

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
757-785-3746

Norfolk Re-Entry Council Minutes November 19, 2021

Introductions: Co-conveners Kathryn Hall (VADOC) and Madonna Flores (NDHS) 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 ask questions.

Presentation: Ms. Jennifer Dolle, Attorney, from Aequitas gave an overview of the Who, What, How, & Why of Human Trafficking. She shared a slide presentation “From Jail, To Bail, To Sale”. She addressed questions from those in attendance. Her contact information is (202) 578-2418 or (646) 263-3399
jdolle@aequitasresource.org

Program Updates:

- **Norfolk Department of Human Services** - Melissa Ross gave an update on the CARES T.E.A.M. programs including SNAPET, Gateway Academy, and CARES Project. Madonna Flores added that Job Club is now open to everyone. It is virtual.
- **Department of Child Support Services** - Joy Sullivan gave an update on their services and they are still working hybrid. They have centralized mailing and now all mail is sent from Richmond, which may cause delays. You can go to the Portal or contact them by email or text. There is a new Family Engagement Program, an alternative to contempt for individuals unable to pay the child support arrears. The TANF Debt Reduction Program is still available.
- **Institution:**
 - a. **Norfolk City Jail** - Tammy Lindquist reported the program activities for the female inmates. Their activities include Thinking for A Change, Human Trafficking, EVMS, & GED. They continue to partner with many groups and presentations are on Monday’s 2 p.m. -3 p.m.
 - b. **St. Brides** - Raymond Henson reported there are no in person visits at the Correctional center.
 - c. **Deerfield** - Shemeka Lewis reported the cognitive community is up and running.
- **Probation & Parole** – Kathy Hall gave an update on their programs Cognitive Behavioral, Peer Recovery Group, Thinking for A Change and Decision Points. They are fully opened. Pre-Pandemic actions.
- **Adult Community Supervision** - Alfye Ingram reported they are still utilizing the hybrid protocol.
- **Veteran Services** - Mark Cummings reported they are working with the incarcerated veterans with assistance at the Correctional Centers. They provide veteran recovery assistance and veteran benefits information. There is no in person visitation at the Correctional Centers. They are also working with veterans who were exposed to agent orange pre-Gulf War. No walk-ins.

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



- **Norfolk CSB** - Brandi Whitman reported they have hired 2 new staff. They are working with returning citizens with mental health issues. They have a DPH grant. The Urban Renewal Center is operating the Budget Lodge Homeless Center 7 a.m. -7 p.m. They have 120 beds which replaced the homeless program at the Greyhound bus station. They provide peer services, mental health services and the PACT Team formerly known as PACT. There will be no NEST Program this year. The Center will be providing services to the homeless population.
- **EEOC** - Roberto Norberto reported that you can file complaints online through their website eeoc.gov Their office may be re-opening in Mid- February 2022 or March 2022 to the public.
- **Specialty Courts** – A. Roberson reported the Specialty dockets reestablished the guidelines for Drug Court & Mental Health Court. Virtual. New laws will effect participants in the programs.
- **Staff Zone** – Shuriah Bledsoe reported her company will be recruiting in the Norfolk area for long-term & short-term temporary positions in construction and other labor roles and they are reentry friendly. They will pick up employees and drop them off.
- **Urban League** - Francine Allen-Humphrey is a Financial Coach with the Urban League. She provides one-on-one coaching, financial assistance, online presentation, and online one-on-one coaching.
- **Kathy Confer** – Reported that VB Justice Initiative offers jail classes, video intake, training, Emergency Food, clothing, & transportation.
- **Keira Majeed**- Reported she is from NE Tenn. and is transferring to the Norfolk Area. She is a certified PEER Recovery Specialist.
- **Department Of Corrections Reentry** - Ms. Singleton reported the Executive Team is looking at the Reentry Councils. There is a large amount of reentry individuals entering the communities at large. Looking at how they are being served. The hope to have statistics by June 2022.
- **Adult Correction Services** - Wendy George Hall continue to work hybrid.

Committee Updates:

- **Employment**- Madonna Flores reported that Jason Ewers is no longer with NDHS. Alan Dorrrough will continue to chair the committee. They are working on developing an employer sector forum in Spring 2022. Their next meeting is 12/21/21. Please contact Mr. Dorrrough if you would like to join the Employment committee.
- **Planning** – Madonna Flores reported the 7th Annual Community Collaboration Reentry Summit held on 9/20/21 was a success and 147 persons were in attendance. Gary Williams was the presenter and did a great job. Gary Williams was not in attendance today because he is on vacation. You can view the Reentry Summit presentation at www.norfolk.gov/Reentry.

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Closure: Kathryn Hall & Madonna Flores thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting date is January 21, 2022 @ 9:00 a.m. Meeting Adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

The Next Meeting: January 21, 2022, at 9:00am

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