



Annual **FY 2020**

Report

+ + + CRIMINAL JUSTICE
RESOURCE CENTER

OPENING DOORS TO
BRIGHTER FUTURES

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COUNTY

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- from **THE DIRECTOR -**

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the staff and partners of the Durham County Criminal Justice Resource Center, it is my distinct pleasure to share with you our Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

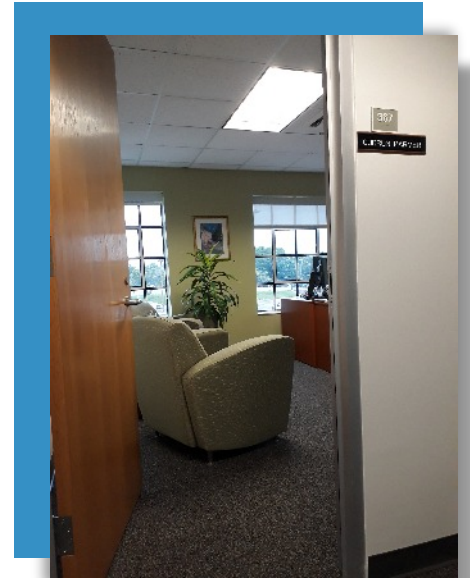
The focus of our department is to improve outcomes for persons involved in the criminal justice system in close alignment with Durham County's Strategic Plan.

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 began with our talented and dedicated staff operating the various programs we provide and diligently tracking performance measures to ensure that clients had access to the best services possible. In this report you will see stories and examples of superior efforts by our staff that resulted in positive outcomes for our clients.

The malware attack on City and County networks in early 2020 presented a significant challenge to our operations, but our department made quick adjustments, with everybody pitching in to maintain effective service levels and keep our doors open for clients.

While still dealing with fallout from the malware attack, we faced the COVID-19 pandemic. Several of our doors, including our main entrance, physically closed but once again staff responded with innovative solutions and new, virtual access to our services was created. We continued operationally although, in many cases, with different approaches. Our partnerships with other agencies and with the Durham community proved invaluable in this effort and we acknowledge their assistance and partnerships with gratitude.

Gudrun Parmer



PRETRIAL SERVICES

Durham County's Pretrial Services was established in 2006 to create a systematic approach for recommending release and community supervision for defendants who do not pose a risk to the community as they await trial.

The program was created with the goal of reducing the jail population while ensuring that defendants appear for their court dates and are not a public safety risk while under pretrial release.

"Mike"

379

Persons Served

"Being in the Pretrial Program has allowed me to keep a job and spend time with my family"

Mike spent considerable time in jail before his bond was lowered and he was able to be released through CJRC's Pretrial Services program. He says "sometimes it's stressful with the curfew and monitoring, but it is a lot better than being in jail." Once his charges are resolved, Mike wants to travel and spend additional time with his family.

94% Appearance Rate

In 2019, Pretrial Services led a working group of court officials and law enforcement stakeholders in the implementation of a new tool to enhance objectivity and fairness for individuals in First Appearance Court. The Pretrial Safety Assessment (PSA) combines actuarial data on known factors that affect failure to appear and new charge rates with local decisions for release and supervision conditions based on likelihood for each outcome.

Pretrial Services and the Courts began using PSA in February 2020, despite the malware attack and COVID-19 limitations. In Fiscal Year 2021, Pretrial Services and stakeholders will continue to evaluate and possibly adapt the PSA to maximize its benefits and usefulness.

88% Safety Rate

Arnold Ventures developed the PSA to assist local leaders to assess the likelihood of defendants to appear for court hearings and remain charge free.

The PSA was determined to be racially and ethnically unbiased and actually increase appearance with no criminal activity for Black and Hispanic defendants.

40,377

Jail Bed Days Saved

Over 11,00 court reminder sign-ups since June 2017



MENTAL HEALTH COURT DIVERSION PROGRAM

“Referral to the Mental Health Court is the best thing that anyone has ever done for me”

James moved to Durham with his mother when he was 4 years old. After high school his life took a turn for the worse and he began getting into trouble.

