Wisconsin Public Psychiatry Network Teleconference (WPPNT)

• This teleconference is brought to you by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Division of Care and Treatment Services, Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Psychiatry.

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WPPNT Reminders

• Call 877-820-7831 before 11:00 a.m.
• Enter passcode 107633#, when prompted.
• Questions may be asked, if time allows.
• To ask a question, press *6 on your phone to un-mute yourself. *6 to remote.
The Demeter Foundation, Inc.

Advocating and educating for the humane treatment and the civil rights of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women in Wisconsin. To reduce recidivism and gain self-empowerment, healing and strength.
The Demeter Foundation, Inc.

The Demeter Foundation, Inc. (TDF) is an nonprofit 501(c)3 organization based in Madison, WI.

*It is the strong belief of this organization that holistic education and support can reduce recidivism, save taxpayer money, improve quality of life and offer opportunities for community partnering.*
The Divine Feminine…

Encompasses the wisdom, compassion, self-empowerment, healing and strength and power that all women possess.

It is a universal concept from all community and spiritual practices. Women are caretakers of the earth and our communities. Through holistic care and practices women possess the power of great change.

The capability to draw upon this strength is a natural force that should be embraced and encouraged in all women from the day of their birth.

Written by Alice F. Pauser, Founder
How Many Women...
How many women...

- How many women are involved in the Wisconsin Women’s Correctional System?*
  - As of August 2017-1,532 women are incarcerated
  - As of August 2017- 21,072 women are on community supervision (parole).

* These are numbers we received from the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.
Health Concerns…

According to a Wisconsin Department of Corrections December 2015 publication…

• 81% of female inmates have a mental health condition. Of these 29% have a serious condition.*

*e.g. bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, personality disorder, severe depression.
Studies show over 80% of women also have substance use disorder and it is almost always co-occurring with mental health.

- **The vast majority of women have some type of trauma history.** This can be from sexual assault, physical assault, childhood abuse and/or verbal assault. They are retraumatized by living in the prison environment and leave the system with *Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).*
The Damage Caused by Solitary Confinement…

The ACLU conducted research and published their findings in their 2014 report “Worse than Second-Class: Solitary Confinement of Women in the United States”

The following are excerpts from the report: “Prisons and jails across the United States lock prisoners in solitary confinement for a range of reasons—punitive, administrative, protective, medical—but whatever the reason, the conditions are similarly harsh and damaging.”

Solitary confinement is dangerous and damages mental and physical health. It exacerbates existing health issues and subjects the women to severe trauma.

Solitary confinement can re-traumatize victims of past abuse—and can render incarcerated women more vulnerable to abuse by correctional officers.

continued…
Solitary Confinement continued…

• Solitary confinement is sometimes used as retaliation against women who have reported sexual abuse or other harmful treatment while in prison.

• Solitary confinement can jeopardize the relationship between mother and child, harming children.

• Solitary confinement of pregnant women is harmful and internationally condemned.

• There are special needs of transgender women in solitary confinement
ACLU Recommendations...

- Solitary confinement is so harsh and damaging that it should be used only when prisoners pose a current, continuing, and serious threat to their own safety or that of others.
- **Prisoners with mental illness should never be held in solitary confinement.**
- **Pregnant and nursing women should never be held in solitary confinement.**
- **Transgender women must be protected both from violence in general population and from the dangers of solitary confinement.**
- **All prisons and jails should be required to regularly and publicly report details on individuals in solitary confinement including the number, gender, reason, available alternatives, reason alternatives are not utilized, duration, periodic review details, and other information.**
The Reality of the Wisconsin Women’s Correctional System…

The overcrowding at all three of the women’s facilities is dangerous for the staff and inmates. Taycheedah Correctional in Fond du Lac now has over 900 women in a bed capacity in the 600’s. Bunks are being stacked in every square inch of the facility. Due to this women cannot receive adequate physical and mental health care and programs. The new addition to the Health Services Unit is scheduled to open in July 2018. This should help alleviate some of the long waits for women to be seen and have their needs met. This will only be a temporary fix. More women arrive every week.
Costs associated with incarceration...

- The cost per female inmate is $108.00 per day or $39,725 per year.
- Let’s multiply that by the 940 women in Taycheedah Correctional Institute in Fond du Lac, WI.

$37,738,750 of tax payer money.

And the majority of these women are receiving little or no skills training, mental health/substance use disorder care and trauma-informed care.
What is often waiting for women when they are released from prison?

