




Roy Cooper, Governor

Todd Ishee, Secretary

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

**FROM:** Todd Ishee, Secretary 

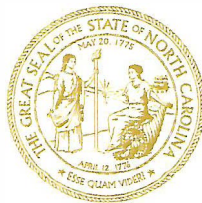
**RE:** SRCC Annual Report

**DATE:** December 15, 2024

*Pursuant to G.S. 143B-1484, the State Reentry Council Collaborative shall report its finding and recommendations beginning November 1, 2017, and annually thereafter to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety.*

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**FROM THE OFFICE OF:**  
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The State Reentry Council Collaborative (SRCC) is a legislatively mandated state body developed in 2018. The purpose of this document is to explain the process, outcomes, and future direction of the State Reentry Council Collaborative (SRCC). The SRCC includes representatives of state agencies, institutions of higher education, business, faith and community-based organizations, nonprofits, and other stakeholders. Working together and sharing information and ideas, the principal and workgroup members of the SRCC developed ten (10) action items for immediate implementation and twenty-four (24) recommendations to be considered for future implementation. Every recommendation may not be feasible for implementation, the purpose of this document is to demonstrate a commitment to sharing the entire scope of SRCC recommendations and acknowledge the input and contributions of so many toward these efforts.

The recommendations are the result of extensive research and collaboration regarding post-incarceration transition services and programs. The findings and opinions contained herein are not official policy of the State of North Carolina and do not represent the official or personal positions of the Office of the Governor, the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction (NCDAC), or any other North Carolina state agency.

In this document you will find the following:

- Status updates on all recommendations whether completed, in progress or not yet started.
- Appendix A: SRCC Quarterly Meeting Agendas
- Appendix B: Current Roster of Principal Members as of November 2024

The State Reentry Council Collaborative (SRCC) was created by the NC General Assembly (NCGA) in 2017 (S.L. 2017-57, Section 16C.10) and included several directives:

(a) The Secretary shall establish the State Reentry Council Collaborative (SRCC). The SRCC shall include up to two representatives from each of the following:

- (1) The Division of Motor Vehicles.
- (2) The Department of Health and Human Services.
- (3) The Administrative Office of the Courts.
- (4) The North Carolina Community College System.
- (5) The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction.
- (6) A nonprofit entity that provides reentry services or reentry programs.
- (7) Any other agency that the Secretary deems relevant.

(b) The Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, shall chair the SRCC which shall meet at least quarterly upon the call of the chair. The SRCC shall study the needs of ex-offenders who have



been recently released from a correctional institution and to increase the effectiveness of local reentry councils.

(c) Beginning November 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the SRCC shall report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety.

The Secretary of the NC Department of Public Safety directed staff to complete the following tasks, all of which have been completed:

1. Developed a membership list for the SRCC as outlined in Section 16C.10 to include those required members and other stakeholders as deemed appropriate by the Secretary. See Appendix 1 for membership list.
2. Convened an initial meeting of the SRCC.
3. Developed a list of potential SRCC workgroups, identify participants, and gather contact information, areas of interest, and names of participants interested in leadership roles.
4. Discussed the needs of formerly incarcerated individuals and identify methods to strengthen local reentry councils (LRC)

The SRCC Reentry Action Plan linked [here](#) contains the SRCC's 2018 finalized recommendations. SRCC staff then developed four implementation teams noted below. Each team has met regularly since early 2019, to determine priority recommendations and begin implementation. The four implementation teams are as follows:

1. **The Legislative Team** reviews the recommendations that require legislation and prioritizes and develops strategies for getting legislation passed.
2. **The Executive Team** prioritizes and implement the recommendations that can be executed by Gubernatorial action, or one or more state agencies.
3. **The Communications and Awareness Team** implements recommendations involving better communication, data sharing, cultural sensitivity, and other issues within and between the entities that make up the SRCC.
4. **The Local/Community Team** works with LRCs to support their work and works closely with the Communications/Awareness Implementation Team on related recommendations.

The full SRCC has met quarterly since early 2018 to give updates on recommendation development and implementation, educate on reentry issues and solutions.

Out of the original final SRCC recommendations, the following reflects SRCC recommendations status updates that include those that have been completed, still in progress and those not yet started:



## Completed Recommendations

1. Automatically convert adult criminal convictions at ages 16 and 17 to juvenile status.

Update: Effective December 1, 2019, the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (aka Raise the Age) raises the cut-off age for juveniles from 16 to 18. For offenses committed on or after this date, if the offender is under the age of 18 on the date of offense, the case must be initiated in juvenile court. Exceptions exist for emancipated minors, 16- and 17-year-olds charged with Chapter 20 offenses, and juveniles with prior criminal convictions in district or superior court. The original "Raise the Age" legislation was enacted in 2017 with Session Law 2017-57 (Senate Bill 257). The effective date to increase jurisdiction was December 1, 2019, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date. In 2019, the General Assembly passed Session Law 2019-186 (Senate Bill 413), modifying the original legislation to facilitate its implementation.

