

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Tuesday March 27th 2018 Minutes

Members Present: Lawrence M. Campbell, Syretta Hill, Gudrun Parmer, Anthony R. Marsh, Sr., Don Baker, Joseph Laizure, Tara Blackley, Lao Rubert, Roger Echols, Jodi Miller, John Witcher, Marcia A. Owen, Vernetta Alston, Wendy Jacobs, Kristen Rosselli

Members Excused: Ben Rose, Shamieka Rhinehart, Ann Oshel, Alex Williams,

Member Absent: Jackie Brown, Clarence Birkhead, Peter Wooldridge

Guests: Joy Brunson-Nsubuga, Bonnie McDonald (DPS)

Staff: Celia Jefferson, Roshanna Parker, Karen Shaw

Welcome and Introductions Chairperson Roger Echols, Durham County District Attorney, opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Review and Approve September Minutes

Roger Echols asked the committee to review the minutes. Jodi Miller moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Vernetta Alston properly seconded and the minutes were approved as presented.

Leadership Forum on Substance Abuse

Tara Blackley shared that North Carolina Association of County Commissioners developed a template to host a ½ day opioid summit. In Durham County, Commissioners decided to approach it as a Leadership Forum on Substance Abuse and Medication Overuse. The forum presented data and included individuals’ testimonies and a panel discussion. Providers and participants formed eleven groups and a 90-minute facilitated discussion occurred. There was time for brainstorming, collecting information and what area they would focus on. The priority was to identify key partners, assets, issues, and obstacles and who would be the leading agency doing the work. She noted that there were eleven ideas that came from the areas of prevention, education, and treatment. All this information collected at the forum will be summarized and used further in committees that will be convened by Commissioner Wendy Jacob.

Substance Use Services in Durham County *John Witcher, Lincoln; Kristen Rosselli, TROSA; Roshanna Parker, CJRC; and Joy Brunson Nsubuga, RI were asked to present information from their respective agencies.*

John Witcher presented on Lincoln Community Health Center’s Medication Assisted Treatment Program. Lincoln is a primary care facility but also wanted to address alcohol use, smoking and a broader array of cocaine and opioid use. Lincoln received a grant from the Health Resource Service Administration that funded MAT and started with a team of four: a clinical social worker, a drug and alcohol treatment specialist, and two case managers. As the program developed, they peaked above 63 patients but are now down to 2 staff. Lincoln was unable to hire more people because of funding delays and is ready to move forward again. Currently there are 48 patients on Buprenorphine who meet the criteria of uninsured and residents of Durham County. Overall, they have 87 people going through the program. They lost three patients due to overdose. Availability of housing and mental health services is an issue, but they are collaborating with CAARE and Freedom House. He noted that Lincoln CHC is very dedicated to providing MAT long term.

Joy Brunson-Nsubuga presented a brief overview of the Recovery Response Center.  They are located on Crutchfield St and provide mental health stabilization and non-hospital medical detox.  RRC has 10 chairs in their 23 hour observation unit and the unit is designed for medical and clinical assessment.  They also have a sixteen-bed unit where they work with individuals for 3-5 days on average to continue the detox process, stabilize individuals, and obtain aftercare for each individual. On both units, there is clinical staff, peer support specialists, nursing staff, and nurse practitioners. Joy emphasized they are a crisis center and see about 275-300 people per month, about 70-80 are referrals from first responders. They work with the Sheriff’s Office and the detention center, EMS brings people directly to them, as well as law enforcement.  Aftercare is a challenge for our program as well as housing. They are looking into peer support services and how they can assess individual success.  They are in the process of renovating to make sure that their units will be safer and more customer friendly. Lincoln CHC has a satellite clinic onsite, and RRC has developed an excellent working relationship with Duke and Duke Regional in the last couple of years.

