



## Durham Local Reentry Council

Meeting Minutes: September 20, 2017

3:00pm – 4:30 pm

### MINUTES

**Attendance:** Valeria Brown, Ben Haas, Ryan Smith, Bernadine Walden, Laylon Williams, Keyanna Terry, Tanya Davis, Natasha Downey, Dina McKinney, David Hall, D. Malik Kenny, Kristen Powers, Courtney McCollum, Omar Taylor, Nathan Taylor, Torrey Green, Gudrun Parmer, Curtis Richardson, Alesha Jones Garrett, Anne Jones, Robin Heath, Dave Crispell, Genesis Smith, Paula Harrington, Tieshia Young, Grace Nichols, Tanya Davis, Pamela Gray, Connie Ragland, Baqir Mujahid, Darin Johnson, Bill Dunlap, Lao Rubert, Michael Bishop, Drew Doll, Dorel Clayton

**Staff:** Roshanna Parker, Celia Jefferson, Lourdes Garcia-Rolon, Karen Shaw, Peter Baker, Demetrius Lynn, Robin Heath.

<b>Welcome/Introduction</b>	Karen Shaw, LRC Coordinator, opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
<b>Meeting Purpose/Overview</b>	<p>Karen reiterated from the last meeting that at monthly meetings, a partnering agency will give a presentation regarding their agency and/or program so that the LRC can become more familiar with the services available in the community.</p> <p>Karen gave a brief meeting purpose/overview for new members at the table. In December 2016, CJRC received a contract to serve as the Intermediary Agency to coordinate the creation of the LRC. CJRC was a natural pick to further this role due to the relationship with the Department of Public Safety and the reentry work they have done over the past 10 years. The contract included two positions: a full time LRC Coordinator and a part time Job Placement Specialist and both positions have been filled. They have received their training in the CART system which is the community automated reentry tool that allows them to track services provided by the LRC. They have finished part I and II and have a few follow-up sessions to complete.</p>

<p><b>Partner Presentation</b></p>	<p>Ben Haas, Director of the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham shared that they are here to hold and create space for people of faith that most do not see often in their work. Ben shared that the coalition and the faith teams are here to do reentry work because they think that occurrence is a huge part of the problem. He stated that the most basic principle of any faith he has encountered, calls for us to be much more proximate in a relationship with folks. Incarcerated individuals and participants of extreme violence in Durham are the type of people we are losing and the people who are perpetuating those losses are our brothers and sisters. According to Ben, if we love or neighbors as ourselves as we are called to do, it is hard to love through indifference or from a distance.</p> <p>Ben shared that for 25 years the coalition has spent time creating space for people of faith and people of good will in Durham. They get next to, walk with and are with those who have offended violently and those who have experienced loss because of those violent offenses. He noted that they are blessed to have CJRC as a partner. Partners allows them to be supportive in the community that our friends and neighbors are trying to reenter.</p> <p>Ben introduced Drew Doll, Coordinator at the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham. He distributed an information sheet that shared their mission statement, their work, faith, covenant and other details. Drew also explained their faith teams and the work they do with justice involved individuals.</p> <p>Roshanna added that the Religious Coalition is responsible for the clothing closet at CJRC. She shared that they have been able to provide individuals with clothing that are needed for job interviews or basic clothing as they come out of facilities.</p>
<p><b>Sub-Committee Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Housing:</b> Lao Rubert, committee chair, shared that they had a lot of people involved with the housing committee present at the meeting. They looked at the role of the shelter in the crisis response system model that is already established in the National Alliance to End Homelessness. She explained that there is a federal definition for homelessness and if you are in prison, you</p>

