

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday, October 27, 2020

**Members Present**: Eric Johnson, Syretta Hill, Walter Tate, Joseph Laizure, Celeste Kelly, Lao Rubert, Wendy Jacobs, Jesse Battle, Deborah Williams, Amelia Davis, Ben Haas, Rod Jenkins, Gudrun Parmer, Melinda King, Jodi Miller, Dawn Baxton, Ben Rose, Satana Deberry, Michael O’Foghludha, Pierce Freelon

**Members Excused:**

**Members Absent:** Shamieka Rhinehart, Omar Taylor, Don Baker

**Guests**: Bruce Womble, Helen Tripp, Harlan Crenshaw,

**Staff:** Demetrius Lynn, Kelley Waggy, Roshanna Parker, Marc Strange, Renee Shaw

**Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm. CJAC Chair Lao Rubert welcomed everyone and asked those present to introduce themselves.

**Review and Approve August Minutes**

Chair Lao Rubert asked the committee to review the minutes. Minutes were approved.

**Stepping Up Committee**

Renee Shaw shared that The Stepping Up committee is working on developing an inventory for Crisis Services in Durham. Current crisis services in Durham are Mobile Crisis, the Community Paramedic Program, Durham Police Department Crisis Intervention Team, call lines (i.e. Alliance Health, Durham Crisis Response), facility based crisis centers (Recovery Innovations and Carolina Outreach Urgent Care), NC START (North Carolina Systemic Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources and Treatment - a statewide community crisis prevention and intervention program), and DSS. Renee Shaw introduced several presenters to provide additional information.

**Durham County Community Paramedic Program:** Captain Helen Tripp explained that EMS (dispatched via 911) typically responds by mitigating immediate crisis and determine transport options. After that, Community Paramedics step in providing overdose follow-up and behavioral health referrals.

In FY20, EMS had 38,681 patient contacts, 8.2% (3,160) of those were behavioral health patients, 3.8% (1,457) were for opioid overdoses, 3.7% (1,413) were mental health patients, and 0.7% (290) were both mental health/opioid overdose calls. Durham EMS has 60 CIT trained medics and all medics can defer patients to alternate facilities. The majority (74.5%) of patients are transported to the Emergency Department, 23.8% not transported and 1.7% transported to an alternate facility. The department continues to work on decreasing ED visits and increasing deferrals. Captain Tripp shared that there is a focus on following up with opioid overdose patients and getting them connected with community assistance. She also mentioned that not much has changed due to COVID-19, they still make contact, but PPE is utilized for all patient contact.

**Mobile Crisis Management Services:** Bruce Womble explained Mobile Crisis Management Services and shared that Mobile Crisis staff meet the individuals where they are to assess and determine a plan. They look for triggers, symptoms, interventions, and supports. There is a physical copy of a crisis plan that can be used by future providers. Mobile Crisis runs 24/7 as mental health emergency responders. They currently serve 12 counties and are contracted under Alliance, Sandhills and Cardinal. Referrals are made by calling 1-877-626-1772. Their team is comprised of the following: LCSW, CSAC, Psychiatrist, Qualified Professional, Dispatchers, and Paraprofessionals. Mr. Womble shared they are required to respond within 2 hours of a call, averaging a 60- to 90-minute response time and arrive onsite inconspicuously.

In response to COVID-19 they originally limited face-to-face contact and have utilized virtual connections. Transport had also been stopped but they have returned to in-person visits utilizing standard COVID precautions.

**Crisis Intervention Training (CIT):** Sergeant Crenshaw shared that he supervises 2 Investigators and a Corporal who are CIT trained. Typically, patrol officers respond to a crisis call with the goal of getting the individual to a local facility or admittance into a facility. If needed an Involuntary Commitment Order (IVC) is obtained. If patrol is unable to accomplish this goal, a report is filed and sent to Sergeant Crenshaw’s unit. Once received it is triaged and investigated. The unit works with a Clinical Social Worker who goes out with investigators on follow ups. They also assist with CIT training which is a 40hr specialized training with is free to first responders. Sergeant Crenshaw shared that the Durham Police Department is 48% CIT certified.

Lao Rubert expressed her appreciation to the presenters and opened the floor to questions. Gudrun suggested that any additional questions be emailed to her and she would present them to the Stepping Up Committee. Gudrun confirmed that all answers would be brought back to the CJAC committee.

**CJAC Membership**

Lao Rubert shared that CJAC currently has 2 vacancies for justice involved individuals and asked for recommendations from members. Gudrun asked that information be forwarded so that she can get in touch with candidates to send applications. Candidates must be Durham County residents and current on county taxes.

Gudrun Parmer reported that CJAC has the following newly appointed members: Superior Court Judge Michael O’Foghludha and City Council member Pierce Freelon, as well as Major Tate, the Police Chief’s new representative. Gudrun then recommended the Board appoint Omar Taylor as the Housing Provider representative. Lao Rubert asked the Board for a motion to vote on Mr. Taylor. The board unanimously voted to approve Omar Taylor for the position of Housing Provider.

Gudrun stated that CJAC’s Charter requires that the committee elect officers at the first meeting of the calendar year. Lao Rubert asked Syretta Hill and Deborah Williams whether they would serve as the Nomination Committee to present a slate of officers at the January meeting.

**Local Reentry Council Update:**

Demetrius Lynn shared his thanks for all the work that has been done thus far and presented the LRC numbers for the 3rd quarter: 55 referrals received, and 39 intakes performed. Of the 39 intakes, 8 individuals obtained employment with an average hourly rate of $10.80. Mr. Lynn shared that the LRC has been working closely with Step Up Durham, enrolling 7 individuals. 2 individuals received housing assistance and 1 individual will complete HVAC training at the end of December. Mr. Lynn shared that there has been a delay between LRC and DPS in providing information ahead of time. Mr. Lynn has facilitated several meetings to rectify this issue and is seeing improvement.

**Partner Updates:** none

**Proposed Subcommittee on Racial Equity in Criminal Justice**

Gudrun Parmer mentioned that Durham County is part of the National Association of Counties Peer Learning Network and CJRC staff is working with the Burns Institute reviewing data and potentially identify opportunities to address racial inequity in Durham’s criminal justice system. Gudrun suggested these efforts could inform the work of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and asked whether any CJAC members would be interested in establishing a subcommittee to participate in the conversations. Anyone interested was asked to reach out to Gudrun.

**Next Meeting: January 26, 2020**

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

**\*Meeting Adjourned at 5:25 pm**