



Durham Local Reentry Council Minutes January 15, 2025

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

Mr. Joyner stated the house rules and the purpose of the LRC. Mr. Joyner also explained 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 then asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

Mr. Joyner introduced Oak Street Health for the first presentation.

I. Oak Street Health: presented by Charisma Haynes, Community Relationship Manager and David Moore, Outreach Executive Director

Ms. Haynes and Mr. Moore shared their background information, then went on to state that they've just completed a soft opening for their new location within CVS Health/Pharmacy. Oak Street Health is a place where Medicare recipients can see their doctor, social worker or behavioral health specialist while waiting for a prescription or using a community room. Ms. Haynes noted that Oak Street **only** services only adults and people with disabilities who have Medicare.

Mr. Moore reported that Oak Street Health specializes in primary care but also provides specialty care services such as behavioral health. Their mission is simply to keep older adults healthy. Oak Street was started in Chicago on the Southside 11 years ago. Once it was established that this health care module had a positive impact in the Chicago community, it began to expand. Now that CVS is the owner of Oak Street Health, its offices are expanding at a rapid rate across the United States.

▪ **Why does Oak Street Health exist?**

- Since Baby Boomers are now the fastest growing/aging population there are 10,000 Medicare recipients turning 65 years of age daily
- To ensure access to care for the Medicare recipient population
- To make sure that there is a design plan for each individual's health care needs where access to all care needed is under one roof in their own communities

▪ **Why does it matter?**

- By providing services to communities to stay healthy and strong for longer periods of time benefits the community as a whole
- By building trusting relationships between Medicare patients and clinicians, this population are more likely to seek health care service than in the past

▪ **What is the future of Oak Street Health and healthcare in general?**

- Medicare is starting to promote a ‘one stop shopping’ approach to healthcare where all of the patients’ needs are addressed in one location. This is the module that Oak Street Health complies with to ensure its longevity in communities throughout the country.
 - Satiating the growing need for clinicians to spend more time with their patients in order to assess and address their needs effectively also ensures Oak Street’s longevity in providing this kind of care.
- Ms. Haynes stated that as part of the outreach efforts of Oak Street Health, she and Mr. Moore assist food pantries, churches and senior living facilities in their day-to-day functions in order to form relationships with these community resources for patient referrals.
- There is an open-door policy where individuals/organizations can use Oak Street’s available spaces to conduct presentations, have round-table discussions and host other community activities.
- Medicare education is also provided in collaboration with insurance agents to ensure individuals are enrolled in the correct Medicare plan that matches their medical needs.
- **Note:** Justice-involved individuals must have 40 credit hours of work in order to qualify for Medicare (which would give them access to Oak Street’s services)
- Fee-for-Service vs. Value-Based-Care:
- Fee-for-Service is a traditional treatment module and is based on treating (and paying for) one condition and/or symptom at a time.
 - Value-Based-Care is based on metrics, preventative care and take into consideration the whole individual’s medical concerns to assess and treat them. Oak Street is structured using The Value-Based-Care Module.

Mr. Joyner thanked Ms. Haynes and Mr. Moore for their excellent presentation and introduced Ms. Jesika Gore representing the Community Empowerment Fund.

II. Community Empowerment Fund: presented by Jesika Gore, Member Resource Specialist

Ms. Gore began by stating that the Community Empowerment Fund (CEF) is a non-profit organization which was established in Chapel Hill in 2009. It is an organization based on empowering communities, encouraging individuals to build healthy habits concerning finances and ending the racial wealth gap that exists in the counties of Durham and Chapel Hill. The organization was founded by college students and grew in capacity over the past 16 years and is now celebrating their 10-year anniversary of servicing Durham residents.

The structure of CEF consists of advocates who are 18 years of age and older and college students. The members are the heart of the organization in that they set up their own meetings, agendas, make decisions prioritizing tasks and are supported by advocates and staff. Attending orientation is the only requirement for becoming a member. Advocates are required to attend trainings in racial equity.

Ms. Gore went on to stipulate ‘misconceptions’ surrounding the organization as follows:

- The organization **is not equipped with unlimited funds** but does have a resource referral list that members can utilize.
- The organization **does not have their own housing** but will help members obtain housing by utilizing their community resources.

- **Note:** CEF is looking to partner with local agencies, landlords and property managers who will advocate on the members' behalf in their search for housing
- The organization **no longer has its own food pantry** but maintains a current listing of pantries accessible to members.

Ms. Gore went on to state that financial coaching is the main function of CEF. This is the foundation for building long-term relationships with communities in meeting the smallest of financial goals.

CEF consists of three (3) central programs:

1. The Laptop Savings Program: In partnership with Kramden Institute, where a member can open a safe savings account (saving anywhere from \$30 - \$70) after 4-6 weeks, members will receive a desk or laptop.
2. Financial Coaching Program: This consists of a Safe Savings Program. CEF provides a 20% savings match (up to \$400/yr.) after members complete eight financial coaching sessions and have met their savings goals.
3. First-Time Home Buyers Match Program: The requirements are that the members must:
 - a. Have two (2) years of stable employment/income
 - b. Must open a Safe Savings Account and save \$2,000.00. In Durham, CEF will then match \$6,000.00 towards the members down payment. Members will also be connected to other programs that will reduce their closing costs.

