

Reentry Roundtable Session (Virtual)

Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 2:00 PM

Attendance:

Lou Grillo

Kelly Hundley

Desiree Brooks

Sharon Thomas

Deborah Cozart

Monica Satterwhite

James Johnson

Tenisha Kelly

Melissa Elliott

Carolyn Perry

Eric Owen

Durwood Hunter

Jamie Cunningham

Dawn Michelle Tucker

Tracey Edwards

John Mattocks

Welcome and Introductions:

Reentry partners and guests were welcomed to the meeting. Tracey Edwards, Supervisor for Child Support was in attendance and Regional paste

Reentry Event Review & Discussion:

The Reentry Event was a success! A huge shout out to Melissa Elliott for reaching out to Vance County Mayor Ellington and to Sheriff Brame for their attendance and also for A big “Thank you” to Gang Free for providing lunch to the attendees and volunteers. Because of this event, follow- up discussions took place with the District Attorney and the Career Centers made partnerships. All parties involved are looking forward to the next event. Seventeen people were also given COVID-19 vaccinations. Names and phone numbers were collected to follow up on from this event.

The Henderson Daily Dispatch published two articles about the Reentry event. The first article was about the partners that would be present at the event and the second article shared a picture of Mayor Ellington reading the proclamation announcing that April is “Second Chance” month. The radio station, WIZS featured information about the event and information was posted and shared on social media.

Reentry Council Process Update:

We are working diligently on getting our Reentry Roundtable designated as a council. Our state representative, Tenisha Kelly is providing guidance on completing this goal. Lou shared the Local Governance Structure Overview which is on the kerrtarworks website. For this conversion to happen, there is a Local Executive Committee and from that, there are subgroups in areas such as housing, food, and transportation. All of these areas must be filled in order to complete the process of moving to a council. We are very close in becoming a council with only a couple of items with Department of Commerce to be completed.

Service Provider Program Updates and Local Updates:

- James Johnson with the New Start Reentry Program provided a short synopsis of the program. The staff meets with incarcerated individuals that are within 120-180 days of release onsite at the correctional facility. After their enrollment in the program, case managers help them connect with resources they need such as transportation, food, and employment to name a few. The case managers also provide support to the participants for at least one year. These individuals are faced with emotional challenges and so another component was added to the New Start Program, a mentoring component. In addition to providing resource information and emotional support, there is a strong linkage with the local career centers to find the hot jobs in the area and what is needed to qualify for those jobs. The hot jobs in the area are shared with New Start staff and participants.
- The mentoring component of the New Start Program is called “Day to Day Dads” and is led by Eric Owens. The mission of the “Day to Day Dads” program is to make Dads Great Dads and to be productive and engaged with their children. It is a safe place for Dads going through the same issues to share. Assistance is offered with fathering skills and a special curriculum is used called “The 24/7 Dad” and this workshop is offered depending on the availability of the participants. Examples of curriculum used are workshops about the father’s role, child growth, and communication. Support groups and legal workshops are held on a regular basis as well as several workshops that are open to the public. Please complete the referral form which will be sent out and return the form to Eric and he will reach out to those that need.
- A “Shout Out” to Durwood Hunter for his referral of a Franklin County participant to several job opportunities and because of the great partnership with Vance-Granville, the participant will be able to attain their Forklift certification. Durwood is a representative for the NCWorks Career Center. Referral forms will be on the kerrtarworks site.
- Vance Day Recovery Center (John Mattocks) works with individuals with opioid disorder. The center can administer medications that reduce the negative effects of withdrawal and cravings. The center can also assist with housing, clothing, food and other services. The referral process is first come first serve on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The doors open at 5:30 AM. After hours Mr. Mattocks presented his cell phone number. The contact information will be on the kerrtarworks site.
- Tanisha Kelly attended a Disability Rights webinar and shared information on the NCID. Recently released individuals need their ID but they may not have a permanent residence. A way to overcome this, the Career Centers may elect to use their address for the customer’s address. Monica said that they have done that for a long time at the career centers and will continue to do that.

- There is a course “Certified Reentry Specialist “that will be offered on June 17, 2021 from 9:30 until 11 and the next day from 2:30 to 3:30 PM. Registration is on the NCWorks Training Center site.
- The state Reentry Coordinator is Mike Lockamy. He sends out a spreadsheet each week showing those individuals that are being released and what county they will be going to once released.
- Jamie and Vance County DSS Child Support Contact, Tracey Edwards met to discuss non-custodial parents and child support. The main focus is to get people to work and to take care of their kids. For those that are incarcerated and pay child support, payments are to be discontinued until their release and until they find employment. There are times when DSS is not always aware that someone is incarcerated so child support payments continue to be sent. When DSS becomes aware of this, those that are released, can receive credit for the time that they are incarcerated. Also, those that are in the local county jail can file a motion for a reduction in child support. If there are any questions, call DSS for assistance.
- Desiree said Carolina Coops hired three referrals through Melissa Elliott. And one more is needed. Carolina Coops has said that if all went well, those that were hired and could receive an increase and pay and be hired permanently as well

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Hundley