



## **Criminal Justice Advisory Committee**

*January 27, 2015 Minutes*

**Committee Members Present:** Jackie Brown, Lawrence Campbell, Adam Clayton, Sharon Elliott-Bynum, Gilda P. Womble, Brenda Howerton, Clarence Maynor, Judge Marcia Morey, Marcia Owen, Gudrun Parmer, Kristen Rosselli, Lao Rubert

**Committee Members Absent:** Michael A. Beckett, Clarence Birkhead, Ray Brown, Jeffrey S. Clarks, Roger Echols, Judge James E. Harding, Gayle Harris, Celeste Kelly, Anthony Marsh, Ann Oshel, Chip Wood, Lee Worsley

**Guests:** Candace A. Rashada

**Staff:** Roshanna Parker, Celia Jefferson

### **Welcome and Introductions**

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

### **Approval of December Minutes**

After reviewing the minutes, Commissioner Brenda Howerton motioned that the minutes be adopted as presented. Minutes were seconded and approved.

### **Report from CJAC Subcommittees**

*Veterans Court* – Judge Morey met with the Judicial Management Team regarding the veteran's court on January 26. The team consists of Judge Jim Hardin, Superior Court, Roger Echols, DA, Lawrence Campbell, Public Defender, and Kathy Shaurt, Court Administrator. The Management Team discussed veteran's court issues and how they want to move forward. The Governor's Crime Commission will only fund \$75k for a veteran's court case manager. No funding will be provided for other essential court positions, including clerk, prosecutor, judge, or a defense attorney. The Management Team came to a consensus to hold off on a veteran's court. They are going to wait to see if there are other court priorities and what will happen with the General Assembly this year. The Management Team encourages referrals of veterans to Drug Court and to VA.

Sharon Elliott-Bynum, CAARE Program, shared that as someone who has worked with veterans since 1999, the bigger challenge is knowing what services are already available for veterans. She noted several reasons veterans found themselves homeless, including back child support, substance abuse disorders, and revoked licenses. Judge Morey asked for the child support issue to be followed up by Michael Becketts, Director of Social Services. She also asked if someone could find out how to navigate the system to reinstate revoked licenses. Lao Rubert, Justice

Policy Center, suggested we see if we can reposition Governor's Crime Commission funding for a case manager for veterans court to a case manager for court-involved veteran problem-solving services. Kathy Shuart, Trial Court Administrator, will contact the Governor's Crime Commission about this alternative and report back to the committee.

### Misdemeanor Diversion Program / Raise the Age

Judge Morey reported that the Misdemeanor Diversion Program (MDP) is going well and Kelly Andrew, MDP Coordinator, is doing a great job. She noted that approximately 70 kids have been referred to and completed MDP (67% male, 32% female). Sixty-one percent of participants are 16 and 17 years old. Many of the referrals are coming from Hillside, Riverside, and Southern High School SROs. The main offenses referred to MDP are simple possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia, larceny, simple assault, and disorderly conduct.

Judge Morey invited CJAC members to attend the next MDP session on February 6. Other district attorney offices will be in attendance, including Wake County. MDP has a new program called Independent Living Skills that starts on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Judge Morey commented that this is a great opportunity for all transition-age youth 16-17 to build skills and develop independence. The program will provide bus passes and dinner each week, along with gift card drawings.

Commissioner Brenda Howerton informed the committee that StepUp Ministry will be coming to Durham in the near future. StepUp Ministry is a community of diverse faiths that partners with adults and children in the shared goal of stable lives through jobs and life skills training.

Gudrun Parmer, CJRC shared that they completed the Governor's Crime Commission second year grant application for MDP. She noted that the second year focus will be to replicate the program across the state or even farther.

Judge Morey explained that if the "raise the age" Senate Bill 506/House Bill 632 was passed, juveniles that commit misdemeanor offenses will not be arrested as adults, or gain a public record. In Durham, they will be referred to MDP. Juveniles who are 16 and 17 years of age that commit violent offenses will be arrested as adults (no change in law).

### Establishment of Reentry Subcommittee

At our last meeting, Gudrun and Lao Rubert, Carolina Justice Policy Center, shared the updated county resolution that established the Durham County Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) as the Reentry Council for Durham. The reentry subcommittee is now a standing subcommittee of CJAC. The next step is to identify a volunteer to chair the subcommittee, schedule the first meeting and have a discussion about subcommittee membership. Lao recommended that Judge Morey send a letter describing Durham's CJAC and reentry council subcommittee structure to NC Rehabilitative Program Services.

Roshanna Parker, CJRC Assistant Director, stated that state Commerce Department funding for first tier reentry councils runs through June 30, 2015. Durham is on the second tier of the next list of counties that the Commerce Department will fund if they get additional money.

Candace Rashada, Durham Technical Community College, asked about the reentry council subcommittee structure. The updated CJAC charter included the standing reentry council subcommittee as a way to position Durham County competitively when the second wave of funding comes out. Candace expressed her interest in serving on the reentry committee. She volunteered to call the first meeting. The subcommittee is being asked to identify people to fill the vacant CJAC positions for a formerly-incarcerated individual and a formerly CJRC-involved individual. Gudrun agreed to send the email distribution list to Candace so she can schedule a meeting date and time at CJRC.

### **Review CJAC Purpose and Mission**

CJAC was established when the Criminal Justice Partnership Program was eliminated. The purpose of CJAC is to develop a comprehensive continuum of services for the adult criminal justice system, identify service gaps, and develop intervention strategies and comprehensive solutions. The committee's composition was intentionally selected to build connections.

CJAC has been in existence for 2 ½ years. Committee members were appointed to serve a 2-year term. Therefore, each current CJAC member must be reappointed. Major stakeholders in the Criminal Justice System are appointed/reappointed directly by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). Individual stakeholders are appointed/reappointed by CJAC based on the type of work they do in the community. Individual stakeholders are subject to the same eligibility and attendance rules as BOCC members. Roshanna will send out applications to individuals to reapply. She requested that all applications be returned to her for processing through the Clerk to the BOCC.

Gudrun noted that there are open positions that need to be filled, including a representative of the Durham Business Community. This position was advertised several times by the Clerk to the BOCC, but the position has never been filled. Candace commented that for change to happen, we need business representation. Otherwise, we will be "dressing people up with nowhere to go." She commented that part of our work has to be connecting with the business community and having important conversations about how the business community can help. She suggested that the committee leverage their weight with the highest level of business owners. She noted that we need someone with a drive to do some things that can really help us find work for people.

### **Board Requirements and Applications**

A copy of Procedures for Citizen Appointments was included in the meeting packet. Procedures included: application process, eligibility requirements, attendance requirements, and reporting requirements.

### **Nomination/Election of Officers for 2015**

Gudrun reported that Michael Becketts, Director of Social Service, was charged to chair the nominating committee. In his absence, she announced that CJAC officers are to be elected at the beginning of the calendar year. The proposed slate prepared by the nominating committee was provided to all members. No nominations from the floor were received. Lawrence Campbell, Public Defender, **motioned** that the nominations be closed. **Action:** Seconded and Approved. Gudrun asked everyone to vote using the nominating committee's form and pass completed forms to Celia Jefferson, staff. Lawrence Campbell received 11 of 11 votes for the chair position. Clarence F. Birkhead received 10 of 11 votes for the vice chair position. Kristen Rosselli received 11 of 11 votes for the secretary position.

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