

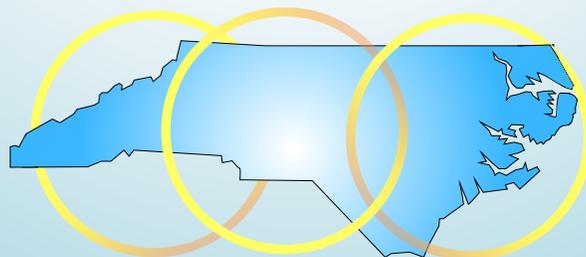
NORTH CAROLINA REENTRY SUMMIT

HARNESSING HOPE

for People Returning from Incarceration

**Koury Convention Center
Greensboro, North Carolina**

March 12, 2019



NC Reentry Summit 2019

Schedule At-A-Glance

(Detailed Schedule on Page 5)

Imperial Ballroom

8:00 – 9:00 Registration & Check-In
9:00 – 10:15 Opening Plenary
10:15 – 10:30 Break

Breakout Rooms

10:30 – 11:45 Breakout Sessions

- Local Reentry Councils 101
- Understanding Collateral Consequences
- Overcoming Transportation Challenges
- Supporting Justice-Involved Families
- Transition Strategies for Veterans, Youth, Women & Spanish-Speaking Individuals
- Securing Meaningful Employment
- Overcoming Community Barriers to Reentry

Imperial Ballroom

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch & Keynote Address
1:30 – 2:00 Break / Visit Exhibitors

Breakout Rooms

2:00 – 3:15 Breakout Sessions

- Pursuing Education after Incarceration
- Substance Misuse
- Accountability and Transparency: Centering the Voices of Formerly Incarcerated People
- Faith-Based Reentry: Keys to Making it Work
- Impact of Reentry Housing
- Securing Meaningful Employment
- Overcoming Community Barriers to Reentry

Imperial Ballroom

3:15 – 3:30 Break
3:30 – 4:45 Call to Action: Regional Conversations
4:45 – 5:00 Summit Wrap-Up

**Welcome to the
North Carolina Reentry Summit:**
Harnessing Hope for People
Returning from Incarceration

March 12, 2019

*Office of the Governor
State of North Carolina*

*Roy Cooper
Governor*



*20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-0301*

March 12, 2019

Dear Reentry Partners:

I am grateful that you have chosen to attend the 2019 North Carolina Reentry Summit. Community and faith-based organizations play an important role in helping people in our state who have been involved with the criminal justice system. I hope that each of you will learn something new that will help you to improve reentry in your communities across the state.

I've worked in and around North Carolina's criminal justice system for years, as a lawyer, a former lawmaker, a former attorney general and now as Governor. I believe we need to do more to help formerly incarcerated people lead productive lives. That's good for them and their families, our state's work force and our public safety. Justice must be more than just incarceration – it must be about restoration.

My vision for North Carolina is simple: I want North Carolinians to be healthier, better educated and more prosperous so that everyone has the chance to live a more abundant, purposeful life. The work that community and faith-based organizations do to help formerly incarcerated individuals gets us closer to reaching that goal.

Thank you for your commitment to this cause. I encourage you to take what you learn today and use it to do what you can – whether it be building partnerships, becoming a better mentor, or developing community programs – to improve reentry in communities across our great state.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "C".

Roy Cooper



ATTORNEY GENERAL JOSH STEIN

March 12, 2019

Dear Summit Attendees,

It is my honor to welcome you to the 2019 North Carolina Reentry Summit. This year's theme, Harnessing Hope for People Returning from Incarceration, aptly describes our mission. The Summit's focus is sharing information on various evidence-based approaches utilized by faith and other community organizations across the state. Our hope is to increase the success of individuals returning from incarceration to their local communities.

At this Summit, you will have the opportunity to meet, network, and learn from others in the reentry arena in North Carolina. You will have the chance to hear from national partners, as well as service providers who serve returning citizens in their communities within North Carolina. You will leave the Summit with a greater knowledge of the challenges of reentry, as well as a renewed commitment to help ensure that our returning citizens have everything they need to be successful.

Thank each of you for your efforts to reintegrate formerly incarcerated people in North Carolina. I would like to extend a special thank you to the State Reentry Council Collaborative, the Department of Public Safety, and the Office of the Governor, as well as my team at the Department of Justice, for their hard work in bringing a dynamic set of speakers and panelists together for this Summit. Your participation and dedication is a testament to the collective impact we can have on making reentry work for all our returning citizens and our state.

Sincerely,

Josh Stein



North Carolina Department of Public Safety
Prevent. Protect. Prepare.

Roy Cooper, Governor

Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

March 12, 2019

Dear Summit Attendees,

As chair of the State Reentry Council Collaborative, I am pleased to welcome each of you to the 2019 North Carolina Reentry Summit!

Since the fall of 2017, representatives from state government, local non-profits, faith and community-based organizations, and reentry advocates have gathered quarterly to discuss the challenges justice-involved individuals face during the reintegration process. The State Reentry Council Collaborative (SRCC) is working to coordinate local and statewide resources, identify and address gaps in resources and policy, and advocate for removing stigma and reducing barriers for justice-involved individuals.

The theme of the Summit is **Harnessing Hope for People Returning from Incarceration** and the focus is on sharing information on various evidence-based approaches utilized by faith and community-based entities across the state to increase the success of individuals returning from incarceration to their local communities. Additionally, the Summit provides the opportunity to meet, network, and learn from others in the reentry communities in North Carolina. You will have the chance to hear from national partners as well as local service providers who are boots on the ground assisting returning citizens in their county/city within NC. If you are new to this work, hopefully you will leave the Summit with a greater understanding of the challenges our returning citizens face. More importantly, I hope you leave with a better understanding of, and a renewed drive as to how you and your organization can be a force multiplier in helping ensure these citizens have everything they need to be successful.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the Office of the Governor, the Department of Justice, and all of the members of the SRCC for their hard work in bringing a dynamic set of speakers and panelists together for this Summit.

Sincerely,

Erik A. Hooks
Secretary

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Raleigh, NC 27699-4201
www.ncdps.gov



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512 N. Salisbury Street
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NC Reentry Summit 2019

Agenda

Imperial Ballroom

8:00 – 9:00 **Registration & Check-In**

9:00 – 10:15 **Opening Plenary**

Welcome and Introductions

*Reuben Young, Chief Deputy Secretary, Adult
Correction and Juvenile Justice, NC Department of
Public Safety*

Remarks

Attorney General Josh Stein, NC Department of Justice

Voices of Reentry Panel

William Elmore and Rev. Keith Daniel

Keynote

Governor Roy Cooper

10:15 – 10:30 **Break**

10:30 – 11:45 **Breakout Sessions**

Local Reentry Councils 101

Cedar Room, 2nd Floor

Coordinating resources in the community in an effort to provide assistance for justice-involved individuals is key in facilitating their successful transition back into local communities. This session will focus on creating networks, maximizing existing resources and services, and developing responses to address gaps in service delivery. Panelists will discuss lessons learned from implementing a local reentry council, with emphasis on successes and challenges. Participants will gain insight into starting local reentry councils in their communities.

Panelists: Sharon Goodson – NC Community Action Association
 Hope Marshall – Mecklenburg Criminal Justice Services
 Rebecca Sauter – Piedmont Triad Regional Council

Facilitator: Joyce Jones – Not By Chance Consulting, LLC

Understanding Collateral Consequences

Oak Room, 2nd Floor

Criminal conviction brings with it a host of sanctions and disqualifications that place an unanticipated burden on individuals trying to re-enter society and lead productive lives. This session will explore collateral consequences in the reentry process and identify best practices in overcoming these obstacles. Panelists will share what programs and advocacy campaigns do to be more inclusive of people with records. Participants will hear the personal testimony of an individual who overcame certain barriers in his transition.

