

# REENTRY NEWSLETTER

April 2022

camden county

Making It Better, Together.



## Message from Commissioner Jonathan L. Young, Sr.

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Camden County Reentry newsletter! This month we celebrate recognition of Second Chance Month!

April was proclaimed as Second Chance Month by President Joseph R. Biden Jr. in March 2021 and by Camden County Resolution on April 21, 2022. This formal recognition is a commitment to ensuring all individuals with a history of criminal justice involvement have every opportunity to return to their community and remain arrest free.

For Camden County, recognizing Second Chance Month means that we are working to secure equal and timely access to employment and job training, healthcare, treatment, and social supports, among other support services, for those individuals who are leaving our jail.

Many of us know that adjusting to life following release from jail or prison is not easy. Regardless of whether someone has been incarcerated for one day or twenty years, the uphill battle one faces to get a job, to find stable housing, to receive benefits, to access healthcare, and a myriad of other challenges, is difficult. Many of the policies, rules, and restrictions in place make it much more difficult for people to come out of the penal system and simply resume life as normal and to be productive citizens of our community.

These challenges are precisely why Camden County has expanded current jail population reduction efforts to include reentry. Reentry is an integral part of the continuum that, when properly implemented, can effectively reduce the number of individuals who return to jail following release from incarceration. Reentry in Camden County means

honestly and vigorously exploring how all partners can play a role in reducing or eliminating these barriers all together to level the playing field so that incarcerated individuals truly have a chance in their communities to live healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives for the betterment of all.

*Jonathan L. Young Sr.*

## April is Second Chance Month

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April 21, 2022 Camden County Commissioner Meeting: Warden Karen Taylor, Sean Washington, Marcella Walton, Esterlin Torres, Antonne Henshaw, Commissioner Jonathan L. Young, Russell Owen, Sharon Bean, and Victoria Nicolosi

On Thursday, April 21, 2022, the Camden County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution 62 designating April as Second Chance Month in the County of Camden. This Resolution mirrors President Joseph R. Biden Proclamation on Second Chance Month, 2022, where it states "America is a Nation of second chances, and it is critical that our criminal and juvenile justice systems provide meaningful opportunities for rehabilitation and redemption. It is also vital that we address both the root causes of crime and the underlying needs of returning citizens using resources devoted to prevention, diversion, reentry, trauma-informed care, culturally-specific services, and social support."

Second Chance Month is an opportunity to recognize the importance of assisting individuals returning home to our communities following a term of incarceration. In this Resolution, the Board of Commissioners and the County of Camden demonstrate their commitment as we reimagine, rebuild, and rethink our criminal justice system as we support each person coming home to achieve their goals and to remain free of any further law enforcement contact.

Second Chance Month is a commitment to focus each day on prevention, intervention, and reentry and less on incarceration. Members of the Camden County NuEntry Opportunity Specialist (NOS) Credible Messenger Team pictured above were presented with the Proclamation acknowledging April as Second Chance Month.

## NuEntry Opportunity Specialists - Camden County Credible Messenger Team

The range of individuals who are impacted by the criminal justice or carceral systems is vast and far-reaching.

All reentry efforts in Camden County are virtually meaningless without the presence and voice of both individuals that have themselves experienced these systems and the communities where they live and will likely return home following incarceration.

Communities must be engaged in efforts to address the needs of those returning home as well as the families and neighborhoods to which they are returning. Community partners can help shape attitudes and perceptions, grassroots activism, service delivery, policy decisions, government practices, and other local responses to reentry.

Camden County community engagement initiative is embedded in the belief that empowering returning residents, partner organizations, and the public will interrupt cycles of harm and build thriving communities. We are committed to engaging multiple audiences and covering a range of topics to identify the needs of the individual and of the community.

One of Camden County's key initiatives to engage our community is the development of a network of individuals with lived system experience, nationally referred to as Credible Messengers. In Camden our Credible Messengers are NuEntry Opportunity Specialists (NOS). The NOS Credible Messenger Team, founded in 2018, is rooted in the philosophy that individuals will benefit immensely from the interaction with and support of their peers; peers that have "walked in their shoes."

The NOS Team provides guidance, support, and assistance to individuals returning home with navigating resources and services throughout Camden County in addition to helping with problem solving, conflict, and coping with stress that can be associated while adjusting to life back home in your community. NOS plays an indispensable role in the facilitation of community group discussions, events, and trainings.