One night he had yet another encounter with law enforcement, but this time a caring attorney referred him to CJRC’s Mental Health Court. This diversion opportunity worked out well for James and he completed the 6-month program. Although his mandatory participation is over, he continues to be involved with the program and enjoys the support of Mental Health Court staff.

“They even helped me with the paperwork to get into my new apartment,” he notes.



36

Persons Served



68%

Program Completion

The goal of the Durham County Mental Health Court Diversion Program is to connect to treatment services and resources individuals with a primary diagnosis of a Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) or a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and on medication.

The Durham County Mental Health Court Diversion Program offers:

- A specialized court docket, which employs a problem-solving approach to court processing in lieu of more traditional court procedures.
- Supervised, person-centered treatment plans for each defendant participating in the court, with an interdisciplinary team design.
- Regular status hearings at which treatment plans and other conditions are periodically reviewed for appropriateness.
 - Incentives to reward adherence to court conditions.

The Mental Health Court Diversion Program staff provides intensive case management services to improve mental health outcomes and reduce the rate of recidivism.

Program clients experienced an increase in Housing, Medicaid, Food Assistance, and Employment after Mental Health Court participation

DIVERSION PROGRAMS

The Durham Misdemeanor Diversion Program (MDP) had some notable changes this year:

- North Carolina's 'Raise the Age' legislation went into effect December 2019, placing 16- and 17-year-olds into the juvenile justice system, so MDP officially stopped taking all juvenile referrals. MDP continues to serve first time misdemeanor participants, ages 18 to 26, and older adults at law enforcement discretion.
- CJRC also began a Post Arrest Diversion (PAD) program collaboration with the Durham District Attorney's Office to assist in diverting lower level felony cases. The goal of the program is to provide accountability for allegations, while also ensuring meaningful programming to assist participants remain out of the justice system. There are wrap-around services available, and like MDP, there is no cost to PAD participants.

147

Persons Served

100%

Program Completion

"Thank you for the opportunity to do [MDP]. I don't know what I would have done if I had actually been charged and had to go through a criminal case. As a young person who is so excited to graduate from college a year from now, I am so grateful to not have this stopping me from future opportunities. "

Restorative Justice

Diversion has always looked for innovative, creative approaches to best serve participants and the community. Both MDP and PAD programs utilize restorative justice teams through Restorative Justice Durham (RJ Durham).

This collaboration works alongside volunteers, community partners, and criminal justice practitioners to seek a restorative justice process that repairs the harm of crime and restores relationships, both individual and collective, that were hurt by wrongdoing.

The restorative justice process brings together the person harmed and the person who caused the harm. It creates intentional space to talk about the incident and to come to agreement for how the person who caused harm can take responsibility for their actions. The framework for the restorative justice process rests in our most basic values of honesty, integrity, compassion, and responsibility.

GANG REDUCTION STRATEGY

Durham's Gang Reduction Strategy (GRS) Steering Committee is an inter-organizational group formed to respond to gangs and violent crime, which are community health problems.

The foundation of the Steering Committee is inter-agency cooperation, and the members provide leadership for the entire effort (Prevention/Intervention/Suppression). Members meet on a bi-monthly basis. The Steering Committee ensures that data on gang activity/violent crime is collected and analyzed on a frequent and timely basis. It also identifies and monitors strategies to ensure long-term success.

CJRC coordinates the Gang Reduction Strategy and provides support to the steering committee.



JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC)

The North Carolina Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) collaborates with the Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPC) in each county to galvanize community leaders to reduce, and prevent juvenile crime. JCPC board members are appointed by the County Board of Commissioners and meet monthly. The meetings are open to the public, and all business is considered public information.

CJRC coordinates the JCPC administration for Durham County. With Raise the Age legislation taking effect December 2019, 16- and 17-year olds previously charged in adult courts are now referred to the juvenile justice system and are eligible to be referred to JCPC programs. In FY2020, Durham JCPC received \$637,329 and funded 6 community programs serving 350 court-involved and at-risk youth through prevention and intervention services.



