



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

Roy Cooper, Governor  
Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

Timothy D. Moose, Chief Deputy Secretary

### MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Erik A. Hooks, Secretary *EAH*  
Timothy D. Moose, Chief Deputy Secretary *12*

**RE:** State Reentry Council Collaborative Annual Report

**DATE:** November 1, 2019

*Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143B-604, The Department of Public Safety's State Reentry Council Collaborative shall report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety beginning November 1, 2017 and annually thereafter. (2017-57, s. 16c.10; 2017-186, s. 3(a).)*

## **2019 State Reentry Council Collaborative Legislative Report**

### **November 1, 2019**

Comprehensive reentry efforts reduce recidivism rates, enhance public safety, and strengthen our local communities. North Carolina's Reentry Action Plan was developed in February 2018, with the goal of coordinating reentry planning and preparation initiatives.

### **North Carolina's Reentry Action Plan**

The State Reentry Council Collaborative (SRCC), which is one point on the Reentry Action Plan, established ten workgroups to make recommendations on how North Carolina citizens, governmental entities, advocacy groups, law enforcement, the judicial system, and faith communities can collaboratively address Reentry in our state. The document linked below represents the culmination of the SRCC's work to date, including their final recommendations:

### **State Reentry Council Collaborative 2018 Recommendations**

The SRCC submitted a comprehensive report in April 2019, entitled "SRCC Mid-Year Update." This report was not required by statute, but SRCC members (See Appendix A) wanted to take the opportunity to share details of the SRCC's work through February 2019, including over 30 recommendations to improve reentry in North Carolina. In addition to these final recommendations, it included information on creation of the SRCC, highlights of the 2018 SRCC meetings, the four 2019 implementation teams that the SRCC tasked with leading implementation of the body's recommendations (see Appendix B), and the dates for the 2019 SRCC meetings.

This annual legislative report, required by GS 43B-604, provides a brief summary of the SRCC meetings since November 2018. The report also offers a status update on the implementation of the recommendations submitted in April.

### **I. SRCC Meeting Summaries**

#### **November 13, 2018**

1. All ten workgroup chairs presented the final recommendations from their workgroup.
2. Discussion on the future of the SRCC in 2019. In 2019, the principal members of the SRCC continue to meet quarterly, but the ten workgroup structure dissolved into the following teams:

#### **i. The Legislative Team**

Will review the recommendations that require legislation, prioritize and develop a strategy for getting legislation passed.

**ii. The Executive Team**

Will prioritize and implement the recommendations that can be executed by Gubernatorial action, or one or more state agencies.

**iii. The Communications and Awareness Team**

Will implement recommendations involving better communication, data sharing, cultural sensitivity, and other issues within and between the entities that make up the SRCC.

**iv. Local/Community Team:**

Will work on localized recommendations having to do with progress within the Local Reentry Councils (LRCs).

**February 12, 2019**

Groundwater Training with the Racial Equity Institute of Greensboro, NC.

**May 21, 2019**

1. Report on 2019 Reentry Week.
2. Update on the Legislative Implementation Team's progress.
3. Update on the Executive Implementation Team's progress.
4. Presentation on the NC Common Follow-up System (CFS), which was started in the 1990s. The CFS is a data set maintained by collaboration between the NC Department of Commerce and DPS. It contains longitudinal data for justice-involved people regarding employment, income, skills training, use of unemployment insurance, etc. The CFS has data starting in the early 2000s.
5. The Honorable Amanda Maris, NC District Court Judge, gave a presentation on the Durham Expunction and Restoration (DEAR) Program.

**August 13, 2019**

1. Kody Kinsley, Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health & Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at DHHS presented on the ongoing Medicaid transformation in NC and DHHS' mental health priorities for the justice-involved.
2. Dr. Evan Ashkin, Founder and Director of the Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) Program, described how the program utilizes Community Health Workers (CHWs) with a personal history of incarceration to connect recently released people with chronic disease, mental illness, and/or substance use disorder to appropriate health care services and helps put together a comprehensive reentry plan working with local reentry partners.
3. Update on the SRCC 2019 priority legislative recommendations. (For summaries of these recommendations, see Appendix C.)
4. Update on the Executive Implementation Team's progress.

## **II. SRCC Recommendations Status**

Some of the SRCC's final recommendations are either complete, or in progress. Two of the four implementation teams, the Legislative and Executive teams, have met regularly in 2019 and are actively working to implement the SRCC recommendations under their purview.

