

**Criminal Justice Advisory Committee** Tuesday, August 27, 2019 Meeting Notes

**Members Present:** Ben Haas, Ben Rose, Celeste Kelly, Commissioner Wendy Jacobs, Councilor Vernetta Alston, Deborah Williams, Don Baker, Eric Johnson, Gudrun Parmer, Jodi Miller, Joseph Laizure, Lao Rubert, Tara Blackley

**Members Absent:** Alexander Williams, Anthony Marsh, Kristen Rosselli, Lawrence Campbell, Omar Taylor, District Attorney Satana Deberry, Judge Shamieka Rhinehart, Syretta Hill, Tamario Howze

**Staff:** Jim Stuit, Christie Long, Alex Lombardi, 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 June Minutes**

Chair Jodi Miller asked the committee to review the minutes. Joseph Laizure pointed out a correction to the numbers for DEAR. It should read “averaging 50-70”. He then made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction, Gudrun Parmer seconded the motion. The motion was accepted, and minutes were updated.

**Felons with Firearms Report, Gang Reduction Strategy Steering Committee**

Jim Stuit shared a presentation on a recently released report on Felons with Firearms. His research found that 28% of arrests that are not based on warrants occur within 3 of the City’s 35 police beats. The age distribution for the arrests in 2016 to 2018 showed predominately 21 to 25-year-olds. This mirrored previous reports on this issue. Several recommendations are included in the report.

* Recommendation 1: Establish a robust Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) program in Durham.
* Recommendation 2: Conduct interventions with impact players and groups.
* Recommendation 3: Utilize public resources and initiatives that are already in place. Recommendation 4: Significantly increase the number and frequency of warrantless probation searches of repeat weapons offenders.
* Recommendation 5: Monitor the outcome of gun cases in local court.
* Recommendation 6: Initiate an extensive social media campaign that emphasizes negative consequences of possessing a firearm as a felon.

Jodi asked that Jim’s report be shared with everyone via email. If Durham moves forward with the PSN program, the CJAC board recommends looking at the framework to update the model and that there be a review of past practices to find improvements.

**DEAR, Project Update**

Joseph Laizure, DEAR Project & Legal Aid, stated the DEAR program filed 426 expungements and 536 charges were successfully expunged. DEAR was able to assist in forgiveness of 4,571 traffic cases. They were also able to remit $933,000.00 in uncollectible criminal justice debt. DEAR was initially funded through a grant which has been extended through Summer 2020.

**Pretrial Services, PSA Implementation Update:**

Christie Long, CJRC, reported that Pretrial Services will be updating its risk assessment tool and implement the Public Safety Assessment. The Pretrial Improvement Committee has been meeting since the Spring and are currently in the process of finishing the implementation steps. The committee is now working on the design of the program reports along with data reports and should have information to share with the Durham County IS&T department next month so that the database can be built. The hope is to test in November and launch the new tool in January.

Christie Long shared that the current assessment tool used is the VPRAI-R. The new tool answers nine (9) basic questions and will make recommendation on the type of release and level of supervision. In addition to training court officials, a meeting will be held to share information about the tool with the public.

**Committee Updates**

**LRC-** Demetrius Lynnreported:

* 541 referrals to the Local Reentry Council
* 345 intakes resulted in 158 active clients, 78 employed clients, 62 clients receiving housing assistance, 330 received transportation assistance, 5 are in paid vocational training.

**Stepping Up Committee-** Alex Lombardi provided a summary of the last SUI meeting:

* Recovery Response Center (aka Durham Crisis Center): Renovations are complete and RRC will now serve out-of-county residents only in the 23-hour beds (short-term crisis).
* Duke Data Plus: Students were able to conduct analyses on jail data. Persons with serious mental illness (SMI) are more likely to get re-booked than non–SMI. Re-booking is also likely to happen more quickly. The initial data merge was performed with Duke Health data and 76% of the matches were from Durham.
* Alliance: Assertive Engagement Services with Housing for New Hope has ended due to budget cuts; there is an ongoing discussion on ways to advocate for funding.
* Community Paramedic Behavioral Health Program: This program has experienced a decrease in funding and currently has only one paramedic.
* Sequential Intercept Mapping: This continues to be an ongoing project addressing the four priority areas identified in the February workshop. The Community Engagement team is hoping to create a call-to-action to help educate Durham community members who have serious mental illness, as well as community members who want to be part of a support system, around resources that are available in the community.
* Integrated Reentry Grant: The Integrated Reentry Grant continues to move forward. The Planning and Implementation Guide were approved and three new positions (Case Planner, Clinician and Case Management Assistant) have been sent to Human Resources to be classified, posted and filled. The team also met with UNC School of Social Work and CJRC’s data staff to discuss what data collection and reporting will look like.

**Partner Updates**

DCSO, Major Baker: The vision is to have a 25-member citizens advisory committee that fully represent the community and is the “voice of the community”. DCSO want to hear what works and what doesn’t work, beyond crime-related issues. All recommendations will be taken directly to the Sheriff, in an effort to reach out and rebuild trust. Applications are located online via the DCSO Facebook page or directly through Major Baker.

**\*Meeting Adjourned at 5:20 pm**

**Next Meeting: October 29, 2019**

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

**Criminal Justice Resource Center**

**326 E Main Street**