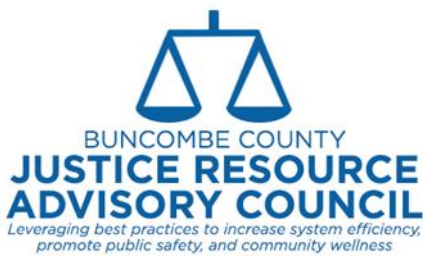


Minutes
July 5th, 2019
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
200 College Street, Ground Floor Conference Room

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Approval of July Agenda and June minutes
- III. Old Business
 - a. JRAC Structure: JRAC is coming up on 2 years of existence, and the MOU style was initially used. When personnel changes occur, the MOU document becomes outdated. Proposal to change the current operating structure from MOU to bylaws or operating procedures. Over the next six months, we will be looking at what best formalized structure to put in place for this meeting & council.
 - b. Projects in progress (Diversion Programs, SJC, MAT in the Jail, Community Crisis/IVC Plan, Raise the Age):
 - Adult Misdemeanor Diversion Program and Felony Drug Diversion in the process of working with stakeholders to update program eligibility. Both team will present proposed updates at August meeting.
 - Safety + Justice Challenge workgroups are in continuing to meet for the strategies within the Safety + Justice Challenge. For the latest information visit the updated website: www.buncombecounty.org/SJC.
 - BCDF in partnership with RHA Health Services, and Sunrise Community are working towards implementation of MAT in the Jail. Resolution supporting the project is tentatively set for August 6th Board of Commissioners meeting.
 - Community Crisis/IVC Plan is in progress, county will adopt transportation plan in alignment with community crisis plan. Both plans will be submitted to NC DHHS in October.
 - Raise the Age (RTA) stakeholders will be meeting in the weeks to come to discuss local impacts for RTA
 - More updates on the progress of these projects to follow once there are further updates, as well as actionable items.
 - c. Racial Equity Next Steps:
 - Concerns around making a statement collectively. There is a need to have further conversations about what a racial equity statement would look like if one is adopted by the JRAC. If a Racial Equity statement is made, it is important that it is accurate & that reflects reality – the current statement is an accurate reflection of reality historically. Some members expressed the proposed statement does accurately reflect past and current bias in our justice system. As a justice system should make a statement that says that we don't condone racism.



- Besides making this statement, it is important to continue this work, and incorporate it consistently.
- What follow-up or action items occur after this statement is adopted (i.e. does it need to go to board of commissioners).
- It is important for a shared analysis and understanding of structural and institutional racism, to really understand how to achieve racial equity in our criminal justice system.
- A recommendation was made for all offices/agencies represented on the JRAC to also have representation on the (SJC) criminal justice racial equity workgroup.

d. Jail Population Review:

- In May, Buncombe County Sheriff's office published dashboards that are public facing on the transparency website.
- In regards to the SJC, the baseline was 385 beds excluding the state and federal contracted beds. Since the application to the Safety and Justice Challenge, the jail population has increased. The state pretrial population has been the driver of that increase. During the first six months of 2019, detention facility bookings are in line with the volume experienced during the same period in 2018.
- Overall, the average pretrial length of stay has increased. Specifically, increases have occurred for defendants whose top charge were in the following categories: Class H Felonies, Class 1 Misdemeanors, and Class 3 Misdemeanors. There have been slight reductions in the number of bookings for failures to appear and pretrial release violations. However, defendants in custody due to a FTA or technical violation typically have a longer length of stay.
- For future presentation important information would include, high level data to be presented on bookings, lengths of stay, charges.

IV. New Business

a. Buncombe County Public Health Syringe Services Program

- Buncombe County Syringe Services program is scheduled to open at the end of July. Opioid overdose deaths are the leading cause of deaths. Overdose deaths in Buncombe County nearly tripled between 2015 and 2017 (38-92). Overdose Emergency Department visits are still on the rise as of March 2019 (67 YTD Mar '18/87 YTD Mar '19). Syringe Services Programs leads to higher rates of treatment. Syringe exchange protections are in place by law.

V. Departmental Updates

- Chief Public Defender and District Attorney are brainstorming ideas for bail policy, more updates to follow
- SJC Stress Test scheduled for July 22nd 2019 from 3pm-6pm.

*Next Meeting: August 2nd, 2019 from 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
200 College Street Ground Floor Conference Room*