

Criminal Legal System Round Table Zoom Meeting Minutes. 8/18/21. 12pm-1pm

Attendance (didn't reach quorum): Mike Sistrom, Jatoia Potts, Leslie Nydick, and Dwayne Campbell.

We also recorded the Zoom.

I reviewed the RT's 8/11 discussion with Christie Long, Durham Pretrial Services manager. See the 8/11 minutes for those highlights. As we went along Jatoia and Leslie interjected suggestions for follow up discussion and information and proposed reforms. Those included:

- Concurring on the utility of a permanent form of community advisory and interagency working group for the Office of Pretrial Services to build off of the 2019 advisory group.
- Concurred on the value of OPS having a presence at/access to incarcerated individuals at the magistrate stage. This is part of a general effort to reduce the delay in incarcerated individuals getting connected with OPS and being able to get into Pretrial Supervision.
- Creating a new office or set of staff to advise arrestees and their families about how the process will unfold and what their options are once they are brought to the jail and before they see the magistrate.
- Recommending OPS share more with incarcerated individuals how their consultation process and the time involved between detention and first contact with the Office. Jatoia noted that incarcerated individuals notice discrepancies in which individuals get contacted sooner that seem based more on race than seriousness of offence or their potential for Pretrial Supervision.
- Recommending shifting the preponderance of referrals for Pretrial Supervision away from Public Defenders/defense attorneys and jail population control toward OPS staff, the magistrate, and/or Jail Mental Health Diversion.
- We will want to ask the OPS for a written response to our question regarding what increases in resources they think they need to better serve the public?
- We will want to ask the OPS for a written explanation for why the rate of diversion into Pretrial Supervision declined before COVID and how to continue to reverse that trend.

Leslie discussed the bond, unsecured bond issue some. We let her know we'd already decided to make the bond issue a focus of our deliberations later.

Dwayne did not have an update on prior research requests. James should be able to provide that soon. Dwayne did let us know about the \$25 gift cards to incentivize Listening Session participation. Jatoia suggested we allow incarcerated individuals who participate the option of getting gift card for themselves or their family or have that amount put on their TouchPay account.

Jatoia and Mike agreed that the magistrate's office/appearance should be the focus of our next RT meeting on 8/25. We would discuss potential questions to ask and potential current magistrates to invite. Leslie offered to help us decide the best ones to invite, and which to avoid. Mike noted that he'd shared the list of all North Carolina's current county magistrates. From that list James or Dwayne could create a list of Durham's magistrates with their contact information.