

**Criminal Justice Advisory Group - CJAG**  
**March 18, 2014**  
**MINUTES**

**HANDOUTS**

- Meeting Agenda
- Supportive Housing: A Promising Solution for Frequent Offenders in Mecklenburg County
- Minutes (Draft) February 18, 2014
- Press Release: Arnold Foundation New Pilot Sites for Court Risk Assessment Tool
- Research Summary: Developing a National Model for Pretrial Risk Assessment
- Pretrial Services Criminal History Summary

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:45am**

**Welcome**

Carol Hickey opened the meeting. Hickey recognized Todd Nuccio for his selection by the ABA Judicial Lawyer's Division to receive the 2014 Burnham "Hod" Greeley Award. The award is given to individuals and organizations for making a significant, positive impact on public understanding of the role of the judiciary as an organization.

February minutes were approved by consensus.

**Announcements/Open Items**

*Magistrate Video Project*

Tom Eberly advised that the Magistrate Video Project was moving forward. Client software has been installed at the Magistrate's office and at the Huntersville and Matthews police departments. Next steps include gathering stakeholders to establish operational policies and then expand the capability to other agencies.

*WRRC/Reentry*

Tom Eberly informed members the NC Department of Public Safety (DPS) wants to partner with Mecklenburg County to establish a transition program that will allow offenders who are within 90-180 days of release from state prison to serve their remaining time at the Work Release Center. During this period, the offenders will be provided "wrap-around" services to prepare them to successfully return to the community. Services will be provided by the Sheriff's Office and community service providers. Eberly noted the work release facility is well-equipped to support the program. The first challenge is to obtain legislative changes that will permit offenders to serve a portion of their sentences outside of a state prison. Mecklenburg is constructing a plan that will be submitted to DPS in the next 45 days. DPS will take the plan to legislators and seek the required changes. The program directly supports the Justice Reinvestment Initiative reentry strategy adopted by CJAG last year.

*Moore Place*

Tom Eberly presented the Supportive Housing handout, raising to member's attention the positive outcomes observed at Moore Place, an 85-unit housing unit that provides permanent housing and support services to Mecklenburg County's chronically homeless population. The handout presents three case studies as evidence of how the program can dramatically reduce costs associated with the arrest and incarceration of frequent offenders.

**Defendant Risk Assessment**

Dr. Marie VanNostrand presented an overview of the Public Safety Assessment- Court, a pretrial risk assessment tool to be adopted by Pretrial Services in May. Mecklenburg County has been selected as a

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national pilot site by the Arnold Foundation to implement the instrument, which examines nine factors predictive of an individual's likelihood to commit a new crime, commit a violent crime, or fail to appear for court. The objective, research-based assessment provides an accurate measure of risk on the basis of the person's criminal history and current charges and is unique in that it does not require an in-person interview. VanNostrand discussed the supporting research; reviewed the risk factors and the types of pretrial failure to which they were most closely correlated; and detailed how the tool has been validated. She further discussed why pretrial risk assessments were critical to the criminal justice system. A general discussion followed the presentation. Next steps include VanNostrand meeting with stakeholders individually to discuss a decision-making framework and implementation. Tom Eberly noted the tool will be implemented first, then stakeholders will collectively decide how the risk assessments will be used.

**Open Discussion**

Tom Eberly advised CJS's early budget is due this week and the final due March 28. Sheriff Bailey asked funding for upgrading the video arraignment system be given priority.

The Honorable Judge Regan Miller advised a new policy is forthcoming that will effect law enforcement in regards to the transport of persons requiring mental health treatment. The policy will ensure that not all persons requiring treatment will be taken to CMC-Randolph, but also to Presbyterian. The hospitals are negotiating the policy now and it will presented once an agreement is reached.

Miller also recognized Mecklenburg County for providing funding to purchase equipment that will allow video hearings to be conducted in involuntary commitment cases.

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:05am.**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/Agency</b>
Carol Hickey	CMO
Robin Withrow	District Attorney's Office
Bart Menser	District Attorney's Office
Dennis Lively	Clerk's Office
Andrew Murray	District Attorney
Marie White	Community Support Services
Richard Stroker	Center for Effective Public Policy
Hope Marshall	CJS
Melissa Neal	CJS
Mauro Messina	CJS
Kevin Tully	Public Defender
Todd Nuccio	Trial Court Administrator
Tom Eberly	CJS
Regan Miller	Chief District Court Judge
Rob Hunter	Matthews Police
David Harrington	Matthews Police
Nick Pellicone	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police
Chipp Bailey	Sheriff
Elizabeth Swann	CJS