• Anxiety, fear and marginalization
• The worry of how they will reunite with their children (women who are incarcerated are usually the sole parent of their children)

The top three needs of women reentering our communities are:

• Employment
• Housing
• Healthcare
Where are services available?

Faith-based initiatives are the largest provider of support services for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals. This is followed by private advocacy organizations and other nonprofits. There is a constant need for resources for these organizations. Most of them focus on the male criminal justice population. (We have 20,953 men incarcerated as of December 2015.)

The largest population of formerly incarcerated individuals return to the Milwaukee County Area. World of Hope Ministries is the largest support organization regarding employment and partners with the US Department of Labor.

• Second Harvest Food Bank- is a Wisconsin organization that provides food and assistance with signing up for Quest cards for food buying assistance.
Where are services available? Here are just a few.

- **St. Vincent DePaul**—provides clothing and vouchers for household items. Some sites offer medication refills and assistance with signing up for Badger Care insurance.
- **Independent Living Centers**—Free services and advocacy for people with disabilities.
- **Salvation Army**—provides services to formerly incarcerated women including shelter for homeless women.
- **The Demeter Foundation** is the only organization in the state that concentrates solely on the issues of women in the Wisconsin Women’s Correctional System.
Our Programs…

We provide Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) workshops to formerly incarcerated women. The Wellness Recovery Action Plan® or WRAP®, is a self-designed prevention and wellness process that anyone can use to get well, stay well and make their life the way they want it to be. It is listed in the SAMHSA evidence based practice registry.

Our “Building a Healthier Lifestyle” workshops based on SAMHSA’s Eight Dimensions of Wellness begin summer of 2018 and assist women in developing skills in a holistic model for balance and building a better quality of life.

We provide in-person services for women returning from the prison system and are living in Dane County including support and resources. We support the use of forensic peer specialists in jails, prisons and community corrections.

Our Welcome Home Kits with basic personal items are available to women within the first 30 days of reentering our communities. We currently provide the kits in 68 of the 72 Wisconsin counties.
Our Programs... continued

*We follow the development of policies and laws surrounding incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and work to make systems change. We advocate with women with their Parole Officers.*

*We continually work developing partnerships and collaboration with organizations and individuals that support our philosophy of “Hope, Humanity and Holistic Care.”.*

*Our advocacy work is statewide in all three women’s facilities. We correspond with women on a wide variety of topics including healthcare, inappropriate staff contact and contacting family members. Currently we are working on developing supports for women serving sentences of 10 years or more. Twenty percent of women in Wisconsin Women’s Correctional System are serving these sentences.*
SAMHSA’s Eight Dimensions of Wellness
Our society can be extremely judgmental and unforgiving. Women who have served their time in the Wisconsin Women's Correctional System and are looking to make a better life for themselves and their families when they re-enter our communities, deserve to be treated humanely and with compassion. They DO NOT deserve to be discriminated against for housing, health care and employment. They DO NOT deserve to be told that living in substandard housing is all they deserve and to get used to it because they are 'felons.' The stigma that goes along with incarceration is a heavy burden and society SHOULD NOT add to that burden by deliberately making these women's lives harder or turning a blind eye. We WILL NOT be quiet about this. And if WE DO NOTHING we are complicit in the oppression of these women.
What can you do?  
Become Empowered…

You can get involved in making changes that benefit Wisconsin!

If you have a female family member or friend that is incarcerated or formerly incarcerated and still on paper with the WIDOC, educate yourself about what is going on in the Criminal Justice System. Let them know about The Demeter Foundation and encourage them to write to us. Find out who your legislators and law makers are and contact them regarding Wisconsin Prison Issues.

Always remember politicians work for you!

Volunteer- Are you able to mentor a woman in regaining her ability to re-enter the community? Can you teach a workshop? Do you have experience in navigating Community Corrections? Are you in AODA recovery and would be willing to assist women in finding meetings and support groups? Can you be a strong advocate? These are all skills that can benefit formerly incarcerated women.
What can you do?  Become Empowered…

• **Share the website…**
  Get the word out that there is movement to build a coalition in the State of Wisconsin to work collaboratively to bring about necessary changes. Become part of our initiative.

  [www.thedemeterfoundation.com](http://www.thedemeterfoundation.com)

• **Follow us on Facebook**

• **Sign up for our e-newsletter**

• **Educate yourself and others!** The more you know, the better you can build strong communities.
Contact us…

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