

# 2026 Rehabilitation & Reentry Conference

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

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

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

# 2026 Rehabilitation & Reentry Conference

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Registration and Vendor Pavilion</b>
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Workshop Sessions</b>
<b>Room: Salon A</b>	<b>Beyond NARCAN: A Biopsychosocial Approach to Substance Use Disorders in Rehabilitation and Reentry*</b> <b>Presenter:</b> Dr. Ramesh Upadhyaya, Medical Provider, Crossroads Treatment Center
<b>Room: Salon B</b>	<b>NCJET: NC Jobs Exploration in Transition System Overview*</b> <b>Presenters:</b> Daniel “Dee” Crowley, Technology Program Manager, NCDAC Torrey Leach, Workforce Development Manager, Correction Enterprises
<b>Room: Salon C</b>	<b>Roadmap to Recovery: Navigating ACDP Treatment and Recovery Road Services</b> <b>Presenters:</b> Thomas Weathers, NCDAC ACDP East District Manager Carolyn Linder, NCDAC ACDP West District Manager
<b>Room: Salon D</b>	<b>Transitional Housing FIRST: A Program for Reentry Services*</b> <b>Presenter:</b> Mark Merrick, Executive Director at FIRST at Blue Ridge, Inc.
<b>Room: Salon E</b>	<b>Understanding and Managing Vicarious Trauma in Corrections: A Self-Care Framework for Resilience*</b> <b>Presenter:</b> Sara Wilder, LCSW of RightSize Perspective, PLLC
<b>Room: Sandalwood</b>	
<b>Room: Judicial</b>	<b>Bringing Him All the Way Home: Why Fatherhood Belongs in Reentry</b> <b>Presenter:</b> Dr. Glen Warren, Executive Director of Fathers Forever
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	<b>Networking Break</b>
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	<b>Fair Chance to Advance Grant Presentation</b>
10:50 am – 10:55 am	<b>Introduction of Opening Plenary Session: Secretary Leslie Cooley Dismukes</b>
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	<b>Afternoon Keynote Address</b> <b>The Honorable Josh Stein, Governor of North Carolina</b>
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>
12:30 p.m.	<b>Introduction of Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Dr. Anthony O. Vann</b>
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<b>Luncheon Keynote Address: Tiki Davis</b>
1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	<b>Networking Break</b>
1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<b>Workshop Sessions</b>
<b>Room: Salon A</b>	<b>Her Life Matters</b> <b>Presenter:</b> Peggy Wells, Founder/Executive Director of The Wells Center, Inc.
<b>Room: Salon B</b>	<b>Designated Reentry Facility Panel</b> <b>Presenter:</b> Karen Buck, Evidence-Based Program Manager, NCDAC
<b>Room: Salon C</b>	<b>Reentry Programming: Pathways to Stability, Recovery, Community Reintegration*</b> <b>Presenter:</b> John Sotirkys, Director of Recovery Services, Southeastern Life Center
<b>Room: Salon D</b>	<b>Understanding and Managing Vicarious Trauma in Corrections: A Self-Care Framework for Resilience*</b> <b>Presenter:</b> Sara Wilder, LCSW of RightSize Perspective, PLLC
<b>Room: Salon E</b>	<b>Workforce Development Strategies for People Impacted by the Justice System*</b> <b>Presenter:</b> Shanae Artis, Coordinator – Wake Local Reentry Council, CAWD
<b>Room: Sandalwood</b>	<b>Improving Behavioral Outcomes for Returning Citizens</b> <b>Presenters:</b> 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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<b>Room: Judicial</b>	<b>Education Services</b> <b>Presenter:</b> Dr. Brooke Wheeler, NCDAC Senior Director of Education and Programs
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	<b>Networking Break</b>
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<b>Special Plenary Session: Fireside Chat Housing Challenges, Impacts and Successes</b> <b>Moderator</b> – NCDAC Director of Reentry Services Lateisha Thrash <b>Panelists:</b> Anita Lynch, Road2Recovery; Dr. Glen Warren, Fathers Forever; Mark Merrick, FIRST at Blue Ridge
4:30 p.m.	<b>Networking on Your Own</b>

**Thursday, April 9, 2026**

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