

DURHAM COUNTY

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER**  
COMPASSION AND INNOVATION AT WORK

**FISCAL YEAR 2017 IN REVIEW**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

■	Director's Message	4
■	Reentry Services	5
■	Durham Reentry Council	6
■	Drug Treatment Court	7
■	STARR Program	8
■	Mental Health Court	9
■	Jail Mental Health	10
■	Pretrial Services	11
■	Misdemeanor Diversion Court	11
■	Gang Reduction Strategy	13
■	Criminal Justice System Support	14
■	Court Reminders	15

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The Criminal Justice Resource Center provides many services for persons along the continuum of the criminal justice system.

On behalf of the staff at the Durham County Criminal Justice Resource Center, it is my pleasure to bring you this report, highlighting some of our programs and activities in Fiscal Year 2016-17.

The Criminal Justice Resource Center provides a variety of services for persons along the criminal justice system continuum. These services are as diverse as preventing arrest and criminal records, to providing substance use disorder and mental health services for inmates in the Durham County Detention Center. We offer rehabilitation, treatment and support services for those on probation and post release supervision as well. In FY17, we were able to enhance some of these services, while also adding new ones. At all times, our work is guided by compassion for the individuals we serve, with an orientation towards improving our department and community through innovative programs and approaches.

Reducing the number of individuals in detention with mental illness was a special focus for us in FY17. To facilitate that effort, we developed and implemented a Mental Health Court Diversion Program and we expanded our mental health services in the jail.

Thanks to a Safety and Justice Challenge grant award from the MacArthur Foundation, we created a Court Date Reminder Service to reduce the number of individuals arrested due to failures to appear for court. An award from the NC Department of Public Safety established our department as the Intermediary Agency for the newly created Local Durham Reentry Council to develop an even broader network of services for citizens returning from incarceration.

In this report, you will read about the experience of some clients who utilized our services on their path to becoming productive members of the community. Also featured are some of our partnerships with other local and state agencies that collaborate with us daily to provide the most effective and appropriate services. We are grateful for their willingness to work together and provide compassionate, evidenced based and innovative services to our clients and the greater community.

For more information about our services and programs, please visit us at [www.dconc.gov/cjrc](http://www.dconc.gov/cjrc)

# REENTRY SERVICES



**"I can handle it. Show me what I need to do and I'll do it!"**

It's a busy afternoon at the Durham County Solid Waste Container Site on Redwood Road. Between monitoring the drop-off bins and giving instructions to container truck drivers, Durham native Sherikia

(Dee Dee) Myers takes a few minutes to talk about her experience with the Criminal Justice Resource Center.

**"I was referred to CJRC by my Probation Officer, and after class one day, a staff member, Mr. Pompey mentioned that if a person was drug/alcohol free they could attend the employment program. He gave me a referral"**

Dee Dee was skeptical about her job options given some of her past history, but enrolled in the

employment program with Program Manager Robin Heath. **"Robin helped me with my interviewing skills, and helped me build a resume. She always answered my texts and emails promptly and made herself available"**.

Opportunities in the County's General Services department interested Dee Dee, and she appreciates the fact that CJRC staff did not try to steer her in a different direction. **"I told them that I could handle the work. They just needed to show me what to do and I would do it"**, she says.

The full-time employment has given Dee Dee confidence in herself, and she has begun thinking about her long-term future. She would like to remain working with Durham County, and, if she can complete the training at some point, perhaps fulfill her dream of being an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).



Charles Horry likes to think of the **Reentry Services** he received at CJRC as a building foundation. **"The great people I worked with at the CJRC told me they could help me build a new foundation, but the rest of the work was up to me"**

Born in Durham, Charles attended Whitted Middle School and then Hillside High School. In and out of trouble much of his adult life, while incarcerated once again, he was visited by Joel Wright, a CJRC Counselor, who believed that Charles had the potential to benefit from Reentry Services.

**"As I approached release from prison, I had no job, no housing and no plan. CJRC placed me in their transition house, and I enrolled in some of their classes and programs. Really, it was like a miracle and I'll never forget the patience and kindness they showed me"**.

