

This document is the result of 5-7 months of meetings and research by the 10 State Reentry Council Collaborative (SRCC) workgroups and presents draft recommendations. The SRCC welcomes your comments and feedback on these draft recommendations. **Note: Budget numbers in these recommendations are estimates only and have not been verified.**

All feedback will be reviewed and considered. Once the final recommendations are approved by the SRCC, they will be submitted to the NC General Assembly and the Office of Governor Roy Cooper.

In submitting your feedback, please include the following information:

- Your name
- Organization (if applicable)
- Workgroup and recommendation to which your feedback applies

We welcome any feedback submitted prior to the deadline, but all comments must be emailed to Irene Lawrence at [irene.lawrence@ncdps.gov](mailto:irene.lawrence@ncdps.gov) by 5pm on October 31st.

## **SRCC Family Reunification Workgroup Recommendation #1**

### **Recommendation**

This workgroup recommends creating and distributing a brochure with info about all organizations in Wake County having to do with family reunification.

### **Background**

Currently, when you visit the Department of Social Services (DSS) office, there are no handouts available that could lead the person to resources upon reentry.

### **Recommendation**

This workgroup recommends creating a brochure that contains info about the goals, activities, and contact info for all organizations in Wake County having to do with family reunification. After creating this brochure with input from all organizational stakeholders in Wake County, we can use it as a template for what other counties can create as a handout once they have all of those types of resources in their particular county.

This brochure would serve as the preliminary information for post release. It would feature a number of resources related to housing, counseling services, food and other needed resources a family may need in order to effectively help a person transition back into the community. It would be a resource for case managers, offenders, family members and government officials. It would also be a resource for a family member of an offender who is just going into the prison system.

### **Stakeholders**

State and local government, non-profits, faith community, employers, family members of people who are or have been incarcerated.

### **Budget**

Minimal

### **Timeline**

Immediate

## **SRCC Family Reunification Workgroup Recommendation #2**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### **Mobile App**

The workgroup recommends adding a button to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) page (for now calling it: The Family Reunification Resource Button/Link) to direct families to reunification and other resources of benefit to helping the person incarcerated have a productive and successful transition back into the community. This button would contain a digital version of the aforementioned brochure as well as any other reunification resources not in the brochure.

### **BACKGROUND**

Currently, when you visit the offender search web page there is a host of information about the offender's crime history. There is nothing available on the website that could lead the person to resources upon reentry.

### **STAKEHOLDERS**

State and local government, non-profits, faith community, employers, family members of people who are or have been incarcerated.

### **TYPE OF ACTION**

Department of Public Safety

### **TIMELINE**

*Short-term:* design/Discussion

*Long-term:* Production/implementation, January 2019

## **SRCC Family Reunification Workgroup Recommendation #3**

### **RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY**

Conduct professional workshops with Local Re-entry Councils (LRCs) to raise their awareness of family/child reunification issues as part of re-entry services and support. The goal will be to encourage LRCs members to think about family/child issues and how they relate to all areas of re-entry: employment, housing, education, etc.

### **BACKGROUND**

AS LRCs across North Carolina work to ensure appropriate housing, employment, health care, and other services for men and women who are returning home from jail and prison, there is concern that the issues around family/child reunification are not being addressed.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The SRCC Family and Support workgroup recommends that funds are allocated (by Legislature, Governor's Office, department, community org, etc.) to develop and implement professional workshops with LRCs to raise their awareness of: 1) family/child reunification issues as part of re-entry planning, 2) resources available within certain communities, and 3) tools that can be used. It is believed that during these workshops there will be discussion about unmet needs and lack of community resources. Such information can be incorporated into future workshops and service planning.

These workshops will take place annually with each LRC.

### **STAKEHOLDERS**

NCDPS

Local Reentry Councils (LRC)

Local service providers

Presenters

Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program

### **BUDGET**

Still under development

### **TIMELINE**

Short-term for initial training; ongoing for annual workshops

## **SRCC Family Reunification Workgroup Recommendation #4**

### **RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY**

Work with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS - state) and Division of Social Services (DSS - local/county) to develop (or modify if already in existence) resources, policies, and procedures that would allow for parent-child reunification.

### **BACKGROUND**

Many men and women in and leaving prison are parents of minor children. A certain percentage of those families have DSS involvement. Reunification between children and parents would be enhanced if there were more opportunities for contact (general visitation, specialized visits, phone calls, and letter writing), if incarcerated parents were viewed as a resource for identifying potential, appropriate placements, and if parents had access to services that would allow them to focus on their DSS case plans.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The SRCC Family and Support workgroup recommends that a North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS)/DSS/community group be formed to review, revise (if necessary), and develop (if not in existence) policies, procedures, and training for both NCDPS program staff and DSS staff with the goals of creating more opportunities for contact between children and their parents, viewing incarcerated parents as a resource for identifying potential, appropriate placements, and ensuring appropriate services for incarcerated parents to access as they work on their DSS case plans.

### **STAKEHOLDERS**

NCDPS  
DHHS (state)  
DSS (county/local)  
Individual prison facilities  
Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program

### **BUDGET**

Still under development

### **TYPE OF ACTION**

NCDPS, DHHS (state), DSS (county/local)

### **TIMELINE**

In the short term, a community group could be created with an initial goal of reviewing what's already in place, where the gaps exist, and what other states are doing in this area.