



Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

Tuesday July 28, 2015

Committee Members Present: Marcia Owen, Kristen Rosselli, Gudrun Parmer, Spencer Noble, Sherry Honeycutt Everett, Clarence Birkhead, Marcia Morey, Candace Rashada, Lao Rubert, Michael Becketts

Committee Members Absent: Gilda Womble, Jackie Brown, Clarence Maynor, Jeffery Clark, A.R. Marsh Sr., Lawrence M. Campbell, R.A. Aleem, Ann Oshel, Damion Moore, Roger Echols, Gayle Harris, Celeste Kelly

Staff: Kelly Andrews, Peter Baker, Roshanna Parker, Celia Jefferson

Welcome and Introductions

Clarence Birkhead, vice chair opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Religious Coalition for a Non Violent Durham (RCND)

Marcia Owen, Executive Director of RCND, presented an overview of the coalition, which was founded by Mr. Leslie Dunbar and Rev. Mel Williams in 1992. They began meeting in response to pervasive gun violence in Durham because they believe violence is a human rights issue as well as a legal and spiritual issue. RCND is a nonprofit organization comprised of people of faith that actively seek an end to violence plaguing Durham neighborhoods. Their mission is to prevent and rectify the injustice of violence that segregates Durham and diminishes our humanity. Since 1992, RCND has hosted radically-inclusive monthly community luncheons (4th Thursday) to bring people together to share peace making strategies for direct action. In 1997, they started prayer vigils at the site of homicides to bear witness to the injustices of violence and to the children left behind in the neighborhoods. Since then, they have organized over 200 vigils. Marcia invited the committee to join RCND Thursday July 28 at 7:30pm to a prayer vigil for Amir Mahmood who was shot and killed July 4th while working in the Joy Food Mart off of Roxboro Rd. In addition, they host a dinner twice a month following the healing service at the Shepherd House.

Marcia shared that at the core foundation of understanding who they are in relation to all people stirred them to recognize that they had made a terrible mistake by excluding offenders. Marcia begun to meet with Gudrun to see how they could motivate, activate and organize the faith community to be in an intentional relationship with people coming from prison. Both the vigils and the Reconciliation and Reentry (R&R) Ministry are rally ministries where we listen deeply, offer respect and lead with core value. In January of 2004, the R&R Ministry joined in partnership with the Durham County Criminal Justice Resource Center. They also received a grant with Durham Congregation in Action.

Marcia informed the committee of Second Helpings, a project they are pursuing to provide living-wage and fault-tolerant jobs and support services to men and women leaving prison. They are working with Durham Cares, to raise \$18,000 to buy and equip a food trailer. They will partner with Core Catering. Candace Rashada noted that Durham Tech offers scholarships for short-term skills training such as the Culinary Arts for people to get their ServSafe Certification. ServSafe training is also held at CJRC. More information about the R&R Ministry, in partnership with CJRC, was distributed at today's meeting.

Stepping Up Initiative

Gudrun Parmer, Director of CJRC, informed the committee about the Stepping Up Initiative sponsored by the National Association of Counties. The purpose of this initiative is to bring national attention to the high number of persons with mental illness in local jails and to find solutions to significantly reduce this occurrence. The Durham County Commissioners passed a resolution to be part of this larger action.

Gudrun asked the CJAC committee to create a subcommittee made up of its members and other interested persons to work on this initiative. Commissioner Fred Foster is very interested in this issue and will be joining the subcommittee. The subcommittee will need to get a sample of the number of people with mental illnesses in our jail, evaluate the data, evaluate evidence-based approaches, develop an action plan, and present the plan to the commissioners. Gudrun is hoping to have two graduate-level social work interns look at a 10-20% screening sample. There are also staff members that work in the jail that can help. Gudrun will ask Alliance and the Sheriff Department to help us with this issue as well. Judge Morey suggested that we recruit someone from RTI to be a member of this subcommittee.

CJAC Subcommittees

Pipeline to Employment

Roshanna Parker, CJRC Assistant Director, reported that the subcommittee has not met in several months. However, at the last meeting they talked about coming back to the larger CJAC committee to get additional direction on desired outcomes of subcommittee. She shared that the Durham Workforce Development Board and NC Works have come together to form a Provider Collaborative for Durham. This group will focus on developing a collective strategy to help justice-involved individuals with multiple barriers to employment. It is headed by the Workforce Development Board, which has a direct link with employment. They are planning an additional meeting to talk about who should be at the table and how to move forward.

