**Prince William County**

**Community Criminal Justice Board**

**October 26, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Brad Marshall, Peter Meletis, Anthony Kostelecky (Designee for Amy Ashworth), Michael Carlson, Tara Petty, Antonio Bryer, Elijah Johnson, Major Terry Fearnley, Tracey Lenox, Kimberly Keller, Dan Manza

**ABSENT:** Kerry Davis, Jacqueline Stott, Jennifer Braswell, Carl Dorr, Keith Nguyen, Robert Gudz, Robert Keller, Judge Robert Coleman, Judge Kimberly Irving, Judge Lisa Baird, Captain Tom Garrity, Leviticus Bass, Devan Kirk

**STAFF:**  Steve Austin, Tomaudrie Thomas, Cassandra Wright, Joanna Campos, Ann Trullender

**CITIZENS:**  None

**GUESTS:**  Nikhil Gambhir

**CALL TO ORDER:**  The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

**CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS (Item 1)**

Chairman Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr. Nik Gambhir who is an apprentice with the U.S. Senate. Mr. Gambhir is a resident of Prince William County and joined the board to learn more about the local criminal justice system and the role the CCJB plays within the system.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)**

Chairman Brad Marshall asked for a motion to approve the agenda. **The motion was made by** **Terry Fearnley and seconded by Anthony Kostelecky. The motion was passed unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)**

Chairman Brad Marshall asked for a motion to approve the July 27, 2021, meeting minutes. **The motion was made by Peter Meletis and seconded by Kimberly Keller. The motion was passed unanimously.**

**CITIZENS TIME (ITEM 4)**

Chairman Brad Marshall asked if there were any citizens present. There were no citizens present.

**Public Safety Assessment Tool (PSA) (ITEM 5)**

Steve Austin announced that Prince William County Criminal Justice Services has been looking at a newer state level risk assessment tool known as the Public Safety Assessment Tool (PSA). This tool has been around since 2013/2014 and is similar to the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument. PSA is a tool that is currently being used in other states. Prince William County along with two other jurisdictions in Virginia have been chosen to be pilot sites for this initiative in Virginia. In this initiative there are Research- Action sites which are organizations/agencies/jurisdictions that are doing a lot of data collection and are informing the process and helping to improve it. There is also the APPR Community which involves more of collaborating and coordinating using their tools. Then there is the APPR Learning Sites which is what the selected Virginia pilot sites will apply for so that technical assistance and training can be provided to the Virginia pilot sites and their stakeholders throughout the term of the pilot.

Learning sites goals:

* Develop a collaborative team
* Implement a data driven approach
* Identifying areas for Pretrial improvement
* Implement use of Public Safety Assessment (PSA)
* Achieve goals for Pretrial and identify one target goal
* Establish habits and processes to continue working together

Learning sites expectations:

* Collaborative process
* Will have regular policy team meetings
* Team leads and project champions will work closely with TA provider
* All policy team members use technology
* Jurisdiction commits to more than just implementing the PSA
* Adopt the PSA before the end of the engagement

Learning sites model:

* Technical assistance- Personalized, but limited, technical assistance (approx. 80 hours over 16 months, one on-site visit)
* APPR Learning- Access to the APPR Learning online workspace
* Community- Introductions to our broader national community of experts and peers

Learning sites timeline:

* 1-4th month Project Startup: Team leadership orientation; Project kickoff
* 4-8th month Pretrial Foundations: System mapping; PSA overview; Data subcommittee; Pretrial law and research
* 8-10th month PSA Implementation: Violent offense list; PSA automation; PSA scoring manual
* 9-12th month Pretrial Decision Making: Decision Framework; Release Conditions Matrix
* 12-14th month Fidelity: Quality assurance; PSA training; Performance measures
* 14th month PSA Launch
* 14-16th Post-Launch Support Ongoing Stakeholder Support: Communications; Community engagement Ongoing Improvements: Identify and implement other improvements

Application requirements:

* Identify a Team Lead
* Identify a Project Champion
* Complete the Data Elements Worksheet
* Obtain letters of support from all required team members, plus the Team Lead and the Project Champion
* Complete the application narrative, which must include:
* A description of the site’s goals and reasons for participating
* An overview of the jurisdiction’s current pretrial process
* A discussion of the core application elements

**EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING UPDATED (EBDM) (ITEM 6)**

Steve Austin announced that in the last few months a lot of work has been done with the Evidence Based Decision Making (EBDM) Policy committee. The sub committees have been meeting frequently (mental health, substance abuse disorders, and opioids disorders sub committees). During the summer there were two major sequential intercept mapping exercises. The first sequential intercept mapping exercise 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 which focused on substance abuse, and work plans for both are currently being developed. Mr. Austin also stated that the data subcommittee presented a helpful presentation during the last EBDM meeting full of good data about what is going on in our community at all different levels. One of the data subcommittee’s goals is to develop a data dashboard that they could make shareable. Mr. Austin says they will continue to try to get funding for a data dashboard.

**DCJS QUARTERLY REPORT (ITEM 7)**

Tomaudrie Thomas reviewed the DCJS Quarterly Report for the 1st quarter FY22 (July 2021-September 2021). She stated that there was an 83% pretrial investigation rate and is hopeful that the rate will increase to 100% once they start utilizing the Public Safety Assessment Tool in the months to come. Pretrial investigators are currently going back into the jail to conduct interviews. Ms. Thomas announced that the Pretrial investigators have created a one pager about pretrial interviews and the importance of getting those individuals interviewed who initially decline an interview prior to their arraignment as an effort to improve the pretrial investigation rate. She also mentioned that the judge’s decisions have been consistent 68% of the time with pretrial recommendation. The majority of defendants who are placed on pretrial supervision (89 %) are currently placed on either recognizance or unsecure bond and defendants placed on pretrial supervision with 58 % being identified as low to average risk. The appearance rate for pretrial is currently 86% and the public safety rate is 91%.

