



Durham Local Reentry Council Minutes May 21, 2025

Robin Heath, Justice Services Department, Assistant Director, began the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their time and participation.

Mrs. Heath introduced Jana Bradley from the Durham County Public Library for the first presentation.

I. Durham County Public Library: presented by Jana Bradley

Ms. Bradley began by stating that she works at Durham County's Main Library in the Small Business Center on the 3rd floor. Most of her duties fall under Economic and Workforce Development.

➤ General Library Information:

○ Obtaining a library card:

- Cards are free to Durham County residents - property and business owners, employees of Durham County and public schools; all other residents will have to pay \$45.00/year for the same access.
- DPS students, teachers and staff are part of the SLAM Program which gives them access to a card and library resources.
- Identification, **including proof of address**, is required to obtain a card at any Durham branch location.
- A 30-day temporary card can be obtained on-line (especially useful for people who do not have proof of address).
- Institutional Cards are available to childcare programs, prisons, nursing homes and hospitals.

○ Why go to the library?

- In addition to books (hard copy, e-books and audio books), residents can access DVDs, CDs, public scanners, printers, fax machines, meeting and study rooms, open Wi-Fi and hot spots.
- Libraries are open to the community as an informational and space resource.
- You can download the DCo Hoopla OverDrive app to check out materials if you are unable to physically access the library.

○ Online Resources:

- You can access a full listing of online resources by visiting the website: durhamcountylibrary.org → click the 'Online Resources' tab
- 'How to find a job' has been a very resourceful tool for the community. 'Brainfuse' is a platform that is used to assist in resume writing, interview and test prep and assist veterans in finding employment amongst a plethora of other assistance and resources regarding gaining employment.

- ‘Northstar Digital Literacy’ is accessible for individuals who are wanting to learn computer basics.
- Small Business Center:
 - The Entrepreneurial Mindset Training Course provides assistance for individuals interested in starting their own businesses; workshops are available for one-on-one communication.
- Summer Reading Program:
 - Specifically for teens to assist in:
 - College entrance test prep
 - College application help
 - English as a Second Language (ESL) classes
 - Computer and tech skills

*****(Updates by Robin Heath inaudible)*****

Mrs. Heath introduced Donna Farrah from the Department of Commerce as the next speaker.

II. Department of Commerce: presented by Donna Farrah

Ms. Farrah opened her presentation by detailing the facets of the Federal Bonding Program. Ms. Farrah stated that this underutilized program is available to job seekers as well as employers.

The Federal Bonding Program:

- Is an insurance coverage available to an employer for up to \$25,000
- An individual who is justice-involved and hired for a job can receive federal bonding under the following eligibility criteria:
 - Having been or is currently justice-involved
 - Recovering from substance use
 - SNAP or TANF recipient
 - Have poor or no credit
 - Dishonorably discharged from military service
 - Lacking work history
- There is no deductible applicable to the employer i.e. if a laptop worth \$1,000 was stolen or damaged, the employer would recoup the full \$1,000.
- No paperwork is required by employers except for NC Works Career Centers; there is a simple one-page document to complete.
- Potential employees are provided with an eligibility letter detailing the requirements noted above to present to their potential employers.
- The Federal Bonding Program can cover an employee for more than one (1) job.
- It is **not** renewable after six (6) months.
- Federal bonding does not cover businesses that deal with cannabis, guns etc.

*****(Discussion session inaudible)*****

Meeting ended

Attendees:

Robin Heath – JSD, Asst. Director – rheath@dconc.gov
Rasheeda Royster – LRC Housing Case Manager - rroyster@dconc.gov – 919-560-0543
Mike Sstrom – Jail Ministry, Stepping Up – msstrom@gmail.com
Irene Lawrence – NCDAC – irene.lawrence@dac.nc.gov
Quanesha Archer- Step Up - qmarcher@dconc.gov
Youngmee Hahn – Urban Ministries – yhahn@umdurham.org
Christine Morrow – Urban Ministries – cmorrow@umdurham.org
Nikola Milenkovic – GoTriangle – nmilenkovic@gotriangle.org
Antonio Carrington – Welcome Home – antonio.carrington@durhamnc.gov
Donna Farrar – Department of Commerce – donna.farrar@commerce.nc.gov
Benjamin Gear – Orange County LRC – bgear@orangecountync.gov
Quanita Byers – Community Supervision – quanita.byers@dac.nc.gov
Michael London – NC PROWD – Michael.london@durhamnc.gov
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