



May 8, 2023

**Attendees**: Michele Easter, **Duke Psychiatry;** Kelli Egnaczak, **Justice Services Department**; Wendy Jacobs, **Durham Board of County Commissioners**; Joseph King, **Durham Police Department**; Roshanna Parker, **Justice Services Department;** Gudrun Parmer, **Criminal Justice Resource Center**; Alan Pitstick, **Department of Community Corrections**; Lao Rubert, **Justice Services Department Committee/Local Reentry Council**; Nicole Schramm-Sapyta, **Duke Institute for Brain Science;**  Renee Shaw, **Justice Services Department** ; Mike Sistrom, **Criminal/Legal System Task Force**; Marc Strange; **Justice Services Department**; Helen Tripp, **Durham County EMS**; Tonya VanDeinse, **UNC School of Social Work**; Judge Doretta Walker, **Durham County, District 14;**  Katie Wright, **Carolina Outreach**;

* **BASS Connections Update-**Nicole provided an update regarding two studies completed by the BASS Connections team:
  + William Fang completed a policy brief on Mental Health Court. Interviews were conducted with Gudrun, Renee and others around the county. Recommendations include:
    - Identify specific and clear guidelines for legal eligibility.
    - There is room for clarification and formalizing the court policies.
  + Maya Jordan and William Fang looked at the effects of the 2019 cash bail reform initiated by the district attorney and judges between, February and May of 2019. Both the district court judges and the district attorney's office enacted policy changes to eliminate incarceration based on poverty as well as increase the release on one's own recognizance and propose the reduction of cash bail amounts down to zero. The district attorney's office began to recommend to either release someone if they are nonviolent, no bail or hold someone if they are violent with no option of being bailed out and the judges held the discretion. A comparison was made of those arrested between July and September 2018, before the policy and July through September 2019, after the policies changes were fully affected. After those initial arrest periods, they looked at rearrest through March of the following year that was affected by COVID. In the past they were only looking at people with zero prior arrests. Before and after the policy change, males were more likely to be rearrested than females. Those with a co-occurring substance use disorder and serious mental illness diagnosis were more likely than those without any such diagnosis to be rearrested. Those released on their own recognizance were less likely to be rearrested than those who were released, on secured bond, or those who were released for other reasons. Individuals with two to four or more than four priors are more likely to be rearrested. Those with zero priors and more than four priors, it didn't matter if they were released on a secured bond or an unsecured bond, they were still a little bit more likely to be rearrested. The judges were implementing the policy in logical ways. Those who were released on their own recognizance were not more likely to get rearrested.

This article has been submitted for publication and will probably include the more recent version information as well. Nicole reported they are not opposed to doing another data refresh to ask the question again if it would be useful. The question was asked if gun violence was considered in this analysis? Nicole reported that the analysis did not include any violent charges but is of interest. Judge Walker suggested that when this information is presented to ensure that it is known that the analysis does not include any violent charges. The question was asked if the pretrial screening tool was being used during this period? The pretrial tool was rolled out in 2020, COVID lockdowns delayed some of the rollout and affected some of the analysis.

* + **Kansas City Follow-up-** Commissioner Jacobs and Gudrun conducted a site visit to Johnson County, the largest county in Kansas City where they learned about two data systems. One is called my resource connection which is a database where multiple agencies are entering information into a system. Whether it is the jail, EMS, DSS, law enforcement or the court system. Information is uploaded, access and privacy are controlled. It allows agencies to see what is happening in real time, a familiar face especially, and it also provides notification with a text message or an email. If it is noted that someone is a familiar face, they have co-responder teams that will go to that person’s house and say we see that you have been having some struggles lately, is there anything we can help you with?