Data for Local Offenders Probation shows that 75 % of placements on probation are misdemeanor charges and 79% placed on probation are low to medium risk. Of those placed on probation, 78% of misdemeanor charges are successful and 76% of probationers with felony charges are successful with an average total of 77% local offenders’ probation success rate.

**ROUND TABLE TOPICS (ITEM 8)**

Steve Austin with Criminal Justice Services (CJS) stated that there has been an increase in the Pretrial population over the last few years. In the last year there has been an 11% increase in pretrial. Mr. Austin also mentioned that there have been many changes with Local Offenders Probation. Our Agency’s Probation numbers are now close to half compared to the numbers a couple of years ago. With new legislation around what could happen with violations and the legalization of possession of marijuana there is less community service being done. As of now lot of the agency’s focus is more on Pretrial cases.

Tomaudrie Thomas with Criminal Justice Services (CJS) announced that CJS is collaborating with the Public Defender’s office. The Pretrial ICS Program and DCJS recently conducted a virtual training for the Public Defender’s office who wanted to have a better understanding of the VPRAI risk assessment tool. CJS also has a Meet and Greet scheduled with the Public Defender’s Office in November, where some of CJS staff will go in person and present what services and resources they offer to make sure that open lines of communication and a good rapport are established with the Public Defender’s staff.

Tracey Lenox with the Public Defender’s Office (PD) stated they are trying to find ways to treat mental health and substance abuse disorders outside of the court system. She stated that they will be meeting with Commonwealth Attorney’s office about trying to inject more energy to get clients into the Veterans docket. Ms. Lenox mentioned that the PD office is trying to partner with other community stakeholders to create a Diversion Program for misdemeanors which she says will take years to build out because of lack of capacity in the mental health and substance abuse field. She emphasized that the PD’s office would not be able to be doing anything if it wasn’t for the Evidence Based Decision Making Policy Committee and the existence of all the relationships that pre-dated the Public Defender’s Office by a decade.

Kimberly Keller introduced herself as the new Director of Juvenile Court Services. She stated that she sees protentional and opportunities with the court service unit. She is currently trying to set up a virtual open house for the Public Defender’s Office and with the Commonwealth Attorney’s office and just need a date that works for them. Ms. Keller stated that Juvenile Court Services is currently going through transition, and she looks forward to working with everyone.

Anthony Kostelecky from the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office stated that a meeting between the Public Defender’s office and the Commonwealth Attorney’s office took place. Mr. Kostelecky stated that they will try to get more people into the Veterans Docket as it is a very useful and beneficial program to the community and to the individuals. In the meeting they discussed which individuals would be good candidates and who would be more difficult. The Commonwealth Attorney’s office continues to oppose secure bonds. They do not ask for secure bonds nor do they agree to them. He looks forward to the new risk assessment.

Antonio Bryer with Prince William County schools says he is looking forward to working with Mr. Bass and his team to create a diversion program specifically for their truancy students so that they will not have to bring those matters to court.

Dan Manza with the Community Service Board says he is involved with the Drug Court, and he also recently received a position to increase capacity with their suboxone clinic. He is working on putting a proposal together to increase the doctor hours and to obtain additional funding to expand that service. Mr. Manza has also been helping with the process on bringing more peers to the jail.

Michael Carlson with State Probation announced that Peggy Anthony retired effective August 1st. Mr. Carlson was promoted to Chief Director of District 35. He is looking forward to attending more Community Criminal Justice Board meetings as well as the Evidence Based Decision Making meetings.

Elijah Johnson Prince William County Deputy County Executive announced two important items related to the Community Criminal Justice Board. He stated that they have been working with the Fire Department community and have a process action team around working with individuals dealing with opioid use disorder. They have been looking at how to get people identified on the front end of the criminal justice system and trying to reduce the amount of time the fire department is showing up. They just did an MOU with the Fire Department to try to create a warm hand off program where they would go to advise someone about making referrals to the Community Service Board so that they can get involved with the families to avoid having the individuals fall into the criminal justice system. Secondly, they have been working with the Police Department to set up take back boxes at each station so citizens who want to get rid of their drugs can now go to the Police Department and drop them off with no questions asked. They just completed the MOU and they have received funding for the boxes.

Colonel Peter Meletis Superintendent at the Adult Detention Center introduced Major George Hurlock who oversees inmate services. Inmate programs that are currently running are: the GED Program in which they added a Spanish speaking teacher to that program, the Drug Treatment dorm is open, Re-entry services, Men and Women of New Direction, and the Veteran’s program.

Brad Marshall stated that the Evidence Based Decision Making Committee is going well and has a renewed focus and a lot of work coming out especially with data. He joined Loretta Stephens and Kim Rose to do a VPRAI presentation recently for the Public Defender’s office.

**Adjournment (Item 9)**

Chairperson Brad Marshall asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was made by Anthony Bryer and seconded by Kimberly Keller. The motion was passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: January 25, 2022**

**Location: TBD**

**5:00 p.m.**