

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday, June 25, 2019

**Members Present:** Anthony Marsh, Celeste Kelly, Wendy Jacobs, Vernetta Alston, Eric Johnson, Gudrun Parmer, Jodi Miller, Joseph Laizure, Kristen Rosselli, Omar Taylor, Syretta Hill, Marcia Owen

**Members Excused:** Don Baker, Lao Rubert

**Members Absent**: Alexander Williams, Ben Rose, Lawrence Campbell, Satana Deberry, Shamieka Rhinehart, Tamario Howze, Tara Blackley

**Guests**: Dr. Lorraine Taylor, Alan Pitstick

**Staff:** Alex Lombardi, Kelley Waggy, Demetrius Lynn

**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 April Minutes**

Jodi Miller asked the committee to review the minutes. Eric Johnson suggested a correction to minutes and moved to accept with correction made. The motion was seconded and approved.

**DEAR Project Update- Joseph Laizure**

The DEAR Project has been operating for 6 months. DEAR is averaging 10 to 15 expungement filings a month and recently started offering community and offsite intakes. DEAR also focuses on the Second Chance Driving program, working to de-mystify driver’s license re-instatement. DEAR helps to interpret driving records as staff recognizes those can be highly complicated to decipher. The numbers are currently in flux due recent filings, but they have opened 1000+ cases and have successfully completed more than 100 expungements. DEAR is working on collecting data in an accurate and efficient fashion. In June, the program was awarded the 2019 Outstanding Collaborative Pro Bono Award by the NC Bar Association.

**NCCU: Misdemeanor Arrests in Durham- Dr. Lorraine Taylor**

Dr. Taylor stated this was a collaboration to examine the impact of misdemeanor offenses around the country and one of the phases of a detailed study. An RFP was issue nationwide and Durham was selected as one of 7 sites. The charge was to examine the data and to demonstrate 10 years of trends. They were not to focus on interpretation of data. Dr. Taylor stated NCCU was the only HBCU selected. The New York site had previously produced a series of reports and each new site had to choose one of the New York reports to replicate. Durham chose Misdemeanor Arrests. Moving forward they formed an advisory team and worked with representatives from Durham Police, CJRC, Sheriff, District Attorney’s and Public Defender’s Offices, Juvenile Court Counselors, and others. After obtaining IRB approval from NCCU, they examined data from 2007 to 2016 and found there was a decline in arrests in Durham County for misdemeanors and felonies. Dr. Taylor stated they will continue discussions about additional funding to conduct further analysis. Chair Jodi Miller thanked Dr. Lorraine for her time and stated she looked forward to the coming information. Dr. Taylor’s presentation will be emailed to CJAC members.

**Committee Updates**

**Local Reentry Council (LRC) (Demetrius Lynn) -** The LRC receives referrals from state prisons and the county detention facility, with a few individuals from the federal system. LRC staff moved to an outreach approach, since referrals from prisons have been slow, and are working towards a wraparound service. LRC has opened 256 files, 111 of the clients are active, 70 are currently employed. Client tracking can be difficult as everything has to be done on paper. LRC is awaiting a new tracking system provided by the state. Sixty-two (62) agencies are actively involved with the LRC.

**Stepping Up Initiative (SUI) (Alex Lombardi) -** The SUI is a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. Durham SUI is currently addressing the first priority area identified in the Sequential Intercept Mapping Process: Community Education. This will involve education of individuals with severe mental illness as well as the larger community to raise awareness around the resources available in Durham, how to access and direct people to them. A subcommittee will meet in July to discuss the next steps around creating a media campaign and other ideas for effectively getting the word out. SUI made contact with the Public Information Office with hope to have someone from this office assist the group. Durham’s SUI is applying to have Durham County recognized as an Innovator County. Being an Innovator County could allow Durham to serve as expert reviewer or pilot site of Stepping Up technical assistance materials, present at webinars and conference workshops, and host site visits with fellow counties. Durham has met every part of the application except one: having a shared definition of SMI. A draft has been shared with the committee for feedback, hoping to move forward by July 1, 2019.

**Mental Health Court (MHC)** **(Gudrun Parmer)** **-** The MHC celebrated Mental Health month in May. Eleven (11) individuals graduated in May, which is the highest since the program started in 2017. MHC incorporates Seeking Safety, an evidence-based practice to address trauma, beginning with a group for female clients only. MHC has a 98% show rate for court with 26 active clients and 11 clients in aftercare.

**Reappointment of CJAC Members- Jodi Miller**

Jodi Miller presented a slate of members for appointment in specific categories. Marcia Owen had opted not to seek re-appointment and recommended Ben Haas, Director of the Religious Coalition.

The nominees were Syretta Hill - Employment, Kristen Rosselli – Housing, Joseph Laizure – Legal Aid, and Ben Haas – Faith Community. Motion to accept the slate as presented was made by Commissioner Jacobs, properly seconded by Councilor Alston. Motion was accepted unanimously.

**Partner Updates**

**NCDPS, Durham ACE Pilot (Celeste Kelly) -** The ACE Pilot started May 1, 2019. ACE stands for Apprehend, Catch and Enforce. There were three main reasons why the pilot was started: a high number of absconders, Court of Appeals rulings, and policy changes. The general opinion was that not enough time and effort was being put into locating absconders. The pilot is currently in the 2nd phase, one unit has been selected and trained to look for absconders. Under the new policy, investigations will be completed no sooner than 14 days and no later than 30 days, with a minimum of 37 to 45 days to declare someone an absconder. Durham County was unique in that they were able to create a team from within the agency, identifying 7 positions to create the ACE pilot without harming or taking away from other units. Additional training and equipment was provided to aid in this new venture.

**Announcements**

The Criminal Justice Resource Center was awarded a grant from the ABC Board in the amount of $24,500.00, and received a contract from NC DPS for Recidivism Reduction Services, providing Cognitive Behavior Interventions and substance use treatment.

**Next Meeting: August 27, 2019**

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

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

**326 E Main Street**