

HANDOUTS

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes 10/15/13
- Driver's License Recovery Initiative Planning Model
- Driver's License Recovery Initiative Operation Model
- Mental Health Crisis Center: Expanding the Continuum of Mental Health Services
- Sequential Intercepts for Change: Criminal Justice / Behavioral Health Partnerships
- Countywide Citation Policy

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:40am

Welcome

Michelle Lancaster opened the meeting and recognized Jessica Ireland for being elected to the National Association of Pretrial Agencies Board of Directors.

Magistrate Video Phone Project

Tom Eberly advised the Huntersville and Matthews police departments have volunteered to install and utilize the magistrate video phone system. As previously discussed, county IT staff will conduct a more thorough analysis of the magistrate work area; it appears there is sufficient area to accommodate the required laptops. The next step will be to sit down with the police departments to establish use policies.

License Restoration Program

Mauro Messina discussed the progress in forming the Driver's License Recovery Initiative. The initiative is a Justice Reinvestment strategy adopted by CJAG to reduce the volume of arrests for driving while license revoked. Messina reviewed the program's planning logic, eligibility criteria, and tentative operation plan. The planning logic detailed the scope of the problem, the community's needs, expected program outcomes, factors influencing the program, and underlying assumptions about how and why the program would be successful. Eligibility will be limited to those whose licenses are suspended and eligible for reinstatement and where the underlying offenses occurred in Mecklenburg County and are not DWI. As the initiative is currently conceived, public defenders will refer potential clients to the program. The driving records of eligible persons will be analyzed and a license recovery plan created. The plan will be reviewed with the client, who is then responsible for following the course of action. The program will routinely follow up with clients to measure progress and to identify and help the clients navigate any obstacles to recovery. Students volunteering from the Charlotte School of Law will analyze records, construct recovery plans, and monitor client progress. The public defenders will be responsible for review and approval of plans.

Mental Health Crisis Center

Melissa Neal presented an overview of efforts to create the Mecklenburg County Mental Health Crisis Center. The center will function to provide 24/7 facility-based crisis care and law enforcement-oriented medical clearance services. The center's goals include lowering barriers to mental healthcare, providing on-demand access and availability to appropriate healthcare services, and minimizing law enforcement time off the streets. The program is modeled on the Bexar County (TX) crisis center, which has demonstrated significant reductions in emergency department visits, medical clearance times, and recidivism. Neal detailed the need for a care facility noting the relationship between frequent jail users and mental health disorders, an increase in calls to MEDIC and visits to emergency departments for mental health episodes, and the frequency, time and costs associated with officers obtaining medical clearances. Tentatively, the center will be located at Cottage C on Billingsley Road in proximity to other mental health and substance abuse services. Admission will be voluntary. Eligibility will be extended to adults experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis with symptoms of mental health, substance abuse, or co-occurring disorders. The center is expected to produce a wide-range of positive outcomes for law enforcement including fewer mental health-related emergency calls and improved capacity for officers to handle situations involving a mental health issue. Anticipated healthcare outcomes include: increased appropriate use of existing mental health services, fewer hospital admissions for inappropriate mental health

treatment, and patients receiving more appropriate services than those accessed through the county jail. The final proposal is expected to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners in February 2014.

Countywide Citation Policy

Tom Eberly presented the countywide citation policy developed by the CJAG law enforcement workgroup. The policy is one of several Justice Reinvestment strategies adopted to reduce the volume of arrests for low-level offenses. Eberly highlighted numerous studies of the local criminal justice system supporting the need for a citation policy. When implemented, the policy is expected to improve public safety by keeping officers on patrol, lower law enforcement costs, focus resources on higher-risk individuals, and reduce jail bed demand. Members present were surveyed as to their agreement with the policy; all comments were supportive. Eberly closed by presenting the implementation strategy: the goal is to formalize the policy in department directives, disseminate the policy to command staff to build support, create an on-line training module for officers, and provide training to magistrates. Other elements of implementation include incorporating a risk proxy tool in the arrest worksheet web portal and piloting the proxy tool in a department or division. The target date for implementation is April 2014.

Open Discussion

Members did not raise any topics for open discussion.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:38am.

Criminal Justice Advisory Group – CJAG
November 19, 2013
MINUTES

Name	Position/Agency
Hope Marshall	Criminal Justice Services
Robyn Withrow	District Attorney's Office
Elizabeth Swann	Criminal Justice Services
Tracy Lee	Community Supervision
Bart Menser	District Attorney's Office
Kevin Black	Cornelius Police Department
Jessica Ireland	Pretrial Services
Melissa Neal	Criminal Justice Services
Mauro Messina	Criminal Justice Services
Tom Eberly	Criminal Justice Services
Michelle Lancaster	County Manager's Office
Karen Johnson	Magistrate's Office
Eric D. Campbell	Charlotte City Manager's Office
Bill Connell	Cornelius Police Department
Corey Copley	Pineville Police Department
Chipp Bailey	Sheriff
Michael Kee	Huntersville Police Department
Reagan Miller	Chief District Court Judge
Todd Nuccio	Trial Court Administrator
David Dufresne	Matthews Police Department
Rob Hunter	Matthews Police Department