### **1. Legislative Team**

The Legislative Implementation Team reviews each of the legislative recommendations from the SRCC workgroups and decides which recommendations to pursue, while ensuring that the recommendations the SRCC is pursuing are in sync with the legislative agendas of all the agencies involved (NCDPS, NCDOJ, NC Administrative Office of the Courts, the Governor's Office, etc.). It also determines priorities and timelines for pursuing the recommendations, including whether to seek legislation to further study the issues involved in some of the recommendations. The team builds supportive coalitions, seeks bill sponsors, and supports each proposal through the legislative process, working closely with the NCGA and other stakeholders.

#### **Complete:**

Legal Workgroup Recommendation 2 (Part 1): Amend expunction and certificate of relief statutes to allow greater access to relief.

- HB 770 (Freedom to Work/Occupational Licensing Board Reforms) passed into law. This law fulfills several SRCC legislative priority recommendations, including those relating to certificates of relief.

#### **In Progress:**

Legal Workgroup Recommendation 2 (Part 2): Automatically convert adult criminal convictions at ages 16 and 17 to juvenile status.

- Senate Bill 562 (The Second Chance Act), which would allow greater access to expunctions for people who received certain convictions as 16 and 17-year-olds, is currently working its way through the legislative process. It has passed the Senate and is awaiting a vote by the House.

Housing Workgroup Recommendation 3: Appropriate new funding to hire a housing support specialist and a peer support counselor in each of the state's 14 LRCs, including reentry rental assistance for returning individuals at all LRC locations.

- NCDPS Reentry, Programs & Services recently applied for a federal Second Chance Act grant that would provide permanent supportive housing to 100 people on NCDPS supervision living in Buncombe County, NC. If DPS receives this grant, it will support fulfillment of this recommendation.

### **2. Executive Team**

The Executive Implementation Team works with state agencies, boards, and commissions to suggest, prioritize, and assist with implementing the SRCC recommendations that can be accomplished with executive action by the Governor, or one or more state agencies. This could include researching initiatives, models, and funding sources. This team works with NCDPS as well as the NC Department of Commerce, NCDMV, NCDHHS, and state and county departments of social services, among others.

**Complete:**

Faith/Community-Based Organizations Workgroup Recommendation 1: Host a state-wide reentry conference.

- NCDPS hosted a Reentry Summit on March 12, 2019. Over 500 reentry stakeholders, LRC representatives, members of the faith community, other organizations, and volunteers were involved with people moving from incarceration to communities across the state.

**In Progress:**

Transportation Workgroup Recommendation 1: Expand mobile unit services to all 34 minimum custody facilities.

Mental Health, Substance Misuse, and Medical Recommendation 1: Share data between NCDPS and DHHS to:

- Identify incarcerated people in North Carolina who have active Medicaid coverage, and
- Facilitate the timely re-establishment of Medicaid for eligible individuals upon their release from prison.

Housing Recommendation 1: Ensure that individuals leaving prison who are eligible for the Transitions to Community Living Initiative (TCLI) are able to access these services.

Women and Incarceration Recommendation 1: Change language within NCDPS to language that does not dehumanize people under DPS correctional control.

Employment Recommendation 1: Continue to research NCDPS's current Work Release Program, as well as other states' work release programs, to identify strategies to increase utilization of the work release program.

*The following two teams have not officially met. However, some progress has been made in implementing a few of the teams' specific recommendations, as described below.*

**3. Communications & Awareness Team**

The Reentry Communications/Awareness Implementation Team will work to elevate the reentry conversation in North Carolina. This team will work on implementing the SRCC recommendations related to better communication and data sharing within and between the state and private agencies that make up the SRCC. It will also plan the SRCC's activities over North Carolina Reentry Week, design and implement a Reentry Awareness Campaign, and work closely with NCDPS's communications staff to finalize the SRCC's website and communications materials.

**Complete:**

Advocacy Workgroup Recommendation 2: Host a Phase 1 Racial Equity Institute training for the full SRCC (including both principal members and implementation team members).

- The February 12, 2019 training in which the SRCC participated, fulfilled this recommendation.

**In Progress:**

Advocacy Workgroup Recommendation 3: Implement a NC statewide Reentry Awareness Campaign.

