



Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Members Present: Angela Wincester, Dr. Angeloe Burch, Ben Haas, Dave Crispell, Dawn Baxton, Dorothy Hairston Mitchell, Eric Johnson, Jesse Battle, Lao Rubert, Maggie Clapp, Michael O’Foghluudha, Mike Sistrom, Nida Allam, Dr. Rodney Jenkins, Roshanna Humphrey

Guests: Tiffany Blackburn, Department of Adult Corrections-Community Development Specialist, Syreeta Hill - Senior Director of Economic Mobility at Duke, Shannon Delaney

Staff: Marc Strange, Janice Williams, Rasheeda Royster

Absent: Clayton Jones, Duane Brinson, Mayor Leonardo Williams, Nikki Harrington, Tonia Rogers-Dixon, Santana DeBerry, Thomas Cote, Walter Tate

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Baxton called the meeting to order at 4:05pm, welcomed all attendees, stated that Roshanna Humphrey and Mike Sistrom would assist in facilitating this meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Quorum was established.

2. Approval of December 2, 2025 Minutes

Chair Baxton called for a motion to approve the December 2, 2025, minutes. Hearing no corrections, Dr. Angeloe Burch moved to approve the minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by Mike Sistrom. The motion to approve the December 2, 2025, CJAC minutes was unanimously carried.

3. 2026 Election of Officers: Roshanna Humphrey

Mrs. Humphrey informed all members that a poll was created to vote for the 2026 CJAC officers. Mrs. Humphrey stated that guests and non-members are to refrain from voting – only council members will vote. The poll is anonymous and only the results will be displayed.

The Slate was presented as follows:

CHAIR	Dawn Baxton
VICE CHAIR	Mike Sistrom
SECRETARY	Dr. Angeloe Burch

The Floor was opened for nominations. Hearing none, Judge Dorothy Hairston Mitchell moved to close nominations and vote on the Slate as tendered; Dr. Rodney Jenkins seconded. Hearing no objections the floor was closed for nominations.

After all members registered their votes, the poll was closed and the results were unanimous as follows with Dawn Baxton remaining as Chair, Mike Sstrom remaining as Vice Chair and Dr. Burch remaining as secretary.

Options	Responses 
Chair - Dawn Baxton	13/15 (87%)
Secretary - Dr. Burch	14/15 (93%)
Vice Chair - Mike Sstrom	15/15 (100%)

4. Duke's Office of Economic Mobility: presented by Syreeta Hill, Senior Director of Economic Mobility at Duke

Ms. Hill began by stating that she has worked as the Executive Director for Step Up Durham for 10 years and has had the privilege of serving on CJAC during many of those years. In working with leadership in both Duke University and Duke Health Care System to create public-facing goals in this homegrown Initiative, the following four (4) pillars were identified:

- I. **Employ:**
 - The focus is on how to bring in new talent pipelines that will move toward career pathways for promotion and advancement for employees and their families.
 - Long-term retention of employees is also a focal point where providing incentives such as housing and first-time home buyers assistance will help to achieve this goal.
- II. **Build:**
 - A procurement strategy to identify how to partner with more local construction firms in Durham, Wake and Orange Counties. Durham is the main focus since 62% of Duke's workforce reside in Durham.
- III. **Buy:**
 - Focus is on empowering and growing Durham's local small businesses i.e. how to bring in more local food vendors and have people spend more money there as opposed to spending in the larger food chains and restaurants.
- IV. **Invest:**
 - Focus is on increasing the \$20 million invested in local financial institutions to \$40 million in order to increase affordable housing.

Other points of interest:

- This initiative is to demonstrate how to tell a better story about all of the ways that investments have been made in the community, and how to increase commitments and partnerships to develop higher standards of living for Durham residents.
- Statistics show that if you are born in the triangle in poverty, you're much less likely to get out of poverty than a person who has migrated to the triangle.

- Economic Mobility is defined as an individual's ability to move up or improve their economic status over a lifetime.
- Duke Community Affairs has built over a thousand affordable housing units.
- ? Are all the various offices at both Duke Health and Duke University communicating with each other so that your efforts can be collaborative in multiplying the impact in the community?
Answer: The university and the health system has historically worked in silos, and it is not certain that this relationship could be streamlined. This initiative is scheduled to launch on July 1st 2026 - during the next few months, tracking mechanisms **are** being put in place to monitor collaborative efforts.
- ? What can Duke do to support more youth employment, especially in the summer?
Answer: YouthWorks is the city summer program where the Marianne Black Summer Internship is in place. This internship primarily offers young people who are interested in health careers to gain experience all facets thereof . Both the University and the Health System are looking to grow this program.
- ? What would be the best way of connecting and creating a pipeline with Duke regarding this initiative?
Answer: At the end of February more information will be available as a webpage is in the developing stages. An Economic Mobility Council has been formed where assistance can be accessed, and Ms. Hill can be contacted directly.

Mrs. Humphrey thanked Ms. Hill for this informative presentation and introduced Shannon Delaney as the next presenter.