2. Amend expunction and certificate of relief statutes to allow greater access to relief, including:
  - a. GS §15A-145.5 (Expunction of certain misdemeanors and felonies; no age limitation) to exclude up to three Class 2 misdemeanors and all Class 3 misdemeanors as disqualifying convictions.
  - b. GS §15A-146 (Expunction of records when charges are dismissed or there are findings of not guilty) to provide for automatic expunction of dismissed charges and not guilty dispositions.

Update: Expunctions and certificate of relief statutes were amended by SL 2020-35 to allow greater access to relief.

3. Enact a statute that requires all licensing boards to remove subjective terms, such as "good moral character" and "moral turpitude", as a licensing or certification requirement.

Update: The North Carolina General Assembly passed a law that now requires all licensing boards to remove subjective terms, such as "good moral character" and "moral turpitude", as a licensing or certification requirement. The law went into effect October 1, 2019. (HB 770/SL 2019-91).

4. Repeal the prohibition on the offering of Associate of Arts, Associate of Sciences, and Associate of General Education degrees and repeal the contact hour reporting requirement in corrections facilities.



Update: Session Law 2020-54 repealed the prohibition of utilizing funds for incarcerated individuals to obtain an Associate of Arts, Associate of Sciences, and Associate of General Education degrees. This repeal was effective July 1, 2020, and stipulated that funding would only be for incarcerated individuals in state prisons.

5. Host a state-wide reentry conference.

Update: State-wide conferences are held yearly:

- a. A state-wide reentry conference was held at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, NC from April 25-27, 2022. Over 350 people attended this conference.
- b. A state-wide reentry conference was held at the Sonesta Hotel in Charlotte, NC from April 3-5, 2023. Over 500 people attended this conference.
- c. A state-wide Rehabilitation and Reentry Conference was held on April 22-24, 2024, at Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley in Raleigh, NC with over 700 attendees.
- d. A state-wide Rehabilitation and Reentry Conference is scheduled for April 1-3, 2025, to be held at Hilton Raleigh North Hills in Raleigh, NC.

6. The Advocacy Workgroup recommends developing a roster of SRCC members for the 2019 year (the “implementation phase”) that is at least 25% people who have been justice-involved.

Update: The Advocacy Workgroup developed a roster of SRCC members for the implementation phase (2019) with a quarter of the roster made up of former justice involved individuals.

7. Appropriate new funding to hire a housing support specialist and a peer support counselor in each of the state’s 17 local reentry councils (LRCs), plus 3 months of reentry rental assistance for returning citizens at all 17 LRCs.

Update: NCDAC utilized grant funding to hire 7 peer support specialists to assist the LRC’s. These time limited positions are monitored by our TASC partners in various counties. During the grant, peer support specialists assisted returning citizens with housing/rental assistance. Although the grant funds have ended, housing/rental assistance is still part of the supportive services provided through LRCs current staff.



8. Ensure that individuals leaving prison who are eligible for the Transitions to Community Living Initiative (meaning individuals with disabilities transitioning from adult care homes or state hospitals and citizens who are at risk for institutionalization) can access their services, so that they can have supportive services in the community rather than in institutional settings, per the 1999 Olmstead Supreme Court decision.

Update: The Transitions to Community Living (TCL) program gives eligible adults living with serious mental illness the opportunity to choose where they live and work. TCL is operated by the LME-MCOs. There is a MOA which reflects collaboration with DHHS, NCDAC Community Supervision, NC Administrative Office of the Courts, the North Carolina Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC) Network, and Alcohol and Chemical Dependency Programs (ACDP) for a period of three years.

9. The SRCC Education and Vocational Training Workgroup recommends the creation of a network of people who have completed vocational or academic programs while incarcerated. Further, NCDAC should develop support for the implementation of a Justice Involved Alumni Network to be operated by the local reentry councils (LRCs) of North Carolina.

Update: Currently, UNC-CH is managing the Facebook group they created for North Carolinians who completed vocational or academic programs while incarcerated. NC Prison Education Consortium is an advisory group to NCDAC Education Services that includes benefactors, formerly incarcerated individuals/representatives, and colleges/universities. NCPEC exists to increase and improve partnerships, provide a forum for currently and formerly incarcerated learners and postsecondary higher education institutions offering credit courses who are in partnership with North Carolina Department of Adult Corrections and other stakeholders to advance the shared mission of empowering justice-involved individuals as students, professionals, and members of their communities and to be a resource and point of contact for groups and institutions planning HEP programs. There is a group called Formerly Incarcerated College Graduates Network (FICGN), will soon become a member of the NCPEC. They are in the finalization process of membership. FICGN is a national group of formerly incarcerated individuals who have either graduated or participated in college classes.

10. The Advocacy Workgroup recommended that the full SRCC participate in a Phase 1 Racial Equity Institute training.

Update: Racial Equity Institute (REI) hosted an in-person training for SRCC members in February 2019.



