



Criminal Justice  
Resource Center

**Criminal Justice Advisory Committee**  
**Tuesday December 1, 2015**

**Members Present:** Lawrence Campbell, Clarence Birkhead, Celeste Kelly, A. R. Marsh, Sr, Gudrun Parmer, Vernon O'Mar Taylor, Kristen Rosselli, Shannon McCabe, Clarence Maynor, Umar Muhammad, Jackie Brown, Roger Echols, R. A. Aleem, Lao Rubert, Sherry Honeycutt Everett, Brenda Howerton, Candace Rashada

**Members Absent:** Jeffery Clark, Marcia Owen, Judge Marcia Morey, Judge James Hardin, Gayle Harris, Ann Oshel, Gilda Womble, Michael Becketts

**Guest:** Melody VanDyne

**Staff:** Peter Baker, Celia Jefferson, Roshanna Parker, Spencer Noble

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Lawrence M. Campbell opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**Review and Approve December Minutes**

Mr. Campbell asked the committee to review the minutes. Clarence Birkhead moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Jackie Brown Seconded. Minutes approved.

**Presentation TASC (Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities)**

Shannon McCabe, Area Coordinator for TASC provided an overview of TASC. She reported significant changes to the program in the last year. There are now 3 full-time care managers in Durham, and she will be hiring a 4<sup>th</sup> (part time in CJRC and Courthouse) by first of year. Shannon stated she was working to rebuild relationships with probation and other community partners and provided a brief overview of TASC. She stated TASC was the mandated linkage to mental health and substance abuse services for persons in the criminal justice system, they provide screening for MH and evaluations for SA to link individuals to services in the community. Staff meet at least monthly with clients and identify access opportunities for treatment services. Shannon stated TASC had offices at CJRC and the Courthouse.

She also mentioned the drug education school (DES) diversion program for 90-96 cases. If a charge meets criteria and a person completes DES, it allows for the case to be dismissed. The program consisted of 15 hours, meets twice per week for 3 weeks and requires a \$150 state-mandated fee. Referrals to TASC usually come from Probation Officers, but could also come from private attorneys prior to court. Program is available to persons on probation or pre-release process.

**Stepping Up Initiative**

Peter Baker provided an update the Stepping Up Initiative, which is a national initiative to reduce mental health in jails and to make sure clients are served in optimal ways. Durham has had MH staff in the detention facility for the past 18-20 years adding staff when possible. At this point, the Jail MH Team consists of a 10-hr/week psychiatrist, supervisor and 3 staff. As soon as someone is booked, an assessment

is completed at intake and individuals are flagged for possible SA/MH. Within 24 hours, MH staff makes contact to determine the severity of the need. The target population is individuals with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) and those with severe mental illness on medications. The average caseload for the team is 120 to 130 people (20% of in jail population).

As part of the Stepping Up Initiative, the group is attempting to determine whether the current screening instrument is the most effective tool and the prevalence of persons with substance use disorders in the jail. Additionally, the subcommittee has been mapping current services to identify possible gaps in the system and the opportunities for more services. Peter shared the Sequential Intercept Model that was completed for Durham. Blue squares are the services currently available, red squares are services that are not currently available. Peter went through the model and provided more details for each service in the intercepts. He emphasized the task was to look at what services Durham's community has and identify gap, capacity issues and opportunities to bridge those. Not a lot of funding will be available for additional services so the committee will have to prioritize the needs. The committee will go through the system map step-by-step to look at ways to structurally address MH issues.

### **Reentry Committee**

Lao Rubert and Roshanna Parker provided the update. They reported that the group will start by focusing on people coming out of prison, instead of jail or out of prison a while ago. Members are current trying to assess what we have in the community for that population but everyone knows there is more that is needed for persons returning from prison. A meeting is scheduled for 12/9, 1-3PM to plan an event scheduled for 1/21 to provide the community partners an opportunity to showcase their reentry services and also understand eligibility requirements, cost, capacity, etc.

### **Members Comments:**

Gudrun Parmer shared that My Brother's Keeper Initiative has published a draft action plan; one of the areas focuses on court-involved youth age 16 to 24. Durham County is looking for feedback. Gudrun will send out a link to the draft action plan and asked CJAC members to review the plan with adult clients in mind.

Roshanna Parker shared information from a Provider Meeting that originated from Durham's Workforce Development Board. The meeting focused on whether the group wanted to apply for a Department of Labor Career Pathways grant. Durham has reached out to the Capital Area Workforce Development Board for potential partnership as it requires a quick turnaround and a focus on work release programs.

Sherry Honeycutt Everett provided an update on the status of domestic violence services update. She stated she felt CJAC needed to keep an eye on DV as there was a lot of transition and changes in our courts. When asked, Sherry confirmed the need to explore the formation of a domestic violence subcommittee. There was an ongoing meeting to exchange information among interagency response team members, but CJAC was best suited to look at the larger system and structure. If anyone is interested in being part of this sub-committee, contact Sherry or Gudrun.

Commissioner Howerton reported two companies slanted for expansion in North East Durham had made a commitment to not exclude justice-involved individuals from being hired (Ponysaurus – made a commitment to hire 35 justice-involved individuals; and another company – to be named – will hire 50).

Candace Rashada reported DTCC will open up enrollment for its last Brownfield Training Program recruiting up to 35 people for lead abatement, waste water, etc. This is a 12-week program; justice-

involved persons have been successful with 65-70% employed after completing the program; starting 2<sup>nd</sup> week in February. Applicants should go to Golden Belt #5 to complete application or apply online.

**Announcements**

Jackie Brown shared that today was "Giving Tuesday" and a day to give back. DERC just celebrated its 7<sup>th</sup> year.

Umar Muhammad mentioned the Youth Justice Project is scheduled for Saturday 12/5 at NCCU, 10AM – 3:30PM in the Michaux Education Building.

Meeting adjourned.

*Next meeting: January 26<sup>th</sup>, 4pm at CJRC.*