Charles explains that his success was not always easy. **"I had to grind, and I had to consciously make the right decision every time, but the Reentry program gave me the tools to do that."**

With a strong foundation in place, and constant assistance from his faith team, Charles has begun building on it. He has his own house, stability and the security that comes knowing his friends at the CJRC are behind him one hundred percent.



# DURHAM REENTRY COUNCIL (LRC)

In Dec 2016, CJRC was awarded a \$150,000 contract from the NC Dept of Public Safety to establish a Reentry Council for Durham County. Reentry councils are networks of community-based organizations that cooperate to assist ex-offenders, returning citizens and criminal justice involved individuals with necessary local services like housing, employment, food, clothing, treatment, transportation and mentoring. Their mission is to develop and coordinate resources in their communities for the support of ex-offenders in order to reduce recidivism and victimization.

During the first months, Durham LRC focused on educating the community about the purpose and goals of the LRC and identified partner agencies through networking events. Durham LRC is managed by a Coordinator and has a part-time Job Placement Specialist. Durham LRC hosts a Service Provider Committee composed of community agencies in Durham. For more information about Durham's Local Reentry Council visit [durhamreentrycouncil.org](http://durhamreentrycouncil.org).

## Torrey Green and the Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) Program



One of the many obstacles faced by those returning from prison is access to health care. To address this need, Evan Ashkin, MD, a professor of family medicine at the UNC School of Medicine, founded the Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) program. The program is designed to help chronically ill former individuals, recently released from prison, connect with primary care medical

FY 2017, Durham Public Health hired Torrey Green (pictured) as a community health worker for FIT.

An additional core partner is the Criminal Justice Resource Center where Torrey spends half of his work week. Torrey is very pleased with FIT's partnership with the CJRC. **"CJRC's Reentry Services have been so supportive of the FIT program. I'm a part of their monthly staff meetings, and they have been a major source of FIT referrals."**

Torrey believes that preventing serious medical complications after release from prison is a community obligation, and **"our partnership with the CJRC helps us meet this obligation."**

services.

FIT began partnering with the Lincoln Community Health Center, and the Durham and NC Departments of Health. In

**Reentry Services** provide community based programs for justice involved individuals who are Durham County residents and on supervised probation, post-release supervision or parole by NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Community Corrections.

Services include Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (CBI), Case Management, Employment Readiness, Computer Instruction, GED/Adult Basic Education and many wrap around services. Sherikia (Dee Dee) Meyers explored the employment services CJRC offers because sustainable employment is key to reduced criminal activity. Charles Horry used CJRC Reentry Services to get back on his feet after many years of incarceration.

- 269 individuals received CBI, 37 received Post-Release Services
- 122 persons received Employment Services
- Staff provided 292 referrals for supportive services

# DRUG TREATMENT COURT



*"Now I have a bank account, insurance and a place to call my own"*

Erica Leak was born in New York and moved to Durham at the age of two. School was a struggle for her and she dropped out before her senior year.

Using and selling drugs was a way of life for Erica, and as a result she found herself facing charges. CJRC's Drug Treatment Court was an alternative to jail time but she was concerned about the 1-year commitment. **"Kamesha (Kamesha Falana – Drug**

**Treatment Court Coordinator)** built a bond with me at this time, kept me in a positive frame of mind and stayed by my side through the entire process. She pointed to others who had completed the program and asked if I didn't want the same thing for myself. This was an inspiration to me" she says.

Erica had a couple starts and stops while going through the Drug Treatment Court program. "It wasn't easy" she says. "But it taught me the important things. Don't use today. Don't use tomorrow. Deal with your issues and don't mask them with drugs". With new stability in her life, Erica is now looking at completing her education goals.

**Drug Treatment Court** is an intensive, highly structured program designed to identify and treat individuals whose criminal activities are generally connected to substance use. This is a post-conviction program and well suited for probationers facing violation due to continued drug use. Participants must have an underlying active sentence of at least four months. Some eligibility criteria apply.

