

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes May 26, 2020

**Members Present:** The HonorableShamieka Rhinehart, Lao Rubert, Don Baker, Celeste Kelly, Ben Haas, The Honorable Satana Deberry, Ben Rose, Syretta Hill, Kristen Rosselli, Gudrun Parmer, Eric Johnson, Omar Taylor, Deborah Williams

**Members Excused:** Commissioner Wendy Jacobs, Jodi Miller, Rod Jenkins

**Members Absent:** Alexander Williams, Tamario Howze, Joseph Laizure

**Staff:** Roshanna Parker, Marc Strange, Demetrius Lynn, Kelley Waggy

**Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm, CJAC Chair Lao Rubert welcomed everyone.

**Review and Approve February Minutes**

Chair Lao Rubert asked the committee to review the minutes and minutes were approved.

**Update on Operations during to COVID-19**

* **Sheriff’s Office-** Don Baker shared that they are following COVID-19 guidelines. All personnel have been/are being issued masks and gloves. Each car is sanitized before and after each use. Jail population is down and this is helping with continued social distancing. All new inmates are placed in isolation. At this time no inmates have tested positive for Coronavirus.
* **District Attorney’s Office-** DA Satana Deberry shared that the DA’s Office has been continuing to process cases. Traffic Court is back up and running virtually, they hope that this will help to stall backlog. On Monday June 1, 2020, Courthouse operations are to expand and open up to the public.
* **District Court-** Judge Shamieka Rhinehart shared that they are currently utilizing Webex to continue serving the community.
* **Community Corrections-** Celeste Kelly shared that they have several different protective procedures in place. Staff with a temperature of 100.4 or higher are sent home and told to quarantine for 14 days. They are utilizing one entrance and one exit and there is no congregating or sharing of office space. They are using masks and hand sanitizer as well as disinfecting their work areas. They check on offenders but do not enter the residences. Each vehicle is sanitized daily and when picking up inmates cage cars must be utilized.
* **Criminal Justice Resource Center-** Gudrun Parmer shared that Pretrial, STARR, and Jail Mental Health continue to operate with safety protocols and minimal contact. CBI and outpatient substance use treatment services are providing groups virtually. Drug Treatment Court has maintained virtual contact with clients and will begin using Webex in the near future. CJRC is operating with no more than 10 people on site and no clients enter the building. Staff is currently planning how to reopen the facility.

**Early Releases and Extended Limits of Confinement (ELC)**

Ben Haas shared that this has been a collaborative effort between local and state entities. In early April an initial list of 25 people was identified and considered for early release. The first release took place on April 9, 2020. The NC Justice Center ensured that the Religious Coalition received a $20,000 subgrant to provide flexible funding for expenses after release. The Local Reentry Council staff has been attempting to reach into the facilities to ascertain the best way to help those prior to release. Welcome Home provided ‘welcome home boxes’ and peer support. The Religious Coalition has been coordinating housing and Jubilee Home agreed to utilize their empty transition house for dedicated quarantine space. Thanks to the partnerships and funds they have been able to address basic needs as well as plan for long term housing. RCND has served 17 people and utilized around $8,000 of the sub-grant thus far. Demetrious Lynn thanked the District Attorney’s Office for the hard work and dedication that went into identifying individuals. Gudrun Parmer shared that these were very interesting several months as no two cases were alike but, as challenging as this process was, overall this has been an incredible collaborative effort.

Celeste Kelly shared that ELC has two assigned officers. Once ELC is approved for an inmate, NC DPS contacts the local office to verify the residence. Once the residence is verified, she notifies the Director’s Office and within 24 to 48 hours release is granted. Community Corrections typically goes out to make contact in less than 24 hours. Officers have biweekly face-face contact similar to post-release supervision; however, these individuals are still in confinement. They supervise them via searches, drug screens etc. Individuals are allowed to look for jobs, if they had work release while in prison they are allowed to go to work. Their income is still directed to the prison and will be released to them upon their official release. If they are a threat to the community or in violation they will be picked up and taken to a facility that can house them at the time. Of the current 8 ELC offenders in Durham County none have tested positive for COVID-19.

**Budget Updates**

Gudrun Parmer shared CJRC’s budget was submitted in February and they felt very comfortable with the budget request. However, by April they were told that the FY 2020-2021 budget would be at best a flat budget and that any additional funding would have to be identified within their own funds. CJRC had identified $20,000 for housing for women within their current budget. These funds have not been cut and barring any unforeseen circumstances, CJRC will begin to look at how those funds can be best utilized.

Ben Rose shared that the Department of Social Services is under a Medicaid corrective action, as such they are working towards securing 57 new positions. These positions are still on the table as they have revenue attached to them and are not fully funded through the county. They have been inundated with COVID-19 related applications and they recognize that to meet the needs of the community it is imperative they continue to seek funding.

**Partner Updates**:

**Step Up** - Syretta Hill shared Step Up has switched their program to virtual programming through the end of June. At that time, they will re-evaluate the need and move forward accordingly. They are still working to secure placement, but while these are front line positions they are tracking at a slightly lower wage. Ms. Hill shared that their training it is still occurring via ZOOM. At this time, they are unaware of any positive cases. Masks were provided by local designers and they have them on hand for their participants and staff.

**TROSA-** Kristen Rosselli shared that they are making masks for the City of Durham and first responders. TROSA is not currently providing moves, but their participants have transitioned to being tailors. They are currently working on a plan for moving forward through the ever-changing environment.

**LRC-** Demetrius Lynn shared that LRC is still taking referrals. They are doing tele-intakes and interviews. To date, they have received 708 referrals, completed 438 intakes, and 137 clients are active. LRC staff is working on job leads and placements, waiting on DTCC to reopen to get clients back into training programs.

**2020 Meeting Dates**

30 June 2020

25 August 2020

27 October 2020

**Next Meeting: June 30, 2020, 4:00pm**

**\*Meeting Adjourned at 5:02 pm**