- The SRCC Steering Committee finalized a communications plan that will outline our work on messaging for each recommendation that requires a long-term strategy.

**4. Local/Community Team**

The Local/Community Implementation Team will work closely with LRCs to support their work and encourage LRCs to consider family/child issues and how they relate to all areas of reentry: employment, housing, and education. This team will also work closely with the Communications/Awareness Implementation Team on related recommendations.

**Complete:**

Advocacy Workgroup Recommendation 1: Develop a roster of SRCC members for the 2019 year (the “implementation phase”) that is comprised of at least 25% people who have been justice-involved.

- This recommendation, by definition, had to be completed prior to the implementation teams’ formation. Reentry, Programs & Services staff sought out formerly incarcerated people new to the SRCC to be included in the implementation teams so that this population could have a greater voice in the implementation process.

**In Progress:**

Education & Vocational Training Workgroup Recommendation 1: Create a network of people who have completed vocational or academic programs while incarcerated.

- The author of this recommendation, Raphael Ginsberg, Associate Director of Correctional Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has begun creating this listserv and Facebook page. Once the Local Team meets, they will discuss how best to disseminate and utilize both.

## Appendix A

### SRCC Principal Members

#### State Reentry Council Collaborative (SRCC) Roster

|                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Secretary Erik Hooks, Chair<br>Dept. of Public Safety                                                                      | Secretary James H. Trogon<br>Dept. of Transportation                                                              |
| Torre Jessup<br>Commissioner<br>Division of Motor Vehicles                                                                 | G. Reginald Skinner, Jr.<br>Administrative Officer<br>Division of Motor Vehicles                                  |
| Secretary Larry Hall<br>Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs                                                             | Sonya Brown<br>Social Work Program Administrator<br>NCDPS                                                         |
| Kristie Puckett Williams<br>Community Activist & Advocate                                                                  | Mildred Spearman<br>Legislative Liaison<br>Administrative Office of the Courts                                    |
| McKinley Wooten<br>Deputy Director of Court Program<br>Administrative Office of the Courts                                 | Jennifer Haygood<br>Acting President<br>NC Community College System                                               |
| Dr. Peter Hans<br>President<br>NC Community College System                                                                 | Jim Ross<br>President<br>Pamlico Community College                                                                |
| Deputy Secretary Mark Benton<br>Dept. of Health & Human Services                                                           | Timothy Moose<br>Deputy Secretary for Operations<br>Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice<br>Dept. of Public Safety |
| William Lassiter<br>Deputy Secretary for Juvenile Justice<br>Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice<br>Dept. of Public Safety | Linda Nunnallee<br>Executive Director<br>Step Up Ministry                                                         |
| Michael Shank<br>Executive Director<br>Pardoned by Christ                                                                  | Frankie Roberts<br>Executive Director<br>LINC                                                                     |
| Rick Glazier<br>Executive Director<br>NC Justice Center                                                                    | Miea Walker<br>Engagement Coordinator<br>NC Justice Center                                                        |

|                                                                                                                   |                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Secretary Anthony Copeland<br>Dept. of Commerce                                                                   | Elly Goetz<br>Executive Director<br>Benevolence Farm                                   |
| Bonnie Helmink<br>Applicant Services Manager<br>Dept. of Commerce                                                 | Attorney General Josh Stein<br>Dept. of Justice                                        |
| Jasmine McGhee<br>Special Deputy Attorney General<br>Dept. of Justice                                             | Joyce Jones<br>Reentry Consultant<br>NCDPS                                             |
| Danny Hampton<br>Local Reentry Coordinator<br>Freedom Life Ministries                                             | Dennis Gaddy<br>Executive Director<br>Community Success Initiative                     |
| Bernice McPhatter<br>Local Reentry Coordinator<br>Local Reentry Council                                           | Brent Bailey<br>Local Reentry Coordinator<br>Buncombe County Local Reentry Coordinator |
| Dave Nash<br>Chief Operating Officer<br>Asheville Housing Authority                                               | Lucas Vrbsky<br>Veterans Incarcerated Reentry Specialist<br>Veterans Administration    |
| Judge Allen Baddour<br>Superior Court Judge<br>District 15B                                                       | Ophelia Ray<br>Executive Director<br>Maggie's Outreach                                 |
| Secretary Michael Regan<br>Dept. of Environmental Quality                                                         | Linda Davis<br>Alpha for Prisons/Kairos Outside                                        |
| LaShauna Austria<br>Executive Director<br>Benevolence Farm                                                        | Wendi Eure<br>Reentry Initiative Program Coordinator<br>Dept. of Commerce              |
| Genia Newkirk<br>Regional Chief Examiner<br>Division of Motor Vehicles                                            | Robbie Quinn<br>Deputy Director, Field Services<br>Division of Motor Vehicles          |
| Reuben Young<br>Interim Chief Deputy Secretary<br>Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice<br>Dept. of Public Safety | Bessie Elmore<br>Executive Director<br>Straight Talk                                   |

