

LENA C. TAYLOR
Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

March 3, 2009

Dear Study Committee Member:

I am looking forward to the second meeting of the Wisconsin Special Committee on Justice Reinvestment Oversight, which will be held on Wednesday, March 11, at 10 am in Room 411 South, State Capitol, in Madison. The Justice Reinvestment team will use this opportunity to update us on their work, present intermediate findings, and solicit our ideas and recommendations for subsequent work.

During our January 12 meeting, committee members discussed recommended next steps for the JR team to follow. Their efforts are proceeding along six main tracks, listed below.

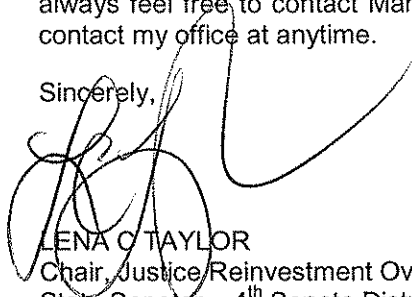
- Construct a New Prison Population Projection Using Simulation Model
- Provide recommendations concerning Wisconsin's community corrections systems and strategies to reduce revocations and improve service delivery.
- Review Capacity and Quality of Current Reentry and Employment Strategies for People under Supervision
- Hold Focus Groups for Law Enforcement Officials to Better Understand Crime Rates and Public Safety
- Perform Assessment of the Capacity and Quality of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Programs for People under Community Supervision
- Prepare mapping analyses of Wisconsin's corrections system, both on the county and micro-level.

At the March 11 meeting, the JR team will share progress on these six tracks and present a timeline for the meetings to follow. In addition, the JR team's presentation will focus on the state's community corrections system, under which revocations from supervision are driving significant growth, particularly in recent years, in the prison population and corrections spending. Findings produced by a site visit the team completed on February 5 and 6 will reinforce their quantitative findings.

Furthermore, I would like to clarify that the committee's time will serve as a forum for the Justice Reinvestment team to present their analyses and findings to members. The exchange of questions and answers should focus on the justice reinvestment-related work presented to this committee. It is in the best interests of our committee that our efforts continue as a separate process from debate regarding Governor Doyle's proposed corrections budget.

The Justice Center would like to continue to update you on its progress in providing technical assistance to Wisconsin. The team encourages members to contact them any time with questions or recommendations. Please always feel free to contact Marc Pelka via email, at mpelka@csg.org, or telephone, (646) 483-5720 or you can contact my office at anytime.

Sincerely,



LENA C TAYLOR
Chair, Justice Reinvestment Oversight Committee
State Senator – 4th Senate District

LCT:emp

HERE TO SERVE YOU!