



Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes **Tuesday, November 19, 2024**

Members Present: Dawn Baxton, Ben Haas, Mike Sistrom, Tonia Rogers-Dixon, Dr. Rodney Jenkins, Nida Allam, Duane Brinson, Quanesha Archer

Guests: Renee Shaw, Irene Lawrence

Staff: Roshanna Parker, Robin Heath, Marc Strange, Ontario Joyner, Janice Williams

Excused Absences: Nikki Harris, Dorothy Hairston Mitchell, Michael O’Foghludha

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dawn Baxton, Chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed all attendees and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Baxton called for a motion to approve the September 24, 2024, minutes. Dr. Rodney Jenkins so moved; Nida Allam seconded. The motion to approve the September 24, 2024 CJAC minutes was unanimously carried.

3. Homelessness in Durham: presented by Mr. Colin Davis, Manager, Homeless System, Community Development Department, Durham

Mr. Davis began by reporting that while there are people experiencing homelessness in Durham, there are a small group of people (who may or may not be experiencing homelessness) that are disruptive and causing frustration in Durham’s business communities. This is one of the more vocal reasons stated by business owners for the continuing decline in local business traffic in the community.

As of the 11th of November, there was reported to be 51 unsheltered families and 72 single unsheltered adults in Durham. There are currently 73 encampments that the ‘Unsheltered Coordinating Agencies’ are actively monitoring, and 101 *old* encampments that could become active at any time. Mr. Davis also reported that there are currently five (5) full-time outreach workers that work during normal business hours. Working in coordination with the HEART Team, the after-hours, weekend issues, 911 calls and trespassing complaints are addressed.

On November 11th, Michael Goodman, Community Advocate, held a meeting with local business owners to hear their concerns and reach possible resolve. A question was raised regarding instituting a homeless court as a resolution to which Mr. Davis stated that this resolve will take some time to implement (if at all). It would take looking at a very strong national model to possibly replicate and adapt

to Durham County. The general consensus of the committee is that the goal is not to criminalize the homeless in considering a Homeless Court solution.

Commissioner Allam invited Mr. Davis to attend the Durham Chamber Monthly Leadership Meeting with Jeff Durham and the South Point Mall business owners to further lend insight into a resolve.

A question was asked whether the individuals who are repetitively creating disturbances can be identified. Mr. Davis stated, through cross-referencing data from Familiar Faces, individuals and their history of justice-involved activity are able to be identified.

4. **Family Treatment Court Update:** presented by Ms. Roshanna Parker, Director, Justice Services Department

Ms. Parker opened by stating that there is a desire to bring a Family Treatment Court back to Durham. There have been meetings with Chair Baxton, several District Court Judges and other entities such as the Department of Social Services discussing what needs to happen to return a Family Treatment Court to Durham. Potential funding sources are being researched i.e. federal and/or Opioid Funding. Discussions are ongoing amongst a group of attorneys, DSS and JSD staff to possibly put a proposal together including historical data to see how that would look in representing individuals this court will serve.

5. **Local Re-entry Council Update:** presented by Ontario Joyner, LRC Council Coordinator

Mr. Joyner reported:

- The last LRC meeting for 2024 will be November 20, 2024 @ 3pm. Presenters will be:
 - Uplift Laundry Truck and a
 - License Restoration Agency
- There will be a Resource Fair on December 4th at the Justice Services Department from 1pm – 4pm; no registration is required
 - There are 12 confirmed vendors including housing, medical, and employment vendors
 - Two (2) people have obtained permanent housing through an ARPA grant which consists of monies for Emergency Housing and Short-Term (Transitional Housing). This was a collaborative effort between the LRC and another JSD program.
- **Clients Served:**
 - received 56 referrals
 - completed 46 intakes
 - Eight (8) new clients enrolled in the on-site employment class; one (1) client has graduated receiving a refurbished laptop
 - 18 clients gained employment with an average salary of \$14.90/hr.
 - Four (4) clients are enrolled in the Durham Tech GED program; Two (2) clients completed the Safe Serve Certification course; one (1) client completed their DMV safety course

6. CJAC 2025 Slate of Officers:

Ms. Parker stated that each year CJAC will select a new Slate of Officers for the following seats:

- ✓ Chair
- ✓ Vice Chair
- ✓ Secretary

An email will go out to members in early January 2025 requesting volunteers and/or nominees for these seats. The voting will take place in the January CJAC meeting.

7. Brief Member Updates:

No updates noted

8. Next meeting date:

➤ January 28, 2025

Chair Baxton entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was moved and the meeting was adjourned at 5:42pm.