



**Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 30, 2024**

**Members Present:** Ben Haas, Maggie Cveticanin, Dave Crispell, Dr. Angeloe Burch, Eric Johnson, Lao Rubert, Dawn Baxton, Michael O’Foghludha, Syretta Hill, Rod Jenkins

**Staff:** Roshanna Parker, Marc Strange, Christie Long, Ontario Joyner, Robin Heath

**Guests:** Abena Bediako, Irene Lawrence

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Ben Haas called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Mr. Haas requested that attendees introduce themselves.

**Review and Approve November Minutes**

Chair Ben Haas noted that he had reviewed the November minutes and that members should have received a copy of the minutes via email. Mr. Haas made a motion to approve the November 2023 minutes. Members voted to approve the minutes as presented.

**CJAC in 2023**

Ms. Roshanna Parker initiated a discussion of what CJAC accomplished in 2023 and plans for CJAC in 2024.

Ms. Parker began by highlighting CJAC’s work around the Familiar Faces initiative, an effort spearheaded by Commissioner Jacobs and Ms. Gudrun Parmer. From this work, Durham County was designated as an Innovator County and participated in training with the Council of State Government. Ms. Parker and Brian Smith of the HEART team are working with community stakeholders as part of a City of Durham – Durham County joint committee. The City has focused on developing a strategic plan around Familiar Faces, and the County is working in partnership with the City. Focus areas include developing a pilot program to identify and address the needs of individuals who are Familiar Faces, the Housing Subcommittee, and data needs to support this effort. Some funding has already been allocated for the data portion of this project, and the group is in the process of determining how best to expend these funds (e.g., consultant to determine how to support data sharing, creation/purchase software, etc.)

Mr. Haas shared that a number of efforts that been in development for a long period of time came to fruition in the past year, citing Community Safety and Pretrial Services as examples. Mr. Haas also highlighted Peer Support and working with lived experience roles. Mr. Haas noted that he is interested in thinking about how CJAC can be active in new nodes of emphasis and new ways of connecting. CJAC has prioritized community safety and proactive responses within the justice system, and now CJAC needs to figure out how to tend to these areas of emphasis rather than starting new efforts.

Ms. Parker introduced Robin Heath as the new Assistant Director of the Justice Services Department and invited her thoughts for CJAC. Ms. Heath highlighted her experience and stated that she is looking forward to engaging with this Committee.

Ms. Baxton noted that in 2023, CJAC was primarily focused on reporting and maintenance of ongoing projects, rather than championing or developing new efforts. She shared that CJAC discussed needs for re-establishing a Family Treatment Court and creating a DWI Court and stated that she would like to see CJAC get involved in these efforts in the coming year.

Ms. Parker shared that while the Justice Services Department has historically led many CJAC efforts, she wants to welcome other CJAC members (e.g., community organizations, judges, Public Health, etc.) to help set priorities and identify opportunities for collaboration and advocacy.

### **2024 Membership and Officers**

Ms. Parker shared the slate of officers and invited any nominations from the floor. Ms. Baxton, who is currently serving as Vice Chair, agreed to run for Chair. Mr. Haas, who is currently serving as chair, is running for Vice Chair. Dr. Angeloe Burch, who is the current Secretary, has agreed to run to serve another term as Secretary.

Mr. Jenkins moved that the slate be closed and that the Committee should call for a vote. Motion was seconded, and Ms. Parker called for the vote. The slate was approved unanimously. Ms. Baxton will serve as the Chair, Mr. Haas will serve as Vice Chair, and Dr. Burch will serve as Secretary.

Ms. Parker shared that there are still vacant slots on the committee. She asked committee members to contact her if they know of anyone who would be able to serve in those roles so that she could send them a copy of the application for approval by the Board of County Commissioners. Applicants must be Durham County residents. CJAC will need to reach out to Chief District Court Judge Jones and the new Mayor for those two positions. Other vacancies include Community College/Other Educational Institution, Formerly Incarcerated Individual, Formerly Justice-Involved Individual, and Specialty Court Judge; Judge Hairston-Mitchell agreed to serve but needs to complete the application.

Mr. Haas shared that it may be beneficial to nominate a formerly justice-involved or formerly incarcerated individual who has been involved with a specialty court or substance use history. He noted that some individuals on the committee may be familiar with those populations. Ms. Parker stated that Jubilee Home staff or Stepping Up Initiative committee members may have ideas for individuals for those two roles. She has also spoken with Ms. Heath about individuals who have come through JSD programs and the County's employment program as potential fits for these CJAC positions.

### **Next Steps for CJAC in 2024**

Ms. Parker asked the committee if they had any items of concern or if there were any areas where CJAC could collaborate.

Ms. Bediako shared that a group of individuals working on the Familiar Faces initiative are focused on the top 10-20 familiar neighbors and thinking of ways to best serve these neighbors. She would like CJAC to prioritize this work.

