

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday, July 31, 2018

**Members Present:** Tara Blackley, Latoya Dumas, Roger Echols, Syretta Hill, Tamario Howze, Joseph Laizure, Jodi Miller, Marcia Owen, Gudrun Parmer, Shamieka Rhinehart, Ben Rose, Lao Rubert, Omar Taylor, Alexander, Williams

**Members Excused:** Wendy Jacobs, Celeste Kelly, Kristen Rosselli, John Witchger,

**Members Absent:** Vernetta Alston, Don Baker, Clarence Birkhead, Jackie Brown, Lawrence Campbell, Anthony Marsh, Ann Oshel, Peter Wooldridge

**Guests:** Amanda Maris, District Court Judge; Ryan Smith and Darin Johnson, City of Durham

**Staff:** Viveca Deans, Roshanna Parker

**Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting was called to order at 4:06pm, CJAC Secretary Gudrun Parmer welcomed everyone, sharing regrets that were received. She reviewed the agenda and all handouts, and asked those present to introduce themselves. Chairman Echols continued with the introductions, Tamario Howze who was recently appointed was asked to share some information about himself.

**Review and Approve November Minutes**

Roger Echols asked the committee to review the minutes. Jodi Miller moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Lao Rubert properly seconded and the minutes were approved as presented. Gudrun Parmer also asked those who did not receive the Pretrial Justice Institute’s report via email to let her know and to email her any questions they may have concerning the report.

**Durham Expunction and Restoration Program Presentation (DEAR)**

Ryan Smith and Judge Maris presented brief background information on the DEAR program, referencing the City of Durham Memo in the handouts. When cases are dismissed and eligible for expungement the process could be started immediately. DEAR proposes assisting individuals at the courthouse by using technology so they can complete some of the documents themselves by using a kiosk. Last year, 338 expungements were filed in Durham. The planning committee is in the process of reviewing staffing needs and collecting ideas as they continue to work with community partners. They hope to launch the first phase of the program by October. The funding will be used to staff an office in the courthouse with an attorney and clerical support, as well as additional attorneys located in the community. It was noted that the project will need the assistance of the Administrative Office of the Courts to assist individuals that will not benefit from the immediate courthouse assistance.

Alex Williams asked about opportunities for community organizers. Ryan Smith explained that this was still in development but there was funding for dedicated staff in the budget to determine how to make the process easy for those affected and how to build trust. Joseph Laizure commented that he was excited to hear about the focus on process and data. Lao Rubert asked whether the committee knew the real capacity of the project based on previous efforts.

**Committee Updates – Local Reentry Council (LRC)**

Roshanna Parker provided a one-year review of LRC beginning with the Kick-off event in August 2017. Some of the highlights were the National Reentry Week in April 2018 when LRC partnered with the Religious Coalition on a ‘Welcome Home’ event and two resource fairs, the one in May had 21 vendors and 60 participants. The LRC received 201 referrals and served 95 persons, 32 were discharged after completing or receiving the needed services, 63 clients are currently active. The LRC helped to secure employment for 31 clients with an average pay of $11.75 per hour and was able to provide housing for 34 clients.

Bonnie McDonald was not present to provide a state update.

**Committee Updates – Stepping Up Committee**

Gudrun Parmer provided an update for the Stepping Up Initiative’s (SUI) work and related programs. The SUI hosted a Day of Action at the Durham County Detention Facility on May 16. At the last meeting, two new subcommittees were established to discuss Baseline Data and How to deal with defendants deemed incompetent to stand trial. She also mentioned that the Mental Health Court Diversion Program has been operating for a year, receiving 153 referrals, celebrating 6 completions and currently serving over 30 active clients. Updating the committee on Jail Mental Health issues, she mentioned that CJRC had applied for federal funding to improve outcomes for individuals with co-occurring disorders leaving the jail. The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Project is making progress analyzing merged jail and medical data, and conducting a process evaluation. Additionally, the Board of County Commissioners approved funding in the current fiscal year to staff an additional mental health pod which will serve female detainees.

**Follow Up to Pretrial Justice Institute’s Visit in May**

Gudrun Parmer gave an overview of the Pretrial Justice Institute’s final report and distributed the executive summary to the committee. PJI provided recommendations to improve the fairness and effectiveness of the pretrial justice system, as well as recommendations for the County’s Pretrial Services Program. Gudrun mentioned that the County has applied for funding to continue working with PJI and Durham’s criminal justice stakeholders on how to serve more individuals.

**Partner Updates**

Public Health (Tara Blackley) – the vacant program manager position for Bull City United and Project Build would be posted later that week.

Meeting adjourned at 5:17pm.

**Next Meeting – September 25, 2018 @ 4:00 pm.**