

Co-Convener, Madonna Flores
Norfolk Department of Human Services
201 E. Little Creek Rd.
Norfolk, VA 23505
757-664-7799



Co-Convener, Kathryn Hall
Norfolk Probation & Parole
865 Monticello Ave.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-683-8417

Norfolk Reentry Council Minutes
January 19, 2018
Workforce Development Center
9:00 a.m.

Welcome:

Kathy Hall extended greetings to members and guests present. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Presentation: The speaker from the LGBT Life Center was unable to attend because of illness and will be rescheduled.

Child Support- Joy Sullivan gave an update on their services. There is a new Family Engagement Child Support Pamphlet. The Chesapeake DCSE office will be relocating to the Norfolk/Va. Beach DCSE office on 1/31/18. They have various resources available including bus tickets and the community can come to their agency to inquire & receive the resources.

DHS Programs- Garry Cofield gave an overview of the Family & Community Engagement Services. The Mentoring Program will have a different look in 2018. He will continue to conduct assessments for the returning citizens. He provides community resources, case management, and short-term counseling/treatment. Co-Ed PEER Support is every Tuesday @ 6 p.m. comprised of Reentry Docket participants. He has received several telephone inquiries from the returning citizens. And has noted there is a greater need for Mental Health Care for the returning citizens.

Updates:

Institutions

St. Brides- Chris Walton gave an update about their activities. He stated Warden Ms. Cabell has commended them on their innovated programs. They have Offender Resettlement Journey Program and Seminars. The next Resource Fair is 1/31/18 and will have a table for returning citizens (8). They will also have a Transitional Housing Fair on 4/30/18.

Deerfield – Cynthia Smith gave an update about the activities at their facility. They are a geriatric facility with most inmates 45 years or older. They have the Deerfield Women's Work Center with the Brunswick inmates. There is a Clothes Closet, Cognitive Community and the Transitional Women Work Release Program with Starbucks. They have two (2) Resource Fairs and two (2) Commencements per year. Twenty-One (21) offenders have been granted parole.

- ❖ Faith-Based & Community Initiatives Committee
- ❖ Hampton Roads Re-Entry Employment Committee
 - ❖ Juvenile Re-Entry Committee
 - ❖ Planning Committee

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Indian Creek- Alan Dorrrough reported their activities. They will revamp their Resource Fairs to provide quarterly. Focus on a week-long Reentry Event. They will host a Mock Interviewing Event in March 2018.

Newport News Sheriff Office- Peggy Marvin gave an update about a Housing Grant that will end in June 2018. They were awarded a grant "Crossroads". They provide community resources to include the Oxford House, wrap around Reentry Services, Rental Assistance, Cab Service (to work), 30 day bus passes, and grocery services.

Norfolk City Jail- Paula Dillon provided an update about CSB services provided in Norfolk City Jail. They have a 12 week Addiction Recovery Group and Ten Inmates have completed. The graduation is today. It is hard to place the Community Release Reentry participants in affordable housing. Funding is limited and the Oxford House charges \$600 per month.

P & P: Kathy Hall reported their activities. Norfolk Probation and Parole is partnering with St. Brides Correctional Center Prisoner Resettlement Journey. They continue their visits to St. Brides, Indian Creek, & Norfolk City Jail (Thinking for a Change).

Va. Veterans- Joanna Winters reported there will be a Homeless Outreach Fair for the Eastern Shore & Va. Beach residents at the United Methodist Church. Norfolk Homeless Connect on 1/24/18 at the Norfolk Scope.

New Virginia Majority- Charles Cuffee reported 6 returning citizens from St. Brides had their voting rights restored.

RSI- Soqvoiyia Spencer reported RSI is a Federal Halfway House.

Foodbank- Zach Nissen reported they have a SNAP Outreach Team. He mentioned his successful effort in N.C. working with over 500 residents in completing their SNAP applications. He is available to participate in upcoming Resource Fairs.

VEC- Diane Murray reported she is the Veteran Employment case manager at VEC. They are now located at OPP Inc. Suite #200.

Planning Council- Elaina Dariah reported that 2-1-1 is a valuable resource for service delivery in the community. There is an upcoming Resource Fair on 2/1/18. SHARE is a community resource that provides food at a cost of \$35 and participating in a community service. The participant receives food which is valued above the \$35 cost.

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Fatherhood Initiative- Ben Watterton from NDHS stated he will send out information about his next Fatherhood Initiative class.

Regional Medical Director- Mack Bonner, M.D., MPH who served as a Medical Director at several correctional centers in VA. He retired as a regional medical director. He is interested in making sure Virginia participates in Medicaid Expansion. He volunteers at the Tidewater Health Ministries (4 sites in Norfolk) to advocate for citizens to apply and receive the physical & mental healthcare that is needed especially the reentry population.

Committee Updates:

- **Employment Committee-** Jason Ewers stated their committee is working on an employment brochure and is advocating for fair chance hiring (power point). The Job Fair is their next event. They now have bi-monthly meetings. The next meeting is 3/20/18.
- **Faith Based & Community Initiatives-** Madonna Flores gave an update about the Communication Plan. We have received 300 surveys with feedback from Indian Creek, St. Brides, Salvation Army & WDC. The committee is working on a Health & Wellness Fair. The next meeting is 1/22/18.
- **Juvenile Re-Entry-** Madonna Flores gave an update about their activities. They have developed an after school curriculum that will provide social and emotional development for the participants. The 12 lesson pilot started at SECEP in December 2017 (ages 14-18). There will be a Community Fair for the students and parents on 2/16/18. They are plans to develop a Youth Leadership Advisory Committee. The next meeting is 2/13/18.
- **Planning-** Madonna Flores stated plans are gearing up for 2018. The next meeting is 1/19/18 right after the Reentry Council meeting.

The next Reentry Council meeting is Friday 03/16/18 @ 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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