Panelists: Daniel Bowes – NC Justice Center
Lettisha Boyd – College and Community Fellowship
Corey Purdie – Wash Away Unemployment
John Rubin – UNC School of Government

Facilitator: Irene Lawrence – NC Department of Public Safety

Overcoming Transportation Challenges

Tidewater Room, 3rd Floor

Availability of transportation can be a critical factor in the transition of justice-involved individuals. For example, people returning to rural areas after incarceration may have limited access to transportation to reach required programming, access services, and/or obtain and maintain employment. This session will highlight various service approaches addressing transportation issues limiting justice-involved individuals' successful transition. Panelists will share information regarding transportation services.

Panelists: Karen Brown – NC Department of Transportation
Elaine Pleasants – Wheels for Hope
Ryan Smith – Durham I-Team
Jamara Wallace – Craven Area Rural Transit System

Facilitator: Vincent Gaddy – NC Department of Public Safety

Supporting Justice-Involved Families

Augusta Room, 3rd Floor

Research has found that strong family support during and following incarceration is crucial to an individual's successful community reentry and family reunification. This session will highlight best-practice programs, organizations, and resources focused on the unique needs of a justice-involved family during a loved one's incarceration, community reintegration, and family reunification. Panelists will share strategies for supporting members of the justice-involved family during and following their loved one's incarceration.

Panelists: Derrick Byrd – Family Resource Center South Atlantic
Bessie Elmore – Straight Talk Support Group
Melissa Radcliff – Coastal Horizons
Vernice Whyms – NC Department of Public Safety

Facilitator: Mary Ward – NC Department of Public Safety

Transition Strategies for Veterans, Youth, Women, & Spanish-Speaking Individuals

Pebble Beach Room, 3rd Floor

This panel will focus on innovative approaches to meeting the needs of specific populations of justice-involved individuals. Panelists will provide information on programs that assist these groups and how agencies and community/faith-based entities can support them.

Panelists: Ariel Aponte – NC Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
Jennifer Jackson – Interfaith Prison Ministry for Women
Dr. Jean Steinberg – NC Department of Public Safety
Sandi Velez – Bridges Puentes

Facilitator: Bonnie Jonmoore – NC Department of Public Safety

Securing Meaningful Employment *(repeated in afternoon)*

Auditorium II

Finding and maintaining living-wage employment is an essential element of successful reentry into society. Panelists will discuss how their work helps create pathways to meaningful employment. Panelists will provide guidance on building employability skills and engaging employers in the hiring of formerly incarcerated people. Participants will receive first-hand knowledge from those who have benefited from employment programs that focus on justice-involved individuals.

Panelists: Wendi Eure – NC Department of Commerce
Pamela Garner – Triad Sales and Recruiting Solutions LLC
Ralpheal Jackson – City of Winston-Salem SOAR Program
AJ Ware – Inmates to Entrepreneurs

Facilitator: Toshina Wiggins – NC Department of Public Safety

Overcoming Community Barriers to Reentry *(repeated in afternoon)*

Auditorium III

This session will explore systemic barriers preventing formerly incarcerated individuals from successfully reintegrating into their communities. Specifically, panelists will share their own individual stories of their reentry journey.

Panelists: Brent Bailey – Buncombe County Re-entry Council
David Chatham – Angel Oak Creative
Jessie Green – Freedom Life
Danny Hampton – Freedom Life, McDowell Reentry Council
Danny Wilson – Freedom Life

Facilitator: Demetrius Pulley – NC Department of Public Safety

12:00 - Lunch

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch & Keynote Address
Imperial Ballroom

Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Vincent Gaddy, NC Department of Public Safety

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Nicole Jarrett, Director, Corrections and Reentry, Council
of State Governments Justice Center
“Community Ready – Casting a Vision for Successful
Reentry.”

1:30 – 2:00 Break / Visit Exhibitors

2:00 – 3:15 Breakout Sessions

Pursuing Education After Incarceration

Cedar Room, 2nd Floor

Education can be a gateway to social and economic mobility. Formerly incarcerated individuals often have minimal financial resources to pursue further education. This session will highlight educational programs developed for justice-involved individuals to increase positive outcomes for successful reentry into communities. Participants will gain insight into the significant role that education plays in reentry.

Panelists: Lettisha Boyd – College and Community Fellowship
 Brenton Grice – STRIVE/Pathways Project
 Dr. Ray Staats – Craven Community College
 Dr. Jim Ross – Pamlico Community College

Facilitator: Jenni Owen – NC Office of the Governor, OSBM

Substance Misuse

Pebble Beach Room, 2nd Floor

Behaviors and history of substance misuse can have important implications for a justice-involved individual's successful transition back to the community. This session will highlight the needs of individuals with substance misuse issues and provide information on how individuals or organizations can assist in the wraparound of recovery support services provided to justice-involved individuals returning to communities.

Panelists: Jesse Battle – TROSA (Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers)
Thomas Roman – Addiction Recovery Movement
Melinda Thomson-King – Coastal Horizons

Facilitator: Sandi Velez – Bridges Puentes

Accountability and Transparency: Centering the Voices of Formerly Incarcerated People

Tidewater Room, 3rd Floor

As organizations expand staffing capacity to include the voices of people who have been impacted by incarceration, the goal is to encourage and create opportunities for colleagues to work with formerly incarcerated individuals in a professional environment. This session will focus on how to be accountable and transparent when working with formerly incarcerated individuals. Panelists will discuss the importance of accountability, transparency and structure in order to create an environment that is welcoming and understanding to the unique needs of this population.

Panelists: Miera Walker – Forward Justice
Kristie Puckett-Williams – ACLU of North Carolina

Facilitator: Allison Jourdan – NC Department of Public Safety

Faith-Based Reentry: Keys to Making it Work

Oak Room, 3rd Floor

This session will focus on how to engage the community. Panelists will share information about development, implementation, challenges and outcomes of their current reentry programs. Participants will hear from individuals with experience in the justice system regarding the successes and challenges of reintegrating back into communities with support from the faith community.

Panelists: Shay Bethea – Jobs for Life
Nancy Hankins – The Ministry of Hope
Dwight Hunter – Quick 2 Clean, LLC
Rev. Reggie Longcrier – Exodus Homes

Facilitator: Linda Davis – Alpha for Prisons

Impact of Reentry Housing

Augusta Room, 3rd Floor

No population faces a greater challenge to housing affordability than those returning to local communities from incarceration. This panel will discuss challenges of providing housing for formerly incarcerated individuals. Participants will learn of personal experiences of individuals who have reintegrated back into communities successfully with the help of various housing programs.

Panelists: Alvin Long – Biltmore Housing
Justin Loeser – Oxford House
Bill Rowe – NC Justice Center
Dennis Stephenson – Second Chance Recovery

Facilitator: Michael Shank – Pardoned by Christ

Securing Meaningful Employment (repeat from morning)

Auditorium II

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Facilitator: Rebecca Sauter – Piedmont Triad Regional Council

Overcoming Community Barriers to Reentry (repeat from morning)

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This session will explore systemic barriers preventing formerly incarcerated individuals from successfully reintegrating into their communities. Specifically, panelists will share their own individual stories of their reentry journey.

Panelists: Brent Bailey – Buncombe Co. Re-entry Council
David Chatham – Angel Oak Creative
Jessie Green – Freedom Life
Danny Hampton – Freedom Life, McDowell Reentry Council
Danny Wilson – Freedom Life

Facilitator: Diana Powell – Justice Served

Imperial Ballroom

3:15 – 3:30 Break

3:30 – 4:45 Call to Action: Regional Conversations
Introduction of Speaker – Darryl Childers, Office of the Governor
Call to Action – Daryl Atkinson

4:45 – 5:00 Summit Wrap-Up by Chief Deputy Secretary Pam Cashwell
NC Department of Public Safety

► SPEAKER BIOS ◀

(In alphabetical order)

Daryl Atkinson

Daryl V. Atkinson is the co-director of Forward Justice, a law, policy, and strategy center dedicated to advancing racial, social, and economic justice in the U.S. South. Atkinson previously was the first second chance fellow for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). While at the DOJ, Atkinson was an adviser to the Second Chance portfolio of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), a member of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council, and a conduit to the broader justice-involved population to ensure that the BJA heard from all stakeholders when developing re-entry policy. Atkinson received a B.A. in Political Science from Benedict College, Columbia, SC and a J.D. from the University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis, MN.

