

Philadelphia Reentry Coalition's Survey of Nominees – 2021

Please keep the entirety of your responses to less than a page

Name: Jacqui Johnson

Organization: Sankofa Healing Studio

Position in Organization: Executive Director

How long have you been involved in the Coalition?: 3 years

Describe any relevant personal or professional experience that makes you well-qualified to serve on the Steering Committee and carry out the mission of the Reentry Coalition.

I am a Social Justice Art Therapist that centers the mental health and wellness of those directly-impacted by incarceration. I firmly believe that collaboration amongst reentry organizations is crucial. Each organization brings an important resource to the table; collectively we are able to reimagine what reentry looks like and provide a holistic support system that mitigates the harms caused by incarceration to our citizens. As a trauma therapist, I create spaces of healing for youth and adults during and post-incarceration. This experience allows me to bring a unique perspective to the group. I identify as an activist-supporter; its important to not only support our community but to also fight to change the systems causing harm.

Please describe your involvement in the Coalition (subcommittees, meeting attendance, project participation, etc) I have been involved with the Coalition for the last three years. I attend almost all of the meetings and have participated in activities over the years. The most rewarding part of my involvement in the Coalition has been the ability to be connected to organizations that offer resources to my clients that Sankofa is unable to provide. I have had the opportunity to collaborate with several organizations and use them as a direct referral source.

Why are you running for a spot on PRC's Steering Committee?

I believe in the mission and the values of the Coalition. I would like to offer my resources and commit time to removing the barriers that our citizens are facing when returning home.

Do you have any specific goals in mind that you'd like the Coalition to accomplish?

I would like to see trauma-responsive care incorporated into every aspect of reentry. It is time for us as a collective to change the narrative about what healing looks like. Traditional approaches have caused additional harm to the reentry population. Community healing requires all aspects of community support to come together in an innovative way that truly meets peoples where they are and provides what they need. Those who are directly-impacted should and will have their voices centered in the process.