Commissioner Jacobs also shared that they visited Douglas County and got to see the first ever behavioral or urgent care center in the state of Kansas. This is where Durham County is doing better than them because we have had a 24-hour crisis response center and a behavioral walk-in urgent care. However, everything on their campus is co-located this model attempts to remove barriers through co-location. Gudrun reported that Johnson County has a relationship with Carnegie Mellon University data science for social good and they have done great work around analysis. There is lab for economic opportunities with Notre Dame that has worked with them on familiar faces. They have a complex care outreach work group that meets weekly, three to four hours and review cases which is labor intensive. The epidemiologist leads that effort identifying individuals touching a lot of the system partners and then identify who needs to conduct assertive outreach. The amount of assertive outreach goes up as the risk goes up for that person. Kansas has their own case management system and a web-based systems that pulls information from all the databases and then it is shared among the departments. They don't have Medicaid expansion and had to be very creative about covering the cost for the type of mental health care that they are providing.

Commissioner Jacobs reported that she has started meeting with the county attorney, Helen and others about how we can start working on information sharing internally within county departments and then the larger piece which is being considered as part of the budget for the familiar face initiative. Gudrun reported that in the CJRC county budget two things were requested to support the familiar faces initiative and to move it forward. One is software or software development from an outside company that is a subject matter expert.

Commissioner Jacobs shared that the proposal for the Carver Creek Campus for permanent supportive housing is an opportunity that came out of the work of the familiar faces initiative. This will provide an opportunity of wrap around support. It would allow for more housing with two developable sites. Here we can permanently protect these units and it is a lot cheaper to protect existing affordable housing than build new housing. The campus is in very good condition and the inspection showed that the entire building only needs approximately $10,000.00 worth of improvements.

