

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday, April 30, 2019

**Members Present:** Omar Taylor, Kristen Rosselli, Gudrun Parmer, Anthony Marsh, Vernetta Alston, Jodi Miller, Eric Johnson, Joseph Laizure, Don Baker, Celeste Kelly, Lao Rubert, Shamieka Rhinehart, Wendy Jacobs, Satana Deberry,Tara Blackley

**Members Excused:** Ben Rose, Syretta Hill, Marcia Owen

**Members Absent:** Lawrence Campbell, Alexander Williams, Tamario Howze, Peter Wooldridge

**Guests**: Elijah Bazemore

**Staff:** Roshanna Parker, Demetrius Lynn, Kelley Waggy, Kelly Andrews

**Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm, CJAC Chair Jodi Miller welcomed everyone and asked those present to introduce themselves.

**Review and Approve February Minutes**

Jodi Miller asked the committee to review the minutes. Kristen Rosselli moved to accept minutes; Don Baker seconded the motion. The motion was accepted.

**DEAR (Durham Expunction and Restoration) Project Update**

Joseph Laizure provided an update on DEAR. DEAR is currently offering driver’s license re-instatement and expungement services. They have 800 open cases. DEAR has a database with a large number of people who have old driving-related fines and fees. DEAR Reinstatement team is working to remit as many as possible in the next year. DEAR Expungement team has 300 open cases. Individuals are notified that they can seek aid as soon as charges have been dismissed. Joseph informed us that the number of persons seeking expungements privately is holding steady and DEAR numbers are climbing. $400,000 of uncollectable debt has been remitted as of now. Joseph stated it takes an average of 4 ½ months to complete expungement and that the top of their agenda right now is establishing community outreach. Joseph passed out a community card and asked that we refer driver’s license issues to the website listed on the card (www.secondchancedriving.org). The website will allow a person to search if driving-related fines and have been remitted.

**Pretrial Process Improvement Update**

Gudrun Parmer provided the update on behalf of Christie Long, who was unable to attend. There have been two meetings of Pretrial Process Improvement Committee and stakeholders have agreed on the Pretrial Safety Assessment (PSA) tool. Gudrun stated they are now working through the required steps. Committees and assignments have been created and three meetings are scheduled in May. Judge Hudson is championing the process along with the Chief District Court Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, and Private Attorneys. All agreed on the benefits of the PSA. A number of communities have gone through the process and found it beneficial. The Urban Institute is assisting in the process and has offered to put us in contact with other individuals that have been through the complete process. It is a complex process but the committee is moving towards implementation by the end of the calendar year. The goal is to have a very different decision-making process. Judges will still have the ultimate decision. This tool will provide a refined and best-practice model to follow since it is the most up-to-date assessment the field has at this point.

**Current Jail Population Trends**

Major Elijah Bazemore spoke on the current jail trends and distributed several documents detailing the current numbers. Major Bazemore stated most inmates housed are awaiting trial. He also provided a 15-page document that breaks down every inmate and reason for incarceration. Thirty-six (36) inmates are currently awaiting trial for murder.

New pretrial policies directly correlate with declining detention numbers. District Attorney Deberry stated her office has been very focused on ensuring only “true threats” are housed. Many potential inmates are released on a promise to appear. 89% appear for their court date. Electronic monitoring numbers have increased as a direct result of new policy implementation. The District Attorney’s Office is tracking data.

**Committee Updates**

***Local Reentry Council (LRC)***

Roshanna Parker shared that LRC partnered with DEAR during National Reentry Week and that several community members attended. Roshanna stated that CJRC is working with the City of Durham’s Reentry Program to develop a joint process for the transitional jobs programs that will roll out in January 2020. All involved parties are working to ensure the programs mirror each other. County Human Resources Department is looking at hard-to-fill and high turnover positions in hopes of having more than the current six (6) slots. The hope is that more individuals will get job placements because of the City and County programs. The LRC Housing Committee is working with the City and Alliance Behavioral Health to identify housing options.

***Stepping Up Initiative (SUI)***

Gudrun Parmer reported the SUI committee was continuing to work on mapping services. The Stepping Up Committee focused on housing and spoke with Urban Ministries at the last meeting in an effort to dispel myths and misunderstandings. The next step is to facilitate a discussion about community engagement and advocacy for funding. Many uninsured individuals cannot access the level of care needed and are stuck in a holding pattern between jail and mental health court as a result. Gudrun stated the federal reentry grant budget was approved. Once the Planning and Implementation Guide is accepted, the project can move into the implementation phase.

**Misdemeanor Diversion Program (MDP) Update**

Kelly Andrews shared MDP started in 2014, has a 98% completion rate and an 8% recidivism rate for persons one-year after the MDP program. Kelly stated MDP sees a larger percentage of youth-of-color come through the program. CJRC’s data manager reviewed AOC and jail data for 6 months and concluded 31% of first time, misdemeanor offenders could be eligible for MDP if the age restrictions were lifted. Kelly reported in February 2019 stakeholders met and agreed to raise the eligibility to age 26. They also agreed to allow older individuals into the program on a case-by-case basis at the officer’s discretion. MDP is available only to 1st time offenders. Kelly stated Durham Police Department rolled out the new criteria a week ago and she expects to see referrals by May. There is no cap on capacity. Jodie thanked Kelly for her work and leadership with the MDP Program.

**Announcements**

Celeste Kelly shared she was in the process of developing a pilot ACE unit. ACE stands for Apprehend, Catch, Enforce, trying to catch absconders on the front end. This goes into effect on May 1, 2019. She will give an update at next meeting.

**Next Meeting: June 25, 2019**

**4:00-5:30pm**

**Criminal Justice Resource Center’s Community Room**

**326 E Main Street**