

WAKE LOCAL REENTRY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 24, 2020- Zoom Virtual Meeting

Facilitator: LaNarda N. Williamson

Participants: 58

Agenda Item: Wake LRC Purpose and Goals

- The purpose of the Council is to reach every returning citizen with timely, effective support. To determine client needs and work collectively to meet both immediate needs and develop strategies to meet long-term goals.
- Wake LRC Goals:
 - Strengthen the referral system/ improve access to services
 - Identify new partners
 - Learn about partner resources/ Build the partnership network
 - Determine immediate and long-term reentry needs
 - Determine what's missing
 - Create subcommittees that will focus on targeted participant needs and report plans to the Council
 - Seek funding and support opportunities to expand capacity
- Targeted focus areas:
 - Education
 - Housing and Transportation
 - Well-being and Basic Needs
 - Employment and Training
 - Policy Change and Advocacy

Agenda Item: Staff and Roles

Pat Sturdivant: Capital Area Workforce Development Director- Leads all CAWD work and guides, supports and directs the CAWD Board and the NC Works Career Center work

Malina Todd: Strategic Initiatives Director- Develops partnership and identify funding opportunities to expand CAWD services

Natalie Mabon: Manages all CAWD reentry programs and develops CAWD reentry strategy

LaNarda N. Williamson: Develops reentry partnership and coordinates the LRC activities

Donna Farrar: Provides intake, referrals and supports to all LRC Clients

Agenda Item: Recognitions

- Special thanks to Theo Walker 2019-2020 Council Chair
- Thanks to Family Resource Center for continued support throughout the transition. Thank you to all the partners that have continued the work and for your willingness to adapt to the uniqueness of the current environment.

- Special thanks to NC FIT for submitting LRC referrals and processing our referral requests in a timely manner. Your support has not gone unnoticed.

Agenda Item: Updates

- The Reentry Team has worked hard throughout the transition to ensure that our participants did not experience disruptions. We continued to serve current participants while seeking opportunities to reach and enroll new participants. To ensure partners knew that the LRC was still active, we participated in listening tours. We introduced ourselves as the new LRC, learned what you were doing, and shared ideas about how we would move the work forward.
- Many housing partners have MOUs in place. LaNarda Williamson will continue this work, reaching out to the service providers to enter into a formal service agreement.
- Wake LRC has a new office location. We are providing services at the NC Works Career Center (Tillery Place). The benefits of being housed at the center include clients have direct, immediate access to education, training, and employment services, as well as many other supportive services.

COVID- 19 has impacted our service delivery. While the Tillery site is closed, our case managers are providing emergency resources from our administrative office.

Clients have a 14-day waiting period before we schedule in-person services. During that time, they participate in a virtual intake session, and we work on building their individualized success plan.

- *House Wake! Grant*: Addresses the housing insecurities and homelessness within the reentry population. Funding provides hotel accommodations, stabilizes new housing, expand support for existing transitioning housing partners by contracting beds for our participants.

House Wake! Key Provisions:

- Address housing insecurities within reentry population
- Differs from LRC grant by expanding our capacity
- Grant expires on Dec 15, 2020
- Funding for second case manager

Agenda Item: Client Services

- 49 clients served since February 19th
- 4 cases closed: 3 Successfully Completed the Program and 1 Moved Away
- Provided 14 Safety Packs: Gloves, Mask
- 2 Participants Enrolled in Training Programs and 2 Secured Employment
- Major Reentry Concerns
 - Emergency, Transitional or Permanent Housing (Shelters are not accepting new residents because of COVID-19 risk)
 - Complete Employment Opportunities
 - Seeking Driver's License Restoration Solutions (Partners are asked to assist with identifying solutions.)

Agenda Item: Survey Feedback Outcomes

- New online referral portal, available at WakeLRC.org. **Anyone** (partners, services providers, government agencies, family and friends, and the individual needing assistance) **can submit a reentry participant referral**.

Wake LRC DPS Eligibility Criteria:

- Adults 18 and older
- Within 9 months of release from jail or prison
- Have a Wake County Home Plan- lived in WC before conviction, has supervision in WC, lives in WC currently

Wake LRC House Wake Eligibility Criteria:

- Adults 18 and older
 - Within 12 months of release from jail or prison
 - Wake County Resident
- Direct Services Wake LRC Provides: Gift cards for food, work supplies/hygiene items, and gas, bus passes, and housing supportive services (if available and appropriate).
 - Wake LRC is building the partnership network that we are a one-stop location for reentry services. We will assess participant needs, provide emergency resources, work with them to develop their long-term goals, and make referrals to providers based on the individual's needs.

Post-release Referral Process:



Agenda Item: Building the Partnership Network

- Partners expressed the need for knowledge sharing. The LRC will build a Reentry Service Provider Directory that will be available to Council members. Over the next few months, LaNarda will reach out to our partners to schedule individual engagement meetings to collect data for your organization's profile. This document will help to ensure that all partners are informed of reentry focused resources.
- Council meetings are scheduled every other month. Between meetings, a newsletter will be shared.
- Member recruitment- Partners should help identify missing voices and invite those individuals to support this work. Visit the website to join the Council or contact LaNarda at Nikki.williamson.com or 919-856-2750.

Agenda Item: Subcommittee

There are three subcommittees; housing, employment, and supportive services. Council members are asked to participate in the forthcoming survey to select the subcommittee that they will support. There will be an opportunity to suggest an additional subcommittee.

Agenda Item: The Partnership Network/Announcements

Lorena McDowell Wake County Housing Director: The House Wake! opportunity allows us to address preexisting gaps in the system. Individuals that are already homeless are at risk for COVID-19 because officials

advise sheltering at home to reduce exposure to the virus. Therefore, our homeless population automatically qualifies for assistance.

House Wake! Provides Funding for:

Hotel quarantine, support for individuals with med conditions that could be complicated by the virus, rent deposits, first month's rent and other more.

Housing Navigation Teams – Work with landlords to advocate for reentry clients and other at-risk populations

Green Chair will furnish 500 homes with House Wake! funds.

Lakeshia George: Submit The Green Chair Project referrals to Lakeshia George at lakeisha@thegreenchair.org

Pat Sturdivant: CAWD appreciates the partners' willingness to be a part of this work. Wake LRC's goal is to make this a model LRC for the State.

Melissa Radcliff, Costal Horizons: Our Children's Place of Costal Horizons Center, focuses on children that have been impacted by parents in incarceration. Melissa will present to the Council during the August meeting.

Tony Zarcone, Wake County Human Services (WCHS): The NC Works Center at WCHS's Swinburne office has not reopened. However, individuals can schedule virtual appointments.

The Food Nutrition Services Employment and Training program is conducting virtual enrollments. Interested individuals should email tzarcone@wakegov.com. Eligible Criteria: Age 16+, receiving FNS but not receiving Work First assistance.

Action Items:

- **Council Members** submit reentry-focused announcement to nikki.williamson@wakegov.com for the July newsletter
- **Council Members** complete the subcommittee survey
- **Council Members** share contact info for landlords that may be interested in renting to reentry clients

Next Steps:

- **Agency Profile Development:** LaNarda will begin reaching out to partners to collect information for the Reentry Services Directory.
- **Building the Partnership Network Meetings:** Knowledge-sharing engagement sessions
- **Next Council Meeting:** Thursday, August 27, 2020, 1 pm – 2:30 pm (Zoom, Virtual Meeting)