

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Present</b>
Mr. Alan Adler	District 1	YES
Mr. James Calvin Henry	District 2	NO
Mr. Dennis T. Brown	District 3	YES
Ms. Shaune Peterson	District 4	YES
Mr. Bill Munson	District 5	YES
Mr. Robert Raffety	District 6	NO
Anthony G. Scheer	Bar Association	YES
Mr. Ray Wilson	Charlotte- Mecklenburg Schools	YES
Mr. Douglas P. Allen	Faith Community	NO
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	YES
Tom Eberly	Staff: Court Services - County Manager's Office	YES
Jamie Privuznak	Staff: Court Services - County Manager's Office	YES
Mauro Messina	Staff: Court Services - County Manager's Office	YES
Jessica Ireland	Staff: Court Services - County Manager's Office	NO

**HANDOUTS**

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Minutes from January

Questions/Issues for Panel on February 17, 2010

"Criminal Justice Reform: Improving Criminal Justice with Free Record Access."

**Proposed Meeting Objectives:**

- Approve Meeting Minutes from January;
- Conduct panel interviews; and
- Debrief on panel discussion.

**Meeting began at 5:25 PM.****Welcome**

Mark Sumwalt  
CJCAC Chair

Mark Sumwalt welcomed the group and opened the floor for discussion on the panel interviews. Mr. Sumwalt noted Judge Bob Bell will not be present for an interview.

### **Approve Meeting Minutes**

Group

The meeting minutes from the January 20 CJCAC meeting were not approved.

*Action Item: Review and approve the January 20 meeting minutes at the Wednesday March 17 CJCAC meeting.*

### **Panel Interviews**

Group

The group reviewed the interview questions prior to the panelists' arrival. Members discussed statistics and various data collection methodologies used by different criminal justice agencies.

Mark Sumwalt welcomed the first panelist, Bart Menser (District Attorney's Office) and introduced him to the group.

#### Summary of Bart Menser's Interview (Start time: 5:44 PM)

- Addressed statistics and stated numbers should be viewed with a level of skepticism due to various collection methods and different units of measurement used.
- Noted the working relationship between various agencies is good.
- Discussed the roles of law enforcement and the District Attorney's Office.
- Addressed judicial autonomy, authority and the rotation system. Each judge manages their courtroom differently. Autonomy works against efficiency.
- Recommended an improved technology system and stated we do not need well-intentioned technology projects designed without intimate knowledge of the criminal justice system.

A question and answer period followed. Discussion consisted of "chronic offenders" and the "revolving door" concept; jail bed availability and structured sentencing for judges; judge availability; case preparation for jury trial and jury trial calendars; and system efficiency generally.

Mark Sumwalt recognized and thanked Commissioners Leake and Bentley for their attendance. Mr. Sumwalt then introduced Judge Lisa Bell (Chief District Court Judge) and asked for her remarks.

#### Summary of Judge Lisa Bell's Interview (Start time: 6:15 PM)

- Addressed crime statistics and recommended improved technology for the court system – data access, sorting and tracking trial court data generally. Currently, system tracks filings and dispositions; the system does not capture the reasons for dismissals and continuances. High dismissal numbers are reported; however, the numbers fail to reflect the more serious charges were prosecuted.

A question and answer period followed. Topics included:

- Range for sentencing DUI/DWI defendants;
- Judicial reaction to attitude of defendant and their appearance in court;
- Roles/responsibilities/standards of various criminal justice agencies (i.e., the difference between arrest and conviction);
- State perspective on state-wide local system needs – a uniform system; and
- Law enforcement behavior in the courtroom.

Mark Sumwalt thanked Judge Bell, and Carolyn Logan introduced City Council member Warren Turner. Mr. Sumwalt asked Mr. Turner for remarks on the interview questions.

Summary of Council member Warren Turner's Interview (Start time: 6:46 PM)

- Explained his experience, the levels of probation and the role of the officer.
- Noted the increase in workload and processing cases in District Court.
- Explained process changes related to probation.
- Referenced the roles and responsibilities of various criminal justice agencies.
- Relayed the need for individual treatment for mental illness.
- Emphasized the re-entry process.

Mark Sumwalt thanked Mr. Turner and introduced Chase Saunders, former Senior Resident Superior Court Judge.

Summary of Chase Saunder's Interview (Start time: 7:05 PM)

- Opened with the "debt diet" state-wide.
- Addressed inter-agency relationships. Hold meetings with key executives to discuss problems, develop solutions and timelines for action.
- Promoted pilot studies; start solving problems incrementally. Mecklenburg has a long history of solving own problems.
- Recommended pick one area to collect data such as drug cases and start small.
- Mentioned the paper-driven nature of the system; try going paperless in one area so it is less disruptive and more manageable. Suggested a study for "how to move paper" and possible improvements.
- Mentioned the Criminal Case Management Plan and recommended sponsoring the plans.
- Discussed monitoring defendants and related devices.
- Recommended an operational review; effective use of staff time in DA and PD offices.
- Recommended personalizing caseloads or assigning ADAs to a specific district – community prosecution.
- Noted local level spending and the right for City and County individuals to get information on how money is being used to assist in planning processes.

Mark Sumwalt opened the floor for questions.

Topics included:

- o Cooperation amongst agencies;
- o Data collection, accountability and good government; and
- o Incremental problem-solving.

Mr. Sumwalt thanked Chase Saunders, and Alan Adler requested detailed minutes of the meeting.

*Follow-up Item: Draft detailed minutes for group distribution.*

**Post Panel Discussion**

Group

Mark Sumwalt opened the floor for discussion. Members addressed the need for technology and a data management system; Tom Eberly mentioned the IJIS report which provides a review of the current technology system. Janet Payne referenced County IST and their efforts to draft a strategic plan for technology solutions.

Other items included "turf" issues and cooperation amongst agencies, data sampling, pilot project recommendations, and providing meaningful information to the public.

*Follow-up Item: Provide members with IJIS report.*

**Closing Remarks & Adjourn**

Mark Sumwalt  
CJCAC Chairman

Mark Sumwalt thanked the group for attending and closed the meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.**

**Recap of Follow- up Items:**

*Follow-up Item: Draft detailed minutes for group distribution.*

*Follow-up Item: Provide members with IJIS report.*

**Recap of Actions Taken:**

*Action Item: Review and approve the January 2010 meeting minutes at the Wednesday March 17 CJCAC meeting.*