11. Expand the Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) program to additional sites within North Carolina. The NC FIT Program utilizes specially trained community health workers (CHWs) with a personal history of incarceration, (i.e., peer support workers) to establish rapport and trust while linking persons recently released from prison to health services.

Update: Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) program receives referrals from all institutions of those incarcerated individuals, which includes the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women, who are releasing back into the counties the program serves. The NC FIT Program utilizes specially trained community health workers (CHWs) with a personal history of incarceration, (i.e., peer support workers) to establish rapport and trust while linking persons recently released from prison to health services. FIT Program has expanded to seven counties: Durham, Orange, Wake, Mecklenburg, Guilford, New Hanover, and Beaufort. They anticipate expansion within the next 12 months to Forsyth, Buncombe, Edgecombe, and Wilson counties. Additionally, NC FIT has created “FTI Wellness” which focuses on people being released with severe mental illness. This program started in Wake County and will be expanding to Durham, Orange, and New Hanover counties. Working with the Department of Adult Correction, NC FIT has created “FIT Recovery”, which links people being released from state prisons, started on treatment for opioid use disorder, to continue care in a network of providers that covers over 60 counties across the state.

12. Define transitional housing more clearly, establish a special designation of supportive group housing for returning citizens, and provide funding to local reentry councils designated for transitional housing.

Update: NCDAC created defining language and a set of rules for partners to have as a guide. Funding is provided to local reentry councils for designated transitional housing. Local Reentry Councils provide housing resources as one of the support services to justice involved persons. DAC has 9 contracted transitional housing vendors in 9 counties for males and females.

13. Make a range of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) options available to those who are incarcerated in reentry facilities with a history of opioid dependence.

Update: Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Pilot Program is operational in two reentry facilities – NCCIW and Orange Correctional Center and looking to expand to additional sites. Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) options are provided to those who are incarcerated in reentry facilities with a history of opioid dependence. Program has enrolled 165 participants cumulative for years one, two and three. Each participant



enrolled in the program has received Narcan overdose reversal instructions and kits upon release.

14. NCDAC and DHHS and county DSS offices should collaborate to develop and improve resources, policies, and procedures to help incarcerated parents and their children maintain their relationships during periods of incarceration.

Update: DAC partnered with Coastal Horizons to create the “FRESH” project (Family Re-Entry Support and Help), that is to work with incarcerated parents in the facilities, families, and children in the community. The Family Re-Entry Support and Help (FRESH) project was supported by a 3-year federal grant (10/1/2020 until 9/30/2023). The grant allows NCDAC to perform institutional activities and services for all the designated reentry facilities, including correctional staff training on the role of the family in the reentry process, review of policies and procedures to ensure protection of minor children, and support to create child-friendly visitation spaces.

FRESH is fully funded through a Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant through September 30, 2024. At present, representatives from Our Childrens Place, Coastal Horizons, and the DAC are meeting regularly to discuss further funding options for programming beyond September 30, 2024.

15. Enlist the aid of SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) specialists to assist people with disabilities who are released from incarceration in their applications for Supplemental Security income (SSI), Social Security Disability (SSDI), and other benefits, including connections to outpatient care and recovery services.

Update: Enlisted the aid of SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) specialists to assist people with disabilities who are released from incarceration in their applications for Supplemental Security income (SSI), Social Security Disability (SSDI), and other benefits, including connections to outpatient care and recovery services. Specialty mental health officers are currently being educated on how SOAR works. The SOAR training is provided on-line for agencies and counties who hire SOAR workers. DHHS hopes to see this expanded further statewide in every county. This collaboration is being conducted through a MOU with DHHS, DAC Community Supervision, NC Administrative Office of the Courts, the North Carolina Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC) Network, and Alcohol and Chemical Dependency Programs (ACDP) for a period of three years.

16. Map all educational and vocational programs and services at NC prisons to enable prison staff, in collaboration with their partners, to plan for individuals during the rehabilitative process appropriately and efficiently.





Update: In October 2021, NCDAC and NCPEC submitted a grant proposal to the Laughing Gull Foundation to fund this mapping of services. During a NCDAC spring in-person meeting with the NC Prison Education Collaborative, the UNC-CH graduate intern presented her final project where all the prison programs have been mapped and coded using [Educational Resources Available in NCDAC Institutions \(knack.com\)](https://knack.com)

Update: Fall 2024 catalog has been published and may be accessed from the Education Services website on the DAC webpage (under Educational Resources). Alternatively, it may be accessed directly here: [Programs and Services Catalog](#) The catalog will be updated on a quarterly basis.

17. Conduct professional workshops with local reentry councils (LRCs) to raise their awareness of family/child reunification issues as a part of reentry services and support.

Update: Lori C. Cole AOC, NC Courts manages the Access & Visitation Program. Their role is to identify the underlying issues creating any barriers to noncustodial parents visiting with their child(ren), to support and facilitate the noncustodial parents' access to their children. They presented to the local reentry councils in hopes of assisting with parents with their children after incarceration. In addition, Coastal Horizons Program Director, Melissa Radcliff continuing to conduct professional workshops with local reentry councils (LRCs) to raise their awareness of family/child reunification issues as a part of reentry services and support.