Governor Roy Cooper

Roy Cooper is a trusted leader and family man who is honored to serve as North Carolina's Governor. Roy Cooper has spent nearly three decades in public service protecting families, keeping communities safe, and working to create jobs and improve schools. The son of a school teacher, he knows that education creates opportunity and he has worked throughout his career to strengthen our schools and create a sound foundation for our state's children.

In the NC House and Senate, Roy Cooper fought to increase teacher pay and reduce class sizes. He wrote North Carolina's first children's health insurance initiative. During his service in the legislature, Roy Cooper worked with members of both parties to get balanced budgets that raised teacher pay to the national average, grow the economy and cut taxes for middle class families.

In 2000, the people of North Carolina elected Roy Cooper as Attorney General, where he continued to fight for families during his four terms. He cracked down on child predators, worked to increase penalties for drug dealers, and oversaw a sharp decrease in crime. He partnered with law enforcement and school administrators to make schools safer, and helped protect victims of domestic violence and stalking. He also made protecting consumers a priority, fighting to keep utility rates low, put predatory lenders out of business, and help families fend off telemarketers.

Roy Cooper entered public service to fight for communities like the one where he grew up. Born and raised in Nash County, he attended public schools and worked summers on the family farm before attending UNC-Chapel Hill on a Morehead Scholarship. His

mother, Beverly Cooper, worked as a school teacher, and his father, Roy Cooper Jr., farmed and practiced law. After earning a law degree from UNC, Roy Cooper returned home to Nash County to practice law and, with his wife Kristin, raise three daughters – Hilary, Natalie, and Claire. He taught Sunday School, served as an elder and deacon in his church, and tutored students in local schools.

Roy Cooper believes in the potential of our great state and its people. He knows that we can build a state and an economy that work for everyone. By investing in our public schools and giving students the tools they need to succeed, creating good jobs and raising incomes for the middle class, and strengthening our communities, North Carolinians can live and work in places they are proud to call home.

Rev. Dr. M. Keith Daniel

Rev. Dr. M. Keith Daniel is a General Partner for Resilient Ventures, LLC, a committed capital fund investing in African American entrepreneurs, and owner of Madison Consulting Group, LLC. MCG is devoted to community flourishing through consulting that leads to transforming outcomes for individuals and institutions striving for the greatest good.

Daniel served as the Executive Director of Operations and Strategic Partnerships for StepUp North Carolina. Daniel was the Executive Director of DurhamCares, Inc. and has over 25 years of management, leadership, teaching and service in higher education administration at Duke University in student affairs, human resources, and religious life.

Ordained in the American Baptist Church under the leadership and direction of Rev. Dr. Frank Tucker, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Washington, DC. Dr. Daniel served as a minister on the Duke University Chapel staff (2005-12). He is Board Chair for DurhamCares, Inc. and serves on the boards of StepUp Durham, the School for Conversion and Duke Chapel.

He earned a B.A. in Comparative Area Studies, Duke University; the Master of Higher Education, North Carolina State University; Master of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity, Duke University.

Keith and his wife Lorna are natives of Washington, DC. They reside in Durham with their two wonderful young adults Madison II (Furman U., Class of 2020) and Loren (UNC-Charlotte, Class of 2022).

William Elmore

William Elmore, a peculiar child, loved solving mathematical problems, writing short stories and playing instruments. To this day, he views life from a mathematical standpoint.

However, book-smart talents and promising academic opportunities did not outweigh the allure of street culture and lifestyles. William's craftiness, often mistaken for slickness, earned him the nickname Swill, a combination of 'slick' and 'Will'. The fast pace of hustling and hanging out with both childhood friends and newly formed alliances were the catalyst for a maze of dire choices and miscalculated decisions. For Swill, March 30, 1991 proved to be a day he would need to exercise critical thinking and decision-making skills. In one fragile William Elmore went from the streets to a decision that resulted in arrest for first-degree murder and a sentence of "natural life" to be served in the state of North Carolina.

Over 24 years in prison, William had time to read hundreds of books. Two of them still stand out: Sidney Poitier's "Measure of a Man" and Bruce Lee's "The Fighting Spirit." They became his inspiration and shaped his character. William has matured into a man who is a force of peace, a man worthy of forgiveness. It was no coincidence the moniker, Mecca, was gifted to him twice; once as a teen in East Orange, NJ and several years later by a prison friend from Brooklyn who was drawn to his calm and enlightening demeanor, his presence as a person who was always open and approachable. Mecca is quite befitting for man of his standing.

William believes that self-acceptance begins with genuineness and unconditional remorse. His story of truth, challenges and consequences transcends 24 years of controlled time and restricted space. During that time, with the support of his mother and sister, William took advantage of every opportunity to expand his intellect and life skills. He enrolled in classes to complete his GED, to learn about domestic violence, anger management, and parenting skills. He earned Honor Grade status, and moved to a minimum custody facility where he participated in outreach for troubled youth and shared his life experiences as a speaker in prison and in the outside community.

On December 21, 2015, at age 45, William Elmore was released from Orange Correctional Center in Hillsborough, North Carolina. With a clean bill of health, he was paroled and returned to his loved ones and to a new society as a rejuvenated entity.

Dr. Nicole Jarrett

Nicole Jarrett directs the CSG Justice Center's grantee technical assistance, coordinating support to jurisdictions that are developing and implementing diversion, treatment, and reentry initiatives. Dr. Jarrett previously served as the director of health policy research at the National Medical Association, where she led projects to strengthen the public health safety net and improve the quality of care provided in underserved communities. She also served as the director of community health policy at

the Baltimore City Health Department, where she directed the city's participation in the Community Voices: Healthcare for the Underserved Initiative. She received her BS from Rutgers University, her PhD in health policy and management from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Center of Behavioral Health Services and Criminal Justice Research at Rutgers University.

Attorney General Josh Stein

Josh Stein was sworn in as North Carolina's 50th Attorney General in 2017. As Attorney General, he is focused on protecting North Carolina families from crime and consumer fraud.

Stein has made combatting the opioid epidemic a top priority. His office drafted the STOP Act to reduce the number of people who become addicted to opioids through smarter prescribing practices, the HOPE Act, which gives law enforcement additional tools to stop the flow of prescription pain pills into the drug trade, and the Synthetic Opioid Control Act to crack down on the trafficking of illicit fentanyl. All three laws were passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Roy Cooper.

Stein is leading the effort to identify, track, and test untested sexual assault kits. Testing these kits will help law enforcement identify and prosecute criminals, prevent future crimes, and bring closure to victims.

As Attorney General, Stein has also worked to protect taxpayers, seniors, students, and military families from fraud. His Department of Justice won awards or settlements of more than \$80 million from scam artists. He is working to improve data security and is leading a national effort combat robocalls. Additionally, his office has recovered nearly \$50 million from tax cheats and health care providers defrauding Medicaid over the past two years.

Stein is also focused on protecting our state's natural resources. He opposes offshore oil drilling along North Carolina's coast and fights to ensure that polluters are held accountable to clean up the messes they create.

Stein previously served as a state Senator and as Senior Deputy Attorney General in the North Carolina Department of Justice. In those roles, he successfully led efforts to put more violent criminals behind bars by expanding the state's DNA database, wrote the School Safety Act and the Identity Theft Protection Act, worked to protect kids from online sexual predators, and helped run payday lenders charging loan shark interest rates out of the state.

Stein grew up in Chapel Hill, is a graduate of Dartmouth College, and earned law and public policy degrees from Harvard University. He and his wife Anna have three children – who all attend or attended North Carolina public schools, like Anna and he did.

Judge Reuben F. Young

Judge Reuben F. Young returned to the Department of Public Safety when he was named Interim Chief Deputy Secretary of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice by Secretary Erik A. Hooks on December 29, 2017.

Judge Young works with officials to enhance safety within prisons, as well as build on efforts to make communities safer by rehabilitating offenders who will be leaving prison, so they can become productive members of society. He travels around the state to visit facilities and speak with employees at all levels to find out what is working and what isn't.