- 49 Drug Treatment Court clients were served
- 25 cases were closed with 5 clients completing all program requirements.



COMPASSION

AT WORK

# STARR PROGRAM



***"I'm learning to separate myself from the wrong people, places and things"***

Shawn Hayes acknowledges that his immediate future is unclear. He is currently incarcerated at the Durham County Detention Center on pending charges.

One thing that Shawn is clear

about is his desire to live the rest of his life free of substance abuse.

He was born in Durham and attended Riverside High School, but did not graduate.

Drugs played a part in Shawn's current circumstances, but he found help in CJRC's STARR (Substance Abuse

Treatment and Recidivism Reduction) Program. His enrollment was voluntary, and upon completion he enrolled in an additional four-week program (STARR GRAD) that he is currently working through.

***"The people who work for STARR really care about you on an individual level. I've learned so much in this program and hope that at some point in the future I can take what I've learned and help others."***

After release, Shawn intends to get a Commercial Driver's License. With that in hand, he hopes to find local employment that will allow him to spend ample time with his children.

CJRC provides substance use disorder treatment for persons at the Durham County Detention Facility and outpatient treatment for supervised and court ordered individuals living in Durham County.

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

- 555 inmates received substance use disorder treatment, 78% graduated

**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.

- 377 individuals received substance use disorder treatment
- 242 cases were closed with 63 clients completing all program requirements.





# MENTAL HEALTH COURT DIVERSION PROGRAM



**The Durham County Board of Commissioners** approved the creation of a Mental Health Court (MHC) in FY 2017. CJRC established the court and is also the court coordinator.

The MHC Diversion Program is designed to reduce the recidivism of individuals with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness by offering them treatment and the chance to have their criminal charges dismissed.

MHC program staff works closely with participants to coordinate, monitor and provide specialized treatment to improve mental health outcomes and reduce the rate of recidivism.

The Durham County Mental Health Court Diversion team includes a Durham County District Court Judge, an Assistant District Attorney, an Assistant Public Defender and the Mental Health Court Coordinator.

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 proceedings.
- Supervised, person-centered treatment plans for each defendant participating in the court supported by an interdisciplinary team.
- Regular status hearings occur at which treatment plans and other conditions are periodically reviewed for appropriateness.
- Incentives offered to reward adherence to court conditions. Participation is jeopardized when there is no adherence to the conditions.

CUSTOMIZED  
LOCAL  
SOLUTIONS



## JAIL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

CJRC staff provide mental health services and discharge planning for inmates with mental illnesses, targeting those with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) and Severe Mental Illness (SMI). The jail mental health practitioners also monitor suicide precautions, respond to sick calls, and provide psycho-social education groups for dually diagnosed (mental health and substance use) individuals.

In FY17, CJRC was able to add a case management assistant to the team to reduce jail recidivism and improve connection to services after release. The enhanced team works to ensure clients receive a 30 day supply of psychotropic medication at release, attend treatment appointments and assist with finding housing at release.

The **Court Psychologist's** primary services include independent psychological evaluations of youth and adults in the criminal justice system with recommendations for follow up treatment.

**Jail Mental Health** staff identifies inmates with severe mental illness and works with a psychiatrist to approve necessary medication while in jail, monitors them while they remain in jail, notifies their treatment provider and assists with discharge plans.

- Screened 1,403 inmates to identify needed mental health medications and treatment and connection to a treatment provider upon release
- Offered 578 hours of psychiatric services
- Assisted 177 inmates with discharge plans



[Opioid related deaths in North Carolina have increased 73% from 2005 to 2015. In Durham, the increase was 183% \(6 to 17 deaths\).](#)

Accordingly, the Durham County Jail has seen an increase in the number of inmates that are opioid users. To improve supportive services, county agencies (Public Health, Sheriff, CJRC), medical staff and the NC Harm Reduction Coalition have teamed up to provide Naloxone kits (overdose reversal kit) to inmates upon release. As a result, inmates that are identified as opioid users can request a Naloxone kit at release from to prevent a future drug overdose.

