

**Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday, November 30, 2021**

**Members Present**: Gudrun Parmer, Lao Rubert, Nida Allam, Dawn Baxton, Ben Haas, Jodi Miller, Omar Taylor, Deborah Williams, Walter Tate, Eric Johnson, Syretta Hill, Ben Rose, Darrin Corbin, Michael O’Foghludha, Satana Deberry

**Members Excused:**

**Members Absent:** Jesse Battle, Melinda King, Christine Patterson, Tom Cote, Celeste Kelly, Rod Jenkins, Pierce Freelon, Amelia Davis, Shamieka Rhinehart

**Guests**: Dan Lawrence, Will Engelhardt, Ryan Smith, Kelly Andrews

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

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Lao Rubert called the meeting to order and asked that all members take a moment to introduce themselves.

**Review and Approve July Minutes**

Chair Lao Rubert asked those in attendance to review the minutes. Gudrun Parmer made a motion to approve the September minutes, Deborah Williams seconded, and a unanimous vote approved the minutes.

**Impact Evaluation for the Misdemeanor Diversion Program (MDP)**

Kelly Andrews shared her pleasure to have Will Engelhardt and Dr. Dan Lawrence attend and present at this meeting. Kelly Shared that She had been working with them for the past 18 months on an Impact and Process Evaluation of the Misdemeanor Diversion Program. Dr. Lawrence shared a brief background on MDP and the Evaluation via PowerPoint. The objective of the evaluation is as follows: Document program’s implementation and stakeholder perception of MDP, Examine enrollment, completion rates, and overall impacts to the individual, community, and the Justice System. Dr. Lawrence shared that due to COVID, their original approach was scaled back but that they were able to review materials, hold semi-structured interviews with all MDP involved persons (i.e., staff, partners, stakeholders, participants), and check-ins for reviews and refinement of findings and materials developed. Dr. Engelhardt shared that he had the pleasure of working on this evaluation and that the results were officially released today. The Process Evaluation came out in July 2021, and all findings/reports are available online and provide much further insight than provided briefly in this meeting.

***Finding 1*:** MDP is not obtaining the individuals who qualify for this program. Law Enforcement needs to “buy into and be aware of the program.” 77% of eligible participants were not referred or enrolled into MDP. ***Finding 2*:** There is a significant disparity by race and sex in referrals/enrollments for MDP. Enrollees were predominantly African American. ***Finding 3*:** MDP has an exceptional completion rate of 95%. ***Finding 4*:** MDP has had very high success/completion rates. Participants have drastically lower recidivism rates over a 2year period. ***Finding 5*:** MDP reduced disparities in new arrests, convictions, and admissions among 16- and 17-year-old Black participants. Recidivism levels continuously declined over the two years. ***Finding 6*:** MDP increased disparities in new arrests among 16-to-17-year-old Hispanic male participants. (Note that the age group focus for findings 5 & 6 is no longer a participant group due to the raised age criteria.) ***Finding 7*:** Eligibility requirements limit the program’s potential impact. ***Finding 8*:** MDP is not a one-size-fits-all model. ***Finding 9*:** The theory of change is key to the program’s success. ***Finding 10*:** MDP has not affected system-level arrests, convictions, or jail admissions. ***Finding 11*:** More prearrest diversion opportunities are needed in Durham County. The overall takeaway was that there are not enough diversion options in Durham County. Dr. Engelhardt shared the following recommendations: Law-enforcement buy-in and awareness, identifying ways to scale MDP, improving data collection practices in the State, and continuing local support for the program model. Dr. Engelhardt shared contact information for further questions and information.

**Resolution: Person-First Language**

Commissioner Allam shared that the board received the latest version of the Person-First Language. Lao and Jodie noted that the *Further Resolution* portion is added, as an attachment, to the main resolution for examples/suggestions of best-practice language use. It was agreed that following this approach would be the most effective way to address any changes in the future. Commissioner Allam made a motion to approve the Person-first Language Resolution with the suggested examples as an attachment, and Ben Hass seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Local Reentry Council (LRC) Update**

Demetrius Lynn shared that the LRC is still working with the case managers in the NCDPS Prison facility, with Probation and Parole, with Federal Probation and Parole to receive referrals for individuals returning to Durham County that are currently requesting LRC assistance upon their return to the community. The LRC scheduled virtual meetings with these individuals to provide an overview of what the LRC does and to hopefully catch all possible referrals and streamline the process for referrals. The next LRC meeting is January 16, 2022, and all are welcome to attend. Please email Mr. Lynn for additional information.

**Member Updates**

Gudrun shared that the new Community Safety Department is setting up a response team to take calls in lieu of law enforcement and planning to embed clinicians at the 911 response enter. This will all be presented in early 2022.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates**

January 25, 2022

March 29, 2022

May 31, 2022

July 26, 2022

September 27, 2022

November 29, 2022

Meeting Adjourned 5:14 p.m.