

## **HANDOUTS**

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes 08/20/13
- Law Enforcement Workgroup Charter
- Prison Reentry Council Initiative
- Justice Reinvestment Stakeholder Meeting FAQ
- Justice Reinvestment Essentials

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:40am**

### **Welcome**

Michelle Lancaster opened the meeting. Members approved the August minutes by consensus.

### **Announcements**

#### *Law Enforcement Workgroup*

Tom Eberly presented the revised Law Enforcement Workgroup Charter and highlighted two changes: 1) added language which makes the improvement of coordination between law enforcement agencies and magistrates in processing criminal cases a consideration in the team mission and, 2) the expansion of group membership to include representatives from the District Attorney, Public Defender, Magistrate, and judiciary.

#### *Durham County Visit*

Tom Eberly announced that a group of local criminal justice agency representatives will travel to Durham County September 18 to observe how criminal cases are processed in their agencies. Of specific interest is how they combine multiple charges into single cases.

#### *Summons Policy for Citizen-Initiated Complaints*

Judge Regan Miller, responding to a query about progress on last month's action item, advised members that a draft policy emphasizing the use of citations for citizen-initiated complaints has not been completed. Tom Eberly offered to draft a policy for consideration. Judge Miller agreed.

### **Prisoner Reentry Council and Services**

Hope Marshall presented members an overview of the Mecklenburg County Prisoner Reentry Initiative. Marshall first explained the need for reentry services: during FY12, over 1400 offenders returned to the county following incarceration in a state prison. Historically, over 40 percent of those released return to prison within 3 years. Studies have shown that the greatest opportunity to help offenders successfully return to the community and avoid re-offending occurs within the first 180 days following their release. Finally, unlike most large urban regions, Mecklenburg County does not have a formal reentry framework.

Using a grant award from the NC Department of Public Safety, Mecklenburg County is forming a reentry program. Its focus is coordinate post-release assistance between the prisons and community supervision services and local service providers. CJAG will act as an executive committee and serve an advisory role. The Mecklenburg Opportunities for Reentry Network (MORN), comprised of representatives of local service providers, will be responsible for goal development and outcome evaluation. While remaining consistent with the grant's requirements, which focus on education and employment factors, local reentry efforts will also include assessing and addressing criminogenic need.

### **Revisiting Justice Reinvestment in North Carolina**

George Pettigrew presented an overview of Justice Reinvestment at the state level. His discussion included a review of national and state trends in correctional spending leading up to the Justice Reinvestment effort and a summary of the data-driven process itself. Pettigrew discussed at greater length policy changes designed to strengthen community supervision and increase accountability of offenders; examples included: providing supervision based on risk and needs and allowing quick dip (short term) confinements for probation violations. A question and answer period followed the presentation.

**Open Discussion**

Members did not raise any topics for open discussion.

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:57am.**

***Action Items:***

1. Tom Eberly to draft a citizen-initiated complaint citation policy for review and discussion.