Update: During 2024 Local Reentry Council annual training/workshops, Coastal Horizons Program Director, Melissa Radcliff, and staff with NC Division of Social Services – Child Support Services (NCDHHS) shared updates and raised awareness of family/child reunification services, support for justice involved and incarcerated persons.

### **In-Progress**

1. Amend G.S. § 20-28(a) to make retroactive the amendments of Session Law 2015-186 eliminating permanent suspensions for three or more convictions of driving while license revoked-not impaired revocation. This was part of a broad recommendation to facilitate restoring driver's licenses to incarcerated individuals prior to release and maintaining licensure during post-release supervision.

Update: Filed March 21, 2023 Senate Bill 339, Division must reinstate the person's license if the person meets all the conditions listed in this subsection. The term of the limited driving privilege may be extended until the date set by the Division to determine whether the person meets conditions for reinstatement. The Division may impose restrictions or conditions on the new license in accordance with G.S. 20-7(e). Revise revocation for moving offenses committed while license suspended or revoked, section



4.(a) G.S. 20-28.1 reads as rewritten:"§ 20-28.1. Conviction of moving offense committed while driving during period of suspension or revocation of license. Upon receipt of notice of conviction of any person of a motor vehicle moving offense, such offense having been committed while such person's driving privilege was in a state of suspension or revocation, the Division shall revoke such person's driving privilege for an additional period as set forth in subsection (b) hereof. subsection (b) of this section. For purposes of this section a violation of G.S. 20-7(a), 20-24.1, or 20-28(a) or (a2) shall not be considered a "motor vehicle moving offense" unless the offense occurred in a commercial motor vehicle, or the person held a commercial driver's license at the time of the offense. A violation of G.S. 20-313 is considered a "motor vehicle moving offense" for the purposes of this section. Filed March 21, 2023, Senate Bill 339, sponsored by Senator Britt, Lazzara, and Mohammed, eliminates the additional one-year suspension, the additional two-year suspension, and the permanent suspension of driving while license revoked not impaired convictions that happened before December 1, 2015; eliminate the additional one-year suspension for the first moving violation conviction during a period of suspension; amends the suspension period for the second moving violation during a period of suspension from two years to one year; ends permanent suspensions for three or more moving violation convictions.

2. Amend statutes to better protect people from being charged for removal of mugshot information.

Update: Second Chance Alliance placed this on their Lobby Day agenda in support of Senate Bill 104, Booking Photograph Privacy Act. Major components of the bill established that a booking photo is confidential and not a public record and that the law enforcement agencies cannot provide a copy of booking photos in any format except for law enforcement purposes.

3. GS §15A-173.1 (Certificate of Relief) to eliminate the 12-month waiting period after a sentence is completed for eligible persons.

Update: Filed April 20, 2023, House Bill 836 Reentry Reform/ Modification and Funding sponsored by Representatives Alston, T. Brown, Charles Smith, and Morey. Major Components are the amendment of the Certificate of Relief Statute to eliminate the 12-month waiting period to make a person immediately eligible for relief; allocate funding to create and maintain five additional Local Reentry Councils; and create a reentry fund that will provide stipends to recently released people for six months to pay for their housing, food, clothing, and transportation.

4. Amend several provisions of Chapter 20 of the North Carolina General Statutes, including:



- a. G.S. § 20-24.1(a)(2) to require a pre-deprivation hearing to determine if a defendant is able to pay before suspending the defendant's license for failure to pay.
- b. G.S. § 20-24.1(b) to provide for automatic restoration of a driver's license after a 12-month suspension period
- c. GS § 20-26(b) to provide free certified driving records to nonprofit legal services providers various provisions to allow hearings on permanent suspensions to occur in the county of incarceration.

Update: House Bill 888, sponsored by Representatives Saine, Clemmons, Chesser, and John was filed on April 25, 2023. Major components of the bill eliminate the authority to suspend a driver's license for nonpayment of fine, penalty or cost or nonappearance in court for motor vehicle offenses listed in these provisions of Chapter 20.

5. Expand mobile driver's license and identification unit services to all 34 minimum custody facilities.

Update: DMV will not expand mobile driver's license and identification unit services to 34 minimum custody facilities. NCDAC partnered with DMV to conduct a pilot at NCCIW to issue State Identification cards for eligible individuals prior to their release. A MOU was executed for this pilot on December 5, 2022, and the first batch of ID cards were delivered to NCCIW on December 8, 2022. The pilot ended in January of 2023. NCDAC has expanded the pilot statewide which will include a data file exchange 120 days prior to an individual being released to assist with obtaining an ID.

As of July 31, 2023, eligible individuals will receive a valid state issue identification for free prior to release from incarceration through an automation process between DMV and DAC.

