

**Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday, July 27, 2021**

**Members Present**: Ben Haas, Gudrun Parmer, Syretta Hill, Melinda King, Jodi Miller, Ben Rose, Eric Johnson, Deb Williams, Michael O’Foghludha, Rod Jenkins, Satana Deberry, Celeste Kelly, Jesse Battle, Dawn Baxton, Tom Cote, Nida Allam

**Members Excused:** Lao Rubert, Walter Tate, Joseph Laizure, Pierce Freelon

**Members Absent:** Shamieka Rhinehart

**Guests**: Matt Landers, Lavette Williams, Bella Larsen, Micalyn Struble, Ryan Smith

**Staff:** Roshanna Parker, Demetrius Lynn, Marc Strange, Palestine Small, Beth Steenberg, Kelley Waggy

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ben Haas welcomed the body and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

**Review and Approve March Minutes**

Ben Hass asked that members briefly review the minutes. Eric Johnson made the motion to approve, and Jodi Miller seconded the minutes. The committee unanimously approved.

**Homelessness in the CJ Population**

Matt Landers presented on Justice Involved Homelessness in Durham County. The research was his masters project and capstone for graduation from Duke University.

Matt shared that due to the constraints of his project, he only collected data on CJRC’s Transitional House, 2009-2020. During this time frame, 316 CJRC clients stayed in the 6-bed unit. 85 (26.9%) appear in Durham’s HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) between 2014-2021. Matt’s statistical research showed the following factors led to clients enduring homelessness later: elevated age, multiple stays, shorter stays, exited/removed for “negative” circumstances. He also noted those as mentioned earlier, 85 (26.9%) were significantly more likely to have the following: no health insurance, homeless for over a year before the shelter, recurring episodes of homelessness before intake, Mental Health issues, racially identified as Black/African American, and reduced likelihood of being a domestic violence victim. Matt also shared the factors that were not significant: substance abuse, employment, marital status, social assistance, and educational status.

Based on Matt’s statistical findings, he made several recommendations. He stated that streamlined access to Mental Health services was imperative. Reentry homes operate under the assumption that clients can live independently and cannot provide the level of mental health clients require. Often this population would function better in a group home setting. Housing should also cover Substance Abuse Counseling and more Employment and Self-Sufficiency training. While current services appear to focus on referrals and financial assistance, it was found that most Reentry clients are not prepared or struggle with re-acclimation to society and the structural demands of daily life. Another recommendation was to incentivize longer stays in transitional facilities to facilitate a better transition to self-sufficiency and stability and advocate for communication of release dates within detention. The final recommendation was for a centralized inventory of Reentry Resources in Durham. The presentation will be shared with CJAC Members.

**Coordinated Entry**

Ben Rose stated that the Durham Department of Social Services (DSS) has taken on a more significant role in the housing world due to Coordinated Entry and Intake. Ben shared that DSS is currently running the emergency rental assistance program (federal funding of 8.6 million dollars) and is working with the court system to use the rest of these funds for eviction assistance as the eviction moratorium comes to an end. Coordinated Entry and Intake were created to streamline those in dire need of housing and overseen by Lavette Williams.

Lavette shared that anyone facing homelessness can call the access service for Coordinated Entry. The program’s priority is to divert from shelters. Once individuals come in, especially those facing homelessness for the first time, Coordinated Entry is often able to find individuals placement within their own family/friend circle. Lavette shared that the program has a 40% diversion rate. Coordinated Entry also assists with finding housing or shelter placement for those they are unable to divert. Those who are in need can walk into DSS and use the phone for intake. Coordinated Entry can be reached at 984-287-8313 Monday-Friday 8:30am-8:00pm, and Saturday and Sunday 4:00pm-8:00pm.

**Local Reentry Council (LRC) Update**

Roshanna shared a brief background on the Local Reentry Council (LRC). In 2017 Durham County entered into a contract with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety to serve as the intermediary agency to oversee the LRC. As a result of this contract, CJAC serves as the Executive Committee for LRC. Roshanna then introduced Palestine Small as the new Reentry Case Manager.

Demetrius Lynn, LRC Coordinator, reported from January 2021 to June 2021, the LRC served 123 clients, had 58 enrollments, closed 65 cases. The LRC saw a 91% completion rate for the clients they serve, with those over age 50 showing the most success.

Demetrius shared the LRC is currently conducting a lot of ‘inreach’ due to COVID. He stated they had seen an influx of individuals who did not have valid identification documents. LRC staff focuses on acquiring IDs as an individual can not move forward without it. Referrals come from numerous entities, as well as self-referral. LRC also assists with housing for individuals; however, individuals are expected to meet specific deliverables to maintain the housing. Currently, the average wage for employed individuals is $12.52hr, and successful employment placement is rising. Demetrius shared a client story and emphasized that the supports the LRC provides is life-changing.

**Racial Equity Subcommittee Update and SJC Application**

Beth Steenberg introduced Bella Larsen and Micalyn Struble (CJRC Summer Interns), who helped sort through data to benefit the Racial Equity Subcommittee. The focus has been on arrest and citation data and inequity based on race and ethnicity.

Ryan shared that he and Gudrun are working on a collaborative grant proposal to the McArthur Foundation. This grant would provide two years of funding totaling $500,000 split evenly between government and community partners. The goal is to collaborate closely with a community partner to center the voices and lived experiences of individuals interacting with our criminal justice system, specifically to identify the disparities we see within the system. The application is due August 20, 2021.

**Member Updates**

Syretta Hill shared that StepUp Durham will go before the Durham City Council to become the program administrator for the Guaranteed Income Pilot Program. Syretta shared the urgency to identify 200 individuals by 10/1/2021 and asked those serving on this committee.

Rod Jenkins shared Durham County is still in a good place regarding COVID-19 and shared that they are seeing a surge in the Delta Variant and ask that all individuals be vaccinated.

**Remaining Meeting Dates for 2021:**

**September 28, 2021**

**November 30, 2021**

**\*Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 pm**