**Prince William County**

**Community Criminal Justice Board**

**January 25, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Brad Marshall, The Honorable Lisa Baird, The Honorable Robert Coleman, Peter Meletis, Anthony Kostelecky (Designee for Amy Ashworth), Tara Petty, Dan Manza, Kimberly Keller, Thomas Garrity, Robert Keller, Devan Kirk, Michael Carlson, Terry Fearnley, Robert Gudz

**STAFF:** Steve Austin, Tomaudrie Thomas, Dennis Thompson, Cassandra Wright, Hillary Gore, Joanna Campos, Ann Trullender

**CITIZEN:** Nikhil Gambhir

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

**CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS (Item 1)**

Chairman Marshall had no initial comments but moved to Resolution Finding Need to Conduct

the Meeting of the Community Criminal Justice Board electronically because of Covid-19.

**RESOLUTION: (Item 2)** Finding the need to conduct the January 25, 2022, Community Criminal Justice Board meeting electronically, Chairman Marshall asked for a motion to hold this meeting electronically because of Covid-19**: The motion was made by Anthony Kostelecky and seconded by Judge Coleman. The motion passed unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (Item 3)** Chairman Marshall asked for a motion to approve the agenda**. The motion was made by Pete Meletis and seconded by Anthony Kostelecky. The motion was passed unanimously**.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 4)**

Chairman Marshall asked for a motion to approve the October 26, 2021, meeting minutes**. The motion was made by Kim Keller and seconded by Pete Meletis. The motion was passed unanimously**.

**CITIZEN’S TIME (Item 5**) Nikhil Gambhir no comment.

**DRUG COURT UPDATE SCREENING, ELIGIBILITY, APPLICATION PROCESS (Item 6)**

Steve Austin introduced and welcomed Dennis Thompson who was recently promoted from Senior Probation Officer to Manager at CJS. Mr. Austin continued that the Prince William County Circuit Court is in the planning process for an adult felony level drug court, and a team has been formed and is now meeting regularly. “Judge Irving has been our champion and leading the charge”, said Steve Austin, who is also the coordinator, along with a lot of help from others at Criminal Justice Services. Program eligibility criteria has been worked on by the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office and the Public Defender’s office. Judge Irving has put a budget request in through the county, also to hire a coordinator. There are several components of this project: planning, process and then operations. There are conversations about how to assess people, how to determine eligibility, how do to make it fair, equitable, and accessible for everyone. The Commonwealth Attorney’s office and the Public Defender’s office have been discussing how to get people in once they are identified: the prospective clients would enter the program with new charges in which a plea agreement would be made upon plea of guilt or individual participants would enter upon being charged with probation violations. This is felony level drug court so supervision would be provided by state probation. The Community Services Board has been involved extensively in developing the treatment component of the drug court and is working collaboratively with other stakeholders to develop the phases. It's going to be a five-phase program. The team is working on templates, court orders, drug court policy manual, drug court handbook, development of an advisory committee, and a stakeholder group. The advisory committee/stakeholder group will be overseeing the program once it is operational. The Commonwealth of Virginia requires approval through the Supreme Court’s Office of Executive Secretary, and there is an advisory committee that is required by the code to look at the application. The application deadline is April 4, 2022and there is a team working on the application. The state committee meets in May, 2022 and meets twice a year. We will have our application submitted by the April deadline. If we get approved in May 2022 our pilot of probably ten participants initially will go forth. Then we will have to investigate resources to get the program funded. Most of the resources will probably go to treatment. Plea agreements will most likely be used regarding whether the client is successful in completing the program. It will be a post plea docket so the client will know the outcome of the sentence prior to completing the program. Anthony Kostelecky added that this program is philosophically similar to the Veteran’s Docket and says that it is less punishment oriented and more rehabilitation. Once the program is approved by the Commonwealth to go forth, more information will be forthcoming to the board.

**VPRAI MANUAL CHANGES (Item 7)**

Cassandra Wright**:** The Commonwealth is holding training for local probation and pretrial officers on February 8, 2022, regarding some changes to the VPRAI assessment tool. It is more technical, but noted on July 1, 2021, marijuana was legalized, and it is no longer going to be counted in the risk assessment as drug abuse. It is not going to count towards convictions and any simple possession of marijuana charge will eventually be expunged. Additionally, since CJS is piloting the Public Safety Assessment (PSA), the risk assessment conducted prior to arraignment will be changing in our locality in the coming 14-16 months.

