



State Reentry Council Collaborative Quarterly Meeting May 13th, 2025

Maggie Brewer, NCDAC Chief Deputy Secretary of Rehabilitative and Correctional Services opened the meeting by extending formal greetings to all attendees. She noted that NCDAC Secretary Leslie Cooley Dismukes was unable to attend due to a prior engagement but conveyed the Secretary's continued support for reentry initiatives and commended the group's ongoing efforts. Deputy Secretary for Rehabilitation and Reentry George Pettigrew reaffirmed the department's commitment and reiterated support for reentry work being done around the state.

Maggie Brewer, NCDAC Chief Deputy Secretary of Rehabilitative and Correctional Services & George Pettigrew, NCDAC Deputy Secretary of Rehabilitation and Reentry, provided updates on a new public-facing dashboard currently under development. This dashboard is designed to monitor strategic goals, metrics, and progress related to reentry efforts. It will incorporate input from each subcommittee and feature customized data visualizations. The dashboard is expected to launch with a live demonstration in July 2025. Its primary objective is to enhance transparency, accountability, and collaboration across all participating entities. Deputy Secretary Pettigrew provided a Joint Reentry report, which reflected significant growth, with 31 Local Reentry Councils (LRCs) covering 53 counties. The long-term goal is to achieve full statewide LRC coverage or designated catchment areas by 2030. Funding requests have been submitted to support this expansion, and recently added counties include Carteret, Cumberland, and Gaston. Reentry staff were publicly recognized for their contributions, and leadership emphasized the importance of community partnerships, shared responsibility, and the ongoing expansion of LRC services. Attendees were encouraged to network and continue collaborating. Deputy Secretary Pettigrew informed the audience that the N.C. Joint Reentry Council (JRC) continues to make progress, with all six subcommittees actively meeting and implementing strategic initiatives. Of the 133 total strategies under the Reentry 2030 plan, 95 have associated metrics, and 68 of those have already established baseline data. The next JRC meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Maggie Brewer, NCDAC Chief Deputy Secretary of Rehabilitative and Correctional Services & George Pettigrew, NCDAC Deputy Secretary of Rehabilitation and Reentry, stated that North Carolina remains a national leader in reentry initiatives, bolstered by high-level support, including from First Lady Anna Stein. Deputy Secretary Pettigrew and Chief Deputy Secretary Brewer stated the First Lady has taken an active role in advancing reentry efforts across North Carolina. She regularly visits correctional facilities and advocates for reducing stigma related to incarceration and substance use. Her legal background and advocacy work bring a meaningful perspective to the Joint Reentry Council, where she plays a critical role. Notably, North Carolina



is the first state to appoint a First Lady to serve on a JRC, demonstrating the state's innovative approach to reentry and rehabilitation.

Jessica Sharpe, Community Programs Manager, NCDAC Division of Rehabilitation and Reentry, presented a presentation on Recidivism Reduction Services (RRS), a vital program dedicated to enhancing public safety and reducing rates of repeat offenses among high-risk individuals. The RRS program was initiated in response to the Justice Reinvestment, reflecting a strategic shift toward reducing criminal behavior through support rather than solely punitive measures. The program specifically targets individuals who are on probation, parole, or post-release supervision, identifying those deemed to be at higher risk of recidivism. To address the complex needs of these individuals, RRS provides a range of services designed to facilitate their successful reintegration into society. Key among these are Cognitive Behavioral Interventions, which include evidence-based practices like Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT), aimed at changing harmful thought patterns and behaviors. Additionally, the program offers transitional housing solutions, which provide essential stability during the re-entry process. RRS also encompasses wraparound services that are holistically focused on critical areas such as education, employment, nutrition, family counseling, outpatient treatment, and support for substance use disorders. This comprehensive approach ensures that participants have access to the resources they need to build a healthier, more productive life. Importantly, the availability of these life-changing services extends to all 100 counties in North Carolina, ensuring that individuals in need can access assistance, regardless of their geographic location. The success of RRS heavily relies on close coordination with probation and parole officers, who play a crucial role in the referral process and maintain ongoing communication with program personnel to monitor the progress of participants. This collaborative effort is essential to tailoring services effectively and supporting individuals on their journey toward successful re-entry into their communities.

Michael Gray, Vice-President of Justice Services, presented on behalf of Inside Human Services, the primary vendor for Divisions 3 and 4. The organization utilizes MRT, a 12-step cognitive-behavioral treatment model focused on decision making and personal accountability. The program emphasizes self-assessment, trust, rule following, community service, and both short- and long-term goal setting. Classes are offered in-person, virtually, and in hybrid formats. Specialized classes are available in Spanish and for non-readers. Participants may also receive transportation assistance and benefit from flexible scheduling options. Regular graduation ceremonies celebrate participants' achievements and include speeches, recognition, and community engagement.

Lateisha Thrash, Director of Reentry Services, NCDAC Division of Rehabilitation and Reentry, shared additional program highlights and local success stories. She encouraged LRCs to involve department leadership in local events. Feedback from participants and stakeholders has been



overwhelmingly positive. Programs have demonstrated measurable reductions in recidivism and improvements in critical thinking and behavior. These outcomes are supported by pre- and post-assessment. In addition, a local highlight shared during the meeting was a successful event in Wake County, where the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council partnered with reentry services to host a well-attended resource fair. Attendees were encouraged to share similar event details with department leadership to facilitate support and participation. Director Thrash emphasized the need for continued integration between RRS and LRC services. She highlighted efforts to fill service gaps, particularly where RRS cannot fully support participants, such as in housing or family services. There is also a strong focus on improving access to services in rural areas.

Lateisha Thrash, Director of Reentry Services, NCDAC Division of Rehabilitation and Reentry, opened the meeting up for public comments and questions. The meeting concluded with a strong call to continue fostering collaboration, innovation, and community engagement. Participants raised questions about program logistics, eligibility, funding, and referrals. Clarifications were provided, confirming that referrals are available for individuals on probation, parole, or post-release supervision. Further discussions addressed transitional housing integration, employment support, and peer mentorship. Facilitators expressed appreciation to all staff, partners, and presenters and shared success stories that underscored the impact of collective reentry efforts.

Leadership expressed appreciation to all attendees for their participation in the meeting, after which the meeting was formally adjourned.