

On Zoom, 12-1pm, 9/29/21.

Minutes prepared by Mike Sstrom

Attending: Marcia Owen, Mike Sstrom, Andrea Muffin Hudson, Jatoia Potts, Dwayne Campbell, James Spiers, Leslie Nydick, and Renee Shaw.

We discussed the plan for our four Listening Sessions with families of homicide victims. The first was the evening of the 29th.

We discussed the plan for three different RT meeting with Criminal Justice Recourse Center staff. The first will be October 6th. That one will focus on CJRC's diversion programs and specialty courts, Mental Health, and Adult Drug Dependency. The second RT will focus on addiction, mental health, and other services CJRC provides to detainees in the jail and others. The third will focus on the re-entry process and programs for those leaving the Durham County jail or returning from prison home to Durham.

We discussed potential questions for the CJRC for our first meeting. (See separate file of draft questions.)

As we began to draft questions relating to the CJRC's diversion programs, Muffin reminded that law enforcement is the first, key opportunity for diversion away from the criminal legal system and into better alternatives. Currently, the Misdemeanor Diversion Program is the only CJRC program where law enforcement is the main referral source. Otherwise, referral for other diversion programs and specialty courts has to come from the DA or the Public Defender. In those cases, the person would have already spent several months in jail before First Appearance.

In the process of discussing CJRC programs, Jatoia shared her experience with the STAR and other programs at the jail. Rennee Shaw also answered questions about those jail programs and the initial mental health screening arrestees receive at the jail. We will return to these topics in detail later when we explore the jail conditions and programs.

We also discussed with Renee the challenges facing participants in Mental Health Court and Adult Drug Dependency Court to be able to complete the six month programs and avoid being sent back to jail for non-compliance.

Finally, Renee mentioned the CJRC's key community partners for the Stepping Up Initiative relating to reentry. These same partners could potentially become more involved, received more support to be involved in the earlier part of the process.