**VETERAN’S DOCKET UPDATED (Item 8)**

Hillary Gore unveiled the new logo for the Veteran’s Docket. The logo was created by the wife of an active-duty member of the military. After finalizing the logo, the team is working on a participant handbook, a pocket-sized interactive tool that can be used to document appointments, treatment referrals and notes, utilized to journal, organize any program information provided and mentor interaction. The team is collaborating with the Wounded Warrior Project for policy guidelines, and our participants are being linked to their program that offers a multitude of services. We are also collaborating with the Prince William County Veteran’s Commission for mentoring; and the American Legion with whom will hopefully be a financial partner and mentoring referral source. The mentor’s role is very important. The mentors are veterans, and they support their participants as they go through the twelve-month post docket programs. They get training through Justice for Vets which is affiliated with in the National Association for Drug Court Professionals. Currently, it is a virtual boot camp and they do get professional development and training. Our team is meeting with a mentor coordinator from Fairfax. The coordinator’s expertise is helping us to establish a volunteer position within our county. We also have an Air Force veteran who has experience in a previous position to help us develop and write our mentor handbooks and assist with all the coordination. Chris Mayers worked with Fairfax veterans docket, and he is now a senior probation officer at CJS. Chris is certified in veterans specific MRT (moral reconation therapy). The initial phases are substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment and then going into an evidence-based cognitive program. The program is self-paced and sixteen weeks long. Hillary and Rodney Cain will be in facilitator training in February 2022 so that they can lead veterans through this third phase treatment along with Chris. The agency applied for and was accepted into Equity and Inclusion Training offered by Justice for Vets in May 2022. The Veteran’s Docket is GDC based only, post plea docket with performance contacts. To get on the Veteran’s Docket, the CA must approve it, and they are collaborating with CJS which completes the initial screening into the program. Not all offenses are a good fit for this program.

**EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKE (EBDM) UPDATE & EBDM DATA UPDATE (Item 9)**

Steve Austin reported that evidence-based decision making has been around quite some time and it is an overarching umbrella for a lot of our initiatives. There is a policy team that meets every two months. Major Mandy Lambert with the ADC and who was the co-chair, recently retired, and the new Deputy County Executive of Public Safety will start working in the County in February 2022. Steve stated that he is looking forward to briefing the new Deputy County Executive on EBDM when he comes on board and hopefully, he will be engaged in the EBDM work. Steve also mentioned that the primary focus area the EBDM has been the working on continues to be the mental health and substance use disorders sub committees. The first sequential intercept mapping exercise conducted in June 2021 was mostly focused on mental health, and it was facilitated by the Department of Behavior Health and Developmental Services. The second sequential intercept mapping exercise was done in September 2021 was focused on substance abuse, and work plans for both are currently being developed. The two main areas of identification are availability of resources and identifying gaps within the system; and Steve mentioned that the work plans are very general at this point. Steve also mentioned that these subcommittees have expanded membership to ensure that representation that is diverse and covers all disciplines of individuals involved in the criminal justice system, treatment, advocacy, and other disciplines that these individuals may come in contact. Steve mentioned that the subcommittee is currently working on these areas: peer support services; data collection and evaluation; community resources-reducing barriers; prevention, education, and communication; advocacy and legislation. These focus areas were the highest ranked priorities identified by the sub-committee Steve also reported that the a data subcommittee completed a survey to determine what type of data would be important for the group to review; due to the survey results the data sub-committee is identifying and highlighting useful data that helps the policy team discuss, review and re-evaluate strategies put in place to streamline processes and close existing gaps in the system. Additionally, Steve mentioned that CS and George Mason University are collaborating to identify high risk individuals and try to connect them to a peer. Next meeting is February 17, 2022.

**DCJS QUARTERLY REPORTS (Item 10)**

Tomaudrie Thomas reviewed and highlighted the DCJS Quarterly Report for the 2nd Quarter FY22 (October 2021- December 2021) The total number of pretrial investigations was 612. For those individuals who were unable to be investigated, 61% declined to be interviewed and other reasons individuals were not investigated: debilitated on alcohol or drugs, displayed combative behavior, or released on bond before they could be interviewed. Most defendants who were placed on pretrial supervision, were released on either recognizance or unsecured bonds (made up a total of 88%). Of those individuals placed on pretrial supervision, 87% appeared and reported to court, and 93% placed on supervision did not get re-arrested prior to their court date. The compliance rate for those individuals who were placed on pretrial supervision and closed successfully was 86%. Data for the Local Offenders Probation program shows a total number of 273 referrals to local probation supervision since July 1, 2021. Ms. Thomas noted local probation placements are relatively low due primarily to the decriminalization of marijuana in Virginia. Probation outcomes for misdemeanors still remain high with a 78% successfulcompletion rate and for felony placements, the rate of successful completion is 81%.

**ROUND TABLE TOPICS (Item 11)**

Tomaudrie Thomas, Deputy Director of CJS noted our agency applied for and we were approved by the Virginia Department of Health to become a Naloxone community health collaborator. We are now approved as a harm reduction partner in the community that can train and provide naloxone to the clients CJS serves and their family members in order to save the lives of individuals who have overdosed on opioids. Prior to beginning the program, CJS staff will need to be trained. The ADC is now dispersing naloxone to inmates as they are released and are requiring inmates to watch a video in the intake area with instructions on how to use naloxone. Ms. Thomas will be the coordinator for our naloxone program.

Steve Austin, Director of CJS stated that CJS is still awaiting the PSA pilot application to be approved by APPR and we recently had to give more information to them prior to application approval. Steve stated that CJS appreciates all the partners who wrote letters in support of this program, and he reported that we are committed to help improve justice. Tomaudrie Thomas and Steve Austin met with Board of County Supervisors Chair Ann Wheeler and discussed the agencies information, progress, and goals. Also, the Virginia General Assembly is currently in session and there is a Senate budget amendment requesting to add $5,000,000 to build infrastructure in pretrial. There’s a $2,000,000 companion budget amendment bill in the House. The agency will follow and report changes at the legislative level.

