



DC Reentry Action Network

2019 Annual Report

www.dc-ran.org

A letter from the Co-Chairs

Dear RAN members, reentry advocates, and returning citizen neighbors:

As Co-Chairs of the DC Reentry Action Network (RAN), we are extremely proud of all RAN accomplished in 2019. RAN started off as a coalition aspiring to serve as a collective voice for reentry in the District, and thanks to the tenacity of our leadership, passion of our members, and support of the community, RAN has become a powerful leader on reentry issues in the city.

This past year alone RAN released a letter on the halfway house contracting situation in the District, for the first time ever taking a public position on the issue and supporting CORE DC. The letter was sent to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the Mayor, DC Council and relevant Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners. RAN also won increased District funding for community-based reentry service providers to serve their clients.

In addition to our advocacy work, RAN organized two trainings. In March, RAN hosted a first-of-its-kind comprehensive communications training, where RAN member organizations and their returning citizen clients were taught the tools to use their personal experience to educate policy decision makers about the challenges and successes of DC's returning citizens. In June, RAN was awarded and held a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Trauma-Informed Care for Justice-Involved People Train-the-Trainer event, where participants received SAMHSA certifications in trauma-informed care training. Altogether, 70 people participated in these trainings.

As 2020 begins to ramp up, we look forward to the future of RAN's work together and the ways in which the coalition can be of service to, and amplify the voices of, our returning citizen neighbors.

Sincerely,

Paula Thompson & Chiquisha Robinson
Co-Chairs, DC Reentry Action Network

In 2019 RAN:

- Received the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) GAINS Center's Trauma-Informed Care for Justice-Involved People Train-the-Trainer Event;
- Planned and organized a first-of-its-kind comprehensive communications training for RAN member organizations and their returning citizen clients;
- Had a record number of reentry service providers and returning citizens testify at the OVSJG Budget Oversight Hearing;
- Successfully advocated for an additional \$700,000 in funding for reentry services in the FY20 budget;
- Added four new members: Legal Aid Society DC, DC Project Connect, Criminon New Life DC, and So Others Might Eat (SOME);
- Held elections for the Membership & Governance Committee Chair, Returning Citizen Representative, and one of the Co-Chair positions;
- Developed and implemented branding for RAN, including a logo;
- Hired the first RAN returning citizen intern Tyrone Hall;
- And released a statement on the halfway house situation in the District, coming out in support of CORE DC and demanding a new halfway house in DC.

RAN's Impact:

"RAN has become a great resource for reentry service providers, returning citizens, government agencies and officials at both the local and federal levels, as well as others interested in social justice reform. Watching an idea come to fruition and grow into a viable force dedicated to assisting people who want and deserve a chance to rebuild their lives and the providers who serve them, has been an incredible experience. I am grateful to have been a part of the process and I am excited to see RAN's continued growth and advocacy on behalf of the District's community of returning citizens."

- Alicia Horton

Executive Director, Thrive DC

Co-Chair, RAN Policy Committee

"There have been amazing opportunities to voice the concerns of Returning Citizens in front of other community stakeholders, while positioning us to work effectively to bring about much needed change in the community. I continue to be overjoyed with the RAN's inclusion of Returning Citizens in community engagement, directly working with us to re-acclimate ourselves while using our experiences in the criminal justice system to give back."

- Yusef Rabb

Returning Citizen Advocate

2019 Leadership Council

Paula Thompson, Co-Chair
Voices for a Second Chance

Chiquisha Robinson, Esq., Co-Chair

Caroline Cragin, Membership & Governance Committee Chair
Community Mediation DC

Tammy Seltzer, Policy Committee Chair
University Legal Services DC

Kevin Petty, Returning Citizen Representative
Amazing Gospel Souls, INC.

Alicia Horton, Program Committee Chair
Thrive DC

Courtney Stewart, Community Engagement Committee Chair
The National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens

2019 Members

Amazing Gospel Souls, Inc.
Building Futures Program of the Community Services Agency
Changing Perceptions
Collaborative Solutions for Communities
Community Connections, Inc.
Community Family Life Services
Community Mediation DC
Criminon New Life DC
DC Project Connect
Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop
Hillcrest Children and Family Center
House of Ruth
Jubilee Housing
Legal Aid DC
National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens
Open City Advocates
Project New Opportunity
SOME, Inc.
Southeast Ministries
The Rock Christian Church Ministries
Thrive DC
ULS – Disability Rights DC
United Methodist Women
Voices for a Second Chance



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