***Durham Local Reentry Council Minutes***

***November 20, 2024***

Ontario Joyner, LRC Coordinator, began the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their time and participation. All attendees introduced themselves.

Mr. Joyner introduces the house rules and the purpose of the LRC. Mr. Joyner also explains that LRC aims to make positive connections with community members to serve and provide opportunities and resources for people returning from incarceration. The LRC’s main goal is to reduce recidivism and provide ample support for justice-involved individuals in Durham.

Mr. Joyner introduced Uplift Laundry Truck as the first presentation.

1. **Uplift Laundry Truck:** presented by Joshua and Yahsina Carr

Joshua and Yahsina Carr stated they are the co-founders of this non-profit organization. Their mission is to provide the Triangle region with laundry assistance. Josha stated that there is a high volume of people with ‘laundry insecurity’ and explained that this is defined as individuals going a long period of time without being able to do their laundry or are struggling with the process. Uplift Laundry Truck provides the low-income community with solutions to laundry insecurities. There is a multi-tiered system in place as follows:

* Working directly with citizens and
* Holding laundry events where people can wash their clothes and receive laundry supplies

One of the ongoing issues with providing this service is that the North Carolina Housing Code has not mandated landlords and property managers to provide apartments and dwellings with laundry hookups/availability.

While Uplift Laundry Truck primarily services the Raleigh-Durham area, Joshua and Yahsina have plans to expand their servicing area.

Yahsina Carr provided information regarding her background as follows:

* Currently works as an Early Interventionist with the Department of Health and Human Services for over 10 years. In identifying developmental delays in children, she refers families for corrective services. Referring families for clothing from various sources, Yahsina discovered the need for laundry services as families struggle to keep their clothing clean.

Joshua Carr provided information regarding her background as follows:

* While teaching in Title I public schools for 15 years, he discovered that ‘laundry insecurities’ actually keep students from learning and diminishes teachers’ ability to educate students effectively. Joshua also discovered that students aged from Pre-K to 12th grade are prevented from developing as a whole child because of their consistent preoccupation with maintaining clean clothes or having a lack thereof.

Uplift sponsors free monthly laundry events by partnering with local laundry facilities and providing individuals with the ability to wash two (2) small loads or one large load of clothing and other items. All supplies are provided free of charge.

A Rapid Direct Service Program is also sponsored by Uplift in conjunction with partnering laundry facilities. Individuals can go on their website, submit a form and request laundry services. Once receiving the information from the website, the clients are directed to the most convenient laundry facility according to their location. This Rapid Direct Service Program is made possible because of partnerships with other community programs, non-profits and private sector businesses that contribute services as well. In addition to this program, wash centers are available throughout the Raleigh/Durham area.

Uplift utilizes volunteers who are needed at events and would assist in handing out detergent and other supplies and keep an account of how many people are being served and the amount of supplies used.

Mr. Joyner thank Uplift Laundry Truck for an informative resource presentation and introduced Diana Powell for the second presentation.

1. **Justice Served NC, Second Chance Alliance:** presented by Diana Powell

Ms. Powell introduced herself as the Executive Director of Justice Served NC and the Statewide Outreach Coordinator for Second Chance Alliance. Through a justice-involved incident with a family member, Ms. Powell discovered that there was a need for the Durham community to learn how to navigate through the justice system. Justice Served and Second Chance Alliance was created to prevent individuals from continuing in the justice system by taking away barriers that individuals encounter when re-entering society.

Ms. Powell stated that the organization started with expungement processes by pre-registering 3,479 individuals within a three (3) week time frame. In going through the expungement process with clients, Ms. Powell saw the need to incorporate a driver’s license restoration process as well. Over 1,000 people have had their licenses restored through this effort. Justice Served and Second Chance Alliance has built relationships with the legal system to streamline these processes for clients and assist with taking care of their fines and fees as well. Classes are held for individuals to educate them on how to file their own motions and go through the entire process of restoring their licenses.

