

# MINUTES

## Durham Local Reentry Council

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*Date | time* 11/15/2017 3:15 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Karen Shaw, Coordinator

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### In Attendance

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Malik Kennedy, Lachandra Wilkins, Dave Crispell, Bessie Elmore, Drew Doll, Shanetta Burris, Natasha Downey, Tieshia Young, Eric Haddock, Laura Holland, Sala Abdallah, Kristen Powers, Bill Dunlap, Courtney McCollum, Lao Rubert, Baquir Mujahid, Juan Nelson, Erin Parish, Anne Jones, Michael Harley, Prettie Prabhu, Bremela Howerton, Candace Rashada, Chuck Manning Sr., Omar Taylor, Torrey Green, Pearlie Williams, Hasan Salih, Lavogue Manley. **Staff:** Karen Shaw, Demetrius Lynn, Lourdes Garcia, Roshanna Parker, Gudrun Parmer

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### Meeting Purpose / Overview

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After introductions, 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 (DPS) 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; both positions have been filled. CJRC has loaned us Lourdes Garcia, who works part time as a case manager for the LRC. They all have received training in the CART system which is a community reentry tool that have allows them to track services provided by the LRC.

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### Partner Presentation

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Karen reiterated that at each LRC meeting we will have a partner presentation to keep us informed about who's at the table and tell us about their agency; this month we have a presentation from Juan Nelson with StepUp Durham. Juan introduced himself and stated he has been at StepUp Durham for the two and a half months; he started in August. He was hired to be both Employment Counselor and Community Advocate. Juan explained that StepUp Durham is an employment program that works with people from different backgrounds and in any situation. They help people who have part time positions find full time work, people with full time positions who have suddenly lost their jobs find employment, and they assist in updating and preparing resumes. They make sure individuals in reentry are afforded a second chance at employment opportunities by talking with employers to make sure they understand the candidates' backgrounds. Once clients finish the orientation week, they start working with different areas where they need assistance. StepUp has a Peer Support Specialist to help those individuals that have been released from prison or the jail and have mental health issues and substance abuse disorders to maintain and hold a job. They have a different program to help these individuals to use the tool box they have available by introducing them to the RAD program. They teach conflict resolution classes as well as effective communication and Choices Decisions and Consequences (CDC) to recognize mental barriers they experience and how to deal with them. Once completed, there is a graduation from the program. StepUp has a relationship with Wheels for Hope, a car program that gives away cars for those who qualify. They recently had a car blessing for a female who was justice involved and had been riding the bus for several months before being awarded her first car. Lao Rubert asked Mr. Nelson to explain the work that StepUp has been doing with Duke regarding justice involved people gaining employment. Juan explained, they have created a system for clients that apply to Duke where their applications are flagged; StepUp communicates with Duke and their HR Department.

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## Sub-Committee Reports

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**Housing:** Lao Rupert is the chair of the housing subcommittee and informed the group that they are working on multiple projects. They are looking at existing housing resources and creating an updated list that includes eligibility criteria. She informed the group that Karen was able to get a list of people who are scheduled to be released and return to Durham from DPS. Karen has plans to start talking to them about their housing plans and needs to avoid individuals being dropped off at the shelter. They are also in the process of creating a flow chart of what the greater Durham community is doing in terms of homelessness and housing needs. Lao asked that if anyone knows of any housing options available in Durham to please let Karen know.

**Employment:** Candace Rashada, co-chair, stated they are primarily working and focusing on two tasks. First, they are creating a referral form that will allow us to do cross referrals among the agencies that are at the table. Demetrius is working on a draft for the subcommittee to evaluate. Second, Ms. Anne Jones from UNC School of Social Work has an interest in focusing on entrepreneurship for justice involved individuals that have problems finding traditional employment or social enterprising to help them gain financial stability. Pamela Gray from Durham Literacy and the GED and Work Skills program shared the program is being offered to juveniles 16-24 years old at the County Jail; it is a two (2) hour program that they attend while in jail. She said the good thing about it is that participants are engaged in the program and are getting their needs met prior to them being released. Erin Parish with the City of Durham's I-Team talked about them trying to allot a certain number of positions as transitional jobs for justice involved individuals within different departments. She emphasized that they are still in the talking and planning stage.

**Supportive Services:** Roshanna reported that there were five agencies in the subcommittee meeting and that it was a great meeting; they are still looking for additional partners in supportive services. We had two new representatives at the table from Sunrise Recovery Center that had to leave due to prior commitments and a conflict in their schedules. They shared information about groups, housing, treatment as well as peer support services. They want to be added to the group and want to present the services that they offer. The subcommittee had a representative from NAMI to join them and share valuable information as well. The Supportive Services subcommittee is looking for wrap around services available to help with client needs. Roshanna emphasized that if anyone knows of other providers in the community that are not necessarily employment or housing and that provides services and support to the offender population or justice involved to please tell them about the LRC and the meetings that we are having. She explained, we are not trying to reinvent the wheel and we don't want to create new programs and processes – we want to tap into what we currently have available in the community.