Update: The statewide automated process transmits requests from NCDAC to the DMV at approximately 90 days from release, to ensure the ID can be generated and retrieved prior to release.

As of November 1, 2024, over 8,900 individuals have been offered state IDs; with 76% (over 6,800) requesting one. The remaining 24% declined an ID. Over 850 IDs have been mailed to facilities. NCDAC Rehabilitation and Reentry staff continue to identify and work to resolve barriers between ID request and ID receipt, including lack of verified social security numbers and post-release home addresses.

6. Educate people involved in the criminal justice system on the legal options available to people with criminal records as they transition back into their communities, including



certificates of relief and expungements, waivers of criminal justice debt, and driver's license restoration.

Update: The NC Department of Justice and the NC Justice Center are working on a joint training on certificates of relief that will include CLE credits.

7. Distribute Narcan overdose reversal kits to individuals who are about to be released and provide them instruction on the use of these kits.

Update: Contracts have been signed between DHHS and NCDAC for the distribution of Narcan to individuals on release, in collaboration with the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Pilot Program individuals being released are receiving Narcan and information on how to administer it.

Update: NC Commerce will provide (\$500,000) of ARPA grant funds that will allow NCDAC to purchase 20,000 units of Narcan that will be distributed to those incarcerated persons releasing back into the community who may have a high risk of overdose.

8. Share data between NCDAC and NCDHHS to identify people who are incarcerated in North Carolina who have active Medicaid coverage and redirect those premium payments to Local Management Entity-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs) to related services and support of those Medicaid-eligible people who have been released from prison in the last 12 months. Facilitate the timely re-establishment of Medicaid for eligible individuals upon their release from prison.

Update: The sharing of data between NCDAC and NCDHHS regarding those identified people who are incarcerated in North Carolina who have had Medicaid coverage suspended. Paperwork is being completed by NCDAC social work department and shared with the county of return for the individual to begin the process to re-establish Medicaid upon release. Medicaid expansion will allow those who have had active Medicaid in past to reactive 90 days prior to release. In addition to completing applications to get Medicaid coverage prior to release, to continue care upon release. Coverage will cover mental health needs and Substance Opioid Use Disorder (SOUD) treatment. Since the implementation of Medicaid expansion in NC, NC DAC staff have commenced informational meetings with Medicaid eligible offenders to provide education on Medicaid benefits and how to apply. Medicaid applications are completed and mailed by NC DAC staff to establish Medicaid benefits for offenders who are releasing to the community. Medicaid benefits will cover health and behavioral health care, including Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD).



Update: Data sharing between NCDAC and NCDHHS continues. Individuals who have Medicaid prior to incarceration are placed on suspended status and the Medicaid coverage is unsuspending, or activated, upon release to the community. NCDAC staff continue to hold Medicaid information sessions for individuals to apply for Medicaid prior to their return to the community. NCDAC social workers and the hospital Medicaid cost containment program have been trained in and given access to the NC Tracks database.

9. Study the possibility of expanding the Medicaid Family Planning Waiver (FPW) program to cover health conditions other than those directly related to family planning to enable some recently released individuals to have health insurance that they would not otherwise be able to obtain.

Update: With the launch of Medicaid Expansion on December 1, 2023, NCDAC worked with NCDHHS to identify those individuals who had previously received Family Planning Medicaid. The individuals who had previously received Family Planning Medicaid were released to the community with full Medicaid benefits under Medicaid Expansion. In June 2024, the North Carolina legislature passed HB 287. Effective January 1, 2025, this bill will allow for all individuals who are incarcerated and eligible for Medicaid, to automatically be enrolled in NC Medicaid Direct upon release to the community. NC Medicaid Direct offers enhance services for severe mental illnesses, intellectual and developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, and substance use.

10. Recommend strategies to target outreach to employers about the benefits of certificates of relief as well as the legislature's most recent expansion of applicant eligibility.

Update: to partner with the State Reentry Coordinator at NC Commerce use reentry campaign flyers to get information concerning benefits of certificates of relief and expansion of applicant eligibility out to employers. NC Commerce considering online option for employers to self-identify as a second chance employer, working with Governor's office to create a recognition event to highlight employers. NC Commerce launched a Second Chance Employer Database in August 2023 that will identify employers who are willing to hire justice involved individuals.

11. The SRCC Women and Incarceration workgroup recommends designing a reentry program, like the Bridges to Home model, to address the trauma that is unique to women who are reentering society post-incarceration.



Update: Arise Collective formerly (IPMW) Interfaith Prison Women's has established The Women's Reentry Project (WRP), similar to the Bridges to Home model, to address the trauma that is unique to women who are reentering society post-incarceration. This has served as their blueprint and will continue to use as guidance for their work. Currently, they are finalizing the Phase 2 addendum for the project.

12. Appropriate \$140,000 for a pilot program creating two full-time Reentry Education Navigator positions at two different community colleges entirely dedicated to the needs of justice-involved students.

