**Prince William County Community Criminal Justice Board**

**July 25, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Vice-Chairperson Peter Meletis, Chief Judge Lisa Baird, Terry Fearnley, Tracey Lenox, Chris Sanders, Sam Flournoy, Jim Nesterick, Michael Carlson, Jacque Poirier, Louis Sagar, Levi Bass

**STAFF:** Steve Austin, Tomaudrie Thomas, Amal Hajjami, Ann Trullender, Wendy Dempsey

**CITIZENS:** Eugene Brown

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS (Item 1)** *Chairperson Brad Marshall* cannot attend this meeting. In his absence*, Col. Meletis* will chair the meeting. Welcome to all the board members and start with introductions. Introductions:

* Chief Judge Lisa Baird, Prince William County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court
* Peter Meletis, Superintendent of the Prince William County ADC, Vice-Chairperson
* Steve Austin, Director of Prince William County Criminal Justice Services
* Tomaudrie Thomas, Deputy Director at Prince William County Criminal Justice Services
* Amal Hajjami, Senior Public Safety Analyst, Criminal Justice Services
* Chris Sanders, Citizen Member from the City of Manassas
* Sam Flournoy, Commonwealth Attorney’s Office
* Jacques Poitier, Chief, Prince William County Police Department
* Jim Nesterick, Prince William County Community Services
* Louis Sagar, Prince William County Citizen Member
* Terry Fearnley, Prince William County Sheriff’s Office
* Michael Carlson, Chief, State Probation Chief, District #35
* Levi Bass, Asst. Director, Juvenile Services, Prince William County Department of Social Services
* Eugene Brown, Co-Chair of the Educational Workforce Committee, Chamber (citizen attending)
* Ann Trullender, Administrative Specialist, Criminal Justice Services
* Wendy Dempsey, Administrate Specialist, Criminal Justice Services
* Tracy Lenox, Chief Public Defender for Prince William County

# APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

Vice-Chairperson *Peter Meletis* asked for a motion to approve the agenda. **The motion was made by Jacques Pointier and seconded by Sam Flournoy. The motion was passed unanimously.**

# APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)

Vice-Chairperson *Meletis* requested a motion to approve the April 25, 2023, meeting minutes. **The motion was made by Terry Fearnley and seconded by Michael Carlson. Members voted. The motion was passed unanimously.**

**CITIZENS TIME (Item 4)** - *Eugene Brown* from Prince William County Chamber Education Workforce.

* In this position since FY 2015.
* His objective at the meeting is to learn how he can better understand what resources we may have or may need.

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANTS (Item 5)

* *Colonel Meletis* provided an update on recent grants:
  + The Adult Detention Center secured a substantial DCJS Grant amounting to $380,000.
  + This grant will facilitate the replacement of 52 ballistic vests, enhancing personnel safety.
  + The grant initiative encompasses the acquisition of essential equipment, including:
    - A portable X-ray machine
    - A warehouse package scanner
    - Installation of 7 additional security cameras strategically positioned in:
      * Pods within central buildings
      * Kitchen area
      * Armory
* *Steve Austin reiterated that the inclusion of this update in the agenda serves to:*
  + Allow the Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB) to review criminal justice-related grants.
  + Promote understanding and alignment with the local jurisdictions’ objectives.
* The role of CCJB is a comprehensive evaluation, not formal approval, of grants.
* This collaborative approach ensures informed decisions benefiting the local jurisdictions.

