



Criminal Justice Resource Center

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

Notes: *May 26th 2015*

Committee Members Present: Gudrun Parmer, Clarence Maynor, Jeff Clark, Clarence Birkhead, A.R. Marsh, Sr, Lawrence M. Campbell, Brenda Howerton, Judge Marcia Morey, Kristen Rosselli, R. A. Aleem, Ann Oshel, Sherry H. Everett, Damion Moore, Marcia Owen, Roger Echols, Lao Rubert, Gayle Harris, Jackie Brown, Candace Rashada

Committee Members Absent: Michael Becketts, Celeste Kelly, Lee Worsley, Gilda Womble

Guests: Nicole Sullivan, Daryl V. Atkinson, Umar Muhammad, Spenser Able

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.

Local Reentry Councils

Nicole Sullivan, Director of the Office of Rehabilitative Programs and Services (ORPS), Department of Public Safety, presented an overview of ORPS, which facilitates inter-divisional projects and assists with developing legislation, evaluating and revising policies and procedures, and planning or implementing new DPS initiatives.

Nicole also made a presentation on Transition Planning in the Justice Reinvestment Era. The purpose of the Justice Reinvestment Act of 2011 is to move North Carolina toward reducing its prison population and spending on corrections and to reinvest those savings into community-based programs. The Justice Reinvestment Act alters North Carolina's sentencing laws and corrections policies.

Nicole shared statistics on how the prison population and the prison exits are growing. For example, approximately 23,000 people exit prison each year. Nicole commented that the people that exit prisons are tracked for two years and around 50% of the folks are re-arrested in two years. One of the first things that get people in trouble when they exit prison is driving without a license. They are working with DMV to correct this problem before they exit prison. People need IDs for work.

Nicole spoke about recidivism, public safety, and reentry councils. She noted how reducing recidivism can have a profound impact on the long-term public safety needs of communities and that recidivism reduction should be made a local priority. Their job is to identify needed direct services, the barriers and the challenges of putting people back to work, how to help people get

housing, transportation, education, etc. so that people will be successful when they get home. Durham's targeted reentry population is returning citizens who are on probation, post release and parole, and those citizens coming out of incarceration for development and reentry work.

Nicole noted that another particular strategy for her section is to establish local reentry councils. The purpose of the reentry councils is to bring together stakeholders who could offer assistance and resources to help returning citizens to become productive, reduce recidivism, and prevent victimization. More detailed information can be found in the handouts distributed at the meeting.

Nicole responded to several questions:

1. Who will communicate with us on what evidence-based programs are being used in prison to ensure continuity with how the reentry council work with the people coming out of prison. Nicole agreed to do so.
2. Why were legal service not included in the presentation, such as removing barriers, getting a driver license, expungement, and certificate of release? Nicole responded that legal service is not one of their major categories that they track. Local people are handling legal service.
3. Why is "reinvestment" not a funded component of the bill? The Justice Reinvestment Act changed sentencing laws including moving misdemeanors out of the state system. Reinvestment is the savings that were generated because the system is shrinking due to the closing of prisons and the prison population is declining. There is no mechanism in the law that says that any savings at this level will come back to the people in the community to do this type of work.
4. Will there be funds in the future for a RFP process that will allow Durham's reentry council to apply? Nicole shared that there will be a RFP process in the urban area and Durham will be able to apply. Current state dollars will be used for maintaining existing reentry councils. Nicole commented that the state hopes to get a federal grant at the beginning of the calendar year to expand the number of reentry councils.
5. Is there any way to get information about people's needs (such as mental health and housing) prior to release? Nicole responded that they are working on technology solution.
6. Is there anything we can do to expedite the process of being one of the reentry councils? Nicole said that she will send us an affiliate letter that allows our reentry council to begin work. Her only challenge is that DPS does not have any funds to offer Durham's reentry council at this time.

Approval of March 24th Minutes

After reviewing the minutes, Gudrun Parmer motioned to adopt the meeting minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Brenda Howerton and approved unanimously.

Appointment of Committee Members

Lawrence asked the committee to review the proposed slate/ballot that includes six applicants to be appointed by the CJAC Committee. Applications were available for the committee to review. Lawrence asked if there were other nominations. No additional names were presented. Clarence Birkhead motioned for the ballot to be closed. Motion was seconded by Gayle Harris and approved. Lawrence motioned that all names on the ballot be accepted by acclamation. Motion seconded and approved properly. Roshanna Parker commented that some slots still needed to be filled.

Update from Attendees

No updates were presented.

Announcements

Gudrun announced that Durham was not chosen for the MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge grant. No constructive feedback was given.

Gudrun also announced that the Criminal Justice Resource Center made the first round of the Governor's Crime Commission grant process for a Reentry Partnership and second year funding for the Misdemeanor Diversion Program.

Public Comment

No public comments received.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.