Our subcommittee has the same intent as the Provider Collaborative, except that we do not have a direct link with employment. Roshanna asked the committee members to consider whether the Provider Collaborative might be more productive use of our members' time instead of a separate CJAC subcommittee. Roshanna added that CJAC initially started out with the following subcommittees: raise the age, pipeline to employment, and veteran's court. Therefore, CJAC might want to re-examine our subcommittees to determine where we can make the biggest difference. Roshanna will have a conversation with Commissioner Brenda Howerton, chair of the Pipeline to Employment subcommittee, to update her on the committee's discussion and to

get direction from her about letting the employment pipeline subcommittee be replaced by the provider collaborative.

Re-entry Council

Gudrun reported that the re-entry council subcommittee has not met since the last CJAC meeting. She directed the committee's attention to the affiliation letter in their packet from Nicole Sullivan, DPS, to Lawrence Campbell, CJAC Chair. The affiliation letter expedites the process and allows the committee to begin work. She asked the committee if they wanted to wait and see if the budget will have additional funds for re-entry councils. Lao Rubert, Director of Carolina Justice Policy Center, stated that there should be enough funds in the budget for five re-entry councils as well as the programs Durham is already funding. In addition, there is some funds for access to drug treatment. Lao suggested that we let the subcommittee meet and give a recommendation to CJAC.

Raise the Age (Misdemeanor Diversion Program for 16 & 17 year olds)

Kelly Andrews, Misdemeanor Diversion Program (MDP) Coordinator, reported that they are in the process of submitting their first year report to Governor's Crime Commission for this past year. This year it will take a few more months to get the numbers on kids that were officially out for that 365-day window. They are tracking and watching what is happening with the young kids once they successfully complete the program. Since the program started they have had 116 referrals, 112 of those referrals were opened, and five had to be sent back because the child gave a fictitious name or contact information to a police officer. Out of those, 110 successfully completed or on track to complete. Two kids were unsuccessful due to new charges. Parental or guardians involvement occurred with every kid with the exception of two. The numbers are at 65% for males and 35% for females. They had 52 single offenses. In the additional wrap around services they have done 198 referrals, most from mental health and substance abuse. The disproportionate minority contact is very high in the program.

The number one referral is for educational services, tutoring, and assistance with IEPs, followed by referrals to Legal Aid for suspensions. During the last school year, four kids were referred for long-term out-of-school suspension. Legal Aid helped three of the four get back in school. The program is experiencing suspension issues from a lot of the schools. They will meet with the school system prior to the beginning school year to address the issues. Referrals mainly come from SROs. Riverside continues to be the higher referral source for the past couple of years.

Kelly noted that they are going to do some training with the Durham police department. A mandatory webinar training is scheduled for two trainings per day in September. Their next court session is scheduled on August 7th at 3:15pm. She invited the committee to attend. Judge Morey recommended that the MDP no longer be a subcommittee. Kelly will keep the committee up to date on what is happening with the program.

Committee Member Appointment

Gudrun reported that the committee needs a formerly criminal justice involved individual. Also, there are a couple of members who have not submitted their application. After applications are submitted, we should have a full committee.

Updates from Attendees

Judge Morey informed the committee that there has been some changes with domestic violence cases. The court system has not given it the attention it deserves. She suggested that some of CJAC's efforts should be turned toward domestic violence. This is an overlooked critical issue and they just lost funding for the batterer program. Michael Becketts, Director of Social Services (DSS) shared that he met with Aurelia Sands-Belle, Director of DCRC to discuss how DSS can partner with this organization to address the issue of domestic violence as it relates to children. Judge Morey suggested that domestic violence become a CJAC subcommittee. Sherry Honeycutt, Legal Aid, helps the victims navigate through the system. She commented when you look at the places that have strong programs, they did not wait for something horrible to happen. Sherry agreed that having a subcommittee for domestic violence would be great.

Clarence noted that the next meeting will be held on September 29th (note: meeting date changed to September 22).

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.