COVID-19 RESPONSE

Video Conferencing. Parking lot meetings. Courthouse courtyard meet ups. Home visits on the outside patio. Telephone and texting. Oral swab drug testing.

These are just some of the ways that CJRC has continued to serve clients even while our building at 326 E Main St was closed to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. CJRC programs set up email accounts, found tele-medicine and video conferencing software to resume groups with clients and conduct intakes. Programs met clients at various outside locations to support clients, get paperwork signed and continue drug testing.

Staff with Jail Mental Health, STARR and Pretrial Services continued to interview clients and conduct groups when possible.



Karen Shaw and Lourdes Garcia-Rolon assisting a client outside the building



George OBriant and Trudy Harris met clients outside CJRC



Jennifer McRant and Kelli Egnaczak and other Jail Mental Health staff supported each other, modified their schedules to accommodate others, and increased their onsite presence when the workload increased.

Larry McGill & Jerome Allen with CJRC's STARR Program providing substance use treatment in the detention center.

"The team had to work around numerous challenges, including reduced onsite staff and ever-changing situations in the detention center"





Meredith Hanes, who was hired in early 2020, states "Being in a field where direct client contact is essential, COVID-19 has transformed how we best meet client needs"



Ashly Spikes and Robin Heath, two CJRC staff, served as COVID-19 Screeners at Durham County buildings open to the public.

In the last quarter of FY 2020, the Local Reentry Council and the Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham (RCND) assisted thirteen individuals released early from NC prisons due to COVID-19. The NC Justice Center provided funding to allow individuals to quarantine for fourteen days after release and provide long-term support if needed.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, Pretrial did not stop serving the court system, Durham County Detention Facility and Pretrial clients. Staff continued monitoring pretrial cases & helping inmates and defendants on-site and over the phone. Pictured are Joyce Kuhn and Charla Alston, two Pretrial staff members.



Jim Stuit volunteered with the DPS Foundation loading food into school busses.

JAIL MENTAL HEALTH

The Jail Mental Health (JMH) Team works with inmates who are diagnosed with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness or Severe Mental Illness on medication. The team ensures inmates on psychiatric medication are stabilized, provides mental health programming to female and male diagnosed mental health inmates, discharge planning and connection to services.

A High-Acuity Pod opened in October 2017 for inmates who needed a safe and quiet space due to the severity of their mental health challenges. In FY2020, the average length of stay in the pod increased by 34%, likely due to measures taken by Durham County Detention facility reducing movement throughout the facility to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

1,074

New admissions assessed by Jail Mental Health

2,614

Inmate requests for mental health service

33%

Percent of Jail Admissions referred to Jail Mental Health

Criminal Justice Resource Center staff from JMH and STARR expanded services for female inmates starting in October 2019. Clinicians developed a pilot project offering services in the pod housing to all female inmates. Services focused on overall health and wellness, and included exercise classes, art projects and coping skills. Additionally, gender-responsive mental health treatment groups were provided to inmates on the JMH caseload. Unfortunately, all group activities were suspended in March 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns.



Shauna Ettson has been employed with the Criminal Justice Resource Center as a Clinical Social Worker for Jail Mental Health since September 2016.

"I truly love what I do for my clients and the difference I make on their journey to success", stated Ms. Ettson.

INTEGRATED REENTRY FOR ADULTS WITH CO-OCCURRING SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL ILLNESS

In September 2018, CJRC received a three-year Second Chance Act grant from the US Department of Justice to develop and implement innovations in jail reentry.

The Integrated Reentry Program is designed to enhance and better utilize existing jail and community-based support services creating a more integrated and seamless transition to the community for adults with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders. Services will improve screening and assessment for mental illness and substance use disorders, facilitate comprehensive reentry case planning, and provide integrated services both in detention and post release.