**The Camden County NOS Team  
was presented with a  
Proclamation on  
April 21, 2022 acknowledging  
their work as Reentry Peers in  
our community!**



## Camden County Reentry Partners

The Camden County Reentry Committee, established in 2017, is comprised of system stakeholders and community-based service and treatment providers working to identify systemic barriers and challenges individuals face post-involvement in the criminal justice system, particularly following a period of incarceration. Over the last five years myriad policies, practices, and programs have been implemented to eliminate barriers, to provide timely and equitable access to resources and services, and to create opportunities to assist with one's goal to remain free of future law enforcement contacts.

Building a vast and comprehensive network of services and providers is vital to Camden County. Since 2017 almost 50,000 individuals have been incarcerated in the Camden County Correctional Facility and approximately 90% will return to Camden County following release. The Bureau of Justice Statistics has estimated that nearly three-quarters of all released prisoners will be rearrested within five years of their release – and about six in ten will be reconvicted. Second Chance Month is also an opportunity to acknowledge our community of providers committed to helping system-impacted individuals and their families.

Thank you to our Reentry Partners! To learn more about our partners, click on each agency.

### Camden Coalition

Camden County Board of Social Services

Camden County Department of Corrections

Camden County Library System

Camden County Department of Mental Health &

Addiction Services

Camden County One-Stop Career Center

Camden County Office of the Prosecutor

Cathedral Kitchen

Center for Family Guidance

Center for Family Services

Center for Hispanic Services

### Goodwill

Hopeworks

Jews Human Services

Law Enforcement Community

NJ Department of Labor

NJ Motor Vehicles Commission

NJ Office of the Public Defender

NJ State Parole

NuEntry Opportunity Specialists

Oaks Integrated Care

Petey-Greene

Rutgers University Behavioral Health

Rutgers University, Camden, NJ STEP

Seeds of Hope Ministries

Taylor Care

Women of Hope Resource Center

The Workgroup

Transformative Justice Initiative

Unite Us

Veteran's Support/Advocacy

Volunteers of America/Safe Return

Volunteer UP

## Program Provider Spotlight - Peer Reentry Program

The Camden County Department of Corrections was awarded two reentry grants from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in 2020 to support individuals with a Substance Use Disorder as they transition home following a period of incarceration. The two grants enable the development of Reentry Peer Support Teams. The Peer Support Teams Model merges the Peer Recovery Model with the Credible Messenger (CM) Model, a model that is a holistic, comprehensive approach to justice that transforms and improves individual lives, rearranges relationships between communities and the justice system, and empowers neighborhoods to use the resources they have within to maintain public safety. Each Peer Support Team will be comprised of two Peer Support Specialists, pairing together one individual with lived recovery experience and one individual with lived experience in the criminal justice and incarceration systems. Peer Support Teams will engage individuals in the pre- and post-release stage in the recovery process and supports to reduce the likelihood of relapse and recidivism.

In early 2022, Center for Family Services (CFS), was awarded the contract to operate the Peer Reentry Program in partnership with the Camden County Department of Corrections. With services across New Jersey and a history dating back to 1920, CFS committed to uplifting individuals and families through an innovative continuum of care. Furthermore, CFS is well positioned and has demonstrated capacity and experience to work collaboratively with the Camden County Department of Corrections to achieve the goals of the Peer Reentry Program. Camden County is excited for this new program to get underway!



## Upcoming Reentry Events

### APRIL 2022

**April 29, 2022 - EXPUNGEMENT EVENT** : To support community members in navigating the expungement process, South Jersey Legal Services, Inc., will be sponsoring a free Expungement Event from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Event will be held at the Kroc Center located at 1865 Harrison Avenue, Camden, NJ. Meet with an attorney to discuss your options free of charge. The event is free and open to everyone with proof of COVID-19 vaccination. Masks must be worn while in attendance. While the event is open to everyone, pre-registration is required.

Please call South Jersey Legal Services, Inc., at 1-800-496-4570 to register.

