



Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes **Tuesday, November 29, 2022**

Members Present: Mayor Elaine O’Neil, Ben Hass, Dawn Baxton, Eric Johnson, Ontario Joyner, Satana Deberry, Nida Allam (logged in via Zoom: Jesse Battle, Patrice Andrews, Walter Tate, Tom Cote)

Staff: Gudrun Parmer, Roshanna Parker, Marc Strange, Kelley Waggy, Ontario Joyner

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Ben Haas called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance to the first in-person meeting in 3 years. Ben asked that all in attendance take a moment to introduce themselves and partake of the food provided

Review and Approve September Minutes

Chair Ben Haas asked those in attendance to review the minutes, and a unanimous vote approved the minutes. Nida Allam made the motion to approve, and it was seconded by Eric Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Local Reentry Council (LRC) Update

Ontario Joyner shared that the LRC had 62 Referrals, 36 Intakes, 12 Pre-Enrollments, 16 in housing, and 15 Employed averaging \$16- \$20 an hour. Ontario also shared that LRC is actively working with prisons to continue educating and getting information to potential enrollees. On 12/16/2022 the LRC will be presenting at the Woman’s Prison.

Roshanna informed the council, given the current environment, LRC anticipates they will receive a 6-month contract extension prior to re-approval of funding.

Targeting Racial & Ethnic Disparities (RED): Stepping up Innovator

Marc Strange shared news that we had been formally invited to the Stepping up teams’ Racial equity Briefing. Marc went on to share that they will be jump starting the racial equity tool to determine who is harmed vs. who is not. This Innovator is a Cohort comprised of 3-4 counties and they will be receiving a list to review and translate of actionable items. Gudrun shared her excitement regarding Marc’s participation. Data was previously reviewed but was overwhelming. Gudrun shared that having guidance from this will be very helpful.

CJAC in 2023

- **Membership Vacancies/ 2023 Officers-** Ben shared that it has been an honor to serve as chair for the last year and that his hope for the coming year was to appoint individuals who could move forward with the foundation put in place. Ben shared that the following CJAC Positions are currently vacant and need to be filled: Formerly incarcerated, Former Justice involved, Mental Health, Community College/Edu, Durham Business Member, County

Commissioner Seat, Chief District Court Judge. It was asked that individual reach out to their colleagues in an effort to find individuals to fill these positions.

Ben reminded those present that CJAC's election of officers is held every January, these positions consist of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Members were directed to reach out to Gudrun regarding any nominations.

- **Conversation: how should we spend our time together in the new year?**

Mayor O'Neil shared that Durham was selected as a Harvard Bloomberg Initiative city; 12 individuals have been identified to serve this initiative. Mayor O'Neil will be traveling, alongside the housing authority, to Selma to receive the grant funds. The funds, totaling \$3-\$5 million will be disbursed over a 3year period.

Mayor O'Neil shared that they were focused on housing/ looking for more accurate data on housing insecurities, Gaps in the mental health system, and digging into systemic issue within the community.

D.A. Satana Deberry shared that she would like to look at overlapping membership on boards such as the Violent Crime Roundtable. It would also be helpful to look at the homeless population vs. young Black individuals who do not qualify for HUD.

Eric Johnson shared that there was a dire need for inpatient treatment beds in Durham, Justice Involved Individuals lose their Medicaid within 30 days and may not have resources or skills needed to function upon release.

Ben Shared, after much conversation, that it was apparent that housing options in Durham were sorely lacking, and it was obvious that this was an area that could use our focus moving forward in the new year.

Ben shared his appreciation for all that continued to serve CJAC and the Durham Community as a whole and his excitement for the coming year and the work the Criminal Justice Advisory Council will do.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.