



Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

November 18, 2014

Committee Members Present: Clarence Maynor, Ed Sarvis, Lawrence M. Campbell, Lao Rubert, Sharon Elliott Bynum, Kristen Rosselli, Gilda Womble, Clarence Birkhead, Judge Nancy Gordon, Michael Becketts, Marcia Morey, Gudrun Parmer

Committee Members Absent: Ray Brown, Jeffrey Clark, Adam Clayton, Roger Echols, Judge Jim Hardin, Gayle Harris, Brenda Howerton, Celeste Kelly, Anthony R. Marsh, Ann Oshel, Lee Worsley, Jackie Brown, Marcia Owen, Douglas Scott

Guests: Melody Rowell, Tonshea Tillery

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

Welcome and Introductions

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

Report from CJAC Subcommittees

Veterans Court – Judge Gordon reported that since the VA’s Social Justice Outreach Coordinator had left, there had been no scheduled meetings. Judge Morey noted that Judge Gordon would be leaving the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) and she would be missed immensely. She mentioned Judge Gordon’s hard work in starting the process of bringing a Veterans Court to Durham. Judge Morey stated CJAC had endorsed this project and hoped the committee would pursue it. She would reach out to Durham’s District Attorney for involvement to help in the decision making on how a Veterans Court would operate. Judge Gordon commented that she hoped someone would keep the project going. Judge Morey noted Judge Hardin, Superior Court Judge, who served on that committee and is a member of CJAC was interested in continuing the dialogue. Judge Morey mentioned that as seen in the media, the project had the full support of the Governor and it seemed as though the Governor’s Crime Commission had the funding to set up Veterans Courts. Kristen Rosselli, with TROSA, thanked Judge Gordon for putting her heart and soul into the project and stated it would be a big solution for the veterans.

Misdemeanor Diversion Program / Raise the Age - Kelly Andrews, Program Coordinator, reported she and Judge Morey presented at the 20th National Symposium on Juvenile Services on October 22nd. A lot of people that attended the presentation said they have received feedback from different districts. Kelly visited Warren County the previous week to meet with their Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC). Warren County JCPC was starting a subcommittee to begin a Misdemeanor Diversion Program the beginning of the year. They will partner with

Oxford, NC and smaller districts nearby. Kelly and Judge Morey presented a training to the Sheriff's Department Community Based Patrol. On November 19th, Kelly was scheduled to talk with all Durham Public Schools' guidance counselors and social workers about the program. Kelly reported, 63 youth had been referred into the program, 35 had successfully completed the program and 28 were still open. The youth stayed on track and were doing what they were supposed to do. All the referrals that came from the schools were tied to suspensions. Kelly invited the committee to come and observe the next court session scheduled for December 5th at 3:15 in court room 4D. She added, they had 17 youth in the last court session. The youth were impacted by the mock role play that Judge Morey presents at each session and the program attempts to serve the youth within ninety days so that they can report back to the officers right away. Gudrun informed the committee that CJRC finally received the Governor's Crime Commission grant. The award notification came in October and it is retroactive to July. The application had requested funding for two years but funding was only granted for one year.

Judge Morey shared that she had a meeting the previous day with Assistant Chief of Police Rick Pendergrass, Deputy Chief Larry Smith and Assistant Chief Winslow Forbes about a new initiative presented to large retail stores for shoplifting and larceny cases. She stated retailers were trying to get the security officers within their stores to handle citations, warrants on shoplifting, and misdemeanor larceny instead of calling the police to handle them. Store security will detain the person and inform them that they have 72 hours to decide if they want to do the store diversion program. The store diversion program consists of a \$350 fine/payment which will give them access within 72 hours to do an online training. If they successfully complete the training, they will not be referred to the police department. The idea is to avoid the courts while collecting fees internally. This concept is being promoted by a for-profit company. The Durham Police Department is aware of this new program in some retail stores; however, Judge Morey has encouraged them to continue to use the Misdemeanor Diversion Program. Many members at the table expressed concern over this new concept as it is more about collecting money than deterring crime or assisting the youth.

Pipeline to Employment - The pipeline committee did not meet this month. Roshanna Parker indicated that they would try to schedule a meeting before the December holidays. The committee is moving forward with agenda items they had discussed at the May retreat, as well as continuing to engage the employer community. Kristen Rosselli from TROSA reported that the new museum hotel coming to downtown Durham (the Sun Trust building) would be actively recruiting people with tattoos, piercing and criminal histories. They want this to be a unique experience. They are hiring anywhere from catering to housekeeping. Kristen will find out when the hiring begins.

Approval of September Minutes

After reviewing the minutes, Lawrence Campbell, Public Defender motioned that the minutes be adopted as presented. Minutes Seconded and Approved.

Programs and Services at Healing with CAARE

Sharon Elliott-Bynum, Executive Director of Healing with CAARE, presented on the services CAARE provides. She reported on how they have responded to creating a healthier community in Durham. Healing with CAARE primarily serves the population in Durham County even though they serve some needs in surrounding counties. Sharon and her sister Patricia Amaechi co-founded the agency in 1995, next year they will have been in operation for twenty years. They currently have 17 staff members and over a hundred volunteers with various backgrounds.

CAARE's mission is to provide effective prevention and case management services to at-risk persons and their families in Durham by referring clients to health and social resources that can alleviate isolation yet foster independence. CAARE also empowers the population with preventive health education, counseling, and testing by establishing and maintaining networks and utilizing resources that address the health and social needs of the community; and to provide decent housing that is affordable to low- to moderate-income people. Last year CAARE served 14,000 clients in Durham. A short documentary about CAARE can be found at <http://youtu.be/YehGRTwy11A>. Judge Gordon recommended everyone who had never been to CAARE, to take a tour to see the amazing work. Healing with CAARE is located at 214 Broadway Street, Durham, NC. A copy of Dr. Elliott-Bynum's presentation is available upon request.

New Charter for CJAC

Gudrun Parmer noted that there had been several discussions to position this committee to serve as the Reentry Council for Durham, not just functionally, but in the event the Department of Public Safety expanded their Reentry Councils across the state. A small group worked on amending the initial Charter and attended a work session with the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to discuss the proposal of establishing the Reentry Council as the Standing Subcommittee. A month later, the BOCC voted on approving the new Charter, a copy of the new Charter was included in the meeting packet. There are a few additional members that will need to be recruited including: Mayor or designee, one formerly incarcerated individual, one formerly criminal justice involved individual, a business and a legal aide representative. Additionally, the current CJAC membership has been in existence for two years and some members would have to be reappointed by the BOCC while others will be (re-)appointed by the CJAC members. Celia, Roshanna and Gudrun will be working in the next month to go through the roster asking if members are willing to remain on the CJAC committee.

Lao Rubert stated that however the committee agrees to structure the Reentry Council, it would need to cover housing, transportation, mental health, substance abuse, etc. People that were specifically needed on the Reentry Council were: Clerk of Court, Courtney McCullen, a local city representative on the employment committee; John White, Chamber of Commerce; Legal Aide, Lynn Burk and Carrie Hamel, and Public Housing, Rita Taylor. Gudrun suggested that the committee consider appointing a chair at this meeting or the next; Lao suggested Marcia Owen. Gudrun will reach out to people that the committee suggested. Gudrun also commented that at

the beginning of the year, CJAC would need to elect Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Judge Morey asked Michael Becketts, DSS Director, to lead the Nominating Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.