



Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Members Present: Angeloe Burch, David Crispell, Dawn Baxton, Dwane Brinson, Eric Johnson, Michael O’Foghludha, Mike Sistrom, Rodney Jenkins,

Guests: Raul Garcia, Patricia Knaudt

Staff: Roshanna Humphrey, Marc Strange, Viveca Deans, Rashada Royster, Christie Long, Renee Shaw, Robin Heath,

Absences: Angela Winchester, Ben Haas, Clayton Jones, Dorothy Mitchell, Jessie Battle, Lao Roberts, Leonardo Williams, Maggie Clapp, Nida Allam, 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 and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of March 2026 Minutes

Chair Baxton called for a motion to approve March 31, 2026, minutes. Hearing no corrections, Dr. Angeloe Burch moved to approve the minutes as presented; the motion was seconded. The motion to approve the March 31, 2026, CJAC minutes was unanimously carried.

3. Iryna’s Law-Judge Michael O’Foghludha

Iryna’s Law is named after a person who was stabbed on the Charlotte, NC light rail system last Fall. The person who actually stabbed Iryna had appeared before a magistrate in Charlotte, NC for misusing the 911 system which was a misdemeanor and carried a maximum possible punishment of 90 days. He was released on an unsecured bond and a written promise to appear and more than 90 days later he stabs Iryna on the subway. It rewrites the bail and bond policies in North Carolina in the last 30 years. Before the law when bonds were set for people who were charged with a crime, the least restrictive alternative was to ensure that the defendant would appear in court should be picked. Which would be a written promise to appear along with an unsecured bond. Then they would be released to a sober adult or someone who’s willing to take custody of the person or a last resort would be a secured bond and perhaps electronic monitoring.

Iryna’s Law completely changed this. It applies to any bond set on or after December 1, 2025, anything which is called a violent offense that is a Class A through G felony, any offense that requires registration in the sex offender registry and also many drug offenses. It also does away with written promises to appear. They have also put in the law that any magistrate who does not comply with the law can be subject to disciplinary actions with the first time they are to be disciplined by the resident superior court

judge, second time they can be fired. The fear of this law is that anyone that appears before a magistrate will not get any bond and be jailed for at least 3 days or potentially longer until they could go before a district court judge. Currently it has not disrupted the courthouse but has had some effect. Another unintended consequence is that the requirements for someone with an A through G felony would require a secured bond with electronic monitoring. The monitoring equipment for this is paid for by Durham County and currently is not subsidized by the state of North Carolina. With this law Durham County will potentially need additional funds to comply with the law or could see an increase in the jail population with the possibility of overcrowding.

The other part to take effect December 1, 2025, is that if someone is brought before a magistrate who has a history of mental illness it requires the magistrate to inquire into the mental health history. The issue is trying to obtain medical records and how that is going to happen because HIPAA has not been determined. They are also supposed to transport that person to a local assessor to decide if the person is mentally ill and requires hospitalization. This part has been delayed until December 1, 2026.

4. Local Reentry Council Update

April was Second Chance Month and Ms. Royster thanked the Justice Services staff and all others who were involved in making it a success. They ended the event with an old-fashioned Sock Hop which was a big success. They collected hygiene products and several other items to assist participants who come to Local Reentry to give basic items needed. Local Reentry is now fully staffed with a new employment case manager and housing case manager. Since the last meeting they have had 46 referrals and completed 36 intakes

5. Areas of Interest for FY2026

Mike Sistrom states the board needs to continue the conversation about reducing the jail population. Reaching out to Anna Stein, the First Lady of North Carolina, given her interest in jails and prisons, that she might want to attend and learn from CJAC.

Perhaps later in the fall, revisit Iryna's Law part two and review the implications particularly in the area of mental health.

Contact Representative Moray to get an idea of any amending or altering legislation on the law. Eric Johnson also reminded that there are more Medicaid cuts coming to behavioral health services. Roshanna Humphrey suggests another presentation about the Violence Reduction Plan after the summit is completed.

Need to get an updated list of the Community Safety Department and their positions.

Stepping Up Initiative access to care subcommittees and revisiting the system intercept map.

6. Brief Member Updates

June 4th Community Meeting for the Opioid Settlement

June 8th Sequential Intercept Map Update meeting

June 19th North Carolina Association of Public Defenders Honoring Juneteenth in our Courts

July 24th Durham Branch of the NAACP Breakfast

7. Next meeting dates

July 28, 2026

Meeting adjourned by Chair Dawn Baxton