

2026 Rehabilitation & Reentry Conference

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Master/Mistress of Ceremony – Tamera Hill and Dr. Anthony O. Vann

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Registration and Vendor Pavilion
	Opening: NCDAC Honor Guard
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Greetings & Introduction Tamera Hill, Chief Operating Officer, NC Dept. of Adult Correction George Pettigrew, Senior Deputy Secretary, NC Dept. of Adult Correction
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	2026 Rehabilitation & Reentry Conference Greetings Janet Cowell, City of Raleigh Mayor Rico Boyce, Raleigh City Police Chief Willie Rowe, Wake County Sheriff's Office Leslie Cooley Dismukes, NCDAC Secretary
10:45 a.m.	Introduction of Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Secretary Dismukes
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	R-STEP Reentry Panel Discussion First Lady Anna Stein - Moderator
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Reentry 2030 Dashboard Review
1:15 p.m. – 1:30pm	Networking Break
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Workshop Sessions
Room: Salon A	Reentry Programming: Pathways to Stability, Recovery, Community Reintegration* Presenter: John Sotirkys, Director of Recovery Services, Southeastern Life Center
Room: Salon B	Jobs + Homes = Second Chances that Last Presenter: Rubi Orduna, Director of Economic Empowerment of Koinonia Community Solutions
Room: Salon C	Workforce Development Strategies for People Impacted by the Justice System* Presenter: Shanae Artis, Coordinator – Wake Local Reentry Council, CAWD
Room: Salon D	Transitional Housing FIRST: A Program for Reentry Services* Presenter: Mark Merrick, Executive Director at FIRST at Blue Ridge, Inc.
Room: Salon E	Beyond NARCAN: A Biopsychosocial Approach to Substance Use Disorders in Rehabilitation and Reentry* Presenter: Dr. Ramesh Upadhyaya, Medical Provider, Crossroads Treatment Center
Room: Sandalwood	A Framework for Sustainable Reentry Presenter: John Pratt, Director of Operations, NCDMVA
Room: Judicial	NCJET: NC Jobs Exploration in Transition System Overview* Presenters: Daniel "Dee" Crowley, Technology Program Manager, NCDAC Torrey Leach, Workforce Development Manager, Correction Enterprises
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Networking Break
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Special Plenary Session: Fireside Chat Secretary Leslie Cooley Dismukes and Larry Miller, Chairman of the Jordan Brand
4:00 p.m.	Networking on Your Own

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Wednesday, April 8, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Registration and Vendor Pavilion
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Workshop Sessions
Room: Salon A	Beyond NARCAN: A Biopsychosocial Approach to Substance Use Disorders in Rehabilitation and Reentry* Presenter: Dr. Ramesh Upadhyaya, Medical Provider, Crossroads Treatment Center
Room: Salon B	NCJET: NC Jobs Exploration in Transition System Overview* Presenters: Daniel “Dee” Crowley, Technology Program Manager, NCDAC Torrey Leach, Workforce Development Manager, Correction Enterprises
Room: Salon C	Roadmap to Recovery: Navigating ACDP Treatment and Recovery Road Services Presenters: Thomas Weathers, NCDAC ACDP East District Manager Carolyn Linder, NCDAC ACDP West District Manager
Room: Salon D	Transitional Housing FIRST: A Program for Reentry Services* Presenter: Mark Merrick, Executive Director at FIRST at Blue Ridge, Inc.
Room: Salon E	Understanding and Managing Vicarious Trauma in Corrections: A Self-Care Framework for Resilience* Presenter: Sara Wilder, LCSW of RightSize Perspective, PLLC
Room: Judicial	Bringing Him All the Way Home: Why Fatherhood Belongs in Reentry Presenter: Dr. Glen Warren, Executive Director of Fathers Forever
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Networking Break
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Fair Chance to Advance Grant Presentation
10:50 am – 10:55 am	Introduction of Opening Plenary Session: First Lady Anna Stein
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Afternoon Keynote Address The Honorable Josh Stein, Governor of North Carolina
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m.	Introduction of Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Dr. Anthony O. Vann
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Luncheon Keynote Address: Tiki Davis
1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Networking Break
1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Workshop Sessions
Room: Salon A	Her Life Matters Presenter: Peggy Wells, Founder/Executive Director of The Wells Center, Inc.
Room: Salon B	Designated Reentry Facility Panel Presenter: Karen Buck, Evidence-Based Program Manager, NCDAC
Room: Salon C	Reentry Programming: Pathways to Stability, Recovery, Community Reintegration* Presenter: John Sotirkys, Director of Recovery Services, Southeastern Life Center
Room: Salon D	Understanding and Managing Vicarious Trauma in Corrections: A Self-Care Framework for Resilience* Presenter: Sara Wilder, LCSW of RightSize Perspective, PLLC
Room: Salon E	Workforce Development Strategies for People Impacted by the Justice System* Presenter: Shanae Artis, Coordinator – Wake Local Reentry Council, CAWD
Room: Sandalwood	Improving Behavioral Outcomes for Returning Citizens Presenters: Karla Mensah, VP of Member & Recipient Services at Vaya Health Stephanie Hopfinger, Member & Recipient Service Manager at Vaya Health Mary Grillo, NCDAC Director of Social Work Ashlee Barnes, NCDAC Behavioral Health Administrator

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Room: Judicial	Education Services Presenter: Dr. Brooke Wheeler, NCDAC Senior Director of Education and Programs
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Networking Break
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Special Plenary Session: Fireside Chat Housing Challenges, Impacts and Successes Moderator – NCDAC Director of Reentry Services Lateisha Thrash Panelists: Anita Lynch, Road2Recovery; Dr. Glen Warren, Fathers Forever; Mark Merrick, FIRST at Blue Ridge
4:30 p.m.	Networking on Your Own

Thursday, April 9, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	Conference Opening
9:10 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Formerly Incarcerated Panel Discussion “From Incarceration to Second Chance Employment” Moderator - Dr. Kendall Taylor, Salute 1st, LLC Panelists: Kejuane Hester, Favor Desserts; Tanisha “Chef T.” Carter, The Foosic Experience; Brian Scott, OurJourney
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Presentation: Kerwin Pittman, RREPS/Reentry Facility Project
11:20 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	“From Incarceration to Ownership: The Inmates to Entrepreneurs Model for Reducing Recidivism” Brian Hamilton, Brian Hamilton Foundation
11:55 a.m.	Conference Recognitions & Wrap-Up
	Retiring of Colors: NCDAC Honor Guard