



## DURHAM LOCAL REENTRY COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes: August 16, 2017

**Attendance:** Darin Johnson, Bill Dunlap, Elvert Dorsey, Evan Ashkin, Michael Bishop, Keyanna Terry, Sherri Holmes, Drew Doll, S. Rosales, Nicky Fletcher, Alesha Garrett, Candace Rashada, D Malik Kennedy, Natasha Downey, Lorraine Taylor, Lao Rubert, Jim Svara, Clarence Birkhead, Gudrun Parmer, Baqir Mujahid, Courtney McCollum, Desdemona Faison, Sammantha Andes, Derrick Byrd, Bernadine Walden, Curtis Richardson, Torrey Green, Bonnie McDonald, Esther Coleman, Lenora Thompson, Tieshia Young, Dennis Gaddy

**Staff:** Roshanna Parker, Celia Jefferson, Lourdes Garcia, 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. She introduced Demetrius Lynn, LRC Job Placement Specialist. He shared a little about himself and stated he has a lot of years working and connecting with the community. Karen noted that LRC is fully staffed.
<b>Meeting Purpose/Overview</b>	Karen reiterated from the last meeting that at monthly meetings, a partner 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.
<b>Partner Presentation</b>	Nicky Fletcher reported on Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). Their office is located off Hillsborough road in Durham. Their mission statement: To promote employment and independence for people with disabilities through customer partnership and community leadership. VR is a non-profit state agency, a division of the NC Department of Health & Human Services. They may provide guidance and counseling, training, education, medical, transportation and other services to eligible consumers in order to help them become job-ready. To be eligible for VR services, an individual must have a physical, mental, emotional or learning impairment that is keeping them from working and need VR to get ready for, find, or keep a job. If an individual has a disability and is receiving SSI or SSDI benefits, the individual must intend to work. VR requires a documented diagnosis of a disability by a medical doctor, license psychologist of an area mental health

	<p>or substance abuse center. VR’s process includes group orientation, appointment with counselor, application, gathering of medical information to determine eligibility, then determination of eligibility. Core services include diagnosis &amp; treatment, counseling &amp; guidance, job related services, training and assistive technology. Nicky noted that people can schedule appointments over the phone.</p>
<p><b>LRC Kick-Off Updates</b></p>	<p>Karen thanked everyone for the help they provided. She also thanked George O’Briant, CJRC staff, for taking pictures of the event. She noted that pictures of the kickoff event will be showing throughout the meeting. She announced that there were about 100 people that attended the event, 88 of whom registered. She gave special recognition to Tieshia Young with the Eckerd Program for gift bag donations and Courtney McCollum for purchasing some of the refreshments. She also acknowledged Jennifer Meade who volunteered herself and her staff from setup to break down.</p> <p>Karen asked the LRC for feedback. Tieshia commented that the event was awesome and noted this was her first time attending an event at this capacity. She felt that everyone was warm and had a purpose for being there. She suggested that in the future maybe they can pose some questions that can be raised prior to the event. Candace Rashada commented that it was a great event though she felt we should have included someone on the panel who was justice involved. She stated that going forward we should keep that in mind.</p> <p>Tieshia, introduced Esther Coleman, Durham Workforce Development Board and City of Durham Office and Economic Workforce Development. Esther noted that the Durham Workforce Development Board was a recipient of the training to work grant. This week they have been joined by their grant coach, Lenora Thompson. Lenora Thompson is assigned to the grant By the Department of Labor. She works with Coffey Consultant in Philadelphia. Lenora expressed their goal to enroll at least five people in the program by the weeks end and a total of 170 participants total.</p>
<p><b>Intermediary Update</b></p>	<p>Karen noted that they are currently working on scheduling several meetings with some of the major stakeholders. They are looking at scheduling housing meetings with Lloyd Schmeidler, Elvert Dorsey and Lao Rubert. They are also scheduling employment meetings with Anthony Rogers, Tieshia Young, the Step Up program, Courtney McCollum and</p>

	<p>Cadance Rashada. She also gave dates for meetings scheduled with the Division of Community Corrections as well as individual prisons – Wake, Orange and NCCIW. Karen made a proposal to avoid extra meetings on everyone’s calendars; she proposed moving the big LRC meeting to 3:00-4:30pm every month on the third Wednesday and have subcommittee meetings from 2:00-3:00pm on that same day. After the subcommittee meeting we would come together to report out to the LRC. Roshanna noted that their goal in the future, is to not have the big LRC meeting as often.</p>
<b>Breakout Session</b>	<p>The LRC broke out into three subcommittees -- Housing, Employment and Other Supportive Services. Notes from each session were taken and are attached for your review.</p>
<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>
<b>Next LRC Meeting</b>	<p><b>Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Subcommittee Meetings at 2:00pm</b>  <b>LRC Meeting at 3:00pm</b></p>