

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
757-683-8417

Norfolk Re-Entry Council Minutes
May 20, 2016
Workforce Development Center
9:00 a.m.

Welcome:

Kathy Hall extended greetings to members and guests present. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Planning Committee:

Madonna Flores introduced the newest member of the NDHS SNAPET Re-Entry Team Jason Ewers. She gave an update about the recent Education and Training Town Hall event that was held on 5/17/16 at the Workforce Development Center. There were 114 in attendance and several comments were highlighted from those in attendance.

Presentation:

Ed Collum & Jennifer Branham gave an overview of the services provided by Opportunities for Change a Prison Re-Entry Program. Questions were answered and information packets were distributed to members and guest present.

Program Updates:

- **Child Support Enforcement-** Joy Sullivan stated they are now available for presentations to churches and City Jail. She also advised that Va. Beach Re-Entry Council is having a Town Hall meeting.
- **DHS Programs-** Gary Cofield gave an overview of the services provided by NDHS. Family & Community Engagement services were highlighted. There are 9 mentors and 8 has been assigned. Peer Support Groups continue to be offered, W.E.L.L. (Female) and Safe Haven (co-ed) have 15 participants.

Institutional:

- **St. Brides-** Chris Walton gave an update about the initiatives/programs available for the returning citizens. Highlighted: Dance Night with DAD (Aug.). Resource Fair 6/16/16. GED & Vocational program has 62 participants, 2nd Graduation in Nov. and now have a Barbering program.
- **Indian Creek-** James Keeling gave an update about services & programs e.g. DMV ID, Wells Fargo, Veterans Services, Resource Center, & Forklift Certification. Resource Fair 6/10/16.
- **Greenville-** Josh Coleman stated Marion Curry coordinated a men's panel of 50 (returned citizens) who came back and shared their experiences.

P & P:

- Gary Betts provided an update and stated that 40 probation clients were referred to the Education & Training Town Hall event @ WDC. SPO Ebony Sessoms along with Garry Cofield made a presentation at the Justice-Involved Women's Summit on Family Reunification. The probation office hosted an

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



Anger Management Seminar 5/16/16 with 23 participants. Continues to collaborate with NDHS for T4C in Norfolk City Jail, next group will begin in early June.

Veterans

- Diane Murray with VEC gave an update about services for the disabled veteran.

Others

- **GUTS**-Lateefah Robinson reported that they have moved to Va. Beach. They will continue to provide transitional services for participants (referrals from probation & parole).
- **STEP-UP Inc.**-Sandra Brandt gave an update on the Restoration of Voting Rights. Information is available on-line or the local voter registrar office. Next year legislations include working on "Ban the Box" & court fines.
- **Jennifer Branham** with OFC advised of a conference for children of incarcerated parents @ Hampton Crowne Plaza hotel on 7/15/16-7/17/16 youth 13-17 years old cost free. Referrals are needed.
info@changinglivestogether.net
- **Dustin Smith** introduced himself as someone passionate in working with re-entry population. He appreciates any resource information that is shared so he can refer clients, employed as Community Liaison for Intensive Community Outreach Services 4310 Indian River Road Chesapeake Va. Contact for training and services dsmith@icoservice.com.
- **Felecia Shearin** – Felecia Shearin briefly shared about herself and agreed with info presented during presentation regarding returning citizens needing soft skills & more community resources to assist them in becoming self-sufficient.

Committee Updates:

- **Employment**- HRREC co-chair, Jason Ewers advised that the Job Fair will be on 7/21/16 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at WDC. They are targeting 25-30 employers. The next meeting is 5/24/16 @ 9 a.m. in room 303 @WDC. Joy Sullivan is working on streamlining the court cost process into a workable format by 6/21/16.
- **Faith Based**- Madonna Flores stated three churches were interested in the mentoring training. The next meeting is 6/20/16 @ 10 a.m. in room 303 at WDC.
- **Juvenile Re-Entry** – Madonna Flores distributed the Parent Resource Guide books to those in attendance. The committee is currently pursuing partnering with NRHA to assist with the F.U.S.E. Festival on 9/3/16. They are also coordinating a Voter Registration Drive with the League of Women Voters. The next meeting is 6/14/16 at 9 a.m. in room 208 at WDC.

The next Re-Entry Council meeting is Friday 7/15/16 @ 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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