Ms. Parker asked if CJAC might have a role in supporting initiatives initiated or continued by opioid settlement funds. Mr. Jenkins shared that CJAC may be involved in brainstorming, as well as service provision, for opioid settlement funds. He noted that Durham County will have funding for 15-18 years (approximately \$21M in total), so this is a long-term project. Ms. Parker and Mr. Jenkins are both part of a committee focused on determining uses for the opioid settlement funds. The Justice Services Department already hosted a community feedback event to help identify priorities for these funds. Mr. Jenkins can also share more about what other Counties are doing in this space. Funds are supporting staff, peer support, naloxone, etc.

Mr. Jenkins emphasized that teen behavioral health is an area of concern. The County wants to take a public health approach to behavioral health, bringing together community partners – including CJAC—to determine what kind of model can be implemented in Durham. Dr. Wanda Boone and Durham TRY are doing important space in this work. Teens with behavioral health needs are also getting involved in the justice system, so this is relevant for CJAC. This project is in the developmental stage.

Dr. Burch encouraged CJAC to be intentional in their work and to look at three or four areas of focus so that the committee could set reasonable benchmarks and move the needle on these projects.

Ms. Rubert shared that the Medicaid rollout in North Carolina is a unique opportunity and that many other states have put these funds to good use. Ms. Rubert also asked CJAC to have conversations around very long-term jail stays, including for people living with mental illness. She also supported the inclusion of a housing component in CJAC projects.

Ms. Parker raised reentry as an area of interest. Governor Cooper signed an Executive Order announcing a unified approach for improving education, rehabilitation, and reentry services for formerly incarcerated individuals in North Carolina.

#### **Groups/Committee Updates for 2024**

Ms. Parker asked if CJAC members wanted to hear updates from any specific groups or committees in 2024 and if committee members felt that CJAC should appoint subcommittees to advance its work.

Ms. Baxton said that she would like to see CJAC champion Family Treatment Court and DWI Court and that it may be more effective to work in subcommittees and bring these projects to fruition. Ms. Parker shared that she and Ms. Baxton participated in a train-the-trainer session at AOC and are part of a NC team that conducts training for specialty courts. AOC followed up with this group to invite them to additional training related to DWI Courts. She will keep CJAC informed on this.

Judge O’Foghludha said he would work alongside Ms. Baxton on the Family Treatment Court and DWI Court and supported these efforts.

#### **Local Reentry Council Update**

Ontario Joyner shared that LRC had 46 referrals and completed 56 intakes since the last CJAC meeting; intakes are higher because LRC accepts walk-in appointments. 16 individuals secured employment; on average, these individuals are making \$15.08/hr. Since the last meeting, 11 clients were enrolled in GED program at Durham Tech, 2 individuals in forklift certification course, 1 client completed Safe Serve and 1 client was enrolled in Safe Serve, 1 client enrolled in Kramden Institute, and 8 clients were enrolled in Employment Readiness Class. 13 clients received housing assistance, 3 of whom are preparing to enter long-term housing. Earlier in the month, LRC hosted a resource fair that focused on employment. More than 10 vendors participated and connected with applications, accepted applications, and conducted interviews with clients onsite. LRC has begun planning for Second Chance Month and invited CJAC members to participate; he will send out the calendar once it is completed. LRC is also assisting with enrolling clients with Medicaid, and this is becoming part of the intake process.

#### **Member Updates**

Eric Johnson shared that the Department of Adult Correction is sharing a Reentry Conference in Raleigh April 22-24, 2024. Irene Lawrence informed the committee that the deadline for proposals

had been extended to Friday, February 2, 2024, at 5:00 pm. Many proposals have already been received. Hotel and vendor information, as well as registration, will be available soon on the Conference page.

Syretta Hill met with Leslie Moody of Vivo Living Durham, an organization that purchases hotels and converts them into apartments, to discuss how they can potentially work together to support system-impacted individuals. Vivo Durham has 3 properties in Durham, and the organization does not purchase properties with fewer than 80 units. Criteria is not currently inclusive of justice-involved individuals. The organization is interested in building partnerships (e.g., guarantors, financial incentives, etc.). Ms. Hill will connect Mr. Joyner to Vivo Durham. Ms. Parker suggested that Ms. Moody can speak at the next CJAC meeting on March 26.

Ms. Parker asked if any other organizations have Second Chance Month events planned. Mr. Haas stated that he has already shared his event details. Ms. Lawrence will also be putting together a calendar of all LRCs around the state and will share that information. Ms. Parker will bring forward a resolution to the Board of County Commissioners regarding Second Chance Month.

Ms. Parker thanked Mr. Haas for his work as Chair and for his continued service in his new role as Vice Chair. Ms. Parker shared that members would identify priorities and discuss next steps at the March 26 meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.**

**Meeting dates for 2024**

March 26

May 28

July 30

September 24

November 26