Durham's Department of Public Health also makes Naloxone available at their pharmacy. The program started in the Summer of 2017.



# PRETRIAL SERVICES



Pretrial Services provides a systematic approach for recommending release and community supervision for defendants who are unable to post bond and do not pose a risk to the community as they await trial. Pretrial staff assesses eligible persons and makes

recommendations to the Court for release. Pretrial Services supervises individuals based on a validated risk assessment and special conditions set by the Courts.

Pretrial Services provides arrest and court summaries for all defendants to the presiding judge at the Jail First Appearance Court. In addition, when

inmates are unable to contact friends and family members regarding bond and their release, Pretrial staff contacts them for the inmate.

## IN FY 2017 PRETRIAL SERVICES

**Prepared** 4,392 Court summaries for First Appearance

**Assessed** 2,101 inmates for pretrial Release Supervision

**Contacted** 1,221 families & friends on behalf of inmates

**Supervised** 451 individuals

# MISDEMEANOR DIVERSION PROGRAM (MDP)

Representative Marcia Morey, the former Durham Chief District Court judge, stated she envisioned the Misdemeanor Diversion Program (MDP) because she became tired of seeing young people in court for offenses that were not serious with lasting negative consequences affecting college and employment opportunities later in life.



The diversion program started in March 2014 for 16- and 17-year-olds and was expanded to include up to 21-year-olds by October 2015. Through June 30, 2017,

- 352 16-21 y.o. participated in the program, 99% completed MDP
- 89% of MDP graduates did not have additional contact with the criminal justice system in the year following program completion.

C.D., an honor roll student, was charged with misdemeanor larceny for stealing a drink from her school. Through the Misdemeanor Diversion Program, C. D. learned about NC laws which place youth ages 16 and up in the adult criminal system and the collateral consequences she could have faced if charged as an adult. She also attended a leadership skills program to help her make better decisions in the future. C.D. completed the MDP program and will be attending college on an academic scholarship which she would not have been eligible for with an arrest record.

## GANG REDUCTION STRATEGY

In Durham, a coordinated, community-wide approach has been in place for several years to reduce criminal activity committed by gang members. Durham adopted and implemented the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model in 2008. Policy related to this approach is crafted by members of the Gang Reduction Strategy Steering Committee.



The Steering Committee has established two subcommittees. The Prevention/Intervention Team meets quarterly providing a venue for stakeholders to learn more about the Comprehensive Gang Model, and to coordinate resources. The Suppression Team, consisting of law enforcement, probation, juvenile justice and the District Attorney's office, meets regularly to share intelligence, coordinate efforts and to plan events such as probation searches and youthful offender call-ins.

Activities of the GRS Steering Committee in FY 2017 included

- Reviewed data on violent deaths occurring in Durham
- Invited representatives from Cure Violence, YouthBuild, StepUp and the Local Reentry Council to present information to the group

- Endorsed a structured communication policy for information sharing between law enforcement, courts, correctional institutions and probation
- Examined metrics related to employment for justice-involved individuals
- Received a report from ATF on firearm traces in Durham
- Reviewed the Durham Gang Crime Report (2009 – 2016)
- Reviewed all recommendations of the Updated Gang Assessment and identified several for special focus in FY 2018

Additional information, including research and reports, can be found on the [GRS website](#)

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM SUPPORT

## Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)



The NC Department of Public Safety (NCDPS), Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, collaborates with the Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPC) in all North Carolina counties to galvanize community leaders, locally and statewide, to reduce, and prevent juvenile crime. JCPC works to develop community-based delinquency prevention strategies and programs to divert at-risk juveniles from becoming court involved. The Council assesses local youth service needs annually and addresses gaps in services.

*Members of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council listen to presentations by funded service providers in FY 2017*

Each year the JCPC reviews data from juvenile Risk and Needs Assessments. This data is used to identify the most current and pressing needs of at-risk juveniles in Durham County, these needs are foundational to the JCPC Annual Plan.