Judge Young served as Secretary of the former Department of Crime Control and Public Safety from 2009 to 2011. He was the first Secretary of the newly-consolidated DPS in 2012. Governor Beverly Perdue named him to lead the new agency as she sought to "streamline government" and eliminate duplicative support areas and increase efficiencies. The consolidation went into effect Jan. 1, 2012.

He was appointed Special Superior Court Judge for the 10th Judicial District of North Carolina in December 2012 by Governor Perdue. He also served as Chief Legal Counsel for Governor Michael Easley and received The Distinguished Service Medal for his support of the North Carolina National Guard during his tenure as Secretary of the Department Crime Control and Public Safety and Department of Public Safety.

Judge Young received his undergraduate degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C., and his Juris Doctorate degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law. He started his legal career in Austin, Texas, working as a prosecutor, assistant attorney general and private practice attorney from 1987-1995. Judge Young returned to North Carolina in 1995, working for the state Department of Justice representing the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety for six years. He then joined the Governor's Office as Deputy Legal Counsel and later as Chief Legal Counsel.

► **PANELIST BIOS** ◀

(In alphabetical order)

Mr. Ariel Aponte is the Inter-Agency Coordinator for the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NC DMVA). Mr. Aponte is a retired Special Forces Warrant Officer with 20 years of active duty service including multiple deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, and South American in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Ariel has an extensive military background, as demonstrated by his assignments throughout his career. While working with the NC DMVA, he has developed several initiatives focused on entrepreneurship for the incarcerated veteran population, veterans in rural communities, Elizabeth City State University's Aviation and Drone Program, and service programs for North Carolina service members and families.

Brent Bailey is a native of North Carolina. Early in his life he began to experiment with drug use which eventually led to drug trafficking. Brent was convicted in 1999 and sent to prison. It was there in prison where Brent began a journey of faith and transformation. In 2010, he was hired by Goodwill to head up a new Project Re-entry program site in Wilkes County, North Carolina. He subsequently relocated to Buncombe County and continued working for Goodwill and Project Re-entry in 2013. In 2015, Brent was hired to be the Re-entry Coordinator for the Buncombe County Re-entry Council. Brent also travels around the state speaking to communities sharing his journey of inspiration, encouragement, and hope that there is life and success after prison.

Jesse Battle is the Director of Men's Program at Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers (TROSA). The TROSA program focuses on education, job skills and the ability to maintain a lifestyle of recovery. The program houses 500+ men and women, many of whom are there as an alternative to incarceration. After spending many years of his life incarcerated and once again facing a judge on habitual felony charges, Mr. Battle was provided an opportunity to attend the TROSA program in 1995. Since graduating the program in 1997, Mr. Battle has obtained an Associate degree in Computer Network Administration, a Bachelor's degree in Human Services and Management, and a Master's degree in Mental Health Counseling. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist, A Certified Clinical Supervisor, A Master Addiction Counselor, Department of Transportation trained Substance Abuse Professional, and a Certified Substance Abuse Residential Facility Director. Just as Mr. Battle understands the dark side of life, he understands that a person does not have to remain in the dark.

Over the past 20 years, **Shay Bethea** has served in various capacities with non-profit organizations that focus on job readiness and community development. As the Director of Training and Leadership Development, Shay coaches and equips key leaders to leverage training efforts around the globe. She drives the development and preparation of JfL's content delivered through webinars, workshops, online and onsite training. Shay connects and consults with international leaders while overseeing JfL's international training and development. She received her Executive Coaching Certification from the C.A.P.P. Institute. Shay is originally from Kinston, NC but now calls Raleigh home and is the mother of two beautiful children, Martez and Chanea.

Daniel Bowes joined the NC Justice Center as an Equal Justice Works Fellow in 2011 and now serves as a Senior Attorney. He advocates on behalf of individuals, families, and communities isolated from opportunities to prosper by the collateral consequences of criminal records. Daniel previously served as an Autry Fellow at MDC, Inc., and supervising attorney of Legal Aid of North Carolina's Second Chance Employment and Housing Project. As the son of justice-involved parents, Daniel proudly serves on the advisory board of Our Children's Place, a nonprofit program committed to the well-being of the 30,000 children in North Carolina with an incarcerated parent. Daniel is a native of Alamance County, N.C. He is a graduate of Duke University and the New York University School of Law, where he was a Root-Tilden-Kern Public Interest Scholar.

Lettisha Boyd is the Associate Director of Technical Assistance for College & Community Fellowships national technical assistance program called THRIVE. Previously, she was the Academic Counselor at CCF for four years where she supported students through their application and enrollment process, while building strong relationships with various college faculty and staff throughout the New York Metropolitan area. Her national presence has afforded her the opportunity to work with various agencies and companies looking to support, and to hire criminal justice-involved people. Lettisha is known for her business networking skills; she is a quasi-credit/debt repair counselor and a trained evidenced-based practitioner. She holds a B.A. from CUNY School of Professional Studies in Communications and Culture, as well as certifications in Human Relations, Paralegal Studies, and Business Management.

Karen A. Brown has 28 years state government experience working with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety and the Division of Motor Vehicles. In August 2018 she was appointed Deputy Commissioner of DMV where she leads the Driver's Services, Vehicle Services and Business Services Units. She oversees the operation of 113 Driver's License Offices and 124 License Plate Agencies as well as the \$133 M budget. During her tenure she has overseen the implementation of RealID, State to State validation and the DMV Strategic Planning initiative. Prior to DMV Mrs. Brown worked for 17 years as the Director of Correction Enterprises. As director, Brown oversaw the operation of 17 different industries located at 31 plants across the state, supervising 375 staff and 2600 inmates. Brown is the recipient of the Old North State Award, the Governor's Award of Excellence, the Visionary Leadership Award, and the national Rodli Award for Excellence in her field.

Derrick W. Byrd has served as an advocate for children and families for over 38 years. He is sought after to provide consultation, training and facilitation in developing programs and policies that impact children and families throughout the United States. Derrick spent 20 years at Wake County Human Services managing a comprehensive service delivery system for children and their families receiving child protective services, organizing and directing the work of social work staff, team decision making meeting facilitators, clinical staff and other related human services programs. Derrick is also a founding member and the program director of the Family Resource Center South Atlantic, a 501c3 nonprofit agency. He co-leads the NC Fatherhood Conference, sexual risk avoidance youth program and reentry services. Derrick served in various leadership positions on state and national organizations including National PTA, Covenant with North Carolina's Children, Wake, Chatham, and Orange County Head Start program, HopeLine, Inc. and the North Carolina Family-Based Services Association. He served as co-chairperson of the Raising Achievement and Closing the Gap Committee for Wake County Public Schools, the Raleigh Organizing Against Racism Committee, and The Flood Group of Wake County.

David Chatham grew up in Raleigh, graduated from UNC-Wilmington, then returned to Raleigh where he rose to the position of Sr. VP at a marketing firm. He was arrested in 2009 and spent more than five years in federal prison in Ohio and Virginia. Upon his release in 2014, David spent six months at the federal halfway house in Raleigh and accepted a position with an auto repair shop where he performed basic maintenance services. Since 2015, David has been blessed with the opportunity to return to the marketing profession and currently works as a senior consultant, primarily serving nonprofits. David has been married to his wife for 15 years, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in ministry leadership at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

For over 27 years, **Bessie Elmore** has worked in the field of self-help as a support group facilitator /counselor in domestic violence and advocate for those incarcerated and their friends and families. Bessie is the founder and CEO of Turning Corners Alliance, a program designed for ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, and grandparents raising grandchildren. In March 2013, Bessie started Straight Talk Support Group, a support group designed for family members and friends who have a loved one in jail or prison and the men and women returning from prison. In March 2018, Straight Talk Support Group Resource Center Transitional House opened its doors. As a member and past president of the Bull City Toastmasters, Bessie went on to win awards from HUD for an outstanding Homeowner workshop program for the City of Durham Housing Authority and NAMI for her outstanding work in the field of mental health. Bessie also facilitated classes at Troy House, a Federal Transitional House in Durham, for 15 years. She is also an instructor at Durham Technical College, teaching job readiness and resume writing classes for justice-involved individuals.

