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**Meeting Minutes**

July 10, 2023

**Attendees**: Nathania Allen, **RI International;** Michele Easter, **Duke Psychiatry;** Kelli Egnaczak, **Justice Services Department**; Eric Johnson, **Alliance Health;** Joseph King, **Durham Police Department**; Leigh Mazur, **HEART**; Roshanna Parker, **Justice Services Department;** Alan Pitstick, **Department of Community Corrections**; Lao Rubert, **Justice Services Department Committee/Local Reentry Council**; Tremaine Sawyer, **Justice Services Department**; Renee Shaw, **Justice Services Department**; Ryan Smith, **City of Durham Safety and Wellness;** Marc Strange; **Justice Services Department;** Tonya VanDeinse, **UNC School of Social Work**; Judge Doretta Walker, **Durham County, District 14;**

* **Subcommittee Updates**
  + Access to Care **(Renee Shaw and Roshanna Parker)**
    - **Forensic Community Support Team:** The Board of County Commissioners approved the Forensic Community Support Team funding request. Community Support Team was selected due to its flexibility. It is the expectation that the funding will serve approximately 50-60 clients. The team would consist of a licensed clinician, nurse, substance use professional, and an associate or paraprofessional. Roshanna is waiting to hear back from the County where they will place the funds. Eric reminded everyone that the RFP process is not a quick process. The question was asked if the funds must be used within the fiscal year or used until gone. Roshanna reported it depends where the funding is coming from.
    - **Educating the Community-**A brochure has been developed. Renee will send to the subcommittee for feedback.
  + Housing **(Lao Rubert)**
    - Housing Case Manager-A candidate has been selected and submitted to human resource on July 24th. There is hope that the person will be on board by the end of the month. Roshanna is not announcing the name of the candidate because the offer has not been accepted yet.
    - ARPA funds that we have for short term use (six month and up to a year) are now being utilized. Requirements include, justice involved, connected to the local re-entry council, no pending charges, Durham County resident, County of conviction must be Durham and attend appointments with the LRC case manager. The no pending charges is a state requirement however, LRC will still assist with finding other options. We should start getting some reports on this soon.
    - Mayors committee has been doing a lot of work on housing for justice involved. The system that they are endorsing is similar to LRC. However, Lao is not sure if the final recommendations have been issued. Roshanna reported that the final meeting with Bloomberg is July 11th. This will include some edits and wrap up. We should hear about a report coming from the mayor’s committee maybe by the end of month or early August. It was reported that we have made some good progress, but we need the funding to be sustainable. Roshanna added that conversation with the Bloomberg team is supportive housing with additional supports.

* + Mental Health Court Expansion Initiative **(Renee Shaw)**
    - **Vacant Position-**Positions that will be reposted include the Behavioral Health Supervisor (formally MHCC) and Justice Center Liaison. The case manager position has been filled and will begin on August 10th. Prior to that date Renee will schedule a time to arrange transition into DA and PD office. The individual will also have an office on the 6th floor in the drug court suite.
    - **Contracts** for medication bridge, anger management and sex offender treatment are complete**.** A meeting was held with Dr. Knaudt to develop a process for completing medication bridge.
    - **MOU-**In the process of getting this signed.
    - **Evaluation Process-**There is one more item that needs to be completed which is who will be completing the survey. Renee will schedule a meeting to finalize the evaluation process.
    - **Referrals-**Renee has received a total of 34 referrals. We are currently working with the DA and PD office to finalize which court the referrals will be placed.
    - **Presentation-**Renee has completed the MHCEI presentation to the district attorney’s office and specialty probation. Presentations at the public defender’s office will be scheduled. Times will be scheduled with the PD & DA office to present mental health court and drug court.
    - **Technical Assistance** continues to be provided by Ethan Kellyn with council of state government.
  + Jail Reentry-Post Release **(Marc Strange)**
    - Durham County is working with the council of state governments, and they have created a brief that they are referring to as the stepping up framework to advance racial equity. It is a guide for counties looking at grassroots efforts and small government efforts to address racial inequities in the criminal justice system. The virtual community of practice includes virtual community of practice which involves Durham, Charlotte, Madison, WI, Columbus, OH, and St Louis.
* **Partner Updates**
  + **Alliance Health-** Eric announced that UNC will be moving out of Wakebrook in Wake County. Due to their inability to keep staff, UNC will be consolidating their detox unit which will include 16 detox beds and 16 facility-based crisis beds. Essentially, they are losing 16 beds now in July rather than in November. Although this is a Wake County issue, it has the potential to affect surrounding counties. Nathania reported that she believes that they may be getting some of those folks from UNC within the last week. RI has seen a tremendous increase, and are very glad to have the extra guest coming in.
  + **UNC School of Social Work** – Tonya reported that they are conducting a reanalysis of some of CASAMI data after finding a programming error, she will come back with those updated results soon. They are giving sort of an upgrade to the formatting. There will be more community facing products and not just a big report to BJA.
  + **City of Durham Safety and Wellness** will be expanding their hours and service area over the course of the next year. The latest budget approved by council adds enough positions to move citywide seven days a week at least 12 hours a day, that is thirty more positions that they are hiring. They are working on a date to move to citywide service, right now it looks like sometime in October, but will be communicating out once that date is set. Currently, they operate primarily in a third of the city with the plan to move citywide and then be available seven days a week at least 12 hours a day for all four programs. Positions are posted online in whcthey are looking to hire peer support specialists, clinicians and others.

Ryan reported that they have applied and received the award announcement for a grant that the Governor's Crime Commission, in partnership with the Durham Police Department will create a dedicated pilot with a new IVC unit for involuntary commitments. The council has not accepted the ordinance. Instead of always transporting someone for petitions to the hospital for first exam, some of those could be conducted in the field. In addition, they are working with the police chief, the sheriff, and other key stakeholders to put the option on the table for some non-law enforcement transport for IVC's under certain conditions. State law allows it, but it will require that we amend the local transportation agreement to put that option on the table. Some of this is in planning and some are things that we could do now in terms of in field first exams. In field first exams is work that will be happening over the course of this year.

Ryan also announced that he wanted everyone to be aware that the governor did sign new legislation to make civilian traffic investigators something that can happen statewide. There were only two cities that had special authority from the General Assembly to do both Fayetteville and Wilmington, which they have been doing it for a few years. Now that this legislation has passed statewide, Durham will be part of a wider cohort or cities that are developing plans or when there are property damage, only vehicular accidents, and minor property damage with no injuries, instead of needing law enforcement to go out to do those police reports that will develop a civilian capacity to do that. This is also months, if not a year or more away. Community safety and wellness department is beginning to work on plans in partnership with the Police Department.

**Remaining 2023 Stepping Up Initiative Meeting Schedule**

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