## **Appendix B**

### **SRCC Implementation Team Members (as of October 2019)**

#### **Legislative Implementation Team**

- |                   |                        |                      |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Daniel Bowes   | 6. Bill Rowe           | 11. Mildred Spearman |
| 2. Bradford Sneed | 7. Greg Singleton      | 12. Dawn Blagrove    |
| 3. Jasmine McGhee | 8. Jesse Bennett       | 13. Demetrius Pulley |
| 4. Sallie James   | 9. Amanda Martin       | 14. Mica Walker      |
| 5. Allen Baddour  | 10. Judge Amanda Maris | 15. Kristie Williams |

#### **Executive Implementation Team**

- |                     |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Reggie Skinner   | 7. Chris Battle     | 13. Robert A. Kurtz, Ph.D |
| 2. Dr. Brian Long   | 8. Karen Buck       | 14. Sonya Brown           |
| 3. Demetrius Pulley | 9. George Pettigrew | 15. Tim Moose             |
| 4. Karen Tikkanen   | 10. Angela Bryant   | 16. Dennis Gaddy          |
| 5. Andrea Hudson    | 11. Annette Jones   |                           |
| 6. Tracy Little     | 12. Maggie Brewer   |                           |

#### **Communications & Awareness Implementation Team**

- |                       |                  |                            |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Tiawana Brown      | 6. Naz Ahmed     | 11. Mercedes Restucha-Klem |
| 2. Patrice Funderburg | 7. Rodney McGill | 12. Greg Thomas            |
| 3. Portia Bright      | 8. David Chatham | 13. Andrew Beal            |
| 4. Kristie Williams   | 9. Michael Shank |                            |
| 5. Ariel Aponte       | 10. Dennis Gaddy |                            |

#### **Local/Community Implementation Team**

- |                     |                     |                          |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. David Nash       | 6. Demetrius Lynn   | 11. Justin Loeser        |
| 2. Melissa Radcliff | 7. Corey Purdie     | 12. Jaraun "Gemini" Boyd |
| 3. Joseph Martinez  | 8. Jermaine McNair  | 13. Salahudeen Abdallah  |
| 4. Portia Bright    | 9. Wendi Eure       | 14. Bernice McPhatter    |
| 5. Chuck Manning    | 10. Frankie Roberts | 15. Kerwin Pittman       |

## Appendix C

### **SRCC 2019 Priority Legislative Recommendations:**

1. Amend expunction eligibility and procedures to automatically expunge convictions that will be treated as juvenile offenses under the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act, beginning December 1, 2019.
2. Expand expunction and certificate of relief (COR) eligibility.
3. Amend Section 24.1 of Chapter 20 of the North Carolina General Statutes to (i) require a pre-deprivation hearing to determine if a defendant is able to pay before suspending the person's driver's license for failure to pay, and (ii) provide for automatic restoration of a driver's license after a 12-month suspension for failure to pay.
4. Establish an automated process for resolving minor pending charges and unpaid fines and fees for persons serving more than six (6) months active time.
5. Protect people from having to pay for removal of their mugshot information.
6. Establish a legislative group to study community-based sentencing alternatives for people who have been convicted of non-violent crimes and who are the primary caretakers of their dependent children.
7. Require licensing boards and agencies to remove subjective terms such as "good moral character" and "moral turpitude" from occupational licensing and certification criteria.
8. Establish fee waivers for driver's licenses, duplicate driver's licenses, learner's permits, special identification cards, and birth certificates for individuals within six (6) months of release from NCDPS custody.
9. Appropriate additional funding to Local Reentry Councils (LRCs) to fund housing support specialist and peer support counselor positions, rental assistance programs, and transportation assistance programs.