Wendi Eure holds a Master's degree of Science in Strategic Leadership and a Bachelor's degree of Science in Criminal Justice Technology. Wendi began her career with the North Carolina Department of Commerce in 2008. She started as a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) case manager, and then moved to the role of Regional Reentry Specialist. She now coordinates the NC Commerce Reentry Initiative, the Federal Bonding, and the Older Worker Program. Wendi is dedicated to promoting "equitable hiring" practices and ensuring ALL customers are receive the services they need to assist them in their job search.

Pamela Garner is the owner and president of Triad Sales & Recruiting Solutions, a direct hire placement company with a proven track record of matching qualified candidates to a variety of industries throughout the Triad and surrounding areas. Pamela handles outsourced sales solutions, and sells and recruits for a local staffing firm, Staffing Specialists of the Triad. She has worked for over 20 years in the employment staffing industry, building professional contacts and relationships. She works with clients to consider hiring those who are reentering the workforce.

Sharon C. Goodson is Executive Director of the NC Community Action Association (NCCAA) and the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies (SEACAA). She guides implementation of organizational plans and strategies that support the efforts of 34 anti-poverty agencies in North Carolina, and regionally nearly 200 community action agencies across Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee. Through her grassroots, mission-driven, and empowerment style of leadership, the NC Community Action Association grew from a staff of one to 13, and brought in \$25 million from strategic partnerships with Duke Energy, PNC Bank, the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC Foundation, Z. Smith Reynolds, NC Department of Health and Human Services, NC Department of Public Safety, and the NC Governor's Crime Commission. Prior to joining the NCCAA in 2004, she served as the Executive Director for the Elizabeth City Neighborhood Corporation where she planned and led efforts to land a \$1.7 million community revitalization grant to rehabilitate one of the city's most blighted minority communities. She coordinated and hosted the city's first Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. communitywide celebration in 2002, and spearheaded the naming of a city street after Dr. King.

Jessie Green has faced a life of extreme challenge and incredible transformative opportunity. Born in Arkansas, Jessie was raised in both Arkansas and Oklahoma. In 2011, Jessie moved to McDowell County in order to move her life forward. By 2014, however, she found herself arrested and facing charges resulting from meth addiction. Through a rekindled faith in God and her work with Freedom Life, Jessie embarked on a journey of new life discovery and capacity that is still growing in very positive ways today. Jessie still lives in McDowell County where she has established a secure home for herself and her two daughters. She currently works in the Maintenance Department of WestRock Corporation where she is looking to go back to school and study as an electrician. Jessie is a certified Peer Support specialist and has become a source of great hope for many people who hear her personal story. She also serves as a mentor to other women whose lives are in that place of struggle where hers had been for many years.

Brenton Grice is a native of New Bern, North Carolina. Born into poverty and an abusive home, Brenton was inducted into street life and gang culture as a means of survival. After serving nearly 8 years inside North Carolina state prisons, Brenton has dedicated his life to advocating for the community and returning citizens, as well as combating mass incarceration. Brenton is a graduate of the Vera Pathways program, and he is now employed as the Community Outreach Specialist at LIFE of NC. He also is the manager of a Transitional home in the Pitt County area and is the owner of Pooch Parade Dog Walking & Pet Sitting service.

Danny Hampton is the founder and Executive Director of Freedom Life, a nonprofit reentry organization in McDowell County. He is also the Local Reentry Council Coordinator for the McDowell Reentry Council. In addition to his experience and engagement in community-wide reentry development and facilitation, Danny has also served as a credentialed chaplain with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety since 2010. He also serves on a number of community collaboration boards within McDowell County, including chairing a critical collaborative effort known as the Substance Use Disorder Workgroup. In addition, he serves on the State Reentry Council Collaborative as well as assists multiple counties in the Western North Carolina Region with reentry capacity development. Danny holds a bachelor's degree in Music and a Masters of Divinity degree. Before entering into prison chaplaincy in 2010, Danny served over 25 years in pastoral ministry.

Nancy Hankins is the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Ministry of Hope, a nonprofit organization based in Black Mountain, NC. The Ministry of Hope provides pastoral care to 366 residents and staff at The Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women (SCCW). Nancy is closely involved in the delivery of nearly a dozen programs operating at SCCW, including mentoring programs, retreats for mothers and their children, mediation, and the Liturgical Dance and Choir. Hankins has brought Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-step programs into SCCW and regularly works with women preparing for release from prison. She was named SCCW's Volunteer of the Year in 2016. From 2012 to 2019, Hankins was the director of The Jane Pfaff House, a transitional house for women, which is owned and operated by the Swannanoa Valley Transitional Housing Committee. The Jane Pfaff House currently has a 12% recidivism rate. She is Conference Coordinator and Board Chair for the Healing Winds Prayer Conference, held annually in Lake Junaluska, NC, and is on the leadership team for the Order of Saint Luke, Mountain chapter. She currently lives in Asheville.

Dwight Hunter was one of five children born and raised in Raleigh, NC to poverty-stricken parents. At the age of 16, Dwight quit school and entered the employment market, which led to various jobs lasting only for short tenures. Having been subjected to alcohol and drug abuse at a young age, Dwight lived in instability and uncertainty, which led to constant unemployment. Jobless and with a wife and daughter to care for, Dwight did the unthinkable: he committed a crime that landed him in prison for the next 28 years. After serving his sentence, Dwight was released back into society injured and jobless. As he went through one minor and one major surgery, Dwight fought the voices and temptations to give up and become a ward of the state of North Carolina. But he sought help from two organizations that led to him becoming a business owner and an advocate for the formerly incarcerated and the homeless. Today, Dwight is married and enjoys the opportunity to encourage, exhort, and advise the less fortunate.

Jennifer C. Jackson is Executive Director of Interfaith Prison Ministry for Women (IPMW) in Raleigh, NC. IPMW is a community-funded chaplaincy nonprofit that offers holistic pre- and post- release chaplaincy services, transition education and reentry support for women as they prepare for new and different lives after a period of incarceration. Prior to IPMW, she held leadership positions at New York City nonprofits and worked on issues such as victim assistance, human rights and the cultural arts. Jennifer is an ordained Interfaith minister through One Spirit Interfaith Seminary, a spiritual director, and certified coach. She has spent the past 25 years working in support of individual, organizational, and societal transformation and healing and regularly utilizes her skills as an organizational consultant, facilitator, speaker, teacher and trainer through her work with diverse organizations and groups. She was an inaugural member of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation's Community Leadership Council and currently serves on the Oberlin College Alumni Leadership Council.

Ralpheal Jackson was born in 1985 in New Jersey. He dropped out of high school in the 10th grade and turned to the streets because of the environment he was in. As time passed, the street life caught up with him and he served time. Since he was a first-time offender, he made sure that this would be his first and last time in any correctional facility. During this life lesson, he came to the realization early in his sentence to prepare himself for his future release. He took self-help classes such as 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and various other programs. He credits Reentry programs for opening his eyes further. Due to his change of mindset, dedication and determination, he was able to secure full-time employment and now lives life as a tax-paying citizen.

Justin Loeser is the Re-Entry Coordinator for Oxford House, Inc. in North Carolina. Oxford House is a national non-profit program of self-run, self-supported recovery residences for those recovering from a substance use disorder and those with co-occurring mental illness. There are over 2,500 Oxford Houses in 45 states with 260 of those located in NC. Mr. Loeser is responsible for assisting individuals who participate in the Oxford House Program after leaving incarceration. He has been in long-term recovery since 2017 and has worked with Oxford House since 2018. After serving a sentence in the NCDOC, Mr. Loeser's passion led him to help individuals transition back into the community. The innovations that Mr. Loeser and his team are implementing at Oxford House are used as a model throughout the country. Currently, Mr. Loeser serves on the North Carolina Statewide Reentry Council Collaborative (SRCC).