5. Guaranteed Income Pilot Program - presented by Shannon Delaney

Ms. Delaney began by stating the following facts regarding the Guaranteed Income Pilot Program:

- This pilot program is called '**R.O.O.T.E.D**' which stands for **R**esources and **O**pportunities for **O**ngoing **T**ransition, **E**mpowerment, and **D**ignity.
- It is primarily for individuals who were formerly incarcerated within the last 2 years.
- Recipients will receive 12 monthly direct cash payments (totaling \$8,400) which can be used for any goods and services (supports) to assist in transitioning back into society.
- Welcome Home Services (continuous contact with the Pilot's staff) are offered to qualified recipients, but they are not required to partake in these services in order to receive this Guaranteed Income.
- Basic eligibility requirements are:
 - Must be an adult 18 years of age or older
 - Must live in Durham
 - Must have a release date on or after January 1st in 2024
 - Must fall within the 60% of the AMI (**A**rea **M**edian **I**ncome)
- There is a partnership with a Duke team that conducts research where recipients can receive additional compensation for their participation.
- One of the main goals of this pilot program is to maintain a low barrier for entry into the program by providing assistance with the application process.
- This is a City of Durham initiative (not county).

- Although applications closed Friday, January 30th, 2026 below is the link to the application form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfesBcRVWAA-kyjCgZBwO7XLI_Ewmlz5-U_0NMbDnKdpx-28g/viewform
 - The link to an overview of the website is: <https://www.durhamnc.gov/5488/ROOTED>
- ?
- Will this be a permanently budgeted program beyond this evaluative pilot year, if so what is the total budget?
- Answer: This is a 1-year pilot program with hopes that it will continue. One million dollars has been given to run this pilot program, which includes a budget for all of the administrative costs. The goal is to have low overhead costs so that we can get as much money to the 107 participants as possible.
- ?
- What is the outcome of the restrictions that were in place with reference to how the City of Durham could assist people with income?
- Answer: The Program has been working closely with the City Attorney to navigate this issue since the goal is to establish trust with the clients by not having to police/analyze people's spending habits. Also, the Program is working within the parameters of the Give Card vendor so that the clients will have access to their money but not through a personal bank account to avoid taxable income.

Mrs. Humphrey thanked Shannon her informative presentation and introduced Rasheeda Royster as the next presenter.

6. Local Reentry Council Update – presented by Rasheeda Royster, Local Reentry Council Coordinator

Ms. Royster presented the following updates since the last meeting:

- LRC had:
 - 45 referrals
 - completed 31 intakes
 - on December 30th, Durham Local Reentry Council along with the Religious Coalition for a Non-Violent Durham addressed food insecurities by serving 40 participants with meat and non-perishable foods (14 were LRC participants)
 - LRC is working on how to best serve Durham residents who choose not to be housed by providing them with warm blankets etc. to combat the frigid temperatures

7. Areas of Interest for FY '25-'26 – Mike Sistrom, Vice Chair

Mr. Sistrom opened the floor up for suggestions of areas of interest and or potential policies or presentations for CJAC to explore and informed the Committee that a Durham Family Court update will be presented soon.

- ★ Lao Rubert: There are a number of people who are spending more time in jail than necessary and perhaps this issue can be further explored since this is an issue beyond what the sheriff alone can address.
 - Mr. Sistrom stated that there are community safety and wellness task force proposals relevant to this issue, including specific practical ways to expand pre- and post-arrest diversion and support (which is something the committee can explore).
- ★ The stigma of Substance Use Disorders as they relate to employment

- ★ How the Opioid Settlement funds are being utilized as it relates to Substance Use Disorders
- ★ Dr. Jenkins mentioned that as a part of the Citizens for Public Health's annual meeting, First Lady Anna Stein was hosted at the Health & Human Services Building on Friday, January 23rd. Mrs. Stein is diving into a lot of criminal justice efforts by setting a very ambitious goal of visiting 55 jails/prisons in order to understand the plights of the incarcerated. Dr. Jenkins suggested to engage Mrs. Stein's office to see how CJAC might be of service and perhaps partner in this endeavor. Dr. Jenkins offered his office services to assist in facilitating communication with Mrs. Stein.
(previous suggestions)
- ★ Chair Baxton alerted CJAC to a new bill – House Bill 307 - that is now on the governor's desk and is going to increase the length of time served for incarcerated individuals. Thoughts on how CJAC as a group can address this is encouraged.
- ★ Implications of the two new state laws on sentencing time and probation
- ★ Improvements to A/N/D Court beyond Family Drug Court
- ★ Opportunities for local bail reform. (An old Task Force proposal)
- ★ Expanding pre-arrest diversion (An old Task Force proposal)
- ★ Creating a DUI Court for Durham
- ★ Improving the sexual assault/domestic violence system

8. **Brief Member Updates:**

- Mrs. Humphrey stated that this is grant season and currently the Justice Services Department is working on bringing Family Treatment Court back to Durham and submitting their annual budget to the County Manager's Office in March 2026.
- Dr. Jenkins stated that currently there is a very serious measles outbreak in South Carolina that is traveling towards the Western part of North Carolina and strongly urged CJAC members to reach out to family, friends and colleagues to get vaccinated or a booster shot (if previously vaccinated).
- Eric Johnson stated that the state has given money to each of the managed care organizations to start Forensic **A.C.T. (Assertive Community Treatment)** Teams which provides more intensive therapeutic services and medication to formerly incarcerated and justice-involved individuals. Alliance sent out an RFP and Carolina Outreach has been selected to serve both Wake and Durham Counties and is up and running.

9. **Other Business:**

- May's CJAC meeting will be moved to either May 19th or June 2nd due to the Memorial Day Holiday.
 - There were 4 and 1/2 votes for June 2nd
 - The vote will continue in the meeting on March 31st

Next Meeting dates:

- ❖ **March 31, 2026**
- ❖ ***May 26, 2026* (Tentative due to the Memorial Day Holiday)**
- ❖ **July 28, 2026**

Mrs. Humphrey adjourned the meeting at 5:04pm