



Durham County Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

February 26, 2013

Committee Members Present: Brenda Howerton, Marcia Morey, Marcus Weeks, Leon Stanback, Ann Oshel, Dianne Smith, Lao Rubert, Gayle Harris, Ellen Whelan-Wuest, Tony Taylor,

Committee Members Absent: Loretta Clyburn, Osborne Clayton, Antonia Pedroza DeWarren Langley, Jim Hardin

Staff: Gudrun Parmer, Peter Baker, Celia Jefferson, Meredith McMonigle, Roshanna Parker

Guests: Sharon Elliott-Bynum, Kristen Rosselli, Doug Scott, Gilda Womble, Jackie Brown, Larry Parker, Nancy Gordon

Welcome and Introductions

Judge Morey opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Additional CJAC Members

Judge Morey's first agenda item was to approve additional members who were present. Secret ballots were available upon request. Invited candidates for the vacant positions introduced themselves and briefly summarized their experience and interest. Judge Morey proposed calling out the nominees on the slate and proceeding with an open vote. She stated that one category had two candidates who are not present and that category will also be voted on.

Judge Morey motioned that the nominee for Educational Institution was Doug Scott who was approved unanimously.

Judge Morey motioned that the nominee for Local Mental Health Provider was Dr. Sharon Elliott Bynum who was approved unanimously.

Judge Morey motioned that the nominee for Local Non-Profit Organization was Gilda Womble who was approved unanimously.

Judge Morey motioned that the nominee for Housing Provider was Kristin Rosselli who was approved unanimously.

Judge Morey motioned that the nominee for Ex-Offender was Larry Parker who was approved unanimously.

Judge Morey motioned that the nominee for Specialty Court Judge was Judge Nancy Gordon who was approved unanimously.

Judge Morey motion that the nominee for Employment and Training was Jackie Brown who was approved unanimously.

Judge Morey advised that the nominees for Faith-Based Organization were Rev. Clarence Maynor and Marcia Owen. Marcia Owen was selected unanimously by show of hands.

Judge Morey stated that we would contact Rev. Maynor and suggest possibly another category to him.

CJAC Shared Values

Judge Morey had distributed a brief survey at the meeting in November 2012. All responders agreed to the committee's shared values, which had been established when the committee was created. The work of CJAC will be guided by these shared values. (See distributed handouts for detailed results of the survey).

In the survey, members were also asked about priorities and Durham's weaknesses and strengths. Judge Morey asked if anyone had a wish list they would like to share. Judge Gordon stated that her wish was to have a veteran court in Durham. Since Durham did not have enough services that could support a mental health court, a veteran court would serve a similar population. Marcus Weeks supported Judge Gordon's sentiment and shared when he was recently at the VA, he learned about veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom needing to be referred for mental health treatment, PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, etc.

Judge Gordon would also like to see an initiative for fathers to be involved with their children, to re-engage them so that when they pay their child support they will have an opportunity to see their children. Gayle Harris mentioned that Public Health and Parenting of Strong Families have just received notification of a grant to bring an evidence based practice called Positive Parenting Program to Durham. The program will have a coordinator and trainers that will work with families with children ages 0-16.

Victoria Petersen of Triangle Citizens Rebuilding Communities, who is not a member of the committee, joined the discussion sharing that over the last several years she had seen a lot of discrimination going on in the community and the state pertaining to African American men, particularly when they have a criminal background. It is already hard enough for them to get employment, but when they do not have an education and a criminal background, companies really use this as an excuse not to hire them. She would like to see a component added for serious jobs/ employment geared toward black men getting employed particularly for those who have made mistakes in the past.

Meredith McMonigle reported working with the Southern Coalition for Social Justice on a small pilot project to coordinate legal services for people with a criminal record to apply for a certificate of relief. This new certificate is part of the 2011 Justice Reinvestment Act, while they do not know how it would work, they were interested in taking some people through the process to see how difficult it is in terms of seeking employment. The eligibility requirements are very strict and narrow. It might be challenging to find people who are eligible to apply. Meredith

indicated she would send an email when the date and location are confirmed. Jackie Brown will ask her pastor about hosting this project if Meredith cannot find a church.

Victoria responded that there needed to be a separate component that would focus on getting black men employed. Jackie Brown stated her program did just that with a 70 percent placement rate for men and women. 65% were men and 35% were women, over 80% of their populations were ex-offenders. Lao Rubert stated that there are some grants for programs that start in the jail and continue afterwards like the Second Chance Act Grant that would support a community college to develop a technical job training program.

Lao Rubert also had a wish list for young offenders. One was to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction since NC is the only state in the nation that considers 16years olds as adults. She stated that it would be great if Durham could do a pilot program. There were a lot of ways we could move ahead together as a community, since we do not know what the legislature will do. There has been a lot of work done on the fiscal side and there could be a lot of saving.

Brenda Howerton talked about jobs for ex-felons. The County has taken the question about criminal convictions off the employment application, but the challenge has been to get private businesses to embrace this kind of hiring. Judge Morey stated that maybe someone from the Chamber of Commerce should be on this committee. She asked members to work on adding a business person to this committee.

