



Norfolk Reentry Council Minutes March 19, 2021

I. Introductions: Co-conveners Kathryn Hall (VADOC) and Madonna Flores (DHS) introduced themselves and thanked attendees. Instructions were given to place phones/computers on mute and to use the chat box for attendees to state their name/role/organization for attendance, and to ask questions.

II. Presentations:

Theresa McBride, Norfolk Court Services Unit Director

- Mission: Protect the public by preparing court involved youth to be successful citizens.
- Guiding Principles: Safety, Connection, Purpose, Fairness
- Their goal is to provide effective interventions to improve lives- help the youth they service leave the system with a higher skillset than when they entered
- Reviewed funding sources for their services, current staffing structure and job openings
- Hours are: Weekdays 8am-5pm, On Call Week Nights 5pm-8am and on Weekends/Holidays, they are flexible and can adjust to meet with families and run groups
- Reform in 2010 brought new initiatives to promote diversion by assessing individuals risks, needs, responsibility.
- Mandated Services Include: Intake (help determine which cases go to court and which are diverted to CSU, utilize DAI), Diagnostic (thorough assessment, provides foundation for court reports, recommendations, and case plans), Probation and Parole (develops plan of action to address offense, youth needs, family needs, and public safety issues)

III. Program Updates:

- **Norfolk Department of Human Services:** Madonna Flores shared about the re-branding to CARES T.E.A.M (Career and Readiness Employment Services). The team is continuing to provide services to re-entry/justice involved, but expanded to additional target populations. Services are virtual and include job coaching, workshops, job club. Location has moved to 741 Monticello Ave for all DHS services.
- **Department of Child Support Enforcement:** Joy Sullivan and Dee Bailey shared that they are working closely with partners to provide services to clients. The TANF Debt Compromise program has expanded. They also discussed new technology advances, including an updated website where clients can apply online, upload documents, text/call workers. Clients can request a review of their arrears payments now.
- **Institutions:**
 - **Indian Creek** staff shared they currently have 400 inmates, and were receiving additional 80 this week. They are offering vaccine clinics, and more than half of inmates

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



have received their vaccinations. They are offering virtual trainings, and assisting inmates in setting up calls with child support and probation and parole.

- **St. Brides** staff reported they currently have 826 inmates, offering weekly vaccine clinics and educating inmates on the vaccine. Over half vaccinated. They are offering modified programming in the Day Room but cannot exceed 10 people. They were chosen as a “New Normal” Pilot Site. Working on creating virtual events.
- **Norfolk City Jails:** Offering prison yoga project, creative writing, partnership with Cavalry Revival Church to offer GED Academy and computers. Recently graduated Second Chance Fathers. Drug addiction support. EVMS hosting virtual zoom education/counseling for women. Hired a Director of Behavioral Health. Will be receiving 123 inmates from Hampton Roads Regional Jail. Are interested in partnering with organizations to provide additional Zoom presentations for re-entry programs.
- **Senior Probation/Parole Officer:** Ebony Sessoms shared that they have been able to have access to inmates via phone to answer questions about probation/parole, talk about how to be successful. They are working on a video to show at the prisons. Held DMV event to get ID’s and licenses.
- **Adult Community Probation:** Alfye Ingram shared they are working at half staff, alternating weekly. Seeing people virtually as needed.
- **Veterans Services:** Diane Murray shared they are offering in person and virtual services, appointment only
- Kathy introduced Alexandria Roberson who is the new coordinator for Drug Court
- **Barry Robinson Center:** Monique Turner Lopez and Nate Alexander provided updates on services. Support for 16-24, behavioral health/substance use. New program “ABA” with trauma focus. To come- workforce development, tutoring.
- **Friends Faith House:** David Brady shared, faith based transitional homes for men leaving incarceration. Sober living, mandatory meetings, help find employment/clothing/food/connect to other services. \$250 entrance fee. Connect with Tidewater Staffing and Staff Zone.
- **Virginia Beach Justice Initiative:** Kathy Confer, Senior Case Manager, shared they work with individuals who have been trafficked/exploited. They provide jail-based training, case management, counseling, transportation, medical assistance, job placement and training. **Help Line: 757-354-4770**
- **Eggleston C3:** Mary Clark shared that programs are up and running, began July 2020. Assist individuals that have lost jobs/hours due to COVID, homeless/at risk, provide employment readiness, transportation to interviews. 2 Staff cover Norfolk/VB, and Ports./Ches/Suff.



- **DARS:** Yohance Goodrich, Vocational Rehab Counselor, works with adult clients with disabilities and substance use disorders. Job placement, counseling, training, coaching. Host meetings via Zoom by appointment.
- **Community Services Board:** Rachel Greenberg talked about services, child adolescence services moved to 5505 Robin Hood Road, Suite C1. 757-823-1530, virtual and in person.
- **Attorneys Office:** Krista Fulton, Marlene Bright shared that Norfolk was awarded “Just Exit” Pilot Program. Will change how we work with prostitution charges.

IV. Committee Updates:

- **Employment Committee:** Jason Ewers shared that the committee met on February 23rd with 19 attendees. Meeting focused on discussing what the barriers were due to the pandemic. Conversation will continue at the next meeting scheduled 3/23 at 9am.
- **Planning Committee:** Madonna shared that the planning committee has been meeting regularly throughout the pandemic and have been having discussions on how to resume Town Hall and Summit. Currently working with Norfolk City Jail and Indian Creek to put together videos to answer questions inmates might have and touch on “myth busters”. A survey was conducted of inmates and was narrowed to top 5 topics. One of the topics will be Benefits through DSS: SNAP, Medicaid/ARTS, TANF. Goal is to make these videos available to various locations and community partners. Summit is tentatively planned for September 20th. Space has been reserved, but the committee is also keeping in mind a potentially virtual town hall.

- V. **Meeting Closure:** Madonna thanked everyone for attending, shared the next meeting date (May 21st, 9:00am) and thanked Dr. Triplett for assisting with Zoom.

Next Meeting: May 21, 2021 – platform to be determined

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