



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

301) 952-3700
County Council



Prince George's County Re-Entry Advisory Board

Minutes: April 9, 2021

Present-

Council Member:

The Honorable Calvin Hawkins, Chair PGCCRAB

Staff:

Nathaniel Tutt, III, Director, Health, Human Services and Public Safety Committee
Ashley Sharp, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Council Member Calvin Hawkins
Colette Gresham, Esq., Legislative Officer
Donna Whitman, Esq., Legislative Officer

Lochelle Ferguson, Administrative Aide
Shirley Anglin, Administrative Aide
Charlotte Aheart, Administrative Aide
Leonard Moses, Office of the Clerk
Sharon Williams, CCL
Portia Hurtt

Members:

Walter Simmons, Vice Chair, PGRAB
Judge Alexander Williams (JJS)
The Honorable Sheriff Melvin High (SHF)
Rahim Jenkins (OCEX)
Archie O'Neil (PGCPS)
Danon Ashton (OCEX)
Jacqueline Somerville (HLT)(Absent)
Julisa Cunningham (CCT)
Doyle Neiman (CCT)
Corene Labbé (DOC)
Guy Merritt (DOC)

Elizabeth Coker-Nnam (DOC)
Gloria Brown Burnett, Director (DSS)
Rhonda Hudson Fowler (MD Courts)
Aspasia Xepolia (DHCD)
Dr. Yvette Snowden (PGCC)
Latasha Ward
Dr. Carl Felton
Dr. Ronald Garrett
Leslie Johnson
Terrence Davis
Amity Pope

Ret. Judge Alexander Williams called the meeting of the Prince George's County Re-entry Advisory Board (RAB) to order, addressed administrative matters and introduced the speakers.

The speakers:

Quincy L. Booth, Director for the D.C. Department of Corrections (DCDOC)

Eric Weaver, District of Columbia, Department of Corrections. Also, Founder and Chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Returning Citizens.

Director Booth's presentation included information about the current status of the District of Columbia Department of Corrections and preparations despite the pandemic. During the presentation, Director Booth discussed how the DOC found ways to continue to expand the reach and accessibility to programs, treatment and services to help support reentry for their residents. One of the keys to his team's success is the generous support of sister agencies and senior District leadership in their endeavors. Director Booth discussed the following DOC services:

- Expanding Access to Education Programs;
- Expanding opioid treatment options;
- Establishing Protocols for Substance Use Treatment Community Units for Women and Men – soon to commence operation;
- Continuing Young Men Emerging Programs;
- Expanding access to ways and means to connect residents to families and loved ones; and
- Leveraging virtual technologies to continue to provide linkages and connections to services for those reentering the community.

DOC currently focuses on education and career preparedness which include the following:

- Expanded tablet-based programs with a total of nearly 1300 APDS tablets and over 300 educational tablet-based programs – despite the pandemic.
- Provided over 59,000 hours of tablet-based educational programs in FY 2020 and projected to provide more than twice that in FY 2021.
- Educational programs provided for all levels and needs, through post-secondary Pell-grant based degree programs that individuals can continue even after they leave DC DOC.
- Professional Certification related coursework will resume once post-pandemic normalization happens.
- Master Classes and pre-release employer connections will also resume at that time.

Mr. Weaver discussed The Resources to Empower and Develop You (READY) Center which is a consolidated location where formerly incarcerated District of Columbia residents can access services from Community Based Organizations (CBOs), the Department of Corrections (DOC), Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Department of Employment Services (DOES), Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), and The Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA), to ensure successful reintegration into the community. It was noted that the comparable entity in Prince George's County to the READY Center is the Bridge Center at Adam's House which offers many of the same programs but does not offer DMV services which are essential.

The discussion continued as the members discussed challenges and how Director Booth and his team were able to overcome them. Topics discussed included housing and transportation which continue to be a challenge in the District of Columbia and likewise, will be essential to focus on in Prince George's. Director Booth also explained the "continuum of care" and treatment best practices regarding behavioral health.

Subcommittee Updates:

A representative from each subcommittee discussed their work to create interim recommendations that should be submitted to the Chair of the RAB in June.

The meeting adjourned.