

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday, January 24, 2017

**Members Present:** Jackie Brown, Clarence Birkhead, Lawrence Campbell, Adam Clayton, Sherry Honeycutt Everett, Roger Echols, Wendy Jacobs, Celeste Kelly, Shannon McCabe, Jodi Miller, Judge Marcia Morey, Umar Muhammad, Gudrun Parmer, Candace Rashada, Charlie Reece, Kristen Rosselli, Lao Rubert, Vernon O’Mar Taylor

**Member Absent:** Michael Becketts, Eric Ireland, Clarence Maynor, Damion Moore, Ann Oshel, Marcia Owen

**Guest:** Dorel Clayton, Mel Downey-Piper, Keshia Gray, Brenda Howerton, Demetri Hunter, David Johnson, Courtney McCollum, Lewis McCallum, Chuck Manning Sr., Denene Hinton, Jennifer Meade, Convellus Parker, Ky Riley, Dorothy Smith

**Staff:** Celia Jefferson, Peter Baker, Roshanna Parker, Kelly Andrews, Lauren Nigro

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chairperson Lawrence M. Campbell, Durham County Public Defender, opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**Review and Approve November Minutes**

Mr. Campbell asked the committee to review the minutes. Judge Marcia Morey, Durham County District Court, moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Jodi Miller, Durham County, properly seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

**Cure Violence – “Bull City United”**

Mel Downey-Piper, Durham County Public Health Division Director, introduced the “Bull City United” team and gave an update on the initiative. Cure Violence approaches violence as a disease that spreads from one person to another. Bull City United team will focus on alternative means to violence and resolving conflicts, and giving value to a person’s life. Team members were hired as county contractors in early November and will transition to full-time county employees (6FTE + Supervisor). The team will be based at McDougald Terrace. Their focus areas are McDougald Terrace and Southside of Durham. The team is awaiting Cure Violence programmatic and database training.

Ky Riley, outreach worker and violence interrupter, shared his experience with Bull City United. Durham has three violence interrupters working to mediate on both ends and prevent retaliation or further retaliation. The community organizers are out getting information about conflicts and violence, so the interrupters can intervene. They work during the times when shootings are most likely to occur. To date, they have responded to 5 homicides, 3 aggravated assaults, 1 officer-involved shooting in past 1.5 months. The team took part in the Week of Peace action. This year, these areas have had 9 days without a shooting, 12 days without a homicide. Keisha Gray, outreach worker and connect people to resources. Dorel Clayton, supervisor, and is the quarterback and lead strategist, adding structure to the team and a focus on self-care.

The team networked with schools to share what they have to offer. Today, the team was called into two high schools and successfully prevented violence. One of the Violence Interrupters was able to get a youth into Youth Build program (16-24 years). Team members have the credibility to talk with kids and turn them away from gangs. They are proof that you can survive out there without hustling or gangbanging. This is a dangerous job and the team comes in contact with people carrying weapons regularly.

The team asked for CJAC assistance. The team is asking for resources and opportunities to offset the despair/hopelessness with something positive and can change the dynamics and trajectory of their lives. They need jobs, mental health, education, clothing, child care, and food resources. They are also looking for strong role models. The team wants to visit organizations to make sure the organizations are appropriate and if there are system-level changes to reduce red tape.

Roshanna Parker, CJRC, invited Bull City United to be part of Durham’s new local re-entry council. Wendy Jacobs discussed the possibility of finding opportunities for community members in publicly-funded construction projects, home repair projects, such as a job corp.

Judge Morey invited the team to have one person attend each Juvenile Court session and talk with the youth one-on-one following his/her session.

**Contact information for Bull City United:** Dorel Clayton at (919) 695-5092, or Twitter <https://twitter.com/BullCityUnited> for updates.

**Alliance Behavioral Health Care Stakeholder Needs Assessment**

Alliance Behavioral Health Care (ABHC) is facilitating focus groups and sending out stakeholder questionnaires to assess community needs. Gudrun will re-send questionnaire to CJAC member. Each member is asked to complete the questionnaire and return it to jmeade@alliancebhc.org. It’s important that CJAC members give feedback to ABHC.

**Election of Officers**

Gudrun Parmer, Jackie Brown, and Candace Rashada, met to develop a slate of officers for the Criminal Justice Advisory Council: Roger Echols, District Attorney – Chair; Kristen Rosselli, TROSA – Vice Chair; and Jackie Brown, Secretary. Gudrun asked for nominations from the floor. Candace nominated Clarence Birkhead for Chair of committee. Gudrun asked for votes to be passed to her. Gudrun announced that the slate of officers received the majority of votes.

Lawrence Campbell excused himself from the meeting. Clarence Birkhead, vice chair, led the remaining meeting.

**Subcommittee Reports**

***Domestic Violence* -** Sherry Honeycutt Everett, Legal Aid, reported that the subcommittee met last Thursday. The subcommittee plans to take a close look at the curriculum for Durham’s new 26-week batterer intervention program provided by Behavioral Insights at $650. Participants must complete all 26 weeks within a 30-week period. The subcommittee is also looking at the cost of these programs, which are expensive and may result in jail time for inability to pay. The team is looking for ways to make this program more affordable. Next meeting is March 16 at County Courthouse on the 2nd Floor Community Organization room.

***Re-Entry*** *–* Roshanna Parker, CJRC, reported that the housing subset of the committee met. She announced that Durham was awarded a grant to start a Re-Entry Council. We will have a 1 FTE re-entry coordinator and a 1 PTE job creator (?). On the Re-Entry Council, we will have a housing subcommittee, employment and training subcommittee, health and wellness subcommittee. Next meeting is 2/15 at 2:30 at CJRC Community room.

***Stepping Up Initiative*** – Peter Baker, CJRC, shared that their January meeting was canceled due to snow. The next subcommittee meeting is on February 13 at 1:30pm at CJRC.

**Member Updates**

Judge Marcia Morey gave an update on the upcoming mental health treatment court. The court setting will be different than drug court in order to offer more confidentiality; this is a diversion court (one-on-one). The court will look to see if participant is receiving his/her mental health treatment. Frequency on court involvement depends on everyone’s needs. The treatment team will meet regularly. Mostly District Attorney’s discretion so the court will be very flexible. Also, getting new e-filing for domestic violence; may have an offsite filing location instead of courthouse, which enables immediate orders and service by Sheriff’s Department. Durham Courthouse is implementing digital signing for better wayfinding.

Shannon McCabe, TASC, announced her resignation from CJAC due to her job change.

**Public Comments**

None. Meeting adjourned at 5:15PM.

**Next Meeting – March 28, 2017 @ 4:00 pm.**