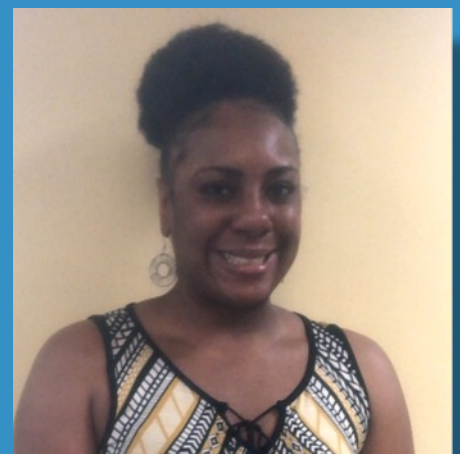
After modifying strategies and policies to adapt to the many community changes brought about by COVID-19, CJRC prepared to begin enrolling individuals and providing services at the start of fiscal year 21.

“Without this program I would be homeless, hungry, and lost. I was equipped with the things that I needed to survive on the day of my release and that alone gave me a piece of mind”.

Ashley

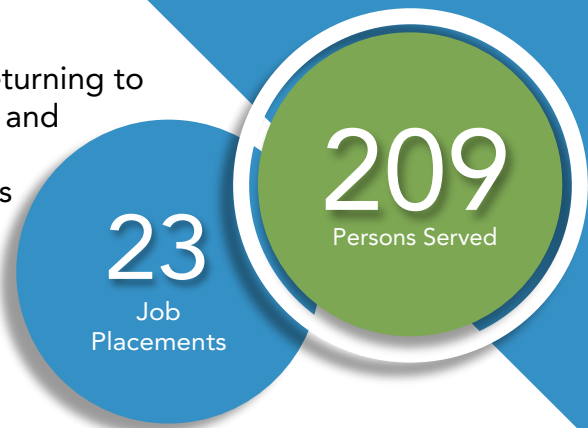
Ashley was incarcerated at the Durham County Detention Center for over two years. Upon release, the Integrated Reentry Team was there to assist her with housing, transportation, clothing and food. The team also connected Ashley with services in the community,

“I honestly don’t know how many times I can say thank you for all that you’ve done and help me accomplish thus far. I wish there was a way to show my gratitude, because without this program I would be homeless, hungry, and lost. I was equipped with the things that I needed to survive on the day of my release and that alone gave me a piece of mind”, stated Ashley.



LOCAL REENTRY COUNCIL

The Local Reentry Council connects persons returning to Durham from incarceration to needed services and resources. A network of Durham providers is ready to address a multitude of needs. Services include short-term housing, child care, transportation and employment assistance.



CJRC hosts Reentry Simulation

In December 2019, Durham’s Reentry Council partnered with the US Attorney’s Office for the Middle District of NC to host a Reentry Simulation. The goal was for participants to gain an understanding of the significant obstacles faced by men and women released from incarceration and returning home to their communities.

The room was set up with 15 stations that represented the many places a returning citizen must navigate when they are first released.

Each participant assumed the identity of a justice-involved person and received a packet of materials, including a “life card” that explained the re-entrants criminal background, current living and job situations, as well as specific tasks that needed to be completed for post-release requirements.

Guests experienced the frustration of navigating systems faced by those returning from incarceration.



(left) Rob Lang, Assistant United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina, explains to guests how the Reentry Simulation will work.



(right) Guests wait in line at simulated agencies they must check in with after release from incarceration.

COMMUNITY BASED CORRECTIONS

Community Based Corrections provide programs for justice involved individuals who are Durham County residents and on supervised probation, post-release supervision or parole.

Services include Substance Use Treatment, Cognitive Behavioral Interventions, Case Management, Employment Readiness, Computer Instruction, GED/Adult Basic Education and many wrap around services.

Recidivism Reduction Services (RRS) provide cognitive behavioral programming, substance use treatment services, and linkage to community resources to individuals referred by Durham Probation.

The Employment Readiness Program assists individuals with a criminal record develop skills needed to become employable through employment readiness and computer classes. Interested individuals do not have to be currently justice involved

The Second Chance Program is a substance use treatment program designed for persons 18 years old or older. Individuals are referred through TASC, the Courts or other service providers. Participants receive intensive outpatient treatment or regular outpatient treatment based on the assessed level of care.

