
MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



Backdoor August 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Backdoor workgroup meeting came to order on Thursday, August 27, 2020, at 7:00 pm with members of the Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR) via ZOOM virtual meeting. The meeting began with introductions, roll call, and a welcome. We were joined by Dr. Derrick Drakeford from Purpose University, but he had difficulties connecting and was unable to present his reentry resource. Dr. Crystal Francis was facilitating and recording minutes.

Roll Call

Also present were Brenda, Darrell, Donna, Judith, Nakia, Carol, Beverly, Anita, Dave, Perry, Charlie, Angela, Glennor, Lawrence. (Additional people joined by phone, but the name was not recorded if not displayed on Zoom). Phil and Becca attempted to join seconds after we adjourned so they are included for effort. (☺). Regrets received from: John and Milt.

Reentry Updates & Announcement

New Reentry Resource (Purpose University Cell Phone App)

A cell phone application was created to teach returning citizens how to Launch their own business or advocacy organization. The free training application is accessible nationwide, and walks through the step by step process of planning, creating, developing, and filing for a for profit business or nonprofit organization. Anyone can use the application from their android or Apple device. Search “Purpose University” in your cell phone app store. The class is self-paced.

Old Business

Statewide Reentry Council

A workgroup walked through the draft bill and provided comments and recommendations regarding language.

2021 Backdoor Legislative Agenda

Backdoor workgroup members will think about which issues they want Backdoor to take on insights on what initiatives that would like MAJR to consider developing and supporting year:

1. Statewide Reentry Council Legislation
2. Automatic Record Expungement (Continue to support Job Opportunity Task Force’s efforts)
3. Women’s Prerelease Center (Continue to support Out for Justice’s efforts)

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New Business

Backdoor workgroup members who are interested into the topics below will volunteer to prepare issue briefs, draft legislative bills, and help find or identify legislative sponsor to support any legislative efforts. Leads and co-leads will volunteer to develop ideas and the group decide what kind of resolution we need to seek (e.g. policy, practice, resource, or training).

We will discuss the direction of the solution for the items below at the workgroup meeting in November:

1. Free community college for returning citizens (potential partnership between community colleges and office of probation and parole)
2. Reducing the impact of collateral consequence (Fee reductions-inability to pay child support, and related community supervision or restitution fees; curfews and mandatory check-ins that conflict with work schedules)
3. Incentivizing probation/parole (set clear benchmarks for reducing time on p/p)
4. Access to mentors and community navigators
5. More reliable housing options, and financial support while seeking employment (securing deposits, vouchers)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next General Body Meeting

The General Meeting is scheduled for Friday, 10/16/2020 at 7 p.m., via Zoom. Since the general body meets in October, the next workgroup meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The Zoom link will be provided via email and also posted to the calendar on www.ma4jr.org in October.