

## **Reentry Roundtable Session (Virtual)**

**Wednesday, December 15, 2021 2:00 PM**

### **Attendance:**

Kisha High	Deborah Cozart	John Mattocks
Lou Grillo	Jamie Cunningham	Dawn Michelle Tucker
Kelly Hundley	Hal Muetzel	Eric Owens
Sharon Thomas	Melissa Elliott	Tanesha Kelly
Desiree Brooks		

### **WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS:**

Reentry partners and guests were welcomed to the meeting.

### **SERVICE PROVIDER PROGRAM UPDATES:**

- There are eight participants currently in the New Start Program and all of them are working.
- New Start is working on increase their enrollments. Flyers about the program are being distributed throughout various agencies and programs.
- New Start is partnering with Hub Zone and have provided laptops for everyone that has come out of incarceration.
- New Start provides guidance and counseling through any challenges participants may face in meeting their goals. In addition, there is a Dad's Program and there are workshops offered virtually. The workshops are on Monday afternoons and there is a workshop being offered in the prison as well.
- This Saturday, there will be a "Me and My Dad" event at the Marbles Museum in Raleigh. The event is free and is from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Dads and children will watch the movie "Polar Express" in 3-D and also explore the museum. Lou said James sent a flyer about the event and that he would get that out to everyone.

### **HOUSING SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE:**

- There will be a Rental and Utility Assistance clinic on December 21, 2021 and on January 4, 2022. This event will be held at the Oxford Career Center. The clinic will assist individuals with the NC Hope Organization application. The NC Hope Organization provides assistance with rent and/or utilities for those individuals with a hardship due to COVID. Also, while individuals are at the center, they can receive assistance applying for jobs and other job readiness services.
- Information for a program called Low Income Water Assistance Program (LIWAP) was provided. It is for Vance County residents that receive TANF or foodstamps or if residents qualified for LIWAP last year, they will automatically be eligible for up to three years of assistance. A flyer will be sent out to everyone about the program.

### **CRIMINAL RECORD EXPUNGEMENT EVENT:**

- Kerr-Tar hosted a Criminal Record Expungement Event on December 7, 2021 at the Gateway Center. Fifteen people attended the event. NC Legal Aid presented the

program. Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunities, Family Resource Center, and NCWorks provided information to the attendees about the services they provided.

- The next expungement clinic is scheduled for January 4, 2023.

#### **LOCAL UPDATES:**

- Tanesha Kelly is waiting for more information in order to move forward with the Reentry Simulation event. She will update the roundtable.
- Kisha received a flyer from Carolyn Perry about an event in Louisburg. Kisha will send that out to the group.
- A flyer for an event hosted by Eric Owens with the Family Resource Center for Dads and their children will be sent out to everyone.
- Melissa provided information on some of the emergency housing options in the area. Granville County has a program that will help with utilities and rent and she will send the email to Lou.
- Indian Affairs has housing for HUD. One of Melissa's participants was approved for an emergency housing voucher. Information about the vouchers will be sent to Lou.
- There is a great need for shelters in the community. Most shelters are on a first come first serve basis. Gang Free, Inc. organization packed bags with items such as soap and hand warmers and gave them out to the homeless in the area.
- The First Baptist has limited space (around 6 to 8 people) for the homeless.
- The "Grow in Grace Recovery and Live Home", is an initiative by Tisha Temple. She is raising money for faith based housing for women in recovery to grow as individuals and as a part of the recovery community.
- The NCWorks Career Center held a hiring event yesterday for Idea Fastener. There was a great turn out for the event.
- The Career Center will be partnering with Express Professionals for a hiring event in January.
- Gang Free, Inc. is in their last week of a six week vaccination clinic. Gang Free, Inc. was one of ten vaccination sites in the state and have vaccinated over 500 people in the last six weeks! If anyone needs vaccines, please come out or contact Melissa. Gift cards for \$100 are being given out for "first timers" receiving a vaccine.
- Gang Free, Inc. adopted all Head Starts in the four county area and delivered toys. There are extra toys available if anyone knows of children that is in need of toys this Christmas. Food is being donated as well so please email Melissa Elliott for more information.
- The Daymark Recovery Center in Henderson is working with Hope House in Oxford, a new recovery house for women. There is a staff assisted recovery area and an independent Hope House for those women that have graduated from the staff assisted recovery Hope House area. After the staff assisted recovery time in Hope House, clients may graduate to the independent Hope House. Daymark Recovery Center has one client enrolled in Hope House, but there are three more slots available. There is a cost of \$500 a month.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 2:00 PM