	<p>are not defined as homeless. However, the 700 people who will be coming back to Durham from prison are technically homeless. Lao advised the Council that the committee hopes to develop a system for Durham that is similar to the collaborative to end family homelessness process model. She asked if anyone knew of any housing providers that the committee may not be aware of to please send the information to Karen Shaw.</p> <p><b>Employment:</b> Courtney McCollum shared that the committee is reviewing the information from the last meeting break out session. They are working on putting together short term goals so that they can come up with a process they can do immediately and streamline people who are justice involved.</p> <p><b>Supportive Services:</b> Roshanna shared the importance of the major areas they focus on. She explained how it is necessary to look at the needs of individuals to make sure they can be successful. In addition to bus passes, they are looking at other modes of transportation available in the community. They are mapping out ways people can access health care and prescriptions, and other cares of that nature. They will try to develop a flow chart that will inform individuals where to go for medical, legal, child support, child care, and other related services. They will get concrete information to distribute to individuals experiencing these issues.</p> <p>After the Sub-committee updates, it was suggested to move the subcommittee meetings up to 1:30pm to give committees ample time to meet and move the LRC meeting to 3:30pm to allow adequate time to transition the room. The Council members voted to keep the sub-committee meetings at 2:00pm-3:00pm and to start the LRC meeting at 3:15pm.</p>
<p><b>Intermediary Update</b></p>	<p>Karen noted that everything is up and running for the LRC. They now have a website, two brochures -- one for LRC Clients and one for prospective Council members.</p> <p>Lourdes Garcia presented a preview of the website. The website consist of information about LRC to include: what we do, how to get started, a Durham LRC Referral Form, how to contact us, events and how to join the Durham LRC. The council provided feedback.</p>

	<p>Karen advised the Council that they have started to receive clients. They have processed 11 referrals and have entered three people into CART. She advised that they have a few additional referrals pending.</p>
<p><b>Partner Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Grace Nichols:</b> Southerners on New Ground (SONG) is a grassroots cooperation organization where you cross gender, social class and racial status. They are part of an action movement that has bailed out 13 black mothers in Durham. Six of them had their charges completely dropped including an additional two individuals from their last bail out action.</p> <p><b>Paula Harrington:</b> shared that they are having a Durham Celebrate Recovery event. The event is next Saturday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> from 2pm – 6pm at Durham Central Park. She invited everyone to attend.</p> <p><b>Kristen Powers:</b> Social Justice is launching their first steering committee for Durham residents 14-21 years old. If you are interested in dismantling the School –to-Prison Pipeline advising their work get your application in.</p> <p><b>Michael Bishop:</b> Durham VA Medical Center. They are planning their Raleigh Stand Down on October 27<sup>th</sup>. This will be where every resource that is needed will be in one place for veterans specifically. There will be an expungement clinic. If you know someone or clients who are trying to get records expunged feel free to contact him. There is a form you will need to turn in before coming to the event to have a background check. If you are eligible, you can be expunged on the day of the event. You can mail your forms in.</p> <p><b>Baqir Mujahid:</b> Community Organizer shared that they have planned the same event at SCSJ, and if you need any support services, contact him.</p> <p><b>Laylon Williams:</b> Alliance Behavioral Healthcare. Laylon works close with the First Responders in Durham. He is the CIT Coordinator and puts together 40 hours of the CIT training that they attend. He is working on putting together a Durham CIT app that will list local resources. He will be in contact with some of the committee for resource information. This app will be useful for the First Responders and the community.</p>

	<p><b>Esther Coleman:</b> Durham Workforce Development Board and City of Durham Office and Economic Workforce Development, asked if the partner's events will be on LRC website. Roshanna responded that it might happen eventually but not at this time.</p> <p><b>Tiesha Young:</b> Eckerd Workforce Development, reported that during the last meeting her grant coach asked for at least 5 individuals to be enroll in their program by the end of the week. She was happy to share that they had exceeded that number and have enrolled 16 participants.</p>
<b>Adjourn</b>	
	<b>Subcommittee Meeting on 10/18 at 2:00pm</b>
	<b>Next LRC Meeting 10/18 at 3:15pm</b>