

A screenshot of a video game

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

January 8, 2024

**Attendees**: Abena Bediako, **City of Durham Safety and Wellness**; Michele Easter, **Duke Psychiatry**; Kelli Egnaczak, **Justice Services Department;** Wendy Jacobs, **County Commissioner;** Eric Johnson**, Alliance Health;** Roshanna Parker, **Justice Services Department;** Alan Pitstick, **Department of Community Corrections**; Lao Rubert, **Local Reentry Council**; Tremaine Sawyer, **Justice Services Department**; Nicole Schramm-Sapyta, **Duke Institute for Brain Science;**  Renee Shaw, **Justice Services Department**; Ryan Smith, **City of Durham Safety and Wellness;** Mike Sistrom, **Criminal Legal System Task Force**; Marc Strange, **Justice Services Department**; Tonya VanDeinse, **UNC School of Social Work**; Doretta Walker, **Judge;** Laylon Williams, **Alliance Health**

**Minutes**

* **Justice Services Department Assistant Director Announcement (Roshanna Parker):** Roshanna provided an update on an internal promotion of Robin Heath, who will be taking on a new role within the department as the Justice Services Department Assistant Director.
* **Familiar Neighbor Pilot (Ryan Smith):** Ryan discussed the collaboration with JSD on a pilot program related to public safety, specifically focusing on familiar faces in the community. He explained that the pilot aims to understand and address the needs of neighbors who frequently interact with public safety, starting with a small group of 20 individuals. The goal is to provide intensive case management and support over an extended period. Roshanna added information regarding funding received for software related to familiar faces, emphasizing the importance of intentional decision-making before utilizing the funds. Concerns were raised by Kelli Egnaczak regarding detainees and the struggle with housing instability leading to repeated interactions with public safety. Smith and Parker acknowledged the challenges and discussed the need for funds to support initiatives like housing first programs. Lao emphasized the complexity of affordable housing for individuals with specific needs and behavioral challenges. The discussion also touched upon caution regarding new programs and the necessity of a person-centered approach. Ryan responded to questions regarding intensive case management, indicating that the specific approach would be tailored to individual needs, with a focus on learning from the pilot program to inform broader strategies. Commissioner Jacobs expressed excitement about the pilot program and emphasized the learning process involved. She highlighted the importance of supportive housing and the need for systemic investments from various stakeholders. Overall, the meeting addressed internal promotions, a pilot program for public safety, funding decisions for software, concerns about detainees and housing instability, and the broader challenges of integrated case management and supportive housing in the community. In the discussed passages, Mike Sistrom raised questions about the duration and nature of a pilot program, specifically focusing on the collaboration between the city and county, particularly in the Community Safety department. Ryan emphasized the three-year initiative and the opportunity for partnership and collaboration.
* **Carver Creek Campus Update (Commissioner Jacobs)-**Commissioner Jacobs provided an update on the Carver Creek Campus, mentioning securing funding and a field trip to permanent supportive housing campuses in Charlotte. A discussion was held regarding the need for a refreshed intercept map and the importance of cultivating broad support from private sectors and foundations. The intercept map was last updated in 2022. The focus shifts to the potential of creating a more specific intercept map and collecting data through a new pilot program.
* **Subcommittee Updates**
  + - **Access to Care (Renee Shaw):** The discussion moves to the subcommittee updates, including the Access to Care subcommittee's brochure with a QR code, cost-sharing considerations, and updates on the Forensic Community Support Team and Mental Health Court Expansion Initiative. The mental health court coordinator position is mentioned, and Chloe Ignacio is identified as the coordinator**.** Various updates from partners follow, including Harnett County joining Alliance Health, the application for a grant to the Governor's Crime Commission for an involuntary commitment unit, and progress on amending the local transportation agreement for non-law enforcement transport for involuntary commitments. Commissioner Jacobs expresses excitement about the involuntary commitment unit pilot and explores potential county participation. Ryan Smith elaborates on the steps involved, including the need for agreement from key partners and amendments to the local transportation agreement. Eric Johnson mentions the potential for accessing state funds for crisis initiatives, specifically alternative transportation, and suggests connecting with Lisa DeSantis from the state. The conversation concludes with positive updates on the Housing Case Manager funded by ARPA dollars, and Commissioner Jacobs expresses interest in connecting with the person overseeing the case manager for potential involvement in the Supportive Services committee.
