

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday, November 29, 2016

**Members Present:** Michael Becketts, Jackie Brown, Lawrence Campbell, Sherry Honeycutt Everett, Eric Ireland, Celeste Kelly, Jodi Miller, Umar Muhammad, Marcia Owen, Gudrun Parmer, Candace Rashada, Kristen Rosselli, Lao Rubert, Shannon McCabe, Vernon Taylor

**Member Absent:** Clarence Birkhead, Adam Clayton, Roger Echols, Brenda Howerton, Clarence Maynor, Damion Moore, Ann Oshel, Marcia Morey, Charlie Reece

**Guest:**  Jeb Dennis, Kathy Hodges, Judge James Hill, Spencer Noble

**Staff:** Celia Jefferson, Peter Baker, Roshanna Parker

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chairperson Lawrence M. Campbell, Durham County Public Defender, opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**Review and Approve July Minutes**

Mr. Campbell asked the committee to review the minutes. Shannon McCabe, TASC, moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Gudrun Parmer, CJRC, properly seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

**NC DPS Specialty Mental Health Probation**

Celeste Kelly, NC DPS, gave an overview of the program, which is a partnership with the UNC School of Social Work. This is a 3 year project. If an offender with serious mental illness volunteers to participate in the pilot program, the person will be assigned a specialty probation officer who has a maximum load of 40 offenders. The probation officer and participant will have a close relationship with Alliance Behavioral Healthcare. Two specialty probation officers completed the CIT training. Offenders are given incentives to be part of the program. Participants are given weekly monitoring and the ability to talk with someone on a daily basis. The UNC faculty members and PhD candidates will conduct the initial screening.

**Subcommittee Reports**

*Domestic Violence* - Sherry Honeycutt Everett, Legal Aid, shared that the subcommittee met since the last meeting. The committee is doing a full review of resources for domestic violence offenders in Durham. Durham’s new 26-week batterer intervention program will be provided by Behavioral Insights. Batterer’s Intervention Program costs $546. State mandates a 26-week program unless a judge makes a finding that justice will be served by doing something else, which can be at no charge. A person has 30 weeks to complete 26 weeks of classes. If children are involved, DSS may be able to provide additional support to the family, including funding the cost of the program.

Michael Becketts, Durham County DSS, shared that DSS received a 2-year federal demonstration grant to identify domestic violence victims and their families at the earliest opportunity and engage them in appropriate services. The project seeks to create consistent response protocol among first responders when they encounter domestic violence in a home. First responders will be trained on domestic violence warning signs, how to use the field assessment tool, and how to make a field referral. This is an integrated opportunity for training, education, along with evidence-based models that provides clinical services to survivors and children, at no cost. Durham County DSS is in the first 6-month of the grant. Trainings will begin in March 2017 for the Durham Police Department, followed by Durham County EMS and Fire.

Kathy Hodges, Durham Crisis Response Center, gave an overview of the Family Justice Center grant. The plan is to have the Family Justice Center on the 2nd floor of the Durham County Courthouse. The team has started hiring staff. The Family Justice Center partners met and some partners will be travelling to Greensboro to look at Guilford County Family Justice Center and how they do e-filing.

***Reentry*** *–* Roshanna Parker, CJRC, reported that CJRC submitted an application to NC Public Safety to be the Intermediary Agency for the Local Reentry Council, which includes funding for 1.5 FTE positions ($150,000). We expect to hear by the first of the year. The committee continues to work together to develop the Reentry Council. Lao Rubert, Carolina Justice Policy Center, thanked the staff on their work to complete the RFP response. Next sub-committee meeting is on December 14, 3PM, at CJRC. Also, the Durham County Workforce Development Council received a grant from the US Department of Labor to increase employment of formerly incarcerated persons. Durham County Public Health has received funds to hire a county community health worker to provide chronic disease services for people re-entering the community.

***Stepping Up Initiative*** – Peter Baker, CJRC, reported on the implementation of the sequential intercept model for Durham County. The Sheriff’s Department received a grant to improve the early identification of persons having severe mental illnesses by conducting mental health screenings during the jail booking process. The Sheriff’s Department plans to create a mental health pod in the jail with corresponding mental health services.

Michael Becketts, Durham County Social Services, agreed to assign specific Social Services staff members to help persons apply for benefits before leaving jail, including Medicaid and Disability. Gudrun Parmer agreed to follow up with Michael.

Durham County is starting a mental health diversion court that seeks to reduce criminal justice system involvement of persons with mental illnesses. CJRC will hire a licensed mental health professional to help court clients with medication compliance, navigate insurance/Medicaid processes, and connect with appropriate community-based resources.

CJRC Pretrial staff will be available Mondays-Fridays until 8:30PM and on weekends to identify persons for potential release prior to their first appearance. The addition of weekend coverage will help with preparations for first appearance court on Monday mornings. The staff member will be located next to the Magistrates’ office and be accessible to them.

Peter also reported that the Durham Police Department is re-introducing a position to work with officers on the streets in order to assist officers with person with mental health issues.

**Cure Violence – “Bull City United”**

Eric Ireland, Durham County Public Health Department, gave an update on the Cure Violence program, to be called “Bull City United.” The health department is in the process of hiring community-based violence interrupters and 1 supervisor, all with criminal justice system experience and respect within the community. Training will begin after receipt of signed contract from Cure Violence national organization. Bull City United, which is working with Project Build, will be housed at Durham County Public Health Department.

Umar Mohammad, All of Us or None, identified a potential conflict-of-interest between the violence interrupters and police when a situation involves the police. As part of the program, a violence interrupter cannot speak or get involved in a police-involved situation, such as a police shooting. Umar applauded the persons hired – he just wants to make sure they are not set up for failure. Michael Becketts encouraged Eric ask Cure Violence team what lessons they learned when their interrupters were not able to speak or do their work during police-involved shootings.

**Election of Officers**

Each calendar year, the Criminal Justice Advisory Council must elect new officers. Gudrun Parmer volunteered to chair the nominating sub-committee. Jackie Brown and Candace Rashada agreed to be on the sub-committee.

**Member Updates**

Marcia Owen invited all committee members to attend the Religious Coalition for Nonviolent Durham’s monthly luncheon, on Thursday 12/1 at Noon, Shephard House United Methodist Church at 107 N. Driver Street. Roger Echols, District Attorney, will be the keynote speaker discussing the need for additional funding for his office.

Umar Mohammad, All of Us or None, invited all committee members and their families to attend the screening of the documentary “13th” at Emeril City, Lakewood Shopping Center at 6:30 PM. No alcohol will be served during this event.

Umar also invited all committee members to attend a community listening session at McDougal Terrace on Friday, 12/2 at 3PM on the old basketball court.

**Public Comments**

None. Meeting adjourned at 5:15PM.

**Next Meeting – January 24, 2016 @ 4:00 pm.**