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Co-Convener, Kathryn Hall  
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Norfolk Reentry Council Minutes  
January 24, 2019  
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 Ms. Jasmine Roberts, Regional Field representative, gave a presentation about Project ID and Spread the Vote. Their services include helping individuals obtain ID's, birth certificates (even out of state), assist in driver's license restoration by providing transportation to the DMV offices & record – issuing offices. Also pay any necessary fees. She addressed questions from those in attendance. Flyers were also distributed to those in attendance.

**Child Support-** Dee Bailey, VA Beach case manager, gave an update on their services. The Va. Beach office is trying to keep them out of jail by implementing programs to help them pay off the debt. Joy Sullivan, Norfolk case manager, gave an update about program initiatives such as reinstating driver and Debt Compromise Program (5% of the State Debt Match program).

**DHS Programs-** Madonna Flores gave an overview of the DHS Programs. Gateway Academy goal is by 2/7/19 to enroll 13 participants in the Culinary Arts, Information Technology (IT), and Basic Construction programs. We are seeking referrals from community partners. We are always in need of mentors. We have the F.A.C.E. family engagement initiative. The Safe Haven PEER Support Group (court mandated) is every Tuesday @ 6 p.m. The W.E.L.L Female Support Group is led by Ms. M. Flores is open for all women on Tuesdays @ 5 p.m. All Support Groups are held at WDC.

**Updates:**

**Institutions**

**St. Brides-** Chris Walton gave an update about their activities. The next Resource Fair is 4/5/19. He distributed the 2018 Annual Resource Center Report to those in attendance. The Shakedown newsletter on Mentorship was distributed to those in attendance. This event was attended by 120 inmates who heard Mr. Rodney White's story about his successful ownership of a \$800 million dollar construction company. They continue the Cognitive Community programs and federal entrepreneurship. Mr. Henson gave an update about the Forklift Program which started in 2016. OSHA certified and 400 have successful completed the training and are ready to work earning at \$9.50 p/h. Ms. Parker gave an update about her resources e.g. Successful Living Seminars, Movie

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- ❖ Hampton Roads Re-Entry Employment Committee
  - ❖ Juvenile Re-Entry Committee
  - ❖ Planning Committee

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Seminars, Vision Board Seminar, and Journaling Program. They partner with the automotive program with Priority Automotive, TCC and Norfolk City Jail.

**Greensville-** Bob Edwards gave updates. They had a Cognitive Community Graduation on 12/14/18 with 67 graduates. There is Life under New Construction with several initiatives such as 109 Core & Treatment, PREP, Money Smart, & T4C. 1500 offenders completed “Family UN Incarceration”. There will be a Culinary Arts Program/CAFE starting on 2/20/19. Bryan Phillips added the college summit was coming up. Partnership with Rappahannock Community College for several college credits and utilizing the PELL Grant for Commercial Art and Print Production to name a few.

**Norfolk City Jail-** Greg Thomas gave an update. He reported they do not have a stand -alone Reentry Program. They have sponsored 3 Resource Fairs and a Job Fair. They will sponsor another Resource Fair in May. They recruit by identifying inmates who will be released in 180 days. They have before and after releases initiatives. The wrap around services include mental health and substance abuse assistance. They have an initiative with OAG to work with gang members they are on their 4th Co-Hort. They have a program with ODU. Also an initiative with Priority Toyota to work with participants that are on work release.

**P & P:** Ebony Sessoms reported their activities. They continue to work with St Brides with the inmate that are ready for release and supervision. Ms. Davis does the Cognitive classes Mon. –Fri e.g. Decision Points, Parenting Class, PEER Support, Foundation Friday has 43 participants for the whole district. Ms. Blake partner with Reentry Mental Health Dockets, Second Chances, CSB. There will be a Retreat next week to incorporate “Family Reunification” Seminars and partner with NDHS.

**VEC-** Diane Murray reported they service the veterans and provide priority employment for the reentry veterans. She is the veteran case manager at the Veterans Employment Office.

**Friends Faith House-** David Brady reported they have 3 transitional houses. Their program is Christ centered. Case by case for sex offender. The fee is \$250 1<sup>st</sup> 2 weeks and \$125 per week. They partner with local staffing agencies. The average stay is 7 months. They have an “Exchange Program” at the Providence Evangelical Friends Church. Brochures were distributed to those in attendance.

**Va. Beach Justice Initiative-** Stephanie Burch reported they have an initiative with Norfolk City Jail and Hampton Roads Regional Jail. They have a program Trauma Focused Yoga. They opened a home for women who were involved in Human Trafficking.

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**CSB-** Brandi Whitman reported CSB is in the Jail. The office is located on Va. Beach Blvd. The first step is to do Intake for Substance Abuse. The hours are Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. -12 p.m. If they need meds will be linked to a doctor. There is the WELL Pact. They also have classes for individuals who are diagnosis with HIV.

Dwayne Mackie reported he is a returning citizen who Jamal Reginald gave him a job. He is working on finishing his degree in social work.

Kati Caskill is a student that is looking for resources.

#### **Committee Updates:**

- **Employment Committee-** Jason Ewers stated their committee is working on a Reentry Job Fair to be hosted by US Probation and Parole and their committee.
- **Faith Based & Community Initiatives-** Madonna Flores reported the committee in collaboration with Emergency Preparedness staff is working on creating a 5 part series Resources Guides. They should be available by March 2019 and also online. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Health Fair in partnership with ODU & EVMS Public Health will be held on 4/5/19 from 10 a.m. -1 p.m. at WDC.
- **Juvenile Re-Entry-** Madonna Flores gave an update about their activities. She stated they were trying to get 9 youths to serve on the Youth Leadership Advisory Board. They were seeking youth from Norfolk, Portsmouth, and the Peninsula. Applications were distributed in Oct.2018. They only received 1 applicant.
- **Planning-** Madonna Flores stated they are working on planning the reentry Summit and Town Hall meeting. The committee will be meeting right after the Council meeting.

The next Reentry Council meeting is Friday 03/15/19 @ 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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