Roshanna Parker presented an overview of the substance use disorder services at CJRC. Two levels of outpatient treatment, intensive and regular outpatient treatment are provided as well as individual counseling and aftercare.  Another program offered is Adult Drug Treatment Court which partners with Healing With CAARE, Freedom House and Duke Family Care. Currently, CJRC has 136 active SUD cases and an additional 26 are enrolled in Drug Treatment Court.  Three clients are receiving Medication Assisted Treatment at Lincoln CHC. CJRC SUD Services has about 20 intakes a month, with 90% of referrals coming from Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC). The remaining are directly court ordered or from federal probation. The average length of time for people to enroll in the program historically has been was around 31 days. Recently, new outreach efforts has brought the number down to 14 days. Staff is hoping to bring that number down even further.  Currently, the program has one certified clinical supervisor (CCS), three certified substance abuse counselors (CSAC), one licensed clinical addiction specialist (LCAS) and one case management assistant. CJRC struggles with completion rates because it is mandated treatment with clients sent by probation.  People complete the hours, but do not get clean.  Drugs that clients test positive for during intake are marijuana, cocaine and opiates in that order.

Kristen Rosselli made a brief presentation about TROSA, which is celebrating 25 years in Durham next year. She noted that TROSA’s mission is to help people have a thriving life in recovery, including stable employment, transportation and housing.  TROSA is a licensed long-term substance use disorder treatment facility; 70 of their clients are women and 400+ are men.  Ages ranges from 18-78 years. Most of their residents are now younger than 35 years old. Services are provided to residents at no charge.

TROSA provides a safe, sober environment for residents to learn and thrive. TROSA is a modified therapeutic community that treats the whole person and uses the peer community as an agent of change and healing. Residents learn to care about others and become honest, while gaining a strong work ethic, vocational training and life skills.

TROSA residents go to 10,000+ medical and 4,700+ mental health appointments, and have 7,000 prescriptions filled each year (including psychiatric medicines). Residents also have access to a gym, fitness and cardio equipment, and an activity center with pool tables, video and board games, cards, dominoes and other activities. Residents also go on outings to learn how to have fun without using drugs or alcohol.

Residents without a GED or high school diploma are enrolled in AEB or GED classes taught by Durham Tech Community College. Residents also have access to volunteer one-on-one tutoring help. Residents with high school diploma or equivalency may take college or certificate classes at Durham Tech Community College.

TROSA offers continuing care to program graduates, which includes recovery groups, social events, meals, and other activities. TROSA also offers graduates affordable housing and reliable transportation to work.

Of the 40% of residents entering TROSA who self-disclosed as being “homeless”, only two percent said they had stable housing.  Half of the residents were unemployed prior to TROSA, 87% were uninsured, and 26% had not graduated from high school. Over 40% listed heroin/opiates as their primary substance of addiction, up from less than 20% in 2010.

Subcommittee Updates

Local Reentry Council - Karen Shaw informed the group that as of March 20th they had received 115 referrals.  Of that number, 36 were ineligible and 27 were enrolled.  Of the 27 enrolled clients, 3 have been discharged successfully, 14 individuals received employment, and 13 received housing with 3 pending.  She informed everyone that on March 6th they hosted a resource fair.  There were 15 vendors present and approximately 60 participants registered.  Karen announced that April 23-27th was National Reentry Week.  She stated they would kick the week off by attending the County Commissioner’s meeting and asking for a Proclamation proclaiming April 23– 27 as Reentry Week in Durham.  She also announced the next Resource Fair will be held on May 15th at CJRC.

Bonnie McDonald (DPS) shared that we have a governor that is behind reentry.  She noted that Wake & Lincoln Correctional Centers are up and operating as pilot feeder facilities.

Stepping Up Initiative – Gudrun shared that the Mental Health Court Diversion Program had its 1st graduation with two individuals completed. The Jail Mental Health Team is testing additional screening tools and staff received training on the START a risk assessment tool.

Re-Appointment of Vernon Omar Taylor It was decided to re-appoint Vernon at the next meeting due to not having a quorum.

Meeting adjourn

Next Meeting – May 29, 2018 at 4:00 pm.