

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday, November 27, 2018

**Members Present:** Vernetta Alston, Clarence Birkhead, Tara Blackley, Roger Echols, Syretta Hill, Joseph Laizure, Marcia Owen, Gudrun Parmer, Ben Rose, Kristen Rosselli, Lao Rubert, Omar Taylor, Alexander Williams, John Witchger

**Members Excused:** Wendy Jacobs, Jodi Miller, Peter Wooldridge, Anthony Marsh, Don Baker, Celeste Kelly

**Members Absent:** Lawrence Campbell, Tamario Howze, Ann Oshel, Shamieka Rhinehart

**Guests:** Kim Lane, DCSO (for Don Baker), Sitai Surat, Western & Southern Life, Cheryl Bailey Ayogu, Western and Southern Life

**Staff:** Viveca Deans, Roshanna Parker, Demetrius Lynn, Christie Long

**Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting was called to order at 4:05pm, CJAC Chair Roger Echols welcomed everyone, and asked those present to introduce themselves.

**Review and Approve September Minutes**

Roger Echols asked the committee to review the minutes. Clarence Birkhead requested a correction to the minutes to add his name as being present. Kristen Rosselli moved that the minutes be accepted with that one correction, the motion was properly seconded by Clarence Birkhead, and the minutes were approved.

**2019 Meeting Dates**

It was agreed that meetings will continue every other month on the last Tuesday at 4:00 PM with the 2019 meetings beginning in February.

**Pretrial Services – PJI Report, Recommendations and Next Steps**

Christie Long, Pretrial Services Supervisor, provided an overview of the Pretrial Justice Institute’s recommendations. She explained the currently used risk assessment tool and the recommended tools suggested by the PJI. Durham County hopes to work with PJI and court stakeholders early as January 2019 reviewing the recommendations and move toward implementation. A concern was raised about the possibility of racial bias in the tools and whether to use an assessment tool at all.

**Looking Ahead: Sheriff-elect Clarence Birkhead**

Sheriff-Elect Birkhead discussed his 100 Day Plan. He stated his plan was to listen, learn and evaluate what is working and what needs improvement or revamping. It is his plan to get to know the people and learn the overall culture as they also learn him. He plans to work on community engagement and transparency, reviewing the current tools in place for staff on racial bias and work on racial equity training for the entire office. His 1st priority are correcting the infrastructure issues in the jail, eliminating risk, getting the numbers down and he declared that he will not honor ICE detainers. He will also work to fill vacancies as quickly as possible. He will take the Oath of Office on December 3, 2018 at 12:00 PM.

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

**Demetrius Lynn reported the LRC plans to partner with the I-Team to create Welcome Home packets for prison case managers to hand out to individuals being released to Durham County. The packets will have information that will provide inmates with information as to who to call for what services before they are released to come home. There have been two (2) individuals that were given packets that have come to CJRC for intakes.**

**Demetrius stated there are 700 inmates released to Durham per year and his plan is to do in-reach not outreach. He plans to contact prison program directors to go to facilities to present to staff and Durham county bound inmates.**

**Demetrius explained the LRC currently has 91 active clients, 43 have received assistance with employment with an average salary of $10.68 per hour. LRC provided housing for 70 individuals last year. He will work to get individuals to job training because the training funds have not been utilized. The 6 month retention is at 58% and the 3 month retention rate is 72%.**

**Committee Updates – Stepping Up Committee**

Gudrun Parmer reported the committee will work on Sequential Intercept Mapping in February working with NC DHHS and trained facilitators. Information will be provided when more details are in place.

Durham County has received a Second Chance Act grant with an effective date of October 1, 2018. This is a three (3) year grant with the 1st year dedicated to planning. The grant total is $749,771. Durham County will use these funds to focus on the inmates at the Durham County Detention Center with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders. Lao Rubert pointed out that as the plans for the project progress it is imperative to consider sustainability from the beginning.

**Partner Updates**

None provided

**Recognition of District Attorney Rogers Echols**

CJAC members took turns thanking outgoing District Attorney Roger Echols for his contributions, support and innovative vision during his tenure and time in Durham.

Meeting adjourned

**Next Meeting – February 26, 2019 @ 4:00 pm.**