



November 13, 2023

**Attendees**: Wendy Jacobs, **County Commissioner;** Rashid Lyon, **City of Durham Safety and Wellness;** 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**; 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, **Community Paramedics;** Tonya VanDeinse, **UNC School of Social Work**;

**Minutes:**

* **Bass/Data+ (Nicole Schramm-Sapyta)** Bass Connections and Data Plus are two student programs at Duke that Nicole is involved with. They have been collaborating with the Durham County detention facility and Duke Health, sharing, and analyzing data. Currently, a team of six students is working on data analysis. The team works with anonymized data from the Durham County detention facility, including information on incarcerations, charges, demographics, and reasons for release. They also utilize data from Duke Health, encompassing appointment dates, medical diagnoses, prescriptions, insurance details, and neighborhood information. The analysis consistently shows that individuals with comorbid substance use disorder and serious mental illness are most prone to rearrest. The presentation of this data includes a breakdown of rearrest rates over four years for various conditions. Individuals with multiple incarcerations are often frequent visitors to the emergency department.

The study emphasizes the correlation between arrest history and emergency department encounters. The team investigates neighborhood-level factors, showing associations between poverty rates, health insurance coverage, and both arrest rates and health system encounters. The team examines the cost of health visits for the formerly incarcerated population, exploring questions about cost-effectiveness and funding sources. Initial findings suggest higher costs for individuals with serious mental illness and a relationship between costs and the number of bookings. A completed project examines whether time spent in jail worsens mental health. The findings indicate an increased likelihood of a more serious mental health diagnosis after incarceration, particularly for longer stays. The team plans to conduct a focus group project involving community members with substance use disorder and/or serious mental illness who have been incarcerated in the Durham County detention facility in the last five years. The aim is to gain insights into recent data and understand the impact of incarceration on mental health.

* **Subcommittee Updates**
  + **Access to Care (Renee Shaw)**
    - **Community Education Discussion:** The subcommittee provided updates, focusing on a brochure created by the Justice Services Department staff. Alongside the minutes, the committee sought input on disseminating the brochure to effectively educate the community about available services and support in Durham County. Partners were encouraged to estimate their brochure needs based on monthly interactions to facilitate discussion on widespread information dissemination. The initiative aligns with the broader committee's goal of enhancing community awareness of available resources.
    - **Review of Brochure:** During the meeting, the focus was on the addition of a QR code to a brochure. Commissioner Jacobs expressed her enthusiasm for the brochure, emphasizing its utility for first responders in direct interactions. She encouraged input from all first responders regarding the brochure's potential uses and the number of copies needed, considering budget constraints. Wendy also suggested distribution points like libraries, public health, social services, and justice services. Nicole Schramm-Sapyta suggested including the brochure in belongings returned to individuals upon release from the detention facility, considering this audience as a prime target. She highlighted the relevance of addressing mental illness and proposed integrating the brochure into the MAT program's information packets distributed with Narcan kits. Roshanna S. Parker agreed with previous points and recommended starting with a small distribution to partner agencies involved in community initiatives. She emphasized the need to establish a budget for brochure production and suggested seeking financial assistance from partner agencies. Roshanna also mentioned grant budgets available for education resource materials. Lao Rubert added the perspective of ensuring continuous and effective dissemination of information, suggesting periodic updates or continuous efforts beyond online platforms. He emphasized the importance of making sure the information remains impactful and reaches the intended audience consistently over time**.**
    - **Forensic Community Support Team:** Roshanna Parker updated the group on progress with Alliance Health, noting delays due to the absence of a funding agreement for the proposal. She emphasized the need for a reporting template for the forensic Community Support Team and proposed defining reporting requirements, frequency, and content. A follow-up meeting with Kelly Goodfellow is scheduled for further discussion. Tonya Van Denise from the data subcommittee suggested involving the group in brainstorming indicators for reporting or considering a subgroup meeting. She highlighted the need for universal reporting metrics, and Nicole Schramm-Sapyta was open to the idea of collaborating on this effort. Renee and Nicole expressed agreement with the tracking of aggregate diagnostic information for mental health and substance use. They suggested monitoring substance use services, treatment engagement rates, and referral-to-treatment outcomes. Mike Sistrom emphasized the importance of identifying gaps in co-occurring services, evaluating service providers' coordination, and assessing assessment tools used in annual reporting for funding justification. The discussion led to the consideration of expectations for reporting in the Alliance Health contract. Mike suggested incorporating periodic evaluation conversations with the subgroup to ensure effective monitoring and collaboration. The group agreed to share ideas with Kelly to contribute to the establishment of clear reporting expectations in the upcoming contract.
  + **Mental Health Court Expansion Initiative (Renee Shaw)**-The justice center liaison and case manager positions have been filled for the Mental Health Court Expansion Initiative. The case manager started in her position in October. During an executive committee meeting, concerns were raised about the team's lack of information about clients coming to court and the delays in getting individuals enrolled in the program. To address these issues, efforts are underway to investigate the bottlenecks in the court process, particularly between the Public Defender’s/Attorney and the District Attorney’s. The justice center liaison's role in generating referrals is seen as effective, and regular meetings are held to address any ongoing issues. The District Attorney highlighted the challenge of obtaining victim approval in cases, leading to delays. Stakeholders are cooperative and responsive, expressing a commitment to resolving issues collaboratively. The District Attorney and judge insist on obtaining the victim's approval as mandated by the Victims’ Rights Act. Suggestions include reviewing guidelines and exploring alternatives, such as officer survivor care, to provide support to victims and potentially facilitate alternative forms of assistance and accountability for defendants. The focus is on improving communication among stakeholders and addressing the challenges within the existing legal framework.
* **Partner Updates**
  + **Familiar Faces Initiative-**Commissioner Jacobs shared exciting news about the evolution of the Familiar Faces Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative into the broader Durham Familiar Faces initiative. The initiative is now a comprehensive Durham City County effort, with three subcommittees meeting monthly and a larger task force convening quarterly with each in an early stage of planning. The first subcommittee, chaired by Shanta Addison from Housing for New Hope, focuses on supportive services needed for the Carver Creek campus and addresses various housing types, including transitional housing and reentry housing. The second subcommittee involves data analysis, bringing together experts from the Justice Services Department and the city to assess relevant data. Roshanna S. Parker discussed the third subcommittee, which she co-chairs with Ryan Smith, concentrating on a familiar faces pilot. This subcommittee aims to study a small group with infrequent contact with various systems to inform future initiatives.
  + **LRC-** Lao Rubert reported Malik Kennedy is fostering positive relationships with landlords, even as the ARPA funding diminishes. Additionally, ARPA money provides an option for emergency housing, a key consideration for the ongoing success of housing initiatives.
* **Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2024:** 
  + January 8, 2024
  + March 11, 2024
  + May 13, 2024
  + July 8, 2024
  + September 9, 2024
  + November 11, 2024 (Holiday-Discuss reschedule or cancellation)