****

**After-Action Report (AAR): Second Chance Event/Hiring Expo**

**Riverdale Town Center, Riverdale, Georgia | Saturday, July 12, 2025**

Submitted by: Dr. Robert Burton, President, ACMCC

**Executive Summary**

The Second Chance Event/Hiring Expo, held on July 12, 2025, at Riverdale Town Center, provided employment opportunities and support for individuals re-entering or advancing in the workforce. Led by Solicitor General Charles Brooks and supported by ACMCC’s $1,000.00 donation, the event featured job opportunities, career resources, and a post-event debriefing to inform future improvements.

**Event Overview**

**Date & Time**

·       Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025

·       Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

·       Location: Riverdale Town Center, Riverdale, Georgia

·       339 people served (101 walk-ins); 33 vendors; and 3 workshops

**Event Purpose**

The event’s purpose was to connect individuals with barriers to employment—including those impacted by the justice system or facing significant personal hardships—directly with hiring employers and essential support resources. By doing so, the event aimed to open immediate pathways to jobs, promote financial stability, and foster full community participation for all attendees.

**Organizers and Sponsors**

·       Lead Coordinator: Solicitor General Charles Brooks

·       Support: The Association of Christian Ministers of Clayton County (ACMCC)

·       Financial Contribution: ACMCC provided a $1,000.00 donation to support the logistics and promotional efforts of the event.

**Event Planning and Execution**

**Pre-Event Coordination**

Planning for the Second Chance Event/Hiring Expo commenced several months prior to the scheduled date, involving regular meetings between the Solicitor General’s office, ACMCC representatives, and other community stakeholders. Event objectives were clearly defined, and roles were delegated to ensure a streamlined coordination process. Key tasks included:

·       Securing the venue at Riverdale Town Center.

·       Engaging local employers willing to participate in on-site interviews and information sessions.

·       Coordinating outreach efforts to community members, including those with prior justice system involvement.

·       Organizing logistical aspects such as signage, registration, and volunteer assignments.

·       Ensuring accessibility and transportation to and from the venue for all participants.

·       Leveraging the $1,000.00 donation from ACMCC to cover essential expenses, including materials, refreshments, and promotional activities.

**Event Day Activities**

The Second Chance Event/Hiring Expo ran from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and featured a robust program designed to maximize participant engagement and employment outcomes:

·       Welcoming remarks and opening prayer led by representatives from ACMCC and Solicitor General Charles Brooks.

·       Information booths are staffed by local employers, educational institutions, and community resource providers.

·       On-the-spot interviews and resume workshops conducted by participating employers and career coaches.

·       Resource tables offering information on expungement, legal rights, and support services for justice-involved individuals.

·       Networking sessions are designed to foster connections between job seekers, employers, and community advocates.

·       Light refreshments provided for vendors and staff, made possible by the ACMCC donation.

**Participant Demographics**

Attendees at the Expo spanned a diverse cross-section of the community, including:

·       Individuals seeking second chances after justice involvement.

·       Young adults and recent graduates are exploring career opportunities.

·       Members of faith-based organizations and community support groups.

·       Employers from various sectors, including hospitality, logistics, healthcare, and retail.

**Outcomes and Achievements**

The event achieved several notable outcomes:

·       High attendance and engagement from job seekers and employers.

·       Multiple on-site interviews and several tentative job offers.

·       Wide distribution of expungement and job-readiness resources.

·       Positive participant feedback on the supportive event atmosphere.

**Debriefing and Feedback**

**Date & Participants**

The event debriefing occurred on Friday, July 18, 2025, led by Solicitor General Charles Brooks and his staff. The session aimed to evaluate the event’s effectiveness, review logistical successes and challenges, and gather recommendations for future programming.

**Key Discussion Points**

·       Logistics and Organization: The event ran smoothly, with efficient registration, well-structured employer booths, and clear communication throughout.

·       Employer Engagement: Employers expressed appreciation for the opportunity to connect with motivated job seekers and participate in a community-focused hiring initiative.

·       Resource Distribution: Many attendees utilized resource tables, demonstrating a strong need for information on legal, educational, and career support services.

·       Opportunities for Improvement: The need for mental health resources was identified, as some participants expressed or demonstrated signs of stress, anxiety, or other mental health concerns.

·       Community Partnership: The partnership with ACMCC was instrumental in both financial and logistical support, and continued collaboration is strongly encouraged.

**Recommendations**

The Association of Christian Ministers of Clayton County (ACMCC) recommended that next year’s Second Chance Event/Hiring Expo include mental health staff to provide immediate support to participants experiencing mental health issues. This approach aims to offer a more holistic and inclusive environment. The requested actions for the next event are as follows:

·       Form partnerships with local mental health organizations to ensure the presence of licensed counselors or mental health professionals on-site throughout the event.

·       Organize workshops or breakout sessions focused on stress management, self-care, and mental health awareness in professional environments.

·       Designate a quiet, private space at the venue for confidential mental health consultations and support.

·       Include mental health resources and awareness in all event promotional materials and participant outreach communication.

**Conclusion**

The 2025 Second Chance Event/Hiring Expo was an outstanding success, powerfully fulfilling its mission to open doors and transform lives for those seeking a fresh start. The unwavering collaboration of the Solicitor General’s office, ACMCC, and dedicated community partners was the key catalyst for this achievement. By embracing opportunities for growth—especially by expanding mental health support—the event is poised to have an even greater impact in years to come. Early planning, driven by this year’s valuable feedback, will ensure the Expo remains dynamic, inclusive, and a beacon of hope for all.

·       Lead Coordinator: Solicitor General Charles Brooks

·       Supporting Organization: Association of Christian Ministers of Clayton County

·       Donation: $1,000.00 from ACMCC

·       Debriefing Date: Friday, July 18, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

**ACMCC Recommendation:** Incorporate licensed mental health staff and related services at all future events, including on-site support and dedicated space for participants in need.