Durham Local Reentry Council Minutes

July 17, 2024

Ontario Joyner, LRC Coordinator, starts the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Introductions from everyone in attendance.

Ontario introduces the house rules and the purpose of the LRC. He 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. He introduces the subcommittee structure of housing, employment, and other supportive services.

**Partner Presentation**

***NC FIT*** – Quanesha Archor

The FIT Program is designed to help address this gap in care. The FIT Program broadly collaborates with existing reentry providers across a wide spectrum of support services, primary health care providers and the NC prison system. The first FIT Program in the state was started in early 2017 in Durham County with partners including the Lincoln Community Health Center, The Durham County Department of Health and the Durham Criminal Justice Resource Center. A Community Health Worker (CHW) works directly with the formerly incarcerated individual after release to achieve successful reentry and specifically to facilitate connections with primary medical care, and if needed behavioral health and substance use treatment. The CHW will take them to medical appointments and help assure they have proper follow up and can obtain their medications. Returning to the community after incarceration is a process filled with challenges – finding a job, finding a place to live, reconnecting with the remnants of a former life. For many formerly incarcerated individuals, this return is made even more difficult by chronic health problems like diabetes, kidney disease, or mental illness. But because there are so many other obstacles to overcome, these individuals are often unable to access the kind of health care that they require and simply go without regular care.

***Recidivism Reduction Call Center***  – Kerwin Pittman

Recidivism Reduction hotline project allow people recently released from prison/jail and those seeking reentry information to connect with a RREPS operator to request information about, and set up warm referrals to, employment, housing, healthcare, and public benefits services. Upon receiving a call from a returning citizen, their loved one and/or supporters our staff/volunteers will connect the caller with resources and services in our database which reach throughout the state. The hotline operators will also follow back up with each caller and ensure their needs are met. Launching this hotline has enhanced our current Recidivism Reduction Direct Service model by adding the capability to provide immediate assistance to our long-term mentoring model.

**LRC Updates:**

**LRC Client Update**:

LRC Meeting- September 18th

Housing Subcommittee meeting September 11th

Employment Subcommittee Meeting September 12th

Supportive Services Meeting September 10th

**Meeting Adjourn – Ontario Joyner**

Ontario thanked all for attending the meeting and for their services to the community. Explained the next meeting will be May 17th via zoom at 3PM Ontario adjourned the meeting at

Quanesha Archer- Step Up - qmarcher@dconc.gov

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Mike Sistrom, Community Safety and Wellness Task Force Criminal Legal System Round Table, and Durham County Jail Ministry coordinator, msistrom@gmail.com

Bill DeFulvio - StepUp Durham - Resumes/Mock Interview/ Job coaching bill@stepupdurham.org

Drew Doll - RCND reentry@nonviolentdurham.org

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