

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday, September 27, 2016

**Members Present:** Michael Becketts, Clarence Birkhead, Lawrence Campbell, Sherry Honeycutt Everett, Shannon McCabe, Marcia Morey, Umar Muhammad, Marcia Owen, Gudrun Parmer, Kristen Rosselli, Lao Rubert, Vernon O’Mar Taylor

**Member Absent:** Jackie Brown, Adam Clayton, Roger Echols, Celeste Kelly, Clarence Maynor, Damion Moore, Brenda Howerton, Eric Ireland, Ann Oshel, Jodi Miller, Candace Rashada, Charlie Reece

**Guest:** Pearlie Williams, Jeb Dennis

**Staff:** Celia Jefferson, Peter Baker, Roshanna Parker, LaToya Sutton

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Lawrence M. Campbell opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Mr. Campbell recognized Judge Morey for being selected as the Judge of the Year by the NC Women’s Attorney Association. Judge Morey noted that any time an award is given, others are involved. She thanked the CJAC committee for supporting her work through everything they do.

Introduced Jeb Dennis, APD, who will handle first appearance at the jail, work to keep jail population down and identify people with mental health issues for possible diversion.

**Review and Approve July Minutes**

Mr. Campbell asked the committee to review the minutes. Judge Morey moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Gudrun Parmer properly seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

**Subcommittee Reports**

*Reentry –* Roshanna Parker, co-chair, reported that the subcommittee met on August 31. The meeting discussion was focused on housing with various housing providers in attendance. CJRC completed an application in response to a Request for Proposals from NC Public Safety to be an intermediary area for local re-entry council, which includes funding for 1.5 FTE positions ($150,000). Six counties were eligible. We expect to hear by the end of the year. Lao Rubert, co-chair, thanked the staff on their work to complete the RFP response.

*Stepping Up Initiative* – Peter Baker reported on the activities of the initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to reduce the number of inmates with mental health issues in jail. One approach is to take individuals to the Crisis Center in lieu of jail. Staff at the Recovery Response Center (RRS), formerly Durham Center Access, is doing good work with the police department to educate officers about the opportunity to take persons with mental health issues to the crisis stabilization center. The subcommittee has been reviewing opportunities at various intercepts. Pretrial Services interviews individuals prior to first appearance; their numbers are increasing since they conduct risk assessments on most persons. CJRC has moved a staff member to the pretrial division and will increase the operating hours to cover the Magistrate area until 8PM beginning in October. Pretrial is also seeking someone to fill a .6FTE for weekend coverage. The jail is looking to open a high acuity pod in January, the Jail MH team is fully staffed now (3 social workers + supervisor). CJRC is working on designing a Mental Health Diversion Court. Finally, the County is waiting to hear about the status of the BJA grant submission (Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program). Gudrun discussed the work being done to divert persons under the influence from being taken to jail on a 24-hour hold. Staff at the Recovery Response Center added additional 24-hour chairs to increase their capacity so law enforcement can take the person to RRC instead of to the jail. Durham County jail sees 6-15 persons per month coming into jail to sober up. Ms. Pearlie Williams, NAMI, thanked the committee for working to create a mental health court. The high acuity pod will house 24 persons. The next meeting for the Stepping Up Initiative is November 14 at 1:30PM.

Judge Morey shared that there were many concerns expressed by citizens about the condition of the jail – sanitation, food, communication, high acuity pod. This committee can also look at these issues. For example, get more information out about what a high acuity pod really means.

*Domestic Violence* - Sherry Honeycutt Everett shared that the subcommittee met on August 25th. The team is looking at a shift in policy on how we assist victims with getting temporary emergency restraining orders. Crisis center staff is not present at the Magistrate’s office after regular business hours. The Durham Crisis Response Center received a grant to set up a Family Justice Center. The AOC submitted a federal grant to allow more districts to have electronic filing for ex-parte orders, which immediately sends the order to the Sheriff’s Office for service. The committee’s next step is to take an in-depth look at community resources. Next meeting date is tentatively set for October 27 at 8:15AM.

Michael Beckett added that DSS applied for a federal grant that would teach first responders how to identify elements of domestic violence and to create referral resources. The grant would also provide clinical services to the non-offending parent.

**Is Our Bail System Leaving People in Jail Because They Are Poor**? (Continuation of last meeting’s discussion)

Gudrun Parmer reported that Durham has an opportunity to apply for a $50,000 15-month grant from the McArthur Foundation to reduce over-usage of the jail, which includes technical assistance from the Urban Institute.

The committee discussed possible ideas for the McArthur Foundation grant: reduce jail population by X% or average length of stay by mobilizing services faster, reducing “failure-to-comply”, creating a convenience court date, deprioritizing simple possession, etc.

Mecklenburg County’s pilot pretrial assessment tool has resulted in a significant jail population reduction.

The Crime Cabinet is receiving a presentation from the NC Harm Reduction Coalition on LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) at its next meeting on November 9th.

**Member Updates**

Gudrun Parmer reported that the Durham County Commissioners approved a community health worker position working with persons coming out of prison with chronic illnesses. Durham Public Health secured the funding and will house the employee.

**Public Comments**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15PM.

**Next Meeting – 22 November 2016 @ 4:00 pm. (*Tentative Date)***