



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

301) 952-3700
County Council



Prince George's County Re-Entry Advisory Board

Minutes: May 14, 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 Chair Calvin Hawkins
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)
Corenne Labbé (DOC)
Guy Merritt (DOC)
Portia Hurtt
Michelle Jackson
Felicia McLean
Khalilah Denney
DeLania Ware

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

Others present:

Delegate Rachel Jones
Rev. Lawrence Barbour

Yessica Molina
Rachel Hanover

Deborah Martinez



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

The speakers representing the Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services:
Carolyn J. Scruggs, Assistant Secretary for Re-entry, Maryland Department of Corrections (DCDOC)
Donna Rojas, Executive Director, Social Work and Re-entry Services

Assistant Secretary Scruggs' presentation included information about the work of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services with a focus on their evidence-based re-entry model. During the presentation, she noted that successful Re-entry reconnects families, connects the inmate with unique community resources, provides an opportunity to build and maintain skills needed to sustain successful community relationships, and qualifies candidates entering the workforce to support economic growth. Data was shared about the current population, the number of individuals returning to Prince George's County, and the services currently available.

State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy addressed the RAB and spoke about the partnership that she has had with the Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services through the Emerging Adults Program. The program focuses on individuals 18-26 who have been convicted and are serving time in state prison. This will be an intervention service and will also include mentors after release. This program is for those that show the aptitude and determination to change and works with partners for alternatives to incarceration. This will assist in reducing unnecessary or mass incarceration. A full presentation about the Emerging Adult program was requested for a future meeting.

Delegate Rachel Jones works with Harvest for Hunger which partners with Employ Prince George's to make sure returning citizens have soft skills and support available, so they are qualified for the jobs of interest. More importantly, they are well-rounded and prepared to re-enter and contribute to society. Delegate Jones expressed a willingness to partner with the RAB on legislation in Annapolis.

Mr. Neiman mentioned the Justice Restoration Act and how the County can partner with the Department and suggested that cooperation is the key ingredient.

Dr. Garrett inquired about the dorm program. The discussion continued as members discussed pending legislation and working in partnership to facilitate successful outcomes and some of the programming available for those in the state's care.

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.

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772