Updates from Current Programs and Initiatives

Judge Morey stated that at every meeting, she would like to hear from a few programs to

- a. Get updates
- b. Find out how they are doing
- c. What are the program strengths
- d. What problems have incurred
- e. What could help enhance the program

Committee members should send suggestions about what they would like to place on the agenda so that this group can focus and let their voice be heard.

Peter Baker reported on **Jail Mental Health Services**. Peter reported that CJRC has mental health staff in jail that sees all inmates who self-report mental health challenges upon booking. He presented information about suicide precautions, security observation, psychiatric clinic, individual evaluation, and medication management. The provided statistics covered a number of years. (See attachment for statistical data).

Up to 182 individuals have been placed on suicide precautions through the course of the year.

Security Observation is for inmates who have a tendency to be aggressive or due to their charges. In 2010-12, the number jumped by 200 people more than normal.

Psychiatric Clinic: a psychiatrist comes once a week and spends six hours a week at the clinic. The psychiatrist saw 210 people in 2002, in 2012 she saw 600 people, primarily to prescribe medication. Through a relationship with Gurley Pharmacy staff can get medications immediately to inmates. One of the problems is a dramatic increase in clients and no funding to increase the psychiatrist's time at the jail. 1,614 inmates received meds in 2012.

Individual Evaluation: Inmates are screened at booking for mental health needs, but they also have an option now to submit a sick call and staff has to see them. At present, the mental health therapists are seeing 3,532 clients in a year's time.

Peter Baker moved on to report that 103 individuals interviewed by Pretrial Services in December. Every morning, pretrial staff interviews individuals who are scheduled for first appearance in jail for possible pretrial release, but only 19 of 103 were eligible for Pretrial Services. The primary reason for ineligibility is not having a stable address. Staff has only a small window of time to verify addresses in time for court. From July 1, 2012 to now, Pretrial Services interviewed 764 people and 150 have actually been placed on pretrial release supervision. Pretrial Services is looking for other ways to capture more of these individuals. Once pretrial supervision, staff assures that they are in compliance with their release order; they also make reminder phone calls to assure clients come to their court hearings.

Peter Baker then provided a brief summary of **Adult Drug Treatment Court**. CJRC has an agreement with Alliance Behavioral HealthCare for a staff person in drug court to monitor the progress of the 37 clients. CJRC has just applied for a BJA grant for the expansion of drug court which would increase the capacity by 15–20 clients who are dually diagnosed with mental health and substance abuse disorders. This expansion would include a mental health therapist at CJRC to work with the additional clients and a part-time staff in drug court to handle case management.

Gayle Harris suggested that she and Peter talk about how the psychotropic drugs from the jail add to the cost of medical care. Judge Morey asked for a follow up on this matter. Gayle informed the committee of Goal 2 in the County's Strategic Plan: Health and Well Being for all. One of the initiatives is to promote the Crisis and Intervention Team, a 40-hour training for law enforcement. As part of the initiative, the County is also offering workshops in Mental Health First Aide and Mental Health 101. Mental Health 101 can familiarize first responders with the big 5 or 6 mental health disorders and teach them how to identify and work with customers. Mental Health First Aide is a two day course for county employees and the community to identify when "something is just not right" and get people where they need to be.

Dianne Smith reported on **TASC**. From October 1, 2012 to January 31, 2013 TASC assessed 345 individuals referred by probation, with 222 clients referred to CJRC for substance abuse treatment. CJRC is the main referral source for TASC and CAARE is the other place where clients are referred. TASC has a 44% no-show rate. Dianne explained that there is a TASC fee, but if clients do not have the fee, they are seen regardless. Tony Taylor stated that he did not know the reason for the high no-show rate, but high risk offenders may be considered for quick dips, two or three days in jail, if they are non-compliant. Dianne stated that through the NIATx project, that CJRC is involved in, the number of clients not going to treatment has gone down since CJRC moved to a walk in system which has improved clients' treatment compliance.

Judge Morey asked for any other comments. Judge Gordon asked that a report with TASC numbers be created for this meeting. Judge Stanback mentioned domestic violence and stated that someone from his office would compile a domestic violence report for the next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held at 4pm Tuesday April 30, and all future meetings would be held on the last Tuesday of every other month at 4pm.

Judge Morey opened the floor for guests to speak. Victoria Petersen shared that women at the jail are really going through a lot. A pod that is supposed to hold between 30 and 40 women is holding 60 to 80 women and some are sleeping on the floor. She also found out that the inmates are charged different fees for various services when a lot of the people are poor. She feels that fees should not be charged and should be redirected back to the inmates. Judge Gordon stated that the judges have been ordered by the State of NC to charge fees for people who go to jail. To change this, Ms. Petersen would have to talk with the people in Raleigh. Ms. Petersen stated that there were bugs, and no heat in the rooms. Also, she let everyone know that tax dollars are supposed to be used to maintain the jail.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.