142

Clients served in RRS, Employment & prison Reentry

45%

Program Completion

42%

Employment Program Clients obtained a job

205

Persons Served

35%

Program Completion

"The substance abuse counselors at CJRC were very knowledgeable about what I was going through. Because of this, they were able to help me make the changes I needed to make."

April was smoking marijuana while on Probation, and it was a probation officer that referred her to CJRC's substance use disorder treatment program. April noted that *"the sessions were well-taught, and they helped me quit smoking and get off Probation."*

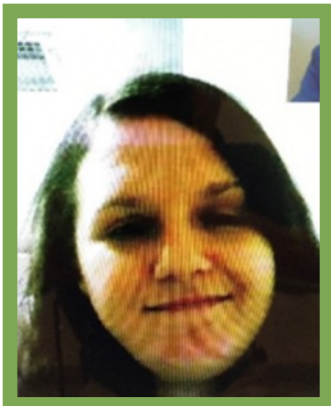
With substance abuse issues behind her, April is now focusing on business career goals and entrepreneurship.

Three of CJRC's Substance Use Disorder Counselors



SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT & RECIDIVISM REDUCTION (STARR)

The **Substance Abuse Treatment and Recidivism Reduction Program (STARR)** is a four week substance use treatment program provided to inmates in the Durham County Detention Facility. The majority of STARR participants are mandated by the Courts or Probation.



Amanda

"The STARR Program is personal – they take an interest in you as a person. Because of the people that work at STARR, this is the first time I really believe that I can achieve fully recovery from substance abuse."

326

Persons Served

75%

Program Completion

A tragic automobile accident, caused by Amanda driving while impaired, resulted in her confinement at the Durham County Detention Center. While there, she voluntarily enrolled in CJRC's STARR Program. There, she found staff that took time to get to know her personally and help her work through the steps and assignments.

"STARR has helped me with anger control and the classes helped get rid of the desire to use. I'm now enrolled in the STARR Grad program and look forward to that."

Once her legal issues are resolved, Amanda hopes to stay in a recovery home for a while and eventually achieve her goal of finishing college. Throughout that process, she hopes to help others along the way.

DRUG TREATMENT COURT

Adult Drug Treatment Court (ADTC) is a voluntary, judicially supervised, treatment opportunity for chemical dependency as an alternative to incarceration. ADTC offers non-traditional and individualized treatment for non-violent offenders charged with felony or misdemeanor offenses. As the field evolves, ADTC and drug treatment courts across the country continuously amend their programming to follow evidence-based practices.

The Durham Adult Drug Treatment Court was successful in petitioning Durham County's Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Board to allow DTC apply for funding through their grant program. The Durham County ABC Board's grant program is offered to non-profit agencies and community organizations with programs that focus on alcohol abuse education and prevention. Durham DTC was awarded \$24,500 to support medication assisted treatment, drug testing supplies and confirmation testing, client housing and transportation and client incentives.



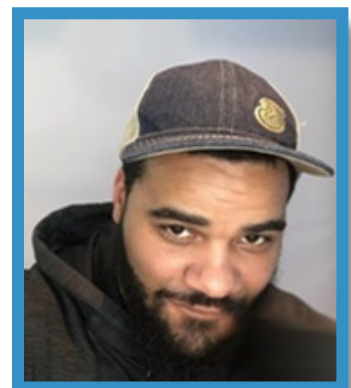
On February 11, 2020 CJRC's Adult Drug Treatment Court sponsored a meeting where substance use treatment providers were given a chance to get to know each other and explore additional opportunities to support Drug Treatment Court clients.

Michael

"I spent a year and a half working through the Drug Treatment Court program. It was really rough in the beginning, but eventually got better," Michael reported.

Michael liked the staff and stated that they were dependable in his times of need. Drug Treatment Court helped him get into some vocational training where he was able to get his Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

Michael is currently searching for full-time employment that will enable him to support his family.



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Thank you!



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