



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

*Prevent. Protect. Prepare.*

Roy Cooper, Governor

Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

**FROM:** Erik A. Hooks, Secretary *EAK*

**RE:** State Reentry Council Collaborative Report

**DATE:** November 1, 2017

*Pursuant to Section 16C.10 of Session Law 2017-57, Part 1 of Article 13 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:*

*(a) The Secretary shall establish the State Reentry Council Collaborative (SRCC). The SRCC shall include up to two representatives from each of the following:*

- (1) The Division of Motor Vehicles.*
- (2) The Department of Health and Human Services.*
- (3) The Administrative Office of the Courts.*
- (4) The North Carolina Community College System.*
- (5) The Division of Adult Correction of the Department of Public Safety.*
- (6) A nonprofit entity that provides reentry services or reentry programs.*
- (7) Any other agency that the Secretary deems relevant.*

*(b) The Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, shall chair the SRCC which shall meet at least quarterly upon the call of the chair. The SRCC shall study the needs of ex-offenders who have been recently released from a correctional institution and to increase the effectiveness of local reentry councils.*

*(c) Beginning November 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the SRCC shall report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety.*

To create the State Reentry Council Collaborative, the Secretary of DPS directed staff to complete the following tasks:

- 1) Develop a membership list for the SRCC as outlined in Section 16C.10 to include those required members and other stakeholders as deemed appropriate by the Secretary. The current membership roster is presented below.

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### State Reentry Council Collaborative (SRCC) Roster

Secretary Erik Hooks, Chair Dept. of Public Safety	Secretary James H. Trogdon Dept. of Transportation
David Howard Chief Deputy Secretary Dept. of Transportation	G. Reginald Skinner, Jr. Administrative Officer Division of Motor Vehicles
Secretary Mandy Cohen Dept. of Health & Human Services	Sonya Brown Team Lead, Justice Innovations Dept. of Health & Human Services
Judge Marion Warren Director Administrative Office of the Courts	Mildred Spearman Legislative Liaison Administrative Office of the Courts
McKinley Wooten Deputy Director of Court Program Administrative Office of the Courts	Jennifer Haygood Acting President NC Community College System
Nate Humphrey Director of Continuing Education, Training & Standards NC Community College System	Jim Ross President Pamlico Community College
Joe Prater Deputy Secretary for Administration Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice Dept. of Public Safety	Timothy Moose Deputy Secretary for Operations Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice Dept. of Public Safety
William Lassiter Deputy Secretary for Juvenile Justice Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice Dept. of Public Safety	Linda Nunnallee Executive Director Step Up Ministry
Michael Shank Executive Director Pardoned by Christ	Frankie Roberts Executive Director LINC
Rick Glazier Executive Director NC Justice Center	Miea Walker Engagement Coordinator NC Justice Center

Secretary Anthony Copeland Dept. of Commerce	Elly Goetz Executive Director Benevolence Farm
Bonnie Helmink Applicant Services Manager Dept. of Commerce	Attorney General Josh Stein Dept. of Justice
Jasmine McGhee Special Deputy Attorney General Dept. of Justice	Joyce Jones Executive Director STRIVE, Inc.
Danny Hampton Local Reentry Coordinator Freedom Life Ministries	Dennis Gaddy Executive Director Community Success Initiative
Bernice McPhatter Local Reentry Coordinator Local Reentry Council	Brent Bailey Local Reentry Coordinator Buncombe County Local Reentry Coordinator
Dave Nash Chief Operating Officer Asheville Housing Authority	Lucas Vrbsky Veterans Incarcerated Reentry Specialist Veterans Administration
Judge Allen Baddour Superior Court Judge District 15B	Ophelia Ray Executive Director Maggie's Outreach

2) Convene an initial meeting of the SRCC. The initial meeting of the SRCC was held on October 11, 2017;

3) Develop a list of potential State Reentry Council Collaborative workgroups, identify participants and gather contact information, areas of interest, and those interested in leadership roles. Department of Public Safety staff are currently working with SRCC members to identify workgroup chairs and members. Once identified and in place, these workgroups will be developing substantive recommendations for review by the State Reentry Council Collaborative for presentation to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety; and

4) Discuss the needs of formerly incarcerated individuals and identify the methods to strengthen local reentry councils. SRCC members began this process during the October meeting and have developed a list which includes but is not limited to incorporating evidence-based practices in reentry programming and services, utilizing education as a reentry strategy,



addressing health, medical, and mental health services pre and post release, cultivating employers willing to hire justice-involved individuals, continuing to work with the Department of Transportation to look at driver's license issues and developing more transportation options especially in rural areas, developing more transitional and affordable housing options, addressing legal issues such as expungement, providing more opportunities for family reunification prior to release and ongoing support after release, utilizing available veteran's services, engaging the faith-based and non-profit community in reentry work, providing comprehensive training for mentorship and service delivery, and addressing the different reentry needs of special populations such as females and sex offenders.

There are concurrent activities underway to support local reentry councils. Local Reentry Councils (LRCs) will gather for a convening to share best practices, evaluate ongoing challenges, and examine the impact of the local reentry councils. The convening of the LRCs is scheduled for November 17, 2017.

If you have any questions regarding the State Reentry Council Collaborative Report, please contact Chief Deputy Secretary Pam Cashwell at (919) 436-3108.