



## **Durham County Criminal Justice Advisory Committee August 27, 2013**

**Committee Members Present:** Diane Smith, Ann Oshel, Lao Rubert, Marcia Owen, Gilda Womble, Sharon Elliott-Bynum, Brenda Howerton, Gudrun Parmer, Judge Marcia Morey, Adam Clayton, Judge Nancy Gordon, Jackie Brown, DeWarren K. Langley, Gayle Harris, Doug Scott, Jovetta L. Whitfield,

**Committee Members Absent:** Larry Parker, Antonia Pedroza, Kristen Rosselli, Tony Taylor, Marcus Weeks, Lee Worsley, Judge Jim Hardin, Judge Stanback

**Guests:** Chip Wood, Nick Black, Michael McLawhorn

**Staff:** Roshanna S. Parker, Christie Long, Oprah Keyes, Peer L. Baker, Beth Steenberg, Celia Jefferson

### **Welcome and Introductions**

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

After reviewing the minutes, Judge Gordon motion that the minutes be adopted as presented. Action: Seconded and Approved.

### **Reports from CJAC subcommittees:**

#### **Veterans Court**

Judge Gordon reported that the Veterans Court Subcommittee is in the process of gathering census data. Their next meeting will be held on September 18 in this room at 8:00am. She noted that Judge Stanback weighed in that he wanted a post conviction court. Judge Gordon stated that the Veterans Court Subcommittee is making progress and generating interest. Her only concern is the census numbers. She explained that the problem with the veteran specialty court is that it is grant driven, and you have to have numbers to get the grant. Lao suggested that the Committee consider sustainability funding if the grant was obtained and subsequently lost. Nick Black explained that he was attending the meeting because of his concern for veterans. He was in the US Army for six years as a ranger; he was stationed in Afghanistan for almost three years. In 2010, he started a nonprofit, Stop Soldiers Suicide. Their goal is to end soldier and service member suicide. He also started a for-profit business, Victory Social Capital addressing institutions like TROSA to raise money up front to reinforce what they are doing. Nick and Michael will attend the Veterans Court Subcommittee meeting on September 18.

#### **Raise the Age**

Judge Morey noted that New York and North Carolina are the only states charging 16 and 17 year olds as adults. Judge Morey suggested that Durham should be a pilot for the

state of NC. She has talked to the Mayor, D.A., and both are very supportive of the idea. The concept is to give sixteen or seventeen year olds citations for non-violent misdemeanors and refer them to treatment or attend mediation to avoid having a criminal arrest thereby eliminating the potential for generating a criminal record at such an early age. If everyone is in agreement, it then becomes more of a referral so there will be no charge against them or a conviction. Judge Morey emphasized that referrals would only be for misdemeanors, and non-violent situations, not including assaults resulting in injury.

The Raise the Age Subcommittee will meet on September 25 at 3:00pm in this room. She invited anyone who has an interest to attend. Lao commented that this is not an opportunity to discuss whether or not it is a good idea to raise the age rather a great opportunity to discuss what might be the nuts and bolts that we are going to have for our program in Durham. A question was asked if there were similar programs in other places and if there was any data showing that these individuals have higher success rates in high schools. Judge Morey stated if an individual has an adult record, statistics shows that the individual is four times more likely to be in the criminal justice system. Lao commented that there is probably five to six years worth of statewide studies where Durham can access information. Judge Morey noted that prior criticism of such efforts has questioned the focus on youth offenders and cost. She explained that the goal of the program is about helping youth take responsibility for their action and getting their attention so that the situation can be turned around and to divert youth from the adult criminal justice system. Judge Morey explained that a tracking process will also be put in place.

### **Pipeline to Employment**

The Pipeline to Employment Subcommittee met on August 20. Roshanna stated that the committee members discussed what their agencies were doing as it was related to employment. The following people were invited to share what their agencies were doing: Beth Caldwell from MDC, Roshanna from CJRC, Michael Honeycutt from the Office of Economic Workforce Development, Courtney McCullum from the City of Durham's Re-entry program, Chip Wood from the Department of Commerce, and Kristen Rosselli from TROSA. Roshanna commented that throughout the meeting they saw how various people in the County were doing various things that dealt with employment and training. One of the disconnects that was identified was around how we engage the employers. The subcommittee brainstormed about what would need to be done to engage some of the larger employers in the area and we recognized that the smaller employers are the ones that will hire this target population. Committee members also discussed incentives for employers such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit. Commissioner Howerton talked about reestablishing a relationship with the Chamber of Commerce in helping them to understand why we need a better relationship with employers in the community to hire this population. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 17 at 10:00 am at the Criminal Justice Resource Center.

### **Substance Abuse Treatment**

Ann Oshel informed the Committee that there are two primary groups that people can join. The first one is the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) that meets every month. The

second one is the jail coordination meeting that also meets every Monday at the jail. They presented to the Crime Cabinet and the County Commissioners this spring, looking at the jail sentence for people who have mental health issues. The Sheriff's Office did a great job this past year of collecting additional information for them. They have talked about a model about planning for grant funds that will pay for housing.

Last year, CIT started training people other than police officers how to recognize and respond to the signs of mental illness. They started with first responders, County employees and other community members in training Mental Health 101, training over 800 people. The next training is on September 21 with G4S; the security contractor for the County. People that were trained are now better prepared to recognize, respond, and know how to intervene in a crisis, and how to find local resources for ongoing treatment for people with mental health issues.

### **Pretrial Services**

Christie Long stated that Pretrial Services (PTS) provides services to the Courts by screening all jail admissions in the morning, and providing criminal histories to the judge. They also interview individuals depending on the type of charge. PTS provides supervision that includes office and/or field contacts if appropriate and referrals for services on an individual basis or as ordered by the Court. They also provide electronic monitoring for a small number of defendants.

### **Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC)**

The primary functions of TASC are: provide screening and assessment for those referred, provide referral and linkage to treatment services needed, ensure access to available services, as well as monitor and report treatment progress to the referring agent. Dianne Smith presented TASC numbers for the current fiscal year, beginning July 1: the total number of probation referrals was 207; actually assessed by TASC were 92; referred to CJRC for treatment were 53; referred to other agencies were 18; completing CJRC intake were 36.

### **Announcement**

Judge Gordon invited the committee to attend the graduation of the Adult Drug Treatment Court participants on Friday, September 20 at 3:30pm at Durham County Courthouse.

With no other business meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.