

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday, March 28, 2017

**Members Present:** Adam Clayton, Commissioner Wendy Jacobs, Gudrun Parmer, O’Mar Taylor, A.R. Marsh Sr, Roger Echols, Lawrence M. Campbell, Jodi Miller, Jackie Brown, Marcia Owen, Lao Rubert

**Member Absent:** Kristen Rosselli, Sherry Everett, Celeste Kelly, Damion Moore, Ann Oshel, Candace Rashada, Clarence Birkhead, Eric Ireland, Charlie Reece

**Guest:** Pearlie Williams, Wendy Williams, Jane Campbell,Spencer Noble

**Staff:** Celia Jefferson, Peter Baker, Roshanna Parker, Lourdes Rolon

**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 March Minutes**

Roger asked the committee to review the minutes. Gudrun moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Commissioner Jacobs properly seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Innovation Fund Project**

Gudrun shared that CJRC received an innovation grant from the McArthur Foundation through the Urban Institute. The purpose is to develop a project to reduce people in criminal court who fail to meet their scheduled court dates. The hope is that this will keep people out of jail for missing their court date. The County was awarded $50,000 and 15 months to execute. The team has met several times over two months to develop the system. Some team members have been talking about building a web-based application. Partners in the grant are the District Attorney, Public Defender, and Clerk to Superior Court. The plan is to have those eligible for the service to sign up online. She noted that anyone in the system should encourage people to sign up.

**Mental Health Court Diversion Program**

Peter shared that at their last meetingJudge Morey gave updates about the mental health court. Since then, they have hired a coordinator for the court, met with the DA office, and pulled some names from their pretrial release program. Participants in this court will be individuals with mental illness or severe mental illnesses on medication. The process will be to provide medication and treatment over a six-month period. The target start date for the first court is April 25, 2017 at 3:30 pm. Commissioner Jacob asked how does this compare to the timeline and the process being used for the diversion program and the drug court?

Roger answered by noting that every defendant that is submitted will have the option to accept the program. It will be the same thing if you had a pre-adjudication drug court. The bad thing about this process is that the defendant will be the one to make all the decisions. The good thing is they have not put any significant parameters around what type of charge will not be accepted.

Marcia thanked Peter and Gudrun for attending the Religious Coalition’s fellowship luncheon. The feedback was that the information was very helpful.

**Subcommittee Updates**

Peter shared that the ***Stepping Up Initiative*** is the committee that looks at different ways in which individuals with mental illness intercept the system and how to reduce the incidents of incarceration of these individuals. Some of it is just doing business better. There is an ongoing communication push between the police department and the jail. When the police department finds [inebriate](http://www.dictionary.com/browse/inebriate)d individuals on the street, instead of taking them to the crisis center they bring them to the jail to sober them up. It takes 45 minutes to sign them in, and at the crisis center it would only take five minutes. The next meeting is April 11, 2017 at 1:30pm

Roshanna shared that theCJRC has had a ***Reentry Subcommittee*** for a long time. In December, CJRC was awarded a contract from the Department of Public Safety to serve as the Intermediary Agency and create a Local Reentry Council for Durham. The contract allows the subcommittee to take its efforts to the next level. A coordinator position will be posted soon. Roshanna distributed a housing information sheet to the committee. Commissioner Jacob shared that the Department of Social Services is one of the entry points into the housing collaborative. She asked that people are made aware of Durham’s local zoning ordinances. The next meeting is April 9, 2017 at 2:30pm. This is a monthly meeting.

Gudrun presented the ***Domestic Violence Subcommittee*** update in Sherry Everette’s absence. Gudrun shared that they are in the midst of taking a comprehensive look at the abuser treatment programs that operate in Durham. They also are studying the possibilities of gap funding for offenders who cannot afford the cost of the program so that they do not have to start over after missing classes or not being able to pay for the classes. At the last meeting, they had a presentation from a new program which has been approved for Durham. Katie Bauman of Behavioral Insight presented a full overview of how that program will operate, its curriculum, and cost. At their next meeting, True Care will do the same. They get good active participation from Durham Crisis Response Center. This committee focuses on batterer services.

**Local Efforts and Discussions to Combat Opioid**

Lawrence Campbell invited Wendy Williams and Jane Campbell, attorneys in his office, to talk about an initiative that Lincoln Community Health Center has started. It was noted that opioid addiction is a long-term, or chronic, disease. Wendy shared that Lincoln Community Health Center now has a grant that allows them to treat opioid use under the umbrella of their treatment programs. Treatment cost will be on a sliding scale. Lincoln will also collaborate with the Drug Treatment Court.

Roshanna noted that Drug Court has been looking at whether to allow clients in need of medication assisted treatment for some time. They found Lincoln had a new wrap around program. Anyone who wants to enter the program must have a physical first. They will have follow up visits with their primary care provider and a case manager. They will be enrolled as a Lincoln patient.

Gudrun noted that there have been some discussion around law enforcement assisted diversion for opioid users. The Health Department has been meeting with detention center staff and CJRC to identify opioid users when they enter the jail and to have narcan available to staff in the detention center pods. Narcan kits will be made available to users upon discharge. When they leave the jail they can request a narcan kit. They can use the ticket to get a kit from public health. Commissioner Jacob asked about the number of clients that can be accepted by Lincoln. Gudrun noted that it depends on how many the physician can accept.

**Member Updates**

Roshanna invited the committee to attend a small presentation by the Harm Reduction Coalition on Friday April 7, 2017 at 1:30pm. Please call to see how many seats are available.

Gudrun noted that the numbers for the Misdemeanor Diversion Program continue to look strong. 330+ young people have been referred to the program, only three did not finish the program. Lao noted that the Raise the Age Bill looks very promising and has received a lot of support.

Gudrun asked the committee to share any ideas for the meeting in May.

**Meeting adjourned**

**Next Meeting – May 23, 2017 at 4:00 pm**