

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes June 30, 2020

**Members Present:** Lao Rubert, Ben Haas, Kristen Rosselli, Wendy Jacobs, Deborah Williams, Joseph Laizure, Syretta Hill, Gudrun Parmer, DA Satana Deberry, Jodi Miller, Eric Johnson, Celeste Kelly, Ben Rose

**Members Excused:** Don Baker

**Members Absent:** Alexander Williams, Shamieka Rhinehart, Tamario Howze

**Guests**:

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

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chairwoman Lao Rubert called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

**Review and Approve May Minutes**

Chairwoman Lao Rubert asked all in attendance to review the minutes and submit any corrections. The motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Kristen Rosselli, seconded by D.A. Satana DeBerry, the motion carried unanimously.

**Update on PSA Implementation**

Christie Long shared the PSA Implementation Committee had agreed to use the Pretrial Risk Assessment (PSA). All information is located online and the entire implementation process can be accessed through Arnold Ventures. Pretrial Services started a soft launch on February 3, 2020, changing the way they run records utilizing DCI reports. Thanks to an application developed by IS&T, they no longer handwrite but information is pulled directly from the system to prevent any misrepresentation of information. PTS staff use the criminal history information itself to score the supervision level attached to the assessment. Should the Courts disagree with the supervision level, it can be changed to what the Courts feel is suitable. The official launch date for PSA is July 1, 2020. Due to the malware attack staff was forced to work manually, in May they met with IS&T to correct any errors. All errors have now been corrected and they are excited to move forward. Christie Long also shared that since COVID-19 less people are released to the program. Defendants were released with secured or unsecured bonds in an effort to keep numbers down at the detention center. Most of their current referrals come from Superior Court and include electronic monitoring.

**Safety and Wellness Task Force**

Gudrun Parmer stated the Safety and Wellness Task Force was on a recent BOCC meeting agenda. She noticed that Drug Treatment Court was among other programs to be evaluated. Upon further review she reached out to General Manager Miller with the recommendation that the Task Force focus on desired outcomes rather than on specific programs, and also recommended that the Task Force connect with the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and other existing committees to share knowledge and background information. Commissioner Wendy Jacobs shared that a lot of the items listed in the Task Force bylaws came out of the Durham Beyond Policing report, are County functions rather than City functions and the result of the lack of understanding Durham County Government functions. She also stated the Task Force was a great opportunity to share with the community all that is happening and has been happening in Durham County. Jodi Miller made a motion that, “the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee endorse the proposed suggestions and recommendations provided by Gudrun and the CJRC related to the Bylaws for the new Safety and Wellness Task Force that focuses on issues and outcomes and that the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee be linked in and collaborate with this newly formed task force moving Forward.” The motion was seconded by Ben Rose and unanimously approved by all members.

**Agency Updates**

* **DEAR -** Joseph Laizure shared that DEAR is continuing their operations in the Durham County Courthouse. Citizens continue to get expungements and help via calling #984-569-0593 and on site. For other Legal Aid issues such as eviction, people should call #1-866-219-5262. DEAR is continuing and expanding its work thanks to the Second Chance Act that has been signed into law in North Carolina. Joseph Laizure also shared that he accepted a position with UNC School of Law and has left Legal Aid. He would, however, continue to serve as the Legal Aid representative on CJAC.
* **Alliance -** Eric Johnson shared that the General Assembly just passed that the standard plans, administered by commercial insurance companies, would startJuly 2021. Under the same legislation, Tailored Plans, administered by MCOs, would start in 2022 covering the more extensive services. Alliance has added a free screening tool to their website to help citizens determine whether they need enhanced services. Any questions can be sent to Eric Johnson via email.
* **TROSA-** Kristen Rosselli reported that Kevin McDonald is stepping down after 25 years and taking a new role that allows him to work directly with the residents. Keith Artin will be the new CEO and Kristen Rosselli will be stepping into his position of Chief Operating Officer. Jesse Battle will be filling Kristen’s spot on the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee. TROSA has had no COVID cases. They have just re-open their admissions under the guidance of the Department of Public Safety, quarantining new residents for 14 days in separate housing off campus. This will help to keep the campus COVID free.
* **CJRC-** Gudrun Parmer shared that CJRC continues to provide virtual services on Main Street; Pretrial Services, Jail Mental Health, and STARR continue to see individuals in the detention center. Drug Treatment Court has started to have more direct interactions with clients, drug test have moved from urinalysis to swabs and staff is moving forward to explore how best to serve the community and clients.
* **LRC-** Demetrius Lynn shared that LRC had received 726 referrals to date, with 448 intakes. LRC has 135 active clients, 91 people have achieved employment with an average pay rate of $11.50, but Demetrius Lynn acknowledged it has been hard to find job placements over the last month due to current circumstances. 74 people have received housing and 342 have received transportation assistance. 30 individuals have received vocational training in areas of forklift, CDL, warehouse operations, Heavy Equipment Operator and Peer Specialist. Roshanna Parker added that LRC is still taking referrals, conducting intakes over the phone, and has been working closely with the Religious Coalition and other entities to secure housing for individuals released early due to COVID.

**Housing Updates:**

Lao Rubert shared that Gudrun Parmer had done amazing work with CJRC’s budget identifying funds to begin working on a house for women, something that has been needed for over 40 years. The LRC Housing Committee will begin working on that and report back to the group. Additionally, Coordinated Entry is working to assure the criminal justice population is included in the community’s new Coordinated Entry approach.

**CJAC Membership:**

Lao Rubert reviewed the open positions on the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and stated it would be beneficial to create a committee to receive suggestions on how to move forward and fill the positions. Deborah Williams, Lao Rubert and Syretta Hill agreed to serve on this committee and will provide an update at the next meeting.

Undesignated Positions: Non-Profit Organization, Mental Health/Substance Use Treatment Provider, and Community College.

Designated Positions: Police Chief, Superior Court Judge, District Court Judge, Public Defender, Director of Treatment Alternative Street Crimes (TASC), Mayor Designee

**2020 Meeting Dates**

25 August 2020

27 October 2020

29 December 2020- cancelled

**Next Meeting: August 25, 2020**

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

**Virtual Meeting**

**\*Meeting Adjourned at 5:03 pm**