Tony Kostelecky, from the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office stated that he encourages people to reach out to Hillary or him, to get more clients onto the Veterans Docket.

Hillary Gore, Intensive Community Supervision Probation Officer and Veterans Docket Coordinator stated that the Veterans Docket Team are always trying to get veterans the assistance they need.

Cassandra Wright, Analyst at CJS stated that during the agency-wide staff meeting earlier today, we did talk about the Veterans Docket and hopefully we can get more officers referring appropriate clients to this docket.

Dan Manza with Community Service Board stated that his office is relying on virtual technology more since Covid-19 but they would like to resume live services soon.

Kimberly Keller, of Juvenile Court Services stated that the JLARC came out with their study on juvenile justice for viewing, she posted it in the chat. She also stated that their state-wide director, Valerie Boykin, is no longer with them and they welcome their new director Amy Florado who is an attorney from the Chesapeake area.

Judge Baird, Juvenile and Domestic Relations (JDR) Court Judge, invited Hillary to come speak with the JDR judges about the Veterans Docket during their next quarterly meeting. She also stated that they are open to participate, cross designate jurisdiction to the General District Court and collaborate to have JDR court attendees participate in the Veterans court.

Colonial Peter Meletis, Superintendent at the Adult Detention Center stated that about three weeks ago, Covid-19 numbers very high amongst staff and inmates. He mentioned that the numbers are now lowering. He stated that inmate programs and visits are non-contact at the jail have been postponed. They will reevaluate in the next couple of weeks. Susan McMann was promoted to Major upon Major Lambert’s retirement.

Mike Carlson, Chief State Probation Officer stated that the recidivism rate is 22.3% for whole state; he stated that this number has decreased slightly.

Nic Gambhir, US Senate Sargent of Arms doing cyber security stated he is hoping to become a member at large to this board.

Judge Coleman with the General District Court (GDC), reported that the court is managing their dockets efficiently and smoothly as they can. He also stated that they have received funding for positions from both the state and the county for clerk positions. He also reported that the GDC has been understaffed for probably the last 10 or 12 years. It got to critical mass right before COVID-19 hit and they lost some funding. He stated he is happy to report that they have funded positions unfortunately unable to secure replacements for those positions. They are doing extensive interviews but cannot retain new hires. They have approached the Board of County Supervisors in the county itself to try to get 15% pay raises for all clerks and they are hopeful that the budget will pass this year so that will hopefully increase some continuity and some morale among staff. He also reported that an initiative for courthouse renovations has been proposed, $20 million over the next several years and they hope it will include technology in the courtrooms. He stated that their system is very antiquated, and they need upgraded televisions for WebEx hearings and remote hearings, outlets for laptop, etc. The pay kiosks will be installed in the next month or, so they are hopeful with the staffing shortages that they are going to have kiosks to be more efficient. Kiosks would help with revenue and efficiency so that customers could leave the courtroom and swipe their credit card, pay their ticket, and court costs. Court staff are excited to see those changes.

Dennis Thompson with CJS reported that he is a new manager at CJS and he stated that it is great to observe and learn how these meetings are held.

A comment from Robert Gudz, Citizen Member via phone, had a question regarding the quarterly statistics Tomaudrie Thomas reported out on earlier in the meeting he asked that of those individuals that did not come back for trial and those that did commit crimes prior to their coming back for trial for their original charge, what is the penalty for those folks in the pretrial program? He asked whether these situations would preclude them from pretrial release and supervision and are they immediately incarcerated until their firsthearing and then held in in jail for their trial? Tomaudrie Thomas responded that the answer isnot a black and white answer. Tomaudrie also stated that if a pretrial client commits a crime while they are on supervision, they are not banned from the program. If the court decides to place them back on our supervision, CJS will take them back on supervision. She reported that the exception would be clients being placed on the Intensive Community Supervision Program, the program requires that individuals be assessed and approved for placement in this program however, if the court puts them on anyway then we must typically supervise these individuals. She mentioned that as far as those on regular supervision who violate the law while on supervision, it just depends on what type of charge it is as to whether their bond gets revoked by the court. The individual, while they are on supervision depending on whatever the violation is may be referred to a cognitive therapy group, substance abuse group, mental health treatment and/or an assessment.

Devan Kirk, Chief Magistrate for 31st Judicial District stated that she see’s many of those in attendance regularly in multiple meetings and impressed by the work being done in this county. Also, she stated that her office is fully staffed for the first time in 2 years.

Brad Marshall, Chairperson, and local defense attorney stated that he signed on the behalf of the board, a letter of support for the Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research (APPR) pilot/ learning site project to implement the PSA and the board and CJS will strongly be supporting it.

**ADJOURNMENT (Item 12)**

Chairperson Brad Marshall asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was made by Judge Coleman and seconded by Tony Kostelecky. The motion was passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: April 26, 2022**

**Location: TBD**

**5:00 p.m**