Alvin Long works with Biltmore Housing, Inc., a transitional recovery housing program founded in December of 2010. Intended to assist individuals that are seeking long-term recovery from a variety of circumstances including substance misuse, Biltmore Housing supports its clients as they grow in new and beneficial directions. Biltmore Housing's role is to provide all clients with safe housing and support as they reach for their goals. Biltmore Housing has worked closely with Project Re-entry and Vera's Pathways to help those leaving prison go to college, and many of those individuals have gone on to become productive members of the community. Alvin has spent time in jail and prison, and after good community support and treatment at an alcohol and drug abuse treatment center, he decided to change. Now, Alvin uses his life experience to help others in their journeys to seek change. He has serviced as a board member with Homework Bound and brings lived experience to the board members.

Rev. Reggie Longcrier is Founder and Executive Director of Exodus Homes, a faith-based United Way agency that offers transitional to long-term supportive housing for recovering homeless people returning to the community from treatment programs and prison. Exodus Homes, which started 22 years ago in Hickory, North Carolina, has a comprehensive array of services to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of its residents. Exodus Homes currently has 63 beds with eight program locations. It has four major programs: Supervised Independent Living, Prison Ministry and Post Incarceration Aftercare, Family Preservation and Family Reunification, and Exodus Works Vocational Training Program.

Hope Marshall's experience with re-entry, housing and substance abuse issues in North Carolina spans 20 years. She currently serves as the Re-Entry Services Manager for Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Services. During her tenure with the Criminal Justice Services Department, she has played an important role in implementing services for those re-entering the community after incarceration, developing housing options for persons with criminal records, and facilitating development of vocational and employment focused programs. As the chairperson of Re-Entry Partners of Mecklenburg, she has expanded the group's activities to include resource fairs inside prisons and in the community, community education for employers and landlords, and career expos focused on persons with criminal records. In 2017, after years of working with adult clients, Re-Entry Services added a vocational program component for youths ages 15+ in the juvenile justice system. Ms. Marshall also holds a master's degree in Criminal Justice from UNC-Charlotte, is Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist (LCAS) and is a certified Moral Reconciliation Therapy facilitator.

Elaine Pleasants is the Executive Director of Wheels4Hope. She has been with Wheels4Hope since 2015 and oversees the statewide operations. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a degree in Economics. She has worked in management for non-profits for the past 27 years, including for the YMCA and Planned Parenthood. Having moved to North Carolina when she was 12, she considers herself a native. She resides in Clayton with her husband of 24 years, her 15-year-old daughter, and rescued shelter dog. She is the chair of the missions committee at her church, Horne Memorial UMC, and has been a Girl Scout Leader for the past 9 years.

Kristie Puckett-Williams is a Regional Field Organizer for the ACLU of North Carolina's Campaign for Smart Justice. She is a Charlotte native who holds an M.A. in Human Services Counseling: Addiction and Recovery Counseling. Having survived domestic violence, drug addiction and incarceration, Kristie is now an advocate and activist, fighting for the rights of all marginalized and disenfranchised people. Her goal is to use her educational and life experiences to convey a message of strength and hope in the community as well as a message of recovery, restoration and redemption. In her free time, Kristie enjoys spending time with her husband, Robert, and her three children: a son, Julian, and her twin daughters Kade and Kaiden.

At the age of 16, **Corey Purdie** was convicted as an adult and placed in the custody of the NC Department of Corrections for eight years. Since 2006, Purdie has been faithfully traveling to Pamlico Correctional, where he was incarcerated, to minister and encourage the inmates and staff. Faced with the discrimination from local employers, Purdie decided to start his own business, Miracle Wash, in 2007. Purdie established a nonprofit called Wash Away Unemployment to address underlying barriers such as housing, sustainability skills, lack of connecting resources, transportation, and family reconciliation. Purdie has also assisted regional and state reentry coordinators to develop local reentry councils in Craven and Pamlico counties, and sits on the Pamlico Craven Reentry Council Board as Housing Director. Recently Purdie became the first formerly incarcerated individual to obtain full-time employment within Pamlico Correctional Institution as a liaison, assisting with pre and post release home plans to reduce the high rates of recidivism.

Melissa Radcliff has been with Our Children's Place of Coastal Horizons Center based in Wilmington, NC since February 2007. Our Children's Place is a statewide education and advocacy program focused on children of incarcerated and returning parents. Prior to that, she was the Executive Director and a founding staff member of the Family Violence Prevention Center of Orange County (now the Compass Center for Women and Families), the local domestic violence agency serving Orange County, NC. She has worked in the area of victim services since the 1990s at a domestic violence agency, rape crisis center, prosecutor's office, and police department in Rhode Island, Arizona, and North Carolina. She serves as chair of the Pre-Release Committee for the Orange Correctional Center, a minimum custody men's prison facility located in Hillsborough.

Tom Roman is a licensed Pennsylvania attorney in long-term recovery who lives in Cary, NC, with his wife of 23 years, Adeline, and their sons, Alec and Evan. He completed his undergraduate education at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia and attended Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, DE, where he received his Juris Doctorate in 1990. He has been active in lawyers' recovery groups throughout the Mid-Atlantic since 2002. He is an active volunteer in both Pennsylvania and North Carolina's lawyer assistance programs, as well as the American Bar Association's Commission on Lawyers Assistance Programs. He has experienced the challenges associated with re-entry into the workforce following involvement with the criminal justice system and he has drawn from this experience to assist others who are having difficulty. Tom has worked both privately and professionally over the last 16 years promoting attorney wellness and has personally benefited from his active participation in lawyers' assistance groups and 12 Step Fellowships.

Jim Ross is an entrepreneurial, visionary, and results-oriented leader with 20 years of community college leadership experience. As President of Pamlico Community College (PCC), he has led exceptional teamwork that has achieved national-leading increases in important areas including growth in enrollment, annual state appropriations, positive media coverage, new degree programs and number of community residents coming onto campus. Ross has helped create an innovative first-of-its-kind-in-America prison education vocational and life-skills degree program. Under his leadership, PCC has achieved a national rating as America's third-best community college by SmartAsset and one of America's elite community colleges by the Aspen Institute. He has 14 years of leadership experience as vice president at Eastern Florida State College (then named Brevard Community College) where he oversaw 184 full-time employees. He is a successful business owner and the author of two books. Ross has had guest appearances on the NBC Today Show and 100 television shows across the nation, is the host of a PBS TV talk show, and speaks across the United States. A former U.S. Congress Staff Member, he has since excelled in governmental relations.

Bill Rowe is General Counsel and Deputy Director of Advocacy at the Justice Center. Bill first came to NC in 1979 as a VISTA organizer with the Carolina Brown Lung Association in Roanoke Rapids. After attending Northeastern University School of Law, Bill returned to NC in 1985 to work as a staff attorney with Legal Services of Southern Piedmont (LSSP) in Concord and subsequently with East Central Community Legal Services (ECCLS) in Raleigh. Bill represented low-income clients in an array of civil cases, including public benefits, evictions and poor housing quality, and employment. Bill came to the Justice Center's predecessor organization, the N.C. Legal Services Resource Center, in 1992. He has been with the Justice Center since its inception in 1996 and served as executive director from 2001 to 2004. He has served as counsel in class action lawsuits concerning consumer rights, education, public benefits, and housing law. Bill has represented members of the state's low-income communities before the NC legislature, state and federal agencies and local governments.