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## Intermediary Update

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### New Business

#### Client Update/Referrals & Intakes:

Mrs. Shaw shared that to date we have received 39 referrals, several of which are pending intake appointments, and there are six (6) active clients. There was a question raised about walk-ins appointments and what the process was for seeing them. Karen explained that if LRC staff is available at the time we will see the client, however if no one is available the client will be given an appointment to come back. Another question asked was how many of those referrals are coming directly from prison or other places? Karen explained, five (5) of the six (6) active people in CART came from Probation and was a self-referral of someone in reentry who relocated to Durham from Florida. She further explained that CART collects information related to an individual's incarceration level and to where participants have been released from. Roshanna Parker explained the difference in what our LRC referrals look like now versus what they will look like in the future. She explained that initially DPS envisioned LRC's receiving referrals directly from transitional facilities. However, DPS rolled out money for the creation of LRC's prior to completing their re-missioning process for the transitional facilities. Because of this, we have LRC's up and running prior to the transitional facilities being available. Without DPS having to change their total mission, they advised established LRC's to reach out to justice involved individuals on post

release and/or probation. As of today, we have met with all of the Probation Units in Durham and have educated officers about the LRC and the services we provide. We encouraged officers to refer all individuals interested in receiving assistance from the LRC. Although this was not the primary focus when the Council was created, we will see a shift in referrals over the next few months once the transition facilities are up and running. We have made contact with some of those facilities; we have met with NCCWI and Orange Correctional; they are aware that the Council exists and can make referrals accordingly. Once the transitional facilities are up and running there will be a shift in our referrals and the process will be broadened.

### **MOU's & Confidentiality Agreements**

Karen Shaw requested that all members please sign the Confidentiality Agreement and MOU. She explained that in order to be considered a provider for LRC clients, a Confidentiality Agreement signed and MOU's must be signed and put into the CART system. She specifically made reference to providers like housing and supportive services that will receive money and require reimbursements.

### **Convening Meeting**

Roshanna Parker explained that reentry has been talked about for many years; DPS lead the charge in the development of reentry councils but recently there is some interest on a higher level and the Governor's office is interested in the development of Reentry Councils in more than the 14 counties that now are in existence. They are interested in the process of having those councils up and running as well as in the possibility of expanding these type of initiative Statewide. In his quest to learn more about the LRC model, DPS has a Convening meeting scheduled for Friday November 17, 2017 in Winston-Salem for staff from the Governor's Office and representation of all of the Reentry Councils. During our next meeting, we will give a report on how the meeting went. The DA Roger Echols, the Chair of CJAC; Roshanna Parker, Intermediary Representative; and the LRC staff will be in attendance.

### **December Meeting**

Karen Shaw announced that the December meeting will be cancelled due to the holidays and hectic work schedules. We will resume on January 17, 2018 with subcommittee and LRC meetings.

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## **Partner Announcements**

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**Omar Taylor – JACH** shared that they are having a Christmas Party on Saturday, December 16, 2017 from 2pm to 6pm @ Glendale Heights United Methodist Church at 908 Leon Street. They will sponsor meals, presents, raffles and prizes; they have been doing this since 2006 and have been funding the party out of pocket. He requested donations for the male residents. Donations can be dropped off at 1204 E. Club Blvd any time before 12/16/17.

**Erin Parish – City of Durham** – announced the Driver License Amnesty Program; it is going very well. They partnered with the DA's Office to try to dismiss Durham County traffic charges that are 18 months or older. They had about 2000 applicants. She recognized the fact that they might not be able to serve all 2000 due to eligibility requirements; they are hoping to serve at least half. They will be presenting their research to the City Council during the Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> work session from 1pm-4pm.

**Michael Hurley – Second Chance Equipping Center** announced they are giving help and classes to teach justice involve individuals to build their self-esteem to keep them off the streets; they are also doing GED, Life Skills and Job Placement. They have helped people turn their lives around and have baptized 106 people at the Durham County Jail. He invited everyone to take a look at their website [www.secondchanceequippingcenter.org](http://www.secondchanceequippingcenter.org).

**Eric Haddock – NCWorks Next Gen Program** introduced himself as the new Program Manager on his second day of work. **Tieshia Young** shared that Eckerd has had two success stories in which each individual has stable housing and both are employed. They are working on their third individual.

**Kristen Powers – SCSJ** brought information about their Fair Chance Business Certification. This program celebrates businesses who are open to hiring people with criminal records; they are looking for recommendations for employers within the community who does fair chance hiring and trying to recognize these businesses.

**Pearlie Williams – NAMI** shared information about the offering all courses for free [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org) for adults and adolescent who suffer from MH. She also mentioned that they advocate at the legislature level as well. She does presentations and shares her story.

**Drew Doll – RCND** shared information about the next volunteer training; to be held on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ St. Luke Episcopal from 9am-1pm. Also shared information about the Third Annual Film Festival to be held on December 27, 2017. The film festival is a day for people from reentry to come and have a great time. Drew encouraged the group to send him an email to submit suggestions for the movies to watch.

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## Next Meeting

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1/17/2018 2:00 PM, Subcommittees will meet in different locations @ CJRC prior to the LRC meeting.

1/17/2018 3:15 PM Local Reentry Meeting will meet @ CJRC Multipurpose Room 326 E. Main Street Durham NC

Meeting adjourn at 4:25pm.