Update: There are several full-time positions within the community colleges that act as coordinators for their programming. They work directly with the Prisons leadership and with Education Services to provide educational programming for their students. Currently, colleges that provide these are: Central Carolina Community College (Harnett CI), Pamlico Community College (Pamlico CI), Southeastern Community College (Columbus and Tabor CIs), and Stanly Community College (Albemarle CI). This list is not exhaustive. Education Services is also partnering with the federally funded TRIO program to offer services related to the educational transition needs for justice-involved students.

13. Offender Family Services page (referred to in this document as The Family Reunification Resource Button/Link) to direct families to reunification and other resources that help incarcerated people have a productive and successful transition back into the community. This button would contain a digital version of the brochure that contains important information on reunification services as well as any other reunification resources not in the brochure.

Update: NCDAC website has been updated with an Offender Family Services page that directs families to resources that help incarcerated people have a productive and successful transition back into the community.

The Offender Family Services page can be accessed at this link - <https://www.dac.nc.gov/handbook-family-and-friends-offenders>

14. Create and distribute a brochure with important conversation topics for families with an incarcerated loved one, as well as information about family reunification services in their geographic area.

Update: A brochure was created with important conversation topics for families with an incarcerated loved one, as well as information about family reunification services in



their geographic area. It was approved by DAC to place in visitation areas at the facilities. currently needs update status as agency has new visitation rules during COVID-19. Once approved by Wardens, Reentry Services will send brochures over to facilities for dissemination.

15. Change language within NCDAC to language that does not dehumanize people under DAC correctional control, using “person-first” language such as “incarcerated people” whenever possible.

Update: Revised the language on the Rehabilitation and Reentry public website removing the word “offender” and replaced with individual or justice-involved individual in as many places as possible. For example, the website now reads: “More than 15,000 individuals return to their home communities after being released from North Carolina state prisons each year. In fact, about 95 percent of people in prison will eventually return to their home communities.” The Reentry 2030 Joint Reentry Council published a Strategic plan that uses the following language. The Joint Reentry Council recognizes that the language we use, especially when referring to people, is an essential part of improving lives, reducing stigma, and repairing harm. The Reentry Strategic Plan therefore uses humanizing language, and avoids using stigmatizing language, to refer to people with a criminal record and people who are exiting incarceration. For economy and simplicity of language, the Plan uses the term “reentrants” to describe previously incarcerated people who are leaving incarceration. While terms like “returning citizens,” “people returning home from incarceration,” “people impacted by the justice system,” and others were considered, they were found to be either inaccurate to some experiences or overly confusing and cumbersome for regular use.

While less straightforward of a term, this Plan uses “justice system involved people” as a broader term to refer to anyone who is incarcerated, was incarcerated, or has a criminal record but was never incarcerated. It can also refer to people who were incarcerated due to criminal charges but were never ultimately convicted of a crime.

This language follows recommendations from the State Reentry Council Collaborative’s Women and Incarceration Workgroup, an advisory group comprised of justice system-involved women, to use humanizing language. In recognition of the evolving nature of both terminology and of the needs of justice system involved people, Strategy 27.1 commits the Department of Adult Correction to form an advisory board of previously and currently incarcerated people to advise the Department on terminology, rehabilitative programming, and reentry initiatives. Strategy 27.2 commits the Department of Public Safety to continue exploring ways to amplify youth voices and family engagement in reentry through their ongoing project with the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University.

15. Create two permanent State Funded Chaplain I positions specifically for the Transitional



Aftercare Network (TAN).

Update: NCDAC has hired a permanent State Funded Chaplain I position under Rehabilitation & Reentry Services Division for the purpose of TAN

16. Provide people who want to volunteer inside facilities with a streamlined, transparent sign-up process on the North Carolina Department Adult Correction (NCDAC) website.

Update: The statewide volunteer processes, associated policy and procedure, and documentation processes are currently under review by Rehabilitation Services. Efforts are being focused on increasing agency-wide transparency on active, approved volunteers and on application process efficiency.

17. Continue to research NCDAC's current Work Release Program, as well as other states' work release programs, to identify strategies to increase utilization of the work release program.

Update: Rehabilitation Services has established a new team, "Employment Programs" with four positions aimed toward building effective employer networks statewide that can partner with Institutions at the local level to offer work release. These positions are being hired for as of 2024 Quarter 4.

### **Not Yet Started**

1. Create statutory standards for a global, tiered approach to disposition of minor matters for persons incarcerated.
2. Allocate \$25,000 for the development of online professional development modules for faculty and staff across the state who serve individuals with criminal records. These professional development modules would be made available to all agencies and educational institutions who serve this population including community colleges, LRCs, universities, and workforce development agencies.
3. Establish a pilot voucher system to fund transportation expenses of people on post-release supervision based on need and at the discretion of post-release supervision officers.
4. Provide funding to nonprofit legal services providers to resolve indefinite driver's license suspensions under G.S. § 20-24.1





5. Pass and implement a law promoting alternatives to incarceration for people who are caregivers giving judges the discretion to sentence mothers who are primary caretakers of their children to alternative programs instead of incarceration within county jails or state prison facilities.
6. Toll the statute of limitations (stop the clock) for child support until the person is released.
7. Implement a Reentry Awareness Campaign to include comprehensively engaging broadcast, digital and print media, community advocacy resources, and faith-based communication channels.