John Rubin joined the UNC School of Government in 1991 after practicing law for nine years in Washington, DC and Los Angeles. At the School, he specializes in criminal law and indigent defense education. He has written several books, articles, and other resources on criminal law, including the Collateral Consequences Assessment Tool and Relief from a Criminal Conviction Guide; teaches and consults with public defenders, assigned counsel, judges, prosecutors, and others in the criminal justice system; and manages the School's indigent defense education program. He is a consultant to the Office of Indigent Defense Services, which is responsible for overseeing and enhancing legal representation for indigent defendants and others entitled to counsel under North Carolina law. In 2008, he was awarded a two-year distinguished professorship for faculty excellence. In 2012, he was named Albert Coates Professor of Public Law and Government. Rubin earned a BA from the University of California at Berkeley and a JD from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Rebecca Sauter is the co-founder and director of the award-winning Project Re-entry, administered by the Criminal Justice Department of the Piedmont Triad Regional Council. She brought over 19 years' experience in labor force development, employer-community relations and alternatives to violence programs when she relocated to North Carolina. Project Re-entry began as a pilot in 2003 and quickly became a prototype for reentry programming in North Carolina and is now a pilot in the jail system. Its mission is to improve the reintegration of justice-involved individuals, reduce criminal justice costs, and increase public safety through the establishment of a pre to post release transitional planning system. Currently, Project Re-entry is in 10 state prisons, 16 counties and 1 detention center. It is recognized as a programmatic example that represents innovation within criminal justice programming. Mrs. Sauter is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a degree in psychology and is certified as an Offender Workforce Development Specialist and a Global Career Development Facilitator.

Ryan Smith is the innovation team director for The City of Durham's Innovation Team (I-Team). He has focused on identifying ways to increase economic opportunity for Durham residents who are justice-involved. The team is currently piloting three new programs: the Durham Expunction and Restoration (DEAR), a program aimed at restoring driving privileges and expunging criminal records; the Welcome Home Initiative, which pairs returning residents with a peer support specialist; and a transitional jobs program that provides six-month, full-time positions to returning residents that include wrap around support and job readiness training. Ryan also served as Special Assistant to the Dean and Senior Director of Strategy for the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University, supported Congressman David Price's 2012 bid for reelection as his Campaign Finance Director, and worked for a diverse array of non-profits with missions ranging from documentary photography to early childhood education. Ryan is an alumnus of Duke, having earned his Master of Theological Studies from the Divinity School and Master of Public Policy from the Sanford School.

Dr. Raymond Staats is the President of Craven Community College in New Bern, North Carolina. He began his professional career in the military, but transitioned to positions in higher education upon obtaining his doctorate at Virginia Tech in 2003. Dr. Staats served as a graduate faculty member at the Air Force Institute of Technology, in Dayton, OH. He joined the Community College of the Air Force in Montgomery, Alabama in 2006, first as Vice Commandant and later as Commandant. He concluded his military career in 2009, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel with more than 20 years of Air Force active duty service. He has continued to pursue his passion for higher education leadership, initially serving in college executive positions in Illinois and Alabama. He joined Craven Community College as its fifth president on July 20, 2015. He currently serves on the non-profit boards of the New Bern and Havelock Chambers of Commerce, Swiss Bear Corporation, Craven 100 Alliance, Craven Community College Foundation and the Public Radio East Foundation. He also serves on the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society's Presidential Advisory Board.

Dr. Jean Steinberg's early career as a psychologist focused on service delivery and program development aimed at the resolution of trauma-related disorders across a variety of target populations. This work fueled her interest in juvenile justice. Dr. Steinberg started her career with North Carolina's Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in 2002 as the Clinical Director at Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center in Concord. In 2008, she was appointed to the agency's central office to assist in the department's transition to a more therapeutic and evidence-based model of care that relied on facility-based direct care staff as agents of change. As the Director of Clinical Services and Programs for juvenile justice facilities with the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, she oversees clinical services and programs in the state's juvenile justice facilities and coordinates the agency's OJJDP-funded Juvenile Reentry System Reform effort. Dr. Steinberg serves on the board of the NC Juvenile Services Association and is a member of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network's Justice Consortium and its Juvenile Justice Trauma Treatment subcommittee. In 2018, she was also appointed to the NC Institute of Medicine.

In 2014, **Dennis Stephenson** partnered with Second Chance Transitional Services in Rocky Mount, NC where he wrote a grant that transitioned his career into the judicial system serving ex-offenders and producing remarkable results. With Second Chance Transitional Services, he currently oversees a program serving a maximum of 435 ex-offenders to date. In 2015 and 2017, he added another Transitional Housing project in Edenton, NC and Recidivism Reduction Services (RRS) in six counties (Gates, Chowan, Dare, Currituck, Washington, and Hyde) under the auspices of Loving Light Community Outreach, Inc. Both projects serving between 192 and 390 clients. His Recidivism Reduction Services has graduated a notable 181 ex-offenders to date. In 2017, he added a Developmental Disability Group Home in Rocky Mount, NC to his array of services where he currently houses five clients. Dennis serves on the executive board of directors for New Reentry Executive Committee for Edgecombe, Nash and Wilson counties; also serves as executive director of Hertford County Quality of Life Association and is a member of Kappa Kappa Psi, Kappa Alpha Psi, and NAACP.

Melinda Thompson-King is the Region 2 Director of TASC Services for Coastal Horizons Center. She has worked with Coastal Horizons Center for over four years, but has been working in the human services field since graduating from Winston-Salem State University in 2005. Melinda began at CHC as a TASC Care Manager in Craven County in 2014. She received her Master's in Education from Liberty University in 2012. She is a New Bern, NC native, has been married for 10 years, and has one son.

Sandi Velez was born and raised in NYC in a low-income neighborhood and witnessed firsthand the consequences of poverty and injustice. She left NYC and moved to Miami, Florida where she raised two daughters and pursued a career in law enforcement, which led to a position as an investigator with the Office of the Federal Public Defenders. After my tenure with the Federal government, she experienced an extremely difficult and dark time in her life. In 1998, she moved to North Carolina to be with her mother, a faithful Christian, who was always a source of strength for her. Her prayers were answered in 2005, when she surrendered my life to Jesus Christ. God has been directing her steps and molding her ever since. In 2006 she felt a calling and began her journey in prison ministry. During this time, she trained and volunteered with Prison Fellowship, Pardoned by Christ, Yokefellow, and Kairos. In 2014 she founded Bridge Puentes Prison Ministry, a non-profit dedicated to serving those who have been impacted by the criminal justice system, by providing worship services, bible studies, and reentry workshops at the Federal Institution in Butner.

Miea A. Walker, MSW is a social justice advocate and a prison abolitionist whose passion is addressing the intersectionality of race, class, gender and reentry for incarcerated men and women. Miea is the Criminal Justice Manager, Policy and Advocacy Division with Forward Justice. In 2016, Miea's personal journey with the justice system was featured in Christianity Today. Most notable about Miea is her love and commitment to serving those who are marginalized and often overlooked. Her goal is to dismantle the shame and stigma by reframing the narrative.

Jamara Wallace is a native of New Bern, North Carolina. In May 2001, he received a Bachelor of Science degree from East Carolina University. In November 2001, Jamara founded New Safeway Taxi Service of New Bern Inc., where he has been the Chairman and Executive Director for the past 17 years, delivering transportation services to the citizens and agencies of Craven and surrounding counties. Jamara is the Chairman of the Greater Duffyfield resident's council, which represents over 3,000 residents in the Duffyfield area. He has served on the city of New Bern Police Chief Assessment Center panel, the Development Services Assessment Center panel, and on the Parks & Recreation Master Plan committee for New Bern, as well as on the steering committees for both the Gateway Revitalization Plan and the Choice Neighborhood's steering committees on transportation and Economic Development. He is on the board of directors & executive committee for Swiss Bear Inc., the Main Street organization for the city of New Bern. He is a member of the Craven County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and the Chairman of the Transportation Advisory Committee for the Craven Area Rural Transit System. Jamara was awarded the local Martin Luther King Jr. Human Service Award in 2006 for his service to the community.

AJ Ware is co-chair of the Inmates to Entrepreneurs' Board of Directors and has shared his entrepreneurial experience with the program since 2008. AJ has been an entrepreneur since he was 15 years old, learning firsthand how to start and run different businesses. The experience of running radio sales and starting a sports marketing firm has given AJ the knowledge to provide mentorship in the world of entrepreneurship. AJ is the founding and managing partner of Majestic Sports Marketing. He has extensive experience in public speaking and aiding business owners in developing a diverse clientele. He has presented in over fifty prisons across the country.

