

Co-Convener, Madonna Flores
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Norfolk Reentry Council Minutes
July 19, 2019
Workforce Development Center
9:00 a.m.

Welcome:

Madonna Flores extended greetings to members and guests present. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Presentation: The speaker Ms. Lizna Odhwani from Social Security gave a PowerPoint presentation on Work Incentives Appendix. She gave us thorough insight into Social Security services from A-Z. We learned about Title II Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Title VI Social Security Insurance SSI. She shared that a lot of our questions can be answered by the website socialsecurity.gov. There are a lot of features online such as requesting your social security card online, benefits statement summary, and applying for Retirement. Also you can request the 2018 Red Book Work Incentives the Best Guide to Work online. She addressed questions. Several pamphlets were available for those in attendance.

DHS Programs- Madonna Flores gave an update the Reentry T.E.A.M. SNAPET is a voluntary program that assist those individuals with a criminal background who are receiving SNAP benefits in Norfolk to provide them with training assistance and transportation to achieve independence. The Job Search Training Assistance classes are open to all. Our participants have a 70% employment rate. The W.E.L.L. Support group is open to all women and is facilitated by Ms. Flores every Tuesday at 5 p.m. We have Decision Points (Cognitive Based), Workshops (Professional & Personal), and GED Classes (resumes 9/3/19).

Child Support Services- Joy Sullivan reported effective 7/1/19 there is a lower of the fees whichever is less for the 5% Debt Payment which now is in tiers. It will also assist with allowing the parent to keep their driver's license. Norfolk VIEW program has the TANF/VIEW Project for non-custodial parents. Mr. DeAngelo White is the case manager.

Updates:

Institutions

St. Brides- Raymond Henson gave an update about their activities. The Forklift Certification program continues to be successful. They have 19 participants that have successfully completed the training and are now earning between \$10 -17 per hour. Yashaunty Parker reported her success with the Business Plan Seminars, Family

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Reunification Seminars, Comedy Show workshop, and Vision Board (expand to the family). Their next Resource Fair is 9/6/19.

Indian Creek- Alan Dorrough reported their activities. The following activities include Spectrum, Vision Board, Reentry Celebration, Transitional Housing Initiatives, and Elders Dialogue Training, The Resource Transition Week is being held on 10/29/19, 10/30/19 & 10/31/19. Principal John Long reported Drive To Work Program (Pilot), additional activities are ABE, Building Maintenance, Small Engine Repair Class, CTE Class, and Ready To Work upgrade.

Greenville- Bob Edwards reported their activities. On 6/14/19, 50 inmates graduated from the Cognitive Training. The theme was "My Transition is My Ambition". The summer Resource Fair was held on 6/27/19. They now have 2 Treatment Officers.

VADOC Reentry Services- Marion Curry reported they recently had a DOC sponsored Reentry Job Fair in Richmond at the Arthur Ashe Center. It was a huge success. They would like to sponsor a DOC Reentry Job Fair in the Tidewater area with partners to include all OWD's and Probation & Parole departments in the Eastern Region. Also the Reentry Council. Initiatives include all inmates receiving ServSafe training, Flagging training (new), and there is a MOU for the inmates to get Internet service. He mentioned the Statewide Volunteer Card which is available to anyone that attends the Resource Fairs in VADOC. Contact him for more information. The card allows you to attend the Resource Fairs hassle free.

Community Release-DOC- Paula Dillon reported there will be an Open House at the Gemeinschaft Home (90 day transitional housing) on 9/5/19 in Harrisburg.

CSB- Brandi Whitman reported Norfolk City Jail is now releasing inmates at 9 a.m. instead of 12 a.m. (midnight). There is a grant that will be tracking inmate demographics as part of a forensic discharge plan and there is 2 treatment officers at the Hampton Roads Regional Jail.

P & P: Trish Miller gave an update on their activities. Norfolk is the largest probation district in the state. They continue to have Anger Management classes, Relapse Prevention, Decision Points, Pilot ARM (Administrative Response Matrix), Specialty Dockets including the Reentry Docket Program. Ebony Sessoms reported she continues weekly visits to Indian Creek and St. Brides to assist with supervision. There is a Family Reunification Seminar on 7/23/19 at WDC 6 p.m. -7 p.m. Melissa Mildrum reported they now have a Community Mental Health Tracking Code that is statewide so as individuals relocate throughout the state their mental health treatment plan will follow them. Penny Witcher is the Recovery Specialist at Indian Creek (Pilot). Vivitrol medication to treat alcoholics & OPIOD addiction. She has visited other DOC sites but the medication assistance services is currently available only at the Pilot site.

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Newport News Sheriff's Office- Peggy Murvin gave an update on their activities. They have a TEAM Planning Implementation Grant. They provide residential services, medication assistance, MAT program, and housing thru the Oxford House. The Peninsula is hosting its Re-Entry Summit on 9/26/19 from 9 a.m. -2:30 p.m. at Ivy Baptist Church in Newport News. Cost is \$11.

211 Virginia @ The Planning Council-Elaina Dariah reported 211 is a national information referral service that is available 24/7.

OPTIMA HEALTH-Tenecia Jones is a government outreach specialist for Optima Health. She is available for Resource Fairs. Their services include financial stability, housing, overall health and Medicaid expansion. They also provide sponsorship to agencies that provide Medicaid services.

VEC-Diane Murray reported she is the case manager who continues to provide services to veterans and the re-entry veteran. They have a hiring event calendar and continue the Veteran "TAP" workshop.

Adult Community Supervision- Alfye Ingram reported they are in the process of hiring new staff.

Committee Updates:

- **Employment Committee-** Madonna Flores reported HRREC Fair Chance Job Fair will be held on 9/13/19 at WDC from 10 a.m. -1 p.m.
- **Community Involvement-** Madonna Flores reported the 5 series Resource Guide is now available online (Reentry Website). Copies were available for distribution to those in attendance at the end of the meeting. The committee will start working on the Volunteer Resource Guide to be available by January 2020.
- **Juvenile Re-Entry-** Madonna Flores reported the committee is revising the Parent Resource Guide.
- **Planning-** Madonna Flores reported that 6th Annual Community Collaboration Re-Entry Summit is 9/23/19 at the ODU Ted Constant Center from 8 a.m. -4 p.m. Registration opens on 7/30/19.

The next Reentry Council meeting is Friday 09/20/19 @ 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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