-chair)
Alma Wheeler Smith
Devin Dailey
Dennis Schrantz
Kay Layton
Mitzi Talon
Walter Miller
Cozine Welch
Alex Roth (Vera)
Angie Carpio (Vera)
Tara Dhanraj Roden (Vera)

Announcement of new member and his role as community coordinator for offender success (region 9). Provides services for folks on parole who are referred by their agents.

Quick review of fact-finding questions - opportunity to ask any questions.

- Overview of methodology for project as listed on the FFQ document.
- Member mentions that each question addresses either disparity, policies, and procedures, or policy-driven and adapted from The Sentencing Project manual.

Priority No. 1 -

- Member asks if there is a way to look at language use, "defender" and "offender" is problematic. Cites question 10 as an example.
 - Member responds, some instances when language is quoted and that is why language is a certain way. Other times it can be changed.
 - Group agrees to review language and update to be more human-centered.
- Member has comment that using manual to bring in policy questions is helpful to bring in guiding language.

Priority No. 2 -

- Member asks about asking subtext question, referring to how PSI's reflect disparities trickling from charges and sentences having disparities
- Member discusses as another example with PSI's where they live will be weighed against them. Trying to find out more about that. Has an indirect racial disparity effect.
- FFQ 2 needs to be more specific as they will not have an ERD that they are hitting. Member will send Alex updated language.

Priority No. 3 -

- Discussion of members connecting co-chair to a specific person they know of that is doing housing work.

Priority No. 4 -

-Member asks if there is something in one of the questions about who is getting access to reentry programs. One of the biggest barriers being no one knows what exists in the community. Who is making these referrals and where are they coming from?

-Yes, addressed in FFQ 1 and 4

-Member states that MPRI through MDOC identified all moderate to high-risk prisoners and began prison in-reach. 85% of people returning home were targeted. Does not happen with OS; numbers they have seen indicate many moderate to high-risk people are not receiving services through OS.

-OS does not get MDOC numbers the way they used to. They do not get a substantial heads up on who will be sent their way.

-Annual number of people OS is working with is around 600 in all counties in 2020. It's been a little higher in last 2 years.

-Counties in catchment are: Washtenaw, Livingston, Jackson, Lenawee, Hillsdale, and Monroe.

-OS paid for quarantine housing for folks coming back home from an outbreak facility if there was not another resource available.

Priority No. 5 -

-Member wants clarification on FFQ 4 - are they talking about people returning from Dexter going into MDOC housing, or what are they looking for in terms of housing?

-Member states scattered prisons, no consideration of where people live when thinking about what prison they went to. Would have 8-hour drives and would lose contact with family and community. That is what question is getting at.

-Member asks if we could get someone that has been looking at these conditions for a while as a resource.

-Other member will ask her if she is willing to participate.

-Member states there is data that is collected from 2014-2016 on folks that were in higher security levels that are past their earliest release dates. Needs a refresher on that but would love to see that again, black men were overrepresented in these numbers.

-Member mentions information they are receiving on which men are living in facilities that are terrible for mental health.

Discussion on workshops:

-The point of these is to look at the FFQ in each group's priority area in more detail, to refine and see if anything needs to be added.

-Determine the question in how involved they want to be

- Would like to be done in next couple of weeks, Alex will reach out with doodle poll to get a date set. Priority #1 will have to wait a bit because of the involvement with Court Process.
- Member asks if it will be around an hour.
 - yes, the other problem is finding availability that works for everyone.
- Member states some of the FFQ refer to information that already is out there; Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration Committee is doing focus groups with returning persons; having town hall meeting in July.

- Member asks if there is an expectation to do research in free time.
 - Clarified, not necessarily but if members are inclined, they are welcome to. Not a requirement but would be an asset.
- Member asks if there is opportunity for subcommittee members to conduct research, is interested in interviewing and doing qualitative research.
 - Alex mentions that is limited due to IRB, but there are other opportunities they could be involved in.
- Another avenue to get this information as research has been done and is public.

- Overview of major target dates coming up
 - Target date for fact finding being July 29th
 - Recommendations would be end of September
 - Has some flexibility

- Alex will aim to send out doodle polls by tomorrow (Friday, June 3rd) and if not then Monday (June 6th).

- Member asks to review FFQ subgroup upcoming dates
 - Workshop June 6-14
 - Each group will have a plan of action
 - Status report in mid-June
 - Next subcommittee meeting on July 8th

- Alex to suggest potentially cancelling July subcommittee meeting if a lot of work is happening.