

Co-Convener, Madonna Flores
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Co-Convener, Kathryn Hall
Norfolk Probation & Parole
865 Monticello Ave.
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Norfolk Reentry Council Minutes
September 16, 2016
Workforce Development Center
9:00 a.m.

Welcome:

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

Presentation:

Jeff Kowalski CAD/Drafting Instructor at St. Brides Correctional Center provided an overview of college courses offered at St. Brides Correctional Center. They are the first reentry program to offer college credits and was reviewed by the American Council on Education (ACE) in VA. & U.S. Career Technical Education. Questions were addressed about this unique college credit program. Timothy Donley (Regional Principal) assisted in the presentation.

Program Updates:

- **Child Support Enforcement-** Joy Sullivan advised that they have free booklet/workbook for children from Sesame Street to be distributed at the upcoming workshop. TANF Project VA. Order Wage Attachment 5% off child support debt. Currently there is a hiring freeze and the Norfolk & VA Beach offices are merging. .
- **DHS Programs-** Gary Cofield provided an overview of the services provided by NDHS. Family & Community Engagement services were highlighted. NDHS continues to do well with G.R.O.W./W.E.L.L. (women's group) & Safe Haven (co-ed) support groups.

Updates:

Institutional:

- **St. Brides-** Chris Walton provided an update about the initiatives/programs available for the offenders. Highlighted: DSCE Debt Compromise Program; "Re-entry outside Reaching in Seminar" every 6 months. Transitional Fair 10/25/16. Resource Fair 12/7/16. Josh Coleman provided an update about a magazine to be available for the families, information will be available about community resources. There is an upcoming statewide meeting with wardens. GED Graduation will be held on 11/4/16 for 50 graduates.
- **Newport News Sheriff's Office/Reentry-** Peggy Howard provided an update on their partnerships with homeless returning citizens; working closely with Veterans Wounded Warriors, Union Mission & Oxford House.

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

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P & P:

- Kesi Simmons provided an update on Probation & Parole; they will be having their 3rd T4C graduation next week. T4C in the probation district will be on hold as they are exploring implementing a shorter cognitive behavioral program. Possible implementation in October 2016. Peer Support & Family Reunification programs are doing well.

Community Updates:

- **Employment-** Jason Ewers gave an update on the Employment Resource Fair that was held on 7/21/16. There were 220 participants; Feedback surveys indicated that 137 would be considered for potential hire and 23 potential educational placement. The next meeting is 9/20/16 at 9 a.m. in room 303 @WDC. DSCE payment plan for restricted driver's license.
- **Faith-Based & Community Initiatives-** Madonna Flores advised that they are finalizing the Faith-Based Community Resource Guide. Also, are currently working with New Life Ghent to help them implement a mentoring program. Mentoring training scheduled with New Life in October 2016. The next meeting is 11/21/16 @ 10 a.m. room 303 WDC.
- **Juvenile Re-Entry** – Madonna Flores provided an update on their collaboration with Teens with A Purpose for the F.U.S.E. Festival which was held on 9/10/16 at the Attucks Theatre. Voter Registration table was presented by Tidewater League of Women Voters, a lot of people had questions answered and were advised of event that was scheduled for Grove Baptist Church on 9/12/16, which included Governor being onsite to sign off on restorations. Rhashida Bess shared information about the game show that was hosted, community receptions towards Parent Resource Guide and learning the answer to some questions. Madonna also shared some of the feedback that was provided on the \$40 Million Dollar Bills. The committee is now working towards using feedback from the dollar bills to help develop an after school program for youth.
- **Planning Committee** – Madonna Flores advised that registration is now open for the Community Collaboration Re-Entry Summit which will be held on 10/17/16 at the ODU Ted Constant Center. The Governor, Mayor of Norfolk, & Director of Corrections will be in attendance. Cost is \$15.

The next Reentry Council meeting is Friday 11/18/16 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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