## **State Reentry Council Collaborative**

Central and Eastern Food Bank of NC  
1924 Capital Blvd, Raleigh, NC 27604  
**November 29, 2023**

### **Agenda**

**9:30 Welcome**

*Maggie Brewer, Chief Deputy Secretary of Rehabilitative and Correctional Services, NC DAC*

**10:00 Rehabilitation and Reentry Updates**

*George Pettigrew, Deputy Secretary of NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry*

*Lateisha Thrash, Director of Reentry Services, NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry*

### **Reentry Presentations**

**10:15 The Impact**

*Brian Scott – OurJourney*

**10:45 Community Programming – RRS & Transitional Housing Services**

*Michael Gray - Insights*

*Lindsay Jackson - First at Blue Ridge*

**11:15 Treatment Supportive Services**

*Dr. Evan Ashkin, UNC FIT – Medicated Assistance Treatment (MAT) Prison Pilot*

*Jesse Wilson & Barbara Kidder- Oxford House, Inc.*

**11:45 Closing remarks**

*Lateisha Thrash, Director of Reentry Services, NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry*



**State Reentry Council Collaborative**  
Central and Eastern Food Bank of NC  
1924 Capital Blvd, Raleigh, NC 27604  
**February 13, 2024**

**Agenda**

*Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder:*

*In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Committee member to avoid both conflicts of interest and the appearances of conflicts of interest. If any Committee member has any known conflict of interest or is aware of facts that might create the appearance of such conflict, with respect to any matters coming before the Committee today, please identify the conflict or the facts that might create the appearance of a conflict to ensure that any inappropriate participation in that matter may be avoided. If at any time, any new matter raises a conflict during the meeting, please be sure to identify it at that time.*

**9:30 Welcome**

*Todd Ishee, Secretary of NC Department of Adult Correction*  
*Maggie Brewer, Chief Deputy Secretary of Rehabilitative and Correctional Services, NC DAC*

**10:00 Rehabilitation and Reentry Updates**

*George Pettigrew, Deputy Secretary of NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry*  
*Lateisha Thrash, Director of Reentry Services, NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry*

**10:20 Office of the Governor Greetings**

*Ziev Dalsheim-Kahane, Policy Advisor – Office of the Governor*

**10:25 SRCC Workgroups and Recommendations**

*Local – Lindsay, Workgroup Lead*  
*Executive – Angela Bryant, Workgroup Lead*  
*Communications – DAC Communications Staff\**  
*Legislative – TBD*

**11:00 Legislative Updates/Q&A**

*Justin Davis, Legislative Affairs Director*  
*Corey Slife, Legislative Liaison*

**11:15 Closing remarks**

*Lateisha Thrash, Director of Reentry Services, NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry*



**State Reentry Council Collaborative  
Durham Technical Community College  
June 12, 2024**

**Agenda**

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**1:00pm Welcome**

*Maggie Brewer, Chief Deputy Secretary of Rehabilitative and Correctional Services, NC DAC*

**1:15pm Rehabilitation and Reentry Updates**

*George Pettigrew, Deputy Secretary of NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry  
Lateisha Thrash, Director of Reentry Services, NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry*

**1:30pm HOPE University**

*Maggie Brewer, Chief Deputy Secretary of Rehabilitative and Correctional Services, NC DAC*

**2:00pm Recidivism Reduction Educational Program Services (RREPS)**

*Kerwin Pittman, RREPS Founder & Executive Director*

**2:30pm Reentry 2030 Updates**

*George Pettigrew, Deputy Secretary of NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry*

**2:45pm Public Comments**

**3:00pm Closing remarks**

*Lateisha Thrash, Director of Reentry Services, NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry*



**State Reentry Council Collaborative  
Whitted Human Services Bldg. (Orange LRC)  
300 W Tryon St. Hillsborough, NC 27278  
August 13, 2024**

**Agenda**

*In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Committee member to avoid both conflicts of interest and the appearances of conflicts of interest. If any Committee member has any known conflict of interest or is aware of facts that might create the appearance of such conflict, with respect to any matters coming before the Committee today, please identify the conflict or the facts that might create the appearance of a conflict to ensure that any inappropriate participation in that matter may be avoided. If at any time, any new matter raises a conflict during the meeting, please be sure to identify it at that time.*

**9:30am Welcome**

*Todd Ishee, Secretary, NC Department of Adult Correction  
Maggie Brewer, Chief Deputy Secretary of Rehabilitative and Correctional Services, NC DAC*

**9:45am Reentry 2030 Strategic Plan**

*Maggie Brewer, Chief Deputy Secretary of Rehabilitative and Correctional Services, NC DAC  
George Pettigrew, Deputy Secretary of NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry*

