Justice Resource Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

June 6th, 2025, 12:30pm – 2:00pm

Location: 200 College Street 1st floor

Welcome and Lunch: Judge Julie Kepple on behalf of Martin Moore- JRAC Chair

- Start time of meeting: 12:30
- Roll call (see attachment)

Consent Agenda:

Approval of June 2025 Agenda and April 2025 Minutes- Not enough members present for a quorum. No voting on the consent agenda occurred.

Vice Chair Vacancy- Regenia Herring reviewed the Bylaws with the group advising the process of nominations and filling the seat.

Point-in-Time Update- Laci Hoyle-BC Planning:

a. PIT Count is a census of people who meet Federal definition of literal homelessness (persons in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or unsheltered)
b. Federal requirements for PIT Count:
    - Conduct every other year
    - Conduct within the last 10 days of January
c. Local Practice for PIT Count: Conduct annually
d. Jurisdictions Included: Buncombe County and all its municipalities
e. 2025 PIT Count took place on 1/28, 4-7pm and 1/29, 10am-2pm with 135 Volunteers participating.
f. Presented data on Point-In-Time Trends for sheltered and unsheltered count by year with beds available
g. Presented Point-In-Time count results for 2024 and 2025 comparison
    - Loss of transitional housing capacity due to VRQ flooding
    - 1165% reported experiencing unsheltered homelessness because of Hurricane Helene
h. Presented Demographic Data 2024-2025 comparison
    - Self-reported Race and Ethnicity
    - Self-reported Gender
    - Self-reported Age

- Household and Geographic Information
- Self-Reported Additional Characteristics
- Surveys are voluntary

Old Business

a. **Pretrial Services Update- Regenia Herring**
   - Gave the group a brief history of Pretrial and the focal points that she has been working on.
   - Pretrial new assignments were paused for 90 days during the review of the current program.
   - Implemented policies and procedures for the entire program and conducted staff training on those policies and procedures.
   - Will not be accepting Electronic Monitoring cases any longer with the current program. Those cases will be handled by a different vendor
   - The Bond Policy was amended and signed by Chief Judges to include Pretrial as part of that policy.

New Business

a. **Just Home Update- Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager**
   - Buncombe County just received a new Just Home Grant for the Justice involved homeless population.
   - Grant will begin in July 2025 and end in December 2025
   - The 2nd phase of the grant will be the Capital Funding portion (PRI) which is a loan up to 5 million dollars over a 10-year period.
   - During the planning period, the County will be reaching out to get feedback on who we will be serving.
     - Need?
     - Number of units?
     - Types of services needed.
   - Housing could be new construction or remodels of existing housing.
   - Donald Reuss with Vaya reminding the group of the continued rising costs of rent and the challenges that it brings to the community.
   - Additional discussion on the need for Juveniles in rural county areas.

b. **JRAC Next Steps and Proposed 2025 JRAC Meeting Schedule**
   - August 1st, 2025- 200 College Street, 1st floor
   - October 3rd, 2025- 200 College Street, 1st floor
   - December 5th, 2025- 200 College Street, 1st floor

Standing Committees-

a. Community Engagement Workgroup- Brent Bailey
    - Currently putting together some Information Gathering Sessions with individuals that have been previously incarcerated at our Detention Facility to gather feedback on their access to services while they are there and when to introduce those services while being there.
    - Reviewing data on recidivism
b. Diana Powell with the Court Advocacy Group in Raleigh just presented to the workgroup some information about their program in Wake County. This program is where community members come to court to assist in advocating on behalf of the individual in court.
c. AOC has just released their Statewide Court Appearance Project report. The Community Engagement Workgroup is reviewing and discussing the report to see how they can assist and implement services that are in accordance with the recommendations that are made. Judge Kepple recommended to the group to review the report and felt it is a great resource. Eric Jackson could potentially do a presentation on the report if needed.
d. Behavioral Health Justice Collaboration- No updates currently
e. Racial Equity Workgroup- No updates currently
f. Coordinated Community Response- No updates at this time

Announcements and Departmental Updates-

a. Chief Scott advised the group that most Judges do receive Trauma Informed Training and would recommend that individuals can always come and observe the court processes.
b. *No Public Comment*

Next Meeting:

August 1st ,2025- 200 College Street 1st floor

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:31pm. No quorum for this meeting.