To view the Durham Risk Needs Assessment and JCPC Annual Plan and Report, visit the [JCPC website](#).

In FY 2017, Durham JCPC recommended allocating \$536,600 from NCDPS to nine programs serving delinquent and at-risk youth in Durham County. The funding recommendations were unanimously approved by the Durham Board of County Commissioners.

## Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC)

The purpose of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) is to develop a comprehensive continuum of services for the adult criminal justice system, identify services gaps, and develop intervention strategies and comprehensive solutions. The CJAC members represent the many agencies and organizations in Durham that are part of the criminal justice system and advocate for justice involved persons.

In FY 2017, CJAC focused discussions on:

- Bail Bond policy and Pretrial Procedures
- Domestic Violence Batterer Intervention Services
- Reducing the number of jail inmates with mental illness
- Local efforts to combat opioid use
- Community efforts to reduce violent crime



To learn more about CJAC, visit the [CJAC website](#).

# COURT REMINDERS

With funding from the Safety and Justice Challenge Innovation Fund, CJRC has established an automated notification system aimed at preventing failure-to-appear warrants and arrests. By utilizing this innovative service, people involved with the Durham County Criminal Courts can receive text, phone, or email notices regarding scheduled court dates. There are approximately 2,800 criminal cases each month scheduled for appearance in Durham County. Of these, approximately 10%, or 280 individuals fail to appear.

Durham County hopes to decrease the number of people taken to jail because of a missed court date by sending reminders 72 and 24 hours ahead of scheduled court dates. Metrics are in place to determine savings in court administration and jail costs as this new program reduces the percentage of criminal cases that result in failure to appear charges.

Court Date Reminders is a joint effort led by the Criminal Justice Resource Center, in partnership with the Durham County Clerk of Superior Court, NC Administrative Office of Courts, Durham Public Defender's Office, Durham District Attorney's Office, Durham County Sheriff's Office and Durham County IS&T.

The project is funded by the Safety and Justice Challenge Innovation Fund, supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



## COURT DATE REMINDERS



**FREE, EASY AND CONVENIENT**

Register Today at

**[courtreminders.dconc.gov](http://courtreminders.dconc.gov)**



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

# AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Safety & Justice Challenge Innovation Fund Award for Court Date Reminder Project
- 2016 Achievement Award by National Association of Counties for Misdemeanor Diversion Program
- Peaceful Presence Award from the Religious Coalition for a Non-Violent Durham
- Awarded the Intermediary Agency Contract by State of North Carolina for the Local Reentry Council

# STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS, CHANGES

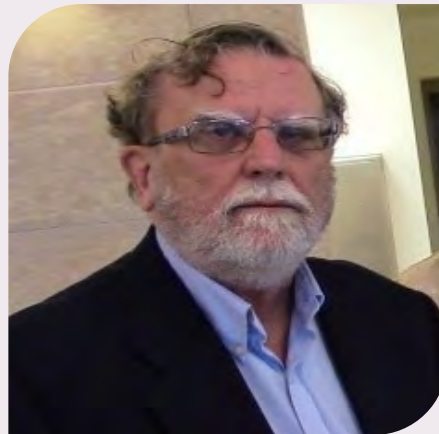


High-5 Awards are given to staff who go above and beyond their usual job duties. To win this exclusive award a staff member must be nominated by one or more of their peers. Some winners have volunteered to stay late to help with troubled clients, while others have logged long hours to work on special projects. 17 staff were acknowledged for their exceptional service. Congratulations and thanks for all you do!

Three long time employees retired. CJRC congratulates and thanks them for their efforts for staff and clients alike. CJRC wishes them nothing but the best in their future endeavors.



Robert Thomas, Quality Assurance Coordinator



Dr David Vandevusse, Psychologist



Annie Woyee, Substance Abuse Counselor

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER FISCAL YEAR 2017 IN REVIEW

## **CJRC**

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## **HOURS**

Monday - Thursday  
8:30am - 8:30pm

## **Friday**

8:30am - 5:00pm

DURHAM COUNTY