Ms. Powell offered her contact telephone number - 919-594-9076 - and encouraged the meeting attendees to reach out to her at any time.

Mr. Joyner thanked Ms. Powell for her very informative presentation.

1. **LRC Updates:** presented by Ontario Joyner

Mr. Joyner reported:

* There will be a Resource Fair on December 4th at the Justice Services Department from 1pm – 4pm; no registration is required; individuals are not required to be justice involved to utilize any resources that are made available
	+ - There are 12 confirmed vendors including housing, medical, and employment vendors
* Clients Served:
	+ - received 56 referrals
		- completed 44 intakes
		- Eight (8) new clients enrolled in the on-site employment class; one (1) client has graduated receiving a refurbished laptop
		- 18 clients gained employment with an average salary of $14.90/hr.
		- Four (4) clients are enrolled in the Durham Tech GED program; Two (2) clients completed the Safe Serve Certification course; one (1) client completed their DMV safety course
		- If anyone would like to join a subcommittee – Employment, Supportive Services or Housing - please contact Mr. Joyner directly
1. **Subcommittee Updates:**
* **Housing Update**:
	+ Two (2) people have been placed in permanent housing through an ARPA grant which consists of monies for Emergency Housing and Short-Term (Transitional Housing). This was a collaborative effort between the LRC and the community as a whole. Mr. Joyner expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone who contributed to this monumental accomplishment.
	+ For Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024
		- 43 clients were placed in emergency housing
		- 55 clients were placed in short-term (transitional) housing
		- 8 clients were placed in long-term housing
	+ For Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025
		- 9 clients were placed in emergency housing
		- 45 clients were placed in short-term (transitional) housing
		- 4 clients were placed in long-term housing
* **Employment Update:** (Inaudible)
* **Supportive Services Update:** (Inaudible)
1. **Adjournment – Ontario Joyner**

Mr. Joyner thanked all for attending the meeting and for their services to the community and adjourned the meeting.

**Attendees:**

Ontario L. Joyner – LRC Coordinator - ojoyner@dconc.gov - 919-560-7589

Rasheeda Royster – LRC Housing Case Manager - rroyster@dconc.gov – 919-560-0543

Antoan Jeffries – LRC Employment Case Manager - ajeffries@dconc.gov – 919-560-0016

Necole Stewart – Case Manager Assistant - nstewart@dconc.gov

Richie Mendoza – TROSA – rmendoza@trosainc.org

Joselyn Williams – TROSA- dc@trosainc.org

Kiki Battle – Welcome Home – jakeithia.battle@durhamnc.gov

Christine Morrow – Urban Ministries – cmorrow@umdurham.org

Brendon Dorrance – Urban Ministries – bdorrance@umdurham.org

Glenn Bateman – Urban Ministries – gbateman@umdurham.org

Jessika Gore – Community Empowerment Fund – jessikag@communityef.org

Mike Sistrom – Jail Ministry, Stepping Up – msistrom@gmail.com

Irene Lawrence – NCDAC – irene.lawrence@dac.nc.gov

Joshua Lyles – Jubilee Home – joshua@jubilee-home.org

Bill Delfino – Step Up Durham – bill@stepupdurham.org

Diana Powell – Justice Served/Second Chance Alliance – 919-594-9076

Quanesha Archer- Step Up - qmarcher@dconc.gov

Channel Chance – Union Baptist Church – channelchance49@gmail.com

Crystal Moore – NCPROUD -crystal.moore@ncproud.org

Sandra Lassiter – Welcome Home – Sandra.lassiter@durhamnc.gov

Youngmee Hahn – Urban Ministries – yhahn@umdurham.org

Sophia Janken – JSD – sjanken@dconc.gov

Wesley Carr – Uplift Laundry Truck – upliftlaundrytruck@gmail.com

Yahsina Carr – Uplift Laundry Truck - upliftlaundrytruck@gmail.com

Drew Doll - RCND reentry@nonviolentdurham.org