Vernice A. Holt Whyms earned a Bachelor of Science Degree and of Master of Arts Degree in Counseling at North Carolina Central University. She began working for the Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Corrections and Juvenile Justice in May 1989 and is now a Social Work Supervisor III. She is responsible for program management and supervision of the social workers who are responsible for the day-to-day operations of multiple specialized services within the largest female correctional institution in North Carolina. She provides the necessary technical assistance, clinical and/or case consultation and program management. She reviews offender cases for quality of services and is in compliance with regulations and departmental policies. Mrs. Whyms has an understanding and knowledge of all legal procedures related to adoption, foster care, and court procedures specific to all 100 counties in North Carolina as to the placement of babies born to incarcerated offenders. She provides supervision for the Motherhead as well as the Mothers and Their Children (MATCH) staff. She is responsible for interviewing, supervising, and training social work students and interns from colleges and universities throughout North Carolina. She has served on the Social Work Advisory Boards at North Carolina State University and at Meredith College.

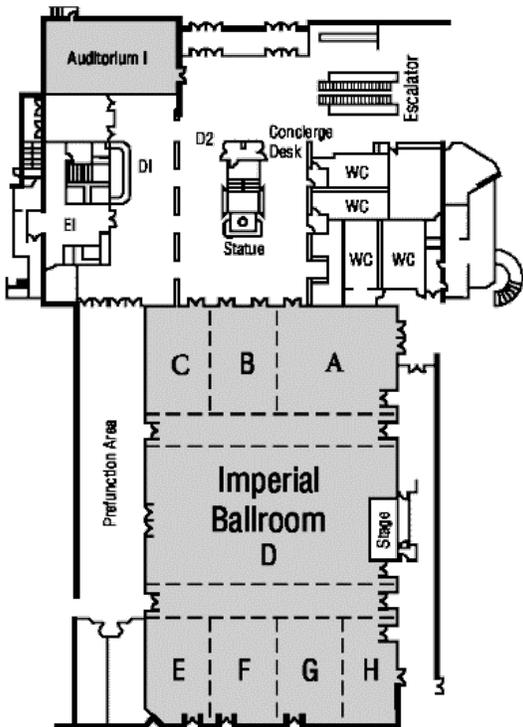
Danny Wilson is a justice-involved individual who has been on a journey of sobriety, recovery, and life transformation for over six years. Danny was born and raised in McDowell County where he currently resides with his family. Serving as an Upholstery Technician, Danny works for Marion Fabric and Upholstery, a company that is partnered with Freedom Life as a Reentry Employment Corporation. In addition to his personal and employment success, Danny is also a trained Peer Support Specialist. He serves with Freedom Life as a mentor to men currently incarcerated in the McDowell County Detention Center. Danny also goes back into prisons to share his story of challenge and success as he seeks to bring hope and encouragement to other men who are where he himself has once been.



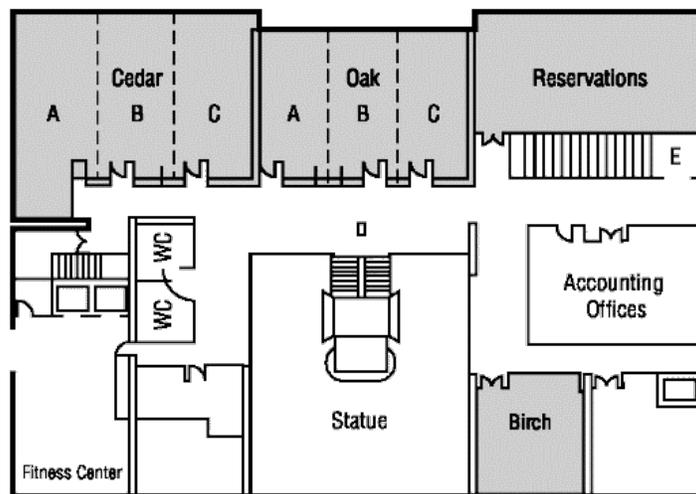
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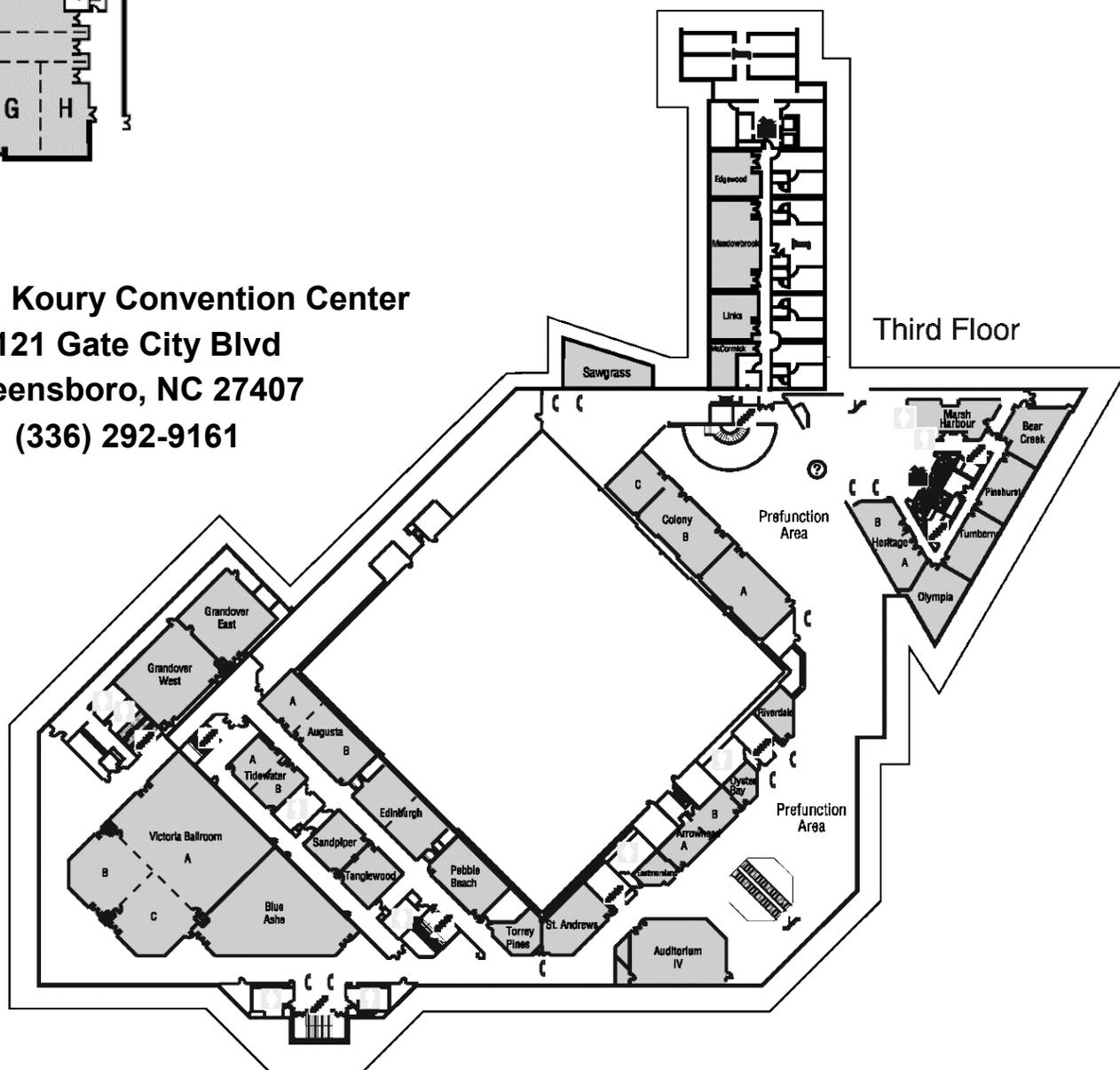
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NC Department of Justice
NC Department of Public Safety
Office of the Governor
State Reentry Council Collaborative and
the SRCC Faith/Community-based Workgroup**

**Special thanks to the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and the
North Carolina Justice Center for their generous support of
the 2019 North Carolina Reentry Summit and to
Annie McDarris, student at UNC-Chapel Hill, for her
assistance with this Summit booklet.**