

Criminal Justice Citizen's Advisory Committee- CJCAC  
September 15, 2010  
**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

Name	Position	Present
Mr. Alan Adler	District 1	YES
Mr. James Calvin Henry	District 2	NO
Mr. Dennis T. Brown	District 3	YES
Vacant	District 4	NO
Mr. Bill Munson	District 5	YES
Mr. Tom Bowers	District 6	YES
Mr. Anthony G. Scheer	Bar Association	YES
Mr. Ray Wilson	Charlotte- Mecklenburg Schools	NO
Ms. Jerry Mudge	Faith Community	YES
Ms. Carolyn Green Logan	Law Enforcement	YES
Mr. Mark T. Sumwalt	CJCAC Chairman	YES
Ms. Myra Byarm	Rehabilitation	YES
Ms. Karen L. Worrell	Substance Abuse Professional	YES
Michelle Lancaster	Mecklenburg County General Manager	NO
Janet Payne	Staff: Assistant to the County Manager	NO
Tom Eberly	Staff: Court Services - County Manager's Office	YES
Jamie Privuznak	Staff: Court Services - County Manager's Office	YES

**HANDOUTS**

Meeting Agenda  
Meeting Minutes from August  
BOCC CJ Status Report

**Proposed Meeting Objectives:**

- Approve Meeting Minutes from August;
- Update from BOCC Report Sub-Committee;
- Public Safety Task Force Recommendations Update;
- Criminal Justice Status Report; and
- Year II Transition Planning.

**Meeting began at 5:30 PM.**

**Welcome**

Mark Sumwalt  
CJCAC Chair

Mark Sumwalt called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

**Approve Meeting Minutes**

Group

*Action Item: The group reviewed and approved by consensus the meeting minutes from the August 2010 meeting. A motion to approve was made by Alan Alder, seconded by Dennis Brown.*

**Discussion on Report to Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)**

Mark Sumwalt  
CJAC Chair

Mark Sumwalt offered the group some background on the formation of the subcommittee which was to draft the BOCC year-end report and provide recommendations. The subcommittee, consisting of members Dennis Brown, Carolyn Logan, Alan Alder, and Mark Sumwalt, met on September 1, 2010 to begin writing the report. Tom Eberly assisted with format of report.

Mark Sumwalt read through CJAC introductory report and findings draft:

*General Observations*

*Findings*

- #1 - Chronic Offenders and Recidivism*
- #2 - Improve IT - link existing record management systems*
- #3 - Inconsistencies in Crime Reporting*
- #4 - Greater Cooperation between Agencies DA/Police*
- #5 - Failure to follow up on Property Crime*

*Recommendations*

The group compared 16 recommendations from the previous Justice and Public Safety Task Force to current CJAC findings and discussed the following:

**#1 - Chronic Offenders and Revidivism**

Working on habitual felons already, new sentencing (long sentences without discretion from the court) how do we identify and process, keep chronic offenders off the street? There have been substantial steps taken in this area, (i.e. CPMD Priority Offender Lists, 2010 Bail Policy, and DA Habitual Felon Team) our recommendation is to continue to focus on this.

**#1 Recommendations**

- Continue to focus on and maintain improvements made toward the reduction of chronic offenders and recidivism.
  - Create a baseline measurement for success.
- Establish county-wide criteria for identifying priority offenders.
  - Creation of a Task Force made up from all local law enforcement, DA's office, and district and superior court judges to normalize/define criteria.

- Generate list of Priority Offenders that meet the above criteria.
- County Manager's Office measure and track trends for appropriate action.

## **#2 - IT Improvements**

Ultimate problem is that the state must coordinate, because this is not a county only problem. Work with the state for systems improvements. While acknowledging that we are limited by the state, we need to address areas that we can impact. Financial straits currently in the state of NC - 5 ½ million cut for IT area alone.

## **#2 Recommendations**

- Support County's Criminal Justice Information System Strategic Plan put together for IT systems – put in budget for the future. (Link all information systems from different departments for flow of information across law enforcement. Info follows from agency to agency.)
- Identify those areas where record management system improvements can be made without state resources.
- Coordinate with other urban centers to create an information technology system for all relevant state criminal justice agencies. (Probation, DA, Courts, DOC).
  - To the extent possible, coordinate with the State (Appeal to the state to buy in/support creating a common system/see a broader vision).

## **#3 - Inconsistencies in Crime Reporting**

Different municipalities within the county keep different scorecards. State sets requirements but it's how different agencies report out. How the standards are interpreted in each agency is different which skews the data.

- Ensure county wide consistency of crime statistics ("counting methodology").
- Develop an independent reporting agency in consultation with all law enforcement agencies to identify specific data points to be used for measurements.
- Create a standard not open to interpretation.

## **#3 Recommendations (suggested)**

- County Manager's Office will ensure consistency among law enforcement agencies by creating a set of metrics to gather crime data to accurately measure crime trends throughout the criminal justice system.
- Establish a procedure of protocol to independently audit that data.
- Insist on consistency among law enforcement agencies that each municipality establishes the same criteria.
- Standardize the reporting of crime statistics to ensure consistency and accuracy among law enforcement agencies.

*Follow Up Item: Set up conference call to complete recommendations and carry on by phone.*

**CJCAC Survey**

Tom Eberly  
County Manager's Office

Tom Eberly thanked members of the group for submitting their responses to the survey. He advised members who had not completed the survey to submit their responses by Friday, September 17, 2010.

*Follow Up Item: Members who have not completed the CJCAC survey, please complete by September 17, 2010.*

**Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.**

**Recap of Follow- up Items:**

*Follow up Item: Set up conference call to complete recommendations and carry on by phone.*

*Follow Up Item: Members who have not completed the CJCAC survey to complete by September 17, 2010.*

**Recap of Actions Taken:**

*Action Item: The group approved the meeting minutes from August by consensus.*