



Durham County Criminal Justice Advisory Committee October 22, 2013

Committee Members Present: Lao Rubert, Brenda Howerton, DeWarren K. Langley, Kristian Rosselli, A. R. Marsh, Sr., Marcia A. Owen, Gilda P. Womble, Gayle Harris, Adam Clayton, Judge Nancy Gordon

Committee Members Absent: Judge Marcia Morey, Jackie Brown, Sharon Elliott-Bynum, Jim Hardin, Ann Oshel, Larry Parker, Antonia Pedroza, Douglas Scott, Diane Smith, Leon Stanback, Tony Taylor, Marcus, Ellen Whelan-Wuest

Guests: James Osborn, Clarence Maynor, Zakilya Taylor-Thompson

Staff: Oprah Keyes, Celia Jefferson, Roshanna S. Parker, Peter Baker

Welcome and Introductions

Lao Rubert-co-chair opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

After reviewing the minutes, Lao motion that the minutes be adopted as presented. DeWarren motion that the minutes should be adopted as presented. Action: Seconded and Approved.

Reports from CJAC subcommittees:

Veterans Court Judge Gordon reported that a veteran's court is due to open on November 13th in Harnett County. She shared with the committee that Roshanna attended a Governor's Crime Commission (GCC) grant writing workshop to bring back information to the subcommittee if they decided to prepare a proposal. Judge Gordon talked with an individual at GCC about the process Harnett County went through to get their funding. She shared that the subcommittee had been struggling with getting their hands on a number of people who interface with the Criminal Justice System who are veterans. She stated that eventually they will have to figure out if they have a discharge that entitle them to benefits or a discharge we will have to assist with upgrades so that they could interface with benefits. There are five different discharges, three that qualify for benefits and two that do not. Also, there is a legal process to go through to update discharges. She commented that it was amazing at the number of people that are interested in this population. She talked with someone from GCC about how they figured out a way to get the numbers so there would not be any duplicates. When you apply for grant money you will be asked about duplications. Gudrun suggested that if we could get the VA to take a sample of the

number of months and go through every inmate list that is in the computer and check birthdays and the names that are in the jail then the numbers in the jail will not be duplicated. There is a concern about calling things specialty courts. One can make an argument that these are all criminal courts targeted for special services. She is aware that the Board of County Commissioners is interested in a mental health court, but there is not a lot of funding for mental health. Judge Gordon stated that there may be alternative ways to get everyone needs met. She commented that we really do not want grant funded courts. The goal is to get the veteran court funded as any other court. She shared that Nick Black from Stop Soldier Suicide is working on a mentoring group for us so that people will have someone to call to figure out how to best connect with resources. He is young and has an enormous amount of enthusiasm and commitment. Judge Gordon noted that the next meeting of the Veterans Court Subcommittee is November 13th in at 8:00 am in the meeting room and welcome members to attend.

Raise the Age Subcommittee

Lao presented a brief update on Raise the Age Subcommittee. She explained that there are 15 representatives and great representation from the sheriff and police. We are listening to what people concerns are working through issues and looking for the possibility of a civil citation program, how that might work and for whom. Leo noted that the Subcommittee is doing the same kind of numbers analysis as Judge Gordon with the Veterans Court Subcommittee. Gudrun shared that the sheriff and police department are already doing citations and diverting young people to programs. She commented that the JCPC funded program providers have services for youth beyond the age of sixteen such as Teen Court & Restitution and the P.R.O.U.D. program. Lao announced that the next meeting of the Raise the Age Subcommittee is October 23rd.

Pipeline to Employment Subcommittee

Oprah Keyes, intern at CJRC reported on a white paper currently released by the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the US Department of Labor. She shared how the report pertains to Durham County as it relates to the assessment tool on the first page. She commented on how the report stresses the need to assess and screen the individuals that we work with by matching their needs to resources and services that are available. The Assess Risk and Needs approach responds to their risk of recidivism. She briefly touched on how integration and intensive levels of engagement with employment programming promotes job readiness for individuals in the justice system. She also mentioned delivery of targeted service packages based on risk/readiness groupings. Oprah summarized the 66 page report as a reference for reading and a copy was distributed at the meeting.

DeWarren requested that Oprah disseminate the Report to the Committee via email for future reference.

MDC presented on models of transitional employment from other cities. They explain the organizational structure of transitional employment and how it works and how to transition into a

job setting from incarceration. They recommended that this is something we should look at as a county and look at funding and possibly pursue transitional employment as an opportunity. The next meeting is November 12th at 1:00 pm. The subcommittee is looking at federal grants specifically for transitional employment. Coordinating one page for employers to discuss the benefit of hiring formerly incarceration persons. Dispelling myths or coming up with other categories that might influence employer to hire or consider it. We also should talk with employers to find out what their barriers are. Brenda added work crews. How do we have jobs available for individuals when they first come out of being incarcerated? The longer you wait, the harder it will take to get a job.

Alliance BHC, Community Relations – Crisis and Incarceration

James Osborn presented on Alliance Behavioral Healthcare. Alliance manages care directed to citizens in the Alliance region with severe and persistent mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities and substance abuse issues who have limited or no ability to pay for services. He pointed out that the public behavioral health managed care organization (MCO) serving the people of Durham, Wake, Cumberland and Johnston counties. Alliance is responsible for authorizing and paying for Medicaid, State and locally-funded services, provides information and access to services; care management and care coordination to assist individuals with MH/SA/IDD issues thrive in the services and supports they need. The toll-free 24/7 Access and Information Center have qualified professionals in the center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. More detailed information was distributed at the meeting.

Announcements

DeWarren announced that Antioch Builds Community, Inc. will host the 2014 Reentry Faith Conference on Saturday, January 11, 2014. He noted that he would disseminate additional information about the Conference to the Committee once it was available.