

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday May 23, 2017

**Members Present:** Roger Echols, O’Mar Taylor, Rebecca Chappell for Lawrence Campbell, Jackie Brown, A.R. Marsh, Sr., Gudrun Parmer, Marcia Owen, Kristen Rosselli, Sherry Everett

**Member Absent:** Adam Clayton, Eric Ireland, Ann Oshel, Jodi Miller, Celeste Kelly, Wendy Jacobs

**Guest:** Ben Haas, Kelly Sullivan, Jovetta Whitfield, Chris Tiffany, Rachel Galanter, Mel Downey-Piper

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

**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 Echols asked the committee to review the minutes. Gudrun moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Kristen properly seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Innovation Fund – Court Reminder Project**  Gudrun Parmer shared that they have entered into an agreement with AOC to receive daily data for court dates. Business cards will be handed out in court, in first appearance and magistrate’s office for people to sign up. She noted that people can sign up for text, phone calls, or emails. People will go to a website to sign up. They will also have posters and signs in English and Spanish.

**DSS-DCRC Domestic Violence Project** Jovetta Whitfield, Assistant Director of Social Services shared how the grant for their project came about and organizations involved are DSS, DCRC, Exchange Club Family Center and Duke. She noted DSS and DCRC were awarded a two-year grant in October 2017, the collaboration happened because of the history the agencies share working with the community to end domestic and sexual violence through advocacy, education, support and prevention. Kelly Sullivan, Director of Mental Health Services shared that a summit was held May 5th to discuss objectives. She noted that they conducted multiple focus groups in child welfare, DMC and EMS. Approximately 50 people attended. They also held a cross agency training. Kelly noted that they realized how important it would be to develop real-life connection and resources in the community. She also shared they heard the Latino community’s perspective and the mental health perspective, and will conduct a focus group with parents. It was noted that a provisional position is housed under the Department of Social Services.

Chris Tiffiny, guest, asked if they had thought about people that abuse animals also often abuse people. He asked that this information be passed on to the committee. He noted that the Sheriff handles animal abuse.

**Bull City United Update** Mel Downey shared that Bull City United’s team has been expanded since last November. They have six full time Violence Interrupters (VI) and a full-time supervisor. They are hoping to have a part time VI at Duke hospital. Team members have relationships in various neighborhoods.She noted that last week they received official Cure Violence training. She also noted that the number of homicides so far in 2017 are nine versus 43 in 2016.. BCU has office space in McDougald Terrace. A Cure Violence staff member typically has a case load of 15 people and tracks a person for six months. She noted that the team should know what is happening in the community before law enforcement does. Whenever there are shootings and someone gets injured or killed, BCU’s response should be within 72 hours in the target community. She further noted that they are looking for space in the Southside that is ADA compliant and they are looking to get faith leaders more engaged. There will be a full day of database training on May 31, 2017.

**Subcommittees Updates** Peter Baker shared that the ***Stepping Up Initiative*** is continuing to meet with attention to the efforts they already put in place. He mentioned that Mental Health Court is one month from starting on June 27, 2017 and that the committee met with the new jail administrator. The committee continues to track inebriates taken to jail in lieu of the Durham Crisis Response Center. He shared that the subcommittee has selected a new co-chair, Anita Daniels. The next meeting is June 12, 2017 at 1:30pm at CJRC.

Roshanna Parker shared that they are moving forward with the hiring of a ***Local Reentry Council*** Coordinator and a Job Placement Specialist. The council met two weeks ago and had a large turnout. She noted at each monthly meeting a partner agency will give a presentation regarding its agency and/or program so that the council can become more familiar with the services available in the community. The next meet will be held on June 21, 2017 and Vocational Rehabilitation is scheduled to present. Currently, a case management assistant and an intern help with getting the work done and providing outreach to additional agencies to expand the group.

Sherry Everett shared that the ***Domestic Violence*** committee has been meeting this year with the goal of trying to take a closer look at Batterer Treatment and Anger Management programs making sure the programs are effective. Behavioral Insights was recently approved and the director presented a very detailed breakdown of the program curriculum. One of the problems with all available programs is that they are fee-based and rather expensive. BI is working on customizing and making the program effective and affordable. The committee will meet again on May 25, 2017 at 8:15am on the 2nd floor of the courthouse. It was noted that the Family Justice Center is still transitioning and working through logistics.

**Members Updates** Kristen Rosselli, shared that two years ago, Dr. Bynum organized a successful Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Day where lots of practitioners came from all around the country to perform service here in Durham. She noted that if anybody is interested and has ideas to volunteer on that Monday, she will send a list of things to do such as health and education, screenings, volunteers with some type of medical background, etc. Kristen noted TROSA is meeting with the City of Raleigh, HR and Public Works departments about hiring their graduates. There is a new rule now that you must have a CDL License to drive any equipment.

Legal Aid and DSS are starting an eviction diversion program.

**CJAC Membership**  Gudrun noted that there are several positions that are coming up for appointment. She will send out the open positions to the CJAC Committee.

**Public Comments** Chris Tiffiny distributed a three page draft - General Order #1036R-2 discussing the use, documentation and handling of Confidential Informants. He noted that this general order should be revised to protect the identity of informants. Reference your handout for more details.

Meeting adjourned.

**The next CJAC meeting is July 25th, 2017 at 4pm.**