    - **Educating Community-Brochure-** Renee discussed updating the Stepping Up Initiative brochure with a QR code and seeking partners to share the cost of printing 500 copies for nearly $500. Nicole asks for details on the brochure, and Roshanna suggests sharing it on websites. Wendy proposed coordinating funding contributions through email to cover additional printing costs. Discussion will be held at the next meeting.
    - **Forensic Community Support Team (Roshanna Parker)-** Roshanna discussed the progress made in establishing the Forensic Community Support Team. She has collaborated with Kelly Goodfellow and Melissa Payne. They have developed a contract template, sent it for legal review, and have a planned meeting with the Access to Care subcommittee to discuss the Request for Proposal (RFP). A small group has compiled questions about the data they want from potential contractors. JSD will contract with Alliance Health, who will then issue an RFP for community partners to perform the work. Legal is reviewing and finalizing the contract. The RFP is expected to be released by the end of the month. Collaboration with Eric has facilitated progress in moving the project forward.
    - **Mental Health Court Expansion Initiative (Renee Shaw)-** Renee reported that the Mental Health Court Expansion Initiative, is currently assisting 10 individuals with a strong commitment to increasing enrollment. The court liaison is effectively screening clients for both Mental Health Court, Mental Health Court Expansion, and the Drug Treatment Court, and we anticipate providing detailed data soon. Efforts are underway to enhance the accuracy and clarity of our data. Cloe Egnaczak has been hired as the new Mental Health Court Coordinator and is set to begin her role on February 19th.
* **Partner Updates**
  + **Alliance Health:** Eric Johnson announced that Harnett County is set to join Alliance Health on February 1st.
  + **City of Durham:** Ryan Smith, shared that HEART submitted a grant application in collaboration with the Durham Police Department to the Governor's Crime Commission. Pioneering a new response unit and involuntary commitment approach, involving a licensed clinical social worker and an EMT. The aim is to conduct on-site first examinations for cases where a concerned neighbor or family member seeks a custody order for someone, they believe needs treatment. Currently, law enforcement transports the person to the hospital for the examination, often resulting in release. With the pilot, mental health professionals will be on the scene, potentially preventing unnecessary hospital transport. This initiative aims to improve outcomes, reduce trauma, and provide more comprehensive documentation for cases that meet the standard. They are also working on amending the local transportation agreement to allow non-law enforcement transport for certain cases, collaborating with the police chief, Sheriff, and Duke. While the grant ordinance is pending City Council approval, they are preparing for implementation, likely in the spring after necessary training. The Magistrate’s Office has expressed strong support for this initiative, recognizing its potential benefits. The conversation begins with a consideration of expanding the HEART program and its potential impact on improving outcomes for involuntary commitments and voluntary access to care. It is Ryan’s hope that the HEART program transport will encourage voluntary participation, emphasizing the need for key partners' agreement to amend the local transportation agreement. He discussed the involvement of the County Commissioners, the importance of the sheriff's approval, and potential challenges with Duke's participation. Eric Johnson provided insight into the process, clarifying that Alliance Health wouldn't need to be involved and cautioning about legal complexities. Eric announced that the state is setting aside $113 million for crisis initiatives, specifically focusing on alternative transportation. He suggested that Durham could tap into this funding for the ongoing project. and suggested connecting with Lisa DeSantis from the state.
  + **LRC/Housing Subcommittee:** Lao Rubert provides an update on the ARPA dollars allocated for a housing case manager, expressing optimism about its positive impact on initiatives like Carver Creek and Familiar Faces.
* **Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2024:** 
  + May 13, 2024
  + July 8, 2024
  + September 9, 2024
  + November 11, 2024 (Holiday-Discuss reschedule or cancellation)