**10:15am DAC Transitional Housing and Programming**

*Dr. Glen Warren, Founder of Father's Forever – Transitional Housing Programming & Services*

**10:45am DAC Mental Health Specialty Programming**

*Ashlee Barnes, MSW, LCSW and Amber Livengood, LCMHC, LCAS, CCS  
Licensed Mental Health Professionals  
NC DAC Division of Community Supervision*

**11:15am Public Comments**

**11:30am Closing remarks**

*Lateisha Thrash, Director of Reentry Services, NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry*



**State Reentry Council Collaborative  
NC Works Career Center (Wake LRC)  
1830-B Tillery Place  
Raleigh, NC 27604  
November 12, 2024**

**Agenda**

*In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Committee member to avoid both conflicts of interest and the appearances of conflicts of interest. If any Committee member has any known conflict of interest or is aware of facts that might create the appearance of such conflict, with respect to any matters coming before the Committee today, please identify the conflict or the facts that might create the appearance of a conflict to ensure that any inappropriate participation in that matter may be avoided. If at any time, any new matter raises a conflict during the meeting, please be sure to identify it at that time.*

**9:30 am Welcome**

*Todd Ishee, Secretary, NC Department of Adult Correction  
Maggie Brewer, Chief Deputy Secretary of Rehabilitative and Correctional Services, NC DAC*

**9:45 am Reentry 2030 Strategic Plan Updates**

*George Pettigrew, Deputy Secretary of NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry  
Ziev Dalsheim-Kahane, Policy Advisor Office of the Governor*

**10:15 am Work Release Expansion**

*Charles Mautz, Director of Rehabilitation Services, NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry*

**10:45 am Programs and Services Catalog**

*Charles Mautz, Director of Rehabilitation Services, NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry*

**11:15 am Public Comments**

**11:30 am Closing Remarks**

*Lateisha Thrash, Director of Reentry Services, NC DAC Rehabilitation and Reentry*



**Appendix B  
State Reentry Council Collaborative Roster (as of 11/01/23)**

These SRCC Principal Members include both the agencies and community partners deemed necessary to develop and finalize council recommendations. In addition to the SRCC’s principal and implementation team members, there are also many interested individuals who participate in SRCC meetings.

Douglas Taggart Interagency Coordinator Department of Military and Veterans Affairs	Kristen Powers Executive Director Benevolence Farm
Allen Baddour Superior Court Judge	Brent Bailey Local Reentry Coordinator Buncombe County
Wayne Goodwin Commissioner, Division of Motor Vehicles Department of Transportation	Ziev Dalsheim-Kahane Policy Advisor Office of the Governor
Angela Coleman Director of Adult Programs StepUp Ministry	Bonnie Helmink Director of Applicant Services Department of Commerce
Linda Davis Board Member Alpha for Prisons/Kairos Outside	Bessie Elmore Executive Director Straight Talk Support Group
Rick Glazier Executive Director NC Justice Center	Dennis Gaddy Executive Director Community Success Initiative



<p>Joyce Jones  Reentry Consultant  Department of Adult Correction</p>	<p>Danny Hampton  Local Reentry Coordinator  Freedom Life Ministries</p>
<p>Natalia Botella  Special Deputy Attorney General and Deputy  Director of the Public Protection Section  Department of Justice</p>	<p>Pete Buchholtz  Deputy Secretary of Institutions  Department of Adult Correction</p>
<p>Brandeshawn Harris  Chief Deputy Secretary of Operations  Department of Adult Correction</p>	<p>Kody Kinsley  Secretary  Department of Health and Human Services</p>
<p>Stella Bailey  Justice Innovations, Innovation Section Chief  Department of Health &amp; Human Services</p>	<p>Bernice McPhatter  Local Reentry Coordinator  Hoke County Local Reentry Council</p>
<p>Frankie Roberts  Executive Director  LINC</p>	<p>Monique L. Pierre  Chief Operating Officer  Asheville Housing Authority</p>
<p>Josh Stein  Attorney General  Department of Justice</p>	<p>Ophelia Ray  Executive Director  Maggie’s Outreach Center</p>
<p>Anne Bacon  Director for Workforce Continuing Education  Training &amp; Standards  Community College System</p>	<p>Amy Auth  Legislative Liaison  Administrative Office of the Courts</p>
<p>Jeff Cox  President  NC Community College System</p>	<p>George Pettigrew  Deputy Secretary Rehabilitation &amp; Reentry  Department of Adult Correction</p>





<p>Kristie Puckett Williams Statewide Campaign for Smart Justice Manager, Campaign for Smart Justice ACLU of NC</p>	<p>Lucas Vrbsky Veterans Incarcerated Reentry Specialist Veterans Administration</p>
<p>Ryan Boyce Director Administrative Office of the Courts</p>	<p>Kristin Siemek Recruitment Manager Office of State Human Resources</p>