

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Minutes Tuesday, February 26, 2019

**Members Present:** Vernetta Alston, Don Baker, Tara Blackley, Syretta Hill, Wendy Jacobs, Gudrun Parmer, Kristen Rosselli, Lao Rubert, Omar Taylor, Alexander Williams, Marcia Owen, Tamario Howze, Satana Deberry

**Members Excused:** Peter Wooldridge, Celeste Kelly, Ben Rose, Jodi Miller

**Members Absent:** Clarence Birkhead, Lawrence Campbell, Anthony Marsh, Ann Oshel, Shamieka Rhinehart

**Guests:** Atinuke Driver (Durham CAN), Courtney McCollum (City of Durham)

**Staff:** Roshanna Parker, Demetrius Lynn, Kelley Waggy

**Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting was called to order at 4:05pm, CJAC Vice Chair Kristen Rosselli welcomed everyone and asked those present to introduce themselves.

**Review and Approve November Minutes**

Kristen asked the committee to review the minutes. Vernetta moved to accept the minutes, Omar seconded, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

**Employment Services**

***StepUp Durham -***Syretta Hill explained StepUp as a program. The current average wage earned is $11.91. StepUp is in the process of creating vocational opportunities. They will work on home repairs and renovations; the plan is to begin Fall 2019.  On April 17, 2019 their long-term curriculum, Step2, was put in place. They have $25,000 via Durham Tech for those interested in going back to school. StepUp is looking to launch the next Step2 Spring cohort on April 9th. Syretta stated you do NOT have to graduate StepUp to attend Step2, just that you are working at least 25 hours per week. StepUp works with EVERYONE that is eligible. Sex offenders are not currently being served. StepUp is working on being more data driven. The current data shows clients are 56% justice involved, 32% have housing needs, 27% are in substance use recovery, and 10% have experienced domestic violence. Durham Tech is exploring adding a Lineman course that could be flexible on background.

***City of Durham***- Courtney McCullum described a pilot program for 10 positions within City departments. The positions will pay $15.00 per hour and provide full benefits for 6 months with the intention to assist participants secure permanent placements. The 2nd cohort will incorporate additional positions in the private sector and should start in September or October. Research for the project was provided through the Bloomberg grant. City funding is used to support the positions and supportive services. The positions are advertised as transitional jobs and referrals come from the LRC’s employment subcommittees.

***Durham County*** - Gudrun stated that Durham County has 6 temporary positions for CJRC clients. The County’s positions come with no benefits and they do not convert to full time. Durham County met with the City’s team last week and will work on modeling the current program after the City’s project. Roshanna stated that CJRC currently offers an employment readiness training, however this has not shown the best results. The 10-week program has 20 sessions, Durham Tech comes Tuesdays and Thursdays to work with clients in the Program. They then make referrals to various other entities. The Criminal Justice Resource Center also offers a computer lab on Mondays for clients to receive one-on-one help.

***TROSA -*** Kristen Rosselli noted that TROSA’s goal is to help people have a thriving life. They are the only long-term treatment facility in Durham. TROSA’s change model is rooted in the need for behavior and thought changes, learning how to be accountable to yourself and others, and learning how to be an asset to a community. TROSA also helps residents overcome employment barriers, such as repairs to teeth, facial tattoo removal, barbers, interview clothing, reinstatement of Driver’s Licenses, resume preparation etc. TROSA is also working to find more companies that will work with formerly justice-involved individuals.

**DEAR Project Update (Durham Expunction & Restoration Program)**

Joseph Laizure provided an update on DEAR. In collaboration with the City of Durham, CJRC, Legal Aid and others DEAR is making expungement relief accessible. The project is currently fully staffed with 4 attorneys and 1 paralegal. They are located on the 6th floor in the courthouse. DEAR is assisting with mass relief to forgive old court fees and is also offering Driver’s License restoration services. The unsung heroes are the Clerks of Courts for the vast amount of paperwork they have to process. The goal is for individualized expungement services to be completed the same day as release. DEAR is also working on reaching outside of the courthouse. However, they are in the early stages with possibilities of clinics and community intakes. DEAR services are offered via drop in, Monday through Friday 9:30am to 3:30pm. The website is [www.Deardurham.org](http://www.Deardurham.org). Information cards are handed out in courtroom 4D and will soon be handed out in all courtrooms.

**Committee Updates**

***LRC –*** The Local Reentry Council assists persons with reentry from state prisons and the local detention facility, with the majority of referrals coming from STARR. Demetrius Lynn reported 82 active clients and employment placements averaging $10.47 per hour with 62% to 72% are still employed after 3 to 6 months. LRC spent $19,750 on housing assistance in the past year.

***Stepping Up*** –

* The Mental Health Court Diversion Program has received 54 referrals which resulted in 29 admissions this fiscal year. The new federal grant “Integrated Reentry” for individuals with co-occurring substance use and mental illness is still awaiting budget approval. The first year is a planning year and a committee is in the process of completing the required Planning and Implementation Guide. The P&I Guide will require approval by the Department of Justice.
* CJRC has submitted a request for additional mental health coverage in the detention facility in next year’s budget.
* The Sequential Intercept Mapping workshop took place on February 7and 8, 2019. The workshop was well attended, but the group was not able to complete the Action Plan. The Stepping Up Committee will continue working towards completion. The next meeting is April 8 at 1:00pm.

**Announcements**

Marcia Owen invited everybody to attend the Vigil against Gun Violence at 7pm on Thursday at Shepherd’s House.

Gudrun Parmer asked the committee if they would like to take advantage of the Pretrial Justice Institute’s technical assistance visit in March and it was decided to host a conversation with PJI on pretrial assessments.

Satana Deberry announced that the Detention Center has a daily population of about 400 inmates. This is the lowest number of inmates in over 20 years.

**Election of 2019 Officer**

Kristen Rosselli presented a slate of candidates for CJAC’s 2019 officer positions. The nominations were Jodi Miller for Chair, Vernetta Alston for Vice-Chair and Kristen Rosselli for Secretary. She advised that all candidates had agreed to serve if elected. She asked for any additional nominations from the floor. There was none. Syretta Hill made the motion to accept the slate of 2019 Officer as presented, Marcia Owen seconded the motion, motion to accept the slate as presented carried unanimously.

**2019 Meeting Dates**

The committee agreed on the following meeting dates for the remainder of 2019:

30 April 2019

25 June 2019

27 August 2019

29 October 2019

Meeting adjourned

**Next Meeting: April 30, 2019 @ 4:00 pm.**