

911 Responses / Crisis Intervention
February 9, 2022

Members Present: Jennifer Carroll, Isaac Villegas, Manju Rajendran, Xavier Cason

Agenda

- Discussion of updates for the quarterly report
- Continued brainstorming around goals for the round table

Outcomes:

The group discussed what outcomes they should be building towards in the work so far:

- Set up a website for the public with information about what has been accomplished, potentially in collaboration with the Department of Community Safety
- Receive training from other cities doing crisis response without policing
- Offer budgetary recommendations to City Council and the Board of County Commissioners about investments that would support the success of building towards creating greater safety and wellness.
- Conclude with a clear, visionary report that is easy to understand and can be shared with the public.

Questions to research:

- Do Durham police and/or sheriff's deputies use no-knock warrants?
- What are Durham's substance use profile and treatment capacity?
- Does Durham youth detention center use segregation, secure housing units, or isolation methods?
- Under what circumstances will DPS contact 911?
- What can 911 calls for service data teach us?

Goals moving forward:

- Continue to make ongoing recommendations
- Listen to as many stakeholders as possible, especially those who have been directly impacted. How do residents view and experience 911? What types of support are residents seeking for what types of challenges, and what skills are needed? What are residents' visions for the Department of Community Safety?
- Develop and present policy and practice recommendations to City Council, the County Commissioners, and the School Board.
- Present supporting evidence for our recommendations.
- Process goals:
 - Make sure the community has clarity around what the Community Safety and Wellness Task Force is here to do, where we are in our timeline, and dispel myths.
 - Define what success would look like and feel like according to Durham residents, both in terms of broad vision and in terms of concrete changes they want to see happen.
 - Have clear next steps for residents on how to get or stay involved.

Short term vision

Have unarmed, skilled, crisis response teams available 24 hours to Durham residents. Durham residents have a number to directly request unarmed, skilled, compassionate crisis support (both by phone and in-person).

Long term vision

Durham residents can reach publicly accessible mental health care and harm reduction-based substance use care outside of jail or prison pathways. Residents can easily access publicly operated crisis response that is passionate, evidence-based, welcoming, and effective. Residents can regularly reflect with municipal decision-making bodies about how to address the root causes of patterns of crisis. In addition, Durham sees large-scale transformative policy development and structural change. Durham's elected decision-makers shift public funding from punishment, enforcement, and incarceration to meeting community needs such as quality public education; childcare and youth programs; excellent healthcare; safe, affordable housing; and work with dignity and thriving wages. Durham sees investment in community life that goes beyond police presence—parks and recreation, libraries, and similar community resources.