Ms. Gore concluded by reporting that:

- CEF currently serves approximately 3,000 members (not all of whom are active).
- Chapel Hill does not have an affordable fair housing market, which is a contributory factor in the low number of individuals who actually have purchased homes through the First Time Buyers Match Program.
- There are no restrictions/barriers for justice-involved individuals applying for CEF programs.
- Appointments can be scheduled via the online Interest Form which can be accessed from the website ***communityempowermentfund.org***. or contact Ms. Gore at 919.307.6371.
- The Advocacy portion of the organization is an extremely essential component. Advocates donate their time, money, and fund-raise for CEF. Advocates are also asked to commit two (2) hours/week for two (2) years to the organization. The application process is opened up twice a year to apply for advocate positions.

Mr. Joyner thanked Ms. Gore for her excellent presentation and moved on to updates.

III. LRC Updates: presented by Ontario Joyner

Mr. Joyner reported:

- Clients Served:
 - received 62 referrals
 - completed 45 intakes
 - 11 clients gained employment in December 2024 with an average salary of \$14.22/hr.
 - Two (2) clients are enrolled in the Durham Tech GED program; three (3) clients enrolled in the Forklift Certification class; two (2) clients enrolled in the

Apprenticeship Construction Program; three (3) clients participating in the Career Readiness Class

- Four (4) clients received long-term housing assistance in December and one (1) person is scheduled to move in to housing in January
- In collaboration with the Religious Coalition for a Non-Violent Durham and GRACED Outreach, a great deal of food boxes which included frozen meats and dried goods were delivered directly to clients.
- Uplift Laundry Truck is conducting a charity event on the 25th of January at the Laundry House where individuals can clean two (2) free loads of laundry and receive products (flyers made available).
- The Apprenticeship Program is sponsored by the Durham Business and Professional Training – a skilled training institute. It is a 16-week course and provides a \$1,000.00 stipend at the end of the course (flyers made available).
- LRC is preparing for Second Chance month in April
- Walk-in days are still Wednesdays from 9am – 2pm at JSD; referrals are still preferred
- If anyone would like to join a subcommittee – Employment, Supportive Services or Housing - please contact Mr. Joyner directly

IV. Subcommittee Updates:

- **Housing Update:**
 - (Lao Rubert's report inaudible).
 - Ms. Rasheeda Royster requested that anyone with connections to anyone in the housing market reach out to her. The goal is to establish as many vendors as possible to assist clients that are obtaining permanent/long-term housing.
- **Employment Update:**
 - A date for an Employer Fair will be forthcoming
 - The Small Business Resources is now sponsoring 'Third Thursdays' where people can gain information on how to start a small business
 - Hallmark Contracting will start hiring on or about February
 - Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities is offering a 4-month paid internship up to 28 hours/week with flexible pay
 - The NC Home Builder Association is now taking applications for their training class which includes a stipend for \$10.00/day up to \$50.00/week
- **Supportive Services Update:**
 - Mr. Drew Doll stated that good progress was made on developing the Resource Guide, however more input (attendance) from people who actually have specific information regarding resources in the community would be helpful in completing this guide.

V. Adjournment – Ontario Joyner

Mr. Joyner thanked all for attending the meeting, for their services to the community and adjourned the meeting at 4:37pm.

Attendees:

Ontario L. Joyner – LRC Coordinator - ojoyner@dconc.gov - 919-560-7589
Rasheeda Royster – LRC Housing Case Manager - rroyster@dconc.gov – 919-560-0543
Necole Stewart – Case Manager Assistant - nstewart@dconc.gov
Sophia Janken – JSD – sjanken@dconc.gov
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George Obriant – JSD – gobriant@dconc.gov
Jesse Battle – TROSA – jbattle@trosainc.org
Brendon Dorrance – Urban Ministries – bdorrance@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
Quanesha Archer- Step Up - qmarcher@dconc.gov
Sandra Lassiter – Welcome Home – Sandra.lassiter@durhamnc.gov
Youngmee Hahn – Urban Ministries – yhahn@umdurham.org
Drew Doll – RCND - reentry@nonviolentdurham.org
Laylon Williams – Alliance Health – llwilliams@alliancehealthplan.org
Admire Holman – Victorious Outcomes – victoriousoutcomes@yahoo.com
Robert L. Mason – Greater Life Worship Center – rlmason@visitglwc.org
Shontae Alexander – NLEP/Free All My Suns – info@freeallmysuns.org
Michael London – PROUD – Michael.london@durhamnc.gov
Brooke Anderson – Jubilee Home – brooke@jubilee-home.org
Lao Rubert – Volunteer/CJAC – lrubert100@gmail.com
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Lashawnda D. Key – DAC – lashawnda.key@dac.nc.gov
Edward Sparrow – Step Up Durham – edward@stepupdurham.org
Charisma Destiny Haynes – Oak Street Health
David Moore – Oak Street Health
Charles Johnson – Victorious Outcomes
Mohagany Foster – Mohagany's Mission
Kristi Riley – Welcome Home
Eric Haddock