

CLS RT Meeting Minutes, 10/13/21.

Via Zoom, 12-1pm,

Attendance: Marcia Owen, Mike Sstrom, Jatoia Potts, James Spiers, Dwayne Campbell, Libria Stevens.

Minutes prepared by Mike Sstrom

Marcia summarized the highlights of her solo meeting 10/6 CJRC staff on post-arrest diversion programs and specialty courts; mental health and adult drug dependency. (See separate file of notes Marcia will prepare and post). This was the first of three planned RT sessions with CJRC staff on various issues. The second will focus on treatment programs CJRC provides inside and outside the jail. The third will focus on re-entry. Highlights from the 10/6 meeting:

- a main reason for declining diversion rates come from law enforcement not making referrals after arrest. (In discussion in the RT meeting, we realized we need to learn how often responding DPD officers and Sheriff's deputies make no arrest, but refer individuals to needed services. If this outcome is frequent and increasing, that could partially explain the declining post-arrest diversion rates. This is an issue the crisis response RT is also considering.)
- Marcia and the CJRC staff also discussed issue of dismissal of charges for misdemeanors and felonies at the initial court appearance, at least one month into incarceration. In those cases, dismissal would by definition not prompt diversion, nor necessarily prompt any referral to any needed services or any opportunity for restorative justice since those individuals were no longer justice-involved. We recognized the need to follow up with DA staff, especially Monica Burnett, on what criteria the DA's office uses to determine dismissal or diversion. We will wait until the Urban Institute issues its report to make further information requests of the DA.
- The CJRC staff noted the need for participants in the mental health and drug dependency court to have adequate housing and other resources during and after they've complete the six-month court program.
- Mental Health Court uses Alliance Mental Health. There is a 6-12 month waiting for uninsured individuals to be able to get services.
- 25% of current post-arrest diversion referrals come from defense attorneys. Libria noted that post-arrest diversion referrals depend on either a victimless crime or an accessible victim.

Marcia and Mike reviewed some of the main take-aways from the first three of the four planned Listening Sessions with homicide victims' family members. (See the separate files of notes and Zoom recordings for those meetings.) Our fourth LS will be 10/27.

- Lack of communication from the DA's office with families.
- The delay between crime and arrest and especially between arrest and trial. It's typically four+ years.
- The bond and plea bargain process being unpredictable and uncommunicated to family members.
- The lack of humanity in the death notification and support at the crime scene.
- The importance of RCNVD and the support it provides to family members.

- The need for more community support for that work and for trauma support and other long-term needs of victims' families. Not just during the trial process.

We reviewed our responses to the two prompts to present at the full Task Force meeting on 10/13.

Marcia will work on scheduling the next two RT meetings with CJRC staff. We may be able to have one of those at our next RT meeting, Wednesday, 10/20.