



COUNTY of CUMBERLAND



*Public Library & Information Center*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **North Regional Branch Hosts Community Conversation on Juvenile Justice**

*Community experts work to educate families on juvenile crime and justice issues*

North Regional Library (855 McArthur Rd.) is hosting a community conversation on juvenile justice Monday, January 26 at 6:30 p.m. A panel of community experts and stakeholders will spearhead a conversation aimed at educating attendees on the state of the juvenile justice system. Parents will learn how to help their children steer clear of trouble, identify the warning signs of potential problems and learn what to do in the event of a court proceeding. Panelists include:

- **Dr. Joseph Brown**, Assistant Professor in Fayetteville State University's Criminal Justice program. Brown worked for over 25 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Parole Division, including three years as an Assistant Regional Director. His most recent research was in juvenile certification to adult court and blended sentencing.
- **Sarah Hallock**, Executive Director of Communicare Inc. Established in 1998,

Hallock's non-profit organization runs a variety of prevention and intervention programs for at-risk and court-involved youth.

- **Miguel Pitts**, Chief Court Counselor of the 12th District, Cumberland County. Mr. Pitts is employed by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety under the Division of Juvenile Justice. He has spent the last 20 years serving in different capacities within the Division. He has performed duties such as Alternative to Detention Counselor, Intensive Court Counselor and Supervision Court Counselor, as well as Court Counselor Supervisor.
- **Tim Kinlaw**, Associate Superintendent for Auxiliary Services for the Cumberland County School District. Mr. Kinlaw has been working with the school district for over 20 years.
- **Natasha Scott**, Executive Director of Student Support Services for the Cumberland County School District. Ms. Scott has extensive experience in the area of school social work. Her duties include overseeing programs aimed at school crime prevention and offering student bereavement support.
- **Maura Ximena McPherson**, Detective in the Youth Services section of the Cumberland Sheriff's Office. McPherson has held several positions in the Sheriff's Office, including Juvenile Court Bailiff and School Resource Officer. Currently, she deals with delinquent juvenile cases concerning youth 6-15 years old and runaway cases for 16- and 17-year-olds.

For more information on this and other free programs at the library visit [www.cumberland.lib.nc.us/ccplsite/](http://www.cumberland.lib.nc.us/ccplsite/) or call 483-7727.