* **Subcommittee Updates**
  + **Access to Care-**Tonya reported that the subcommittee met with Easter Seals and Carolina Outreach to receive feedback regarding a forensic team and budget points. The subcommittee put together a proposal that integrated information from the sequential intercept mapping update process and included some of the findings. A discussion was held with a few community providers, it was clear that it made more sense to select the community support team model. This would allow for a broader scope of people to be served based on the eligibility criteria and it is a smaller team. The subcommittee proposed a four-team member composition that is in line with the Medicaid service definition. This would include one full time equivalent dedicated team lead that is a licensed clinician, one full time team member who is license in substance use and then two full time team members that are qualified professionals, associate professionals or paraprofessionals. The team would like for at least one to be a certified peer support specialist. It was also suggested that the team include psychiatric nurse time to perform blood draws, directions, and support the clients through the patient assistance program process, which can be labor intensive. Based on market rate the standard community support team is about $375,000.00 annually. Housing support was included in the budgeted amount of $35,000 for a total of $494,000.00 for one year. The estimated case load capacities based on the service definition is a twelve to one ratio of staff to clients. The idea is that the team would be able to serve between 45 to 60 clients over the course of a year. An additional recommendation made by the subcommittee is that the provider selected provide a comprehensive array of services. It was also suggested that utilization management provide evaluation types of data. The access to care subcommittee would be able to advise on some of the indicators that would be helpful to include. Administration option discussed was that Durham County funds would be administered through Alliance Health and that they would then do their process of issuing an RFP to the providers to have a competitive bid. The last issue discussed was sustainability and duration. The subcommittee is asking for multi-year funding, two to three years of support for the implementation of the program. This plan is on the heels of Medicaid expansion and would help for long term viability. Commissioner Jacobs reported that the forensic community support team proposal will be considered during the budget meeting tonight.
  + **Housing-** Lao reported that the ARPA funds have been approved by the city and the county and is ready to be spent. Funding goes through December 2026 and will increase transitional housing for people zero to three months. It will also provide some new options for people three to six months and up to a year. There is also a housing case manager that will be in place no later than the beginning of the fiscal year. The position has been sent to Durham County human resources to post and interviews will be scheduled. This position will be a worthy effort to try to reach out to landlords in a more intentional way and could help figure out the way this group can best stay in touch with the Durham Housing Authority pilot that is focused on people with mental illness. Because it is ARPA funds, there is no exact plan beyond that, which is one thing that they will need to work on. There is hope that data collected will support continued funding.
  + **Bloomberg Project-A** testing session will occur on May 9, 2023, with community members. There are still openings for participation. During the testing sessions the community members are developing ideas to address the housing issue for justice involved individuals in Durham. Community input and feedback on some of the ideas are being tested on how do we improve housing outcomes for individuals that are just as involved?
  + **Mental Health Court Expansion Initiative-**Renee reported that MHCEI is ready to be implemented. Contracts are in place for sex offender groups, anger management groups and medication bridge. They are still in the process of hiring for the justice liaison position. The case manager position will be posted soon. A meeting will be scheduled to complete the evaluation process of the MHCEI. TA Meetings continue monthly with BJA.
  + **Stepping Up Framework to Advance Racial Equity and Jail Reentry-Post Release**-Marc reported that CJRC was invited to participate in an initiative coordinated by the Council of State Governments Justice Center. Their idea was to look at the disproportionate representation and criminal justice system of people with severe mental illness, people of color and try to identify some ways to address. The first attempt to address CJRC has partially completed, which is creating a stepping up racial equity brief to be released sometime in the next few months. It's basically a framework for local governments to use as they try to address overrepresentation of people of color. The brief was a way of addressing what can often feel like an overwhelming task for local governments and to try to break it down into 6 steps.   
    The second piece is a cohort that includes Madison, WI, Columbus, Ohio, St. Louis, Durham and Charlotte, NC, which will identify solutions, look at policies, plans implemented, what didn't work and to share ideas. They are just in the beginning stages and will meet again in June. The other piece that has been discussed is looking at the number of people who end up in the Durham County Detention Center, referred to jail mental health but released before they can be seen. That is a huge, missed opportunity to assist these individuals. Beth created a report that will identify those referred to jail mental health but then released quickly after they are incarcerated. The jail transition service team has started working with that list, trying to narrow down who is appropriate for them to call. The goal is to help identify what community resources that we can connect them to provide support and keep them from returning to jail. They are hoping to close the gap of quick releases of individuals with significant mental health issues. Data will be collected to assess outcomes and how we are tracking what is happening.
* **Gudrun Retirement-**Gudrun shared that this will be her last meeting and the stepping up was near and dear to her heart. She reported that she did not want the meeting to be about her and she is not good with goodbyes.
* **Partner Updates:**
  + **EMS:** Helen reported that EMS is starting the MAT field induction program today. She reported that they are getting all the buprenorphine where it needs to be and making sure that enrollment packets are in the hands of the people who need them. The protocols are ready to go, people have been trained and they are hoping to get some inductions this week. The other grant that they have with SAMSHA, allows them to purchase Narcan to get out into the community. EMS is working with the Durham Police Department so that they can have Narcan for overdoses. DPD already have about 250 kits that they are holding right now and will be giving them about another 200 kits from their stock that is on back order now. However, they are going to be starting their training soon. EMS will also provide training for the library and Durham public health will provide the Narcan kits. Training on how to administer Narcan will also be provided to North Carolina Central University Police Department and student health. Durham Housing Authority has reached out to receive kits and training.
  + **Department of Public Safety:** No new updates
  + **Duke Psychiatry:** No new updates
  + **Duke Brain Science:** Nicole reported that they have new data plus students starting in the first week of June.
  + **Durham Police Department:** No new updates
  + **Criminal Legal Subcommittee:** Mike reported that Gudrun will be coming to the next criminal legal roundtable subcommittee meeting to provide advice particularly on ways that the task force can really supplement and bolster the ongoing efforts of various elements that CJRC is working on. One of the task force recommendations would be that the county should fully support stepping up initiatives. Mike also reported that he received a call from the jail requesting names of jail ministry volunteers who might be interested in participating in the return to in person visits. There is no clear date but plenty of planning.
  + **Jail Mental Health-**Gudrun reported that in next year budget, CJRC has requested anincrease in psychiatrist hours at the detention center and additional funds for jail mental health. The additional funds requested are to support the inmates and to provide radios to the mental health clients in the detention center. The additional hours for the psychiatrist are due to the reduction of residents in the rotation and to provide medication bridge for mental health court expansion initiative.

**Remaining 2023 Stepping Up Initiative Meeting Schedule**

**09/11/23 @** 1:30 pm-3:00 pm

**11/13/23 @** 1:30 pm-3:00 pm