



Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Committee Members Present: Michael A. Becketts, Clarence Birkhead, Jackie Brown, Lawrence M. Campbell, Roger Echols, Brenda Howerton, Clarence Maynor, Marcia Morey, Marcia Owen, Gudrun Parmer, Kristen Rosselli, Lao Rubert, Gilda Womble

Committee Members Absent: Ray Brown, Jeffrey S. Clarks, Adam Clayton, Sharon Elliott-Bynum, James E. Hardin, Gayle Harris, Celeste Kelly, Anthony Marsh, Ann Oshel, Chip Wood, Lee Worsley

Guests: Candace A. Rashada, Melody Ronell, Tonya McKee, Kelly Andrews

Staff: Roshanna Parker, Celia Jefferson, Peter Baker

Welcome and Introductions

Lawrence Campbell, chair, opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of December Minutes

After reviewing the minutes, Judge Morey motioned that the minutes be adopted as presented. Minutes were seconded by Gudrun Parmer and approved.

Report from CJAC Subcommittees

Misdemeanor Diversion Program (MDP) / Raise the Age

Kelly Andrew, MDP Coordinator reported that MDP has had 94 referrals since March 2014. The Governor's Crime Commission provided funding for 69 of these referrals. Sixty-eight (68) youth have successfully completed MDP, 1 youth was unsuccessful (due to new allegations while in program), and 25 youth are currently in MDP. Referrals came from: Police (34 youth), Police SROs (1), Sheriff's Department (3), and Sheriff SROs (56). All school incidents resulted in out-of-school suspensions, with five of those being long-term suspensions since March 2014. Legal Aid was able to assist 2 of the 5 students with their return to school. The schools with the highest rate of referrals are Riverside, Southern and Hillside High.

Judge Morey discussed the importance of getting officers into court to hear about substantial collateral consequences of an arrest, even if dismissed. Judge Morey sends emails to Chief Lopez with the names of arresting officers to find out why the officers are not using discretion on first offenses.

Judge Morey wrote an op-ed piece to “raise the age” with hopes of generating bi-partisan support. If NC does not change, we will be the only state that prosecutes 16 and 17 year olds as adults.

Pipeline to Employment

Roshanna Parker, CJRC Assistant Director, reported that the subcommittee met on March 17 and identified these 3 priorities:

1. Identify and use consistent terminology that does not further stigmatize a person in employment, such as justice involved, directly involved, directly impacted, formerly involved, etc.;
2. Get clarity from CJAC on the subcommittee’s focus so the scope is not so large; and
3. Revisit what we accomplish and what needs to occur.

The next subcommittee meeting will be held on April 1, at CJRC on the 3rd floor, room A.

Reentry

Reentry had a kick-off meeting on February 13th. Members discussed the subcommittee’s focus. Subcommittee members are going to work on getting a formerly incarcerated individual, and a formerly criminal justice involved individual appointed to the CJAC committee. The next meeting is scheduled for April 1st at CJRC located on the third floor conference room A at 2:30pm. Ideas are welcome. Members are needed.

Program Presentation - Durham Economic Resource Center (DERC)

Jackie Brown, Executive Director of DERC, provided an overview of DERC. Their mission is to provide workforce development skills, job placement, and eliminate employment barriers for their clients through facilitated supportive collaborations. DERC operates as a 501c3 nonprofit organization that assists adults in poverty through technical job training, reduced-price merchandise, and programs that reach and positively affect the community. DERC is part of Durham’s initiative to end poverty, which is a collaborative effort of faith and community-based organizations, as well as government entities. DERC is modeled after a component of the award-winning Welfare Reform Liaison Program (WRLP) of Greensboro, NC. Jackie distributed a DERC flyer at the meeting with detailed information on How to Enroll, Become a Member Agency, and Benefits. DERC is located at 118 Hunt Street, Durham.

Update Membership Recruitment

Roshanna Parker informed the committee that there are still open positions that need to be filled, including a former criminal justice involved individual, formerly incarcerated individual, Legal Aid representative, Mayor or designee, Durham Business Community, Specialty Court Judge, and Superior Court Judge. Suggestions are welcome.

MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge Grant

Gudrun Parmer shared information about the MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge Grant. The foundation seeks to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails. Jail populations have more than tripled since the 1980s, as have cumulative expenditures related to building and running them. The foundation is challenging communities to create fairer, more effective local justice systems that improve public safety, save taxpayer money, and lead to better social outcomes. The foundation is investing an initial sum of \$75 million over a 5-year period. The foundation will provide up to 20 communities with funding for a 7-month strategic planning process (up to \$150,000). Of the selected 20 community, 10 will receive 2-5 years of funding to implement their strategic plan (\$50,000-\$2 million). Communities selected must have key stakeholder commitments from the courts, public defender and district attorney offices, law enforcement, community partners, and the community residents. Gudrun asked for a letter of support from CJAC, signed by Lawrence Campbell, Chair with a few sentences about each CJAC member or member's organization. Kristen Rosselli made the motion for the CJAC to provide a letter of support. Judge Morey seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Update from Attendees

Gudrun Parmer said that the direction of the County Manager is to hold the line on department budgets for next fiscal year. Gudrun also stated that CJRC applied for 2nd year funding for adult re-entry initiative, MVP and Faith partnership. The Crime Commission will announce their funding in April.

Lao Rubert gave an update on the Omnibus Budget bill that passed the House recently. The House bill gives judges leeway to determine if a person should be on the sex offender registry. The bill expands Certificates of Relief to Class G felonies. It changes the bail bond law to say "may double" instead of "will double" bond, and increases the amount a person has to pay a traffic fine to 60 days.

Marcia Owen stated that their "Second Helping" food truck grant application that paid \$12.12/hour to formerly incarcerated persons did not get funded by the Triangle Community Foundation.

Public Comment

No public comments received.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm. The next CJAC meeting is May 26, 2015.