



Norfolk Re-Entry Council Minutes January 21, 2022

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. Rachel Cropper, Director of Homeless Employment Services from the Urban Renewal Center. She shared a slide presentation about the Urban Renewal Center. She provided those in attendance with the history of the partnership that created the Urban Renewal Center. She addressed questions from those in attendance.

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.
- **Department of Child Support Services** - Joy Sullivan gave an update on their services and they are still working hybrid. They can be contacted by email, telephone, text, or the portal. The TANF Debt Reduction Program is still available.
- **Probation & Parole** – Kathy Hall gave an update. Their numbers have increased. They are seeing a few clients in the office. They are utilizing Shadow View. They do have a job board in the lobby. They are not going into the institutions at the present time.
- **Safe Harbor** - Selwa Yatim-Badra spoke and advised that they provide substance abuse services to veterans.
- **VEC** - Melissa Cooke stated they are focusing job search services. They have a virtual hiring event every month on a Wednesday. She will send an email with info for the next event in February.
- **Social Security** - Lizna Odhwani gave an update that the Norfolk office will be opening real soon. Services are still provided on the phone and online. There is a vulnerable population liaison assistance available. She is the education and outreach person for Social Security.
- **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.
- **Va. Beach Justice Initiative/FreeKind** - Kathy Confer No Update.
- **Bright View Addiction Center** - Laura Dugan reported they are an addiction center that provides out-patient drug addiction services since August 2021. There is no wait time and transportation assistance is available for the first two visits. They will accept individuals without insurance.
- **DCJS** - Cyn Nwarache, Reentry Coordinator is visiting statewide Reentry Councils.
- **Loving Steps** - Michael Jones gave an update about his program. They are enrolling fathers from Norfolk & Portsmouth. The 2nd Annual Fatherhood Symposium is 3/29/22. He will send a flyer for distribution.

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

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- **VADOC** - Carolyn LeCroy reported they are restricted in going into the institutions and programs are cut back. They continue to provide services virtual.
- **Virginia Veterans Family Support** - Crystal Sanderfer reported they continue to provide for reentry veterans. They also have continued to telework.
- **Victoria Evans** - Citizen from Yorktown, a Regent University student.

Committee Updates:

- **Employment**- Madonna Flores reported that Alan Dorrrough submitted a report. He had to leave for another meeting. The committee met in December and January to establish direction for committee endeavors. The December meeting was held with intention on focusing on increasing participation. There were several standing members and local reentry probation officers present. In both meetings they discussed several projects that had been taken on by the committee and what direction considered this year. Areas of interest include Job & Resource Fair effectiveness; Industry Sector Education; Business & Community Collaborations; establishing a workgroup to determine process for hosting a construction and/or hospitality forum. NDHS will no longer be serving in leadership role for this committee; Alan Dorrrough will chair for the foreseeable future. Employment Partnerships and Regional Association workshops. If you are interested in joining the Employment Committee, please contact Alan Dorrrough. The next meeting is 2/15/22.
- **Planning** – Madonna Flores reported the Planning Committee continues to explore sustainability and seeks to pursue new strategies to continue a collaborative network to share information. Save The Date, the next Reentry Summit is 9/19/22. She reminded everyone about the Town Hall Topics available by video on the website. The Committee is working on adding videos for VASAP & DMV this year. She encouraged everyone to view the videos and encourage others to watch/share. Videos are available at www.norfolk.gov/Reentry . The Planning Committee is recruiting new members. Please contact Madonna Flores or Kathy Hall for next meeting date.

Closure: Kathryn Hall and Madonna Flores thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting date is March 19, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting Adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

The Next Meeting: March 19, 2022—platform to be determined.

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