### MAY 2022

**May 3, 2022 - SPRING CAREER FAIR**: Camden County College Career Services will be hosting a Spring Career Fair at their Blackwood campus from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information please visit: <https://www.camdencc.edu/event/camden-county-college-spring-career-fair/>

**May 5, 2022 - CINCO DE MAYO: PARTY WITH A PURPOSE**: Join us for a special fundraising event featuring guest speaker Justice Faustino Fernandez-Vina, in support of Volunteer UP Legal Clinic. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit: <https://www.volunteeruplegalclinic.org/events>

**May 10, 2022 - NJ Motor Vehicle Commission's "Agency-On-Wheels"** is coming to the Borough of Clementon, CAMcare Health Center, 121 South White Horse Pike, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The "Agency-On-Wheels" offers driver licenses, non-driver identification cards, registrations, REAL ID, license plates, placards, and examination permits.

**May 14, 2022 - NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WALK 2022**: The Camden County Prosecutor's Office in Partnership with Camden County Addiction Task Force, GCADA - The Governors Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and Camden County Municipal Alliance Program, will be hosting a walk to promote Mental Health Awareness from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Wiggins Waterfront Park. For more information, please visit:

<https://camdencountypros.org/upcoming-event-join-ccpo-for-behavioral-health-walk-in-camden/>

**May 14, 2022 - DARE ACADEMY WCMD OUTDOOR EMPLOYMENT EVENT** from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Employers that will be present are Pathstone, Covanta, TJ Strategy Group, American Asphalt, and ACCU Staffing Services.

**May 18, 2022 - CAREERS IN ENERGY EXPO**: The New Jersey Department of Labor and New Jersey Industry Partnerships will be hosting a Careers in Energy Expo from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. The expo will take place at the Atlantic City Boardwalk. To register please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/careers-in-energy-expo-this-event-is-for-students-only-tickets-298742485817>

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The **Petey-Greene Program** in Philadelphia is hiring a Volunteer Coordinator position to help organize academic tutoring programs at their prison and reentry sites. The deadline to apply is May 31, 2022.

For more details, please visit: <https://www.peteygreene.org/careers>

If you are interested in working with **CFS on the Camden County Peer Reentry Program** as a Peer please call John Thompson, Senior Director at 856.428.5688.

## Resources and Additional Information

### ARE YOU IN NEED OF A PHOTO I.D.?

We realize that the absence photo identification presents barriers in obtaining housing, employment, social services benefits, etc.

If you were previously incarcerated in the Camden County Correctional Facility and need a County Identification Card, the Re-Entry ID Hours for 2022 are:

**Monday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**Tuesday: Closed**

**Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**Friday Closed**

**Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**  
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**\*\*\*Please note: Hours subject to change without notice.**

### VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA - SAFE RETURN

Volunteers of America Delaware Valley's Safe Return Program, funded by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, provides reentry assistance and a broad range of essential services for individuals returning to society within three years of being incarcerated and who are no longer under criminal justice supervision. Safe Return ensures that individuals returning to society from incarceration are given the tools and care they need in order to establish and lead self-fulfilling, independent lives after reintegrating back into society.

#### The program offers the following key services:

- Case management and family reunification
- Housing assistance
- Employment services – job readiness, employment training, job placement
- Education assistance
- Legal assistance and advocacy
- Benefits assessment and reinstatement assistance
- Substance abuse and mental health linkage
- Treatment referral and linkage
- Assistance with State Identification & Driver's license

Operating within established VOADV offices and embedded satellite offices, the Safe Return program is a one-stop place for reentry needs and services, covering the entirety of the organization's footprint across southern New Jersey.

### Get in Contact:

Camden County DOC Reentry Coordinator: Victoria Nicolosi, [victoria.nicolosi@camdendoc.com](mailto:victoria.nicolosi@camdendoc.com)

Camden County DOC Special Services Unit: Sgt. Andrew Kelly, [andrew.kelly@camdendoc.com](mailto:andrew.kelly@camdendoc.com)

Camden County Jail Population Manager: Sharon Bean, [sharon.bean@camdencounty.com](mailto:sharon.bean@camdencounty.com)

Volunteers of America - Safe Return - **Contact:** (856) 671-6101 - 24 Hour Contact; **Hours:** 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Transformative Justice Initiative/NOS: (848) 230-5855

### If you or someone you know are in need of reentry services, please visit:

<https://www.camdencounty.com/service/corrections/>

### If you are interested in learning more about NOS and/or becoming a NOS member, please visit:

<https://www.camdencounty.com/service/corrections/reentry-services-and-community-outreach-sign-up/about-the-nuentry-opportunity-specialists/>