# PRESENTATIONS

* **Public Safety Assessment (PSA) (Item 6)** *Steve Austin* and *Tomaudrie Thomas* of Criminal Justice Services presented on APPR Achieving Pretrial Justice with the Public Safety Assessment. (Refer to PowerPoint Presentation attachment).
  + The Pretrial Assessment aims to predict, help identify, intervene, and assist in pretrial success.
  + How do assessments work?
    - Use information from people’s past to predict future behaviors.
    - The PSA is an actuarial pretrial assessment tool.
    - Bias can exist in pretrial assessments, but it also has advantages: it promotes consistency, increases transparency, and provides data for evaluation and improvement.
  + What makes PSA Unique?
    - Predict the likelihood of failure to appear and new criminal arrest separately.
    - Predict the likelihood of new violent criminal arrests.
    - Assess factors that do not depend on interviews.
    - Improve overall predictive accuracy.
    - Be applicable anywhere in the US.
    - Be available without cost.
  + PSA Development and Characteristics were tested from 750,000 cases, tested hundreds of factors, and did not require an interview.
  + PSA Factors
    - Age at arrest, current violent offense, current violent offense and 20 years old or younger, pending charges at the time of arrest, a prior misdemeanor conviction, prior felony conviction, a prior misdemeanor conviction, prior violent conviction, prior failure to appear in the past 2 years, prior failure to appear older than 2 years, prior sentence to incarceration.
  + PSA Timeline
    - Prince William County is now in the 16–18-month process.
    - Developing release conditions matrix
    - Training for stakeholders and users
    - Implementation in October-December 2023.
    - Steve Austin added that the stakeholders will decide but hopes that CJS will continue to do the court report, which has the person’s criminal history, address, employment information, and whether it was verified. The actual risk assessment will be completed whether an interview is refused or not.
    - The risk assessment is completed after the person is booked in jail and is currently unavailable to the magistrate.
    - The jurisdictions implementing the PSA have seen better jail bed management; they have not seen increases in failure to appear or new criminal arrests.
* **EBDM Update (Item 7)** reported by *Amal Hajjami. (*Refer to PowerPoint attachment.)
  + *Steve Austin* reported that Prince William County has recently created a new community safety initiative similar to EBDM and has a far-reaching approach that includes prevention. They have hired Wesley Dawson as Director.
  + *Amal Hajjami* presented PowerPoint regarding the EBDM dashboard that is under development, and this initiative is being created through a partnership with GMU and AmeriCorps.
  + Challenges when analyzing public safety data, data dashboards, and how it could be helpful:
    - Challenges Addressed:
      * Analyzing public safety data poses challenges due to diverse agency, system, and department data sources.
      * Different data formats hinder consolidation and practical analysis.
      * Extracting meaningful insights and informed decision-making is complex.
    - Centralized Data Dashboard:
      * Unified dashboard strategy to transform raw data into actionable insights.
      * Benefits both data analysts and decision-makers.
      * Enables identification of patterns, trends, and correlations even by non-experts.
    - Goals:
      * Informed decision-making.
      * Reduction of recidivism rates through early intervention and diversion.
    - Prince William County EBDM Roadmap:
      * It was developed in partnership with George Mason University (GMU) and the AmeriCorps program.
      * Tailored dashboard for the county's criminal justice service system.
      * Initiative in the planning phase involving stakeholder collaboration.
      * GMU identifies agency intersections and creates data definitions.
    - Supplementary Insight:
      * *Steve Austin* emphasizes preventive measures and mental health support.
      * The distribution of Narcan continues to address opioid overdoses and enhance public safety.
* **DCJS Quarterly Report (Item 8)** reported by *Tomaudrie Thomas;* see attached packet for June 30, 2023.
  + Pretrial:
    - Pretrial Investigation Rate: total investigations performed in our fiscal year from July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023: 3,896 for the year. Total interviews: 3062. Our overnight staff goes into jail and interviews individuals to provide recommendations to the courts to assist the Court in deciding whether the person should be released or detained. Individuals can decline the interview, and other factors explain why not everyone gets interviewed.
    - Court decisions: 62% of the time, the Court agrees with the recommendations of CJS and conditions of release.
    - Defendants placed on pretrial supervision: 90% are released and placed on recognizance or unsecured bond.
    - 43% of defendants placed on pretrial are low-risk levels I & II. Some low-risk individuals may not need to be on pretrial.
    - Performance Measures: Our appearance rates for pretrial for those under pretrial supervision are at 86%; the public safety rate is 94%, meaning they did not have another arrest while they were on pretrial supervision with CJS; our compliance rate is 84%; meaning those cases that are closed did not violate any technical conditions.
  + Probation:
    - Total individuals placed: 71% of placements for LOP are misdemeanors, and 29% are felonies.
    - 70% of our local probation cases are low risk.
    - Probations outcomes: 76% of those placed on misdemeanors are successful on supervision, 53% are successful under our supervision.
    - Public Safety Rate: 88.5% of the time, while on LOP, they complete supervision without getting a new arrest.

# ROUND TABLE TOPICS MEMBERS (Item 9)

* + *Judge Baird*'s Acknowledgment:
    - Judge Baird thanked Criminal Justice Services and Steve Austin's team for analyzing LOP program data, particularly concerning DV offenders.
    - Judges collectively requested more data and tools to personalize treatment and reduce defendant recidivism.
    - Appreciation was extended to the team for their support.
  + *Levi Bass*'s Announcement:
    - Levi Bass shared that Ms. Katrina Brown is the new Assistant Superintendent at the Prince William County Juvenile Detention facility.
    - Ms. Brown brings substantial experience in juvenile justice.
    - Members were encouraged to congratulate Ms. Brown when meeting her.
  + *Tomaudrie Thomas's* Reminder:
    - Tomaudrie Thomas reminded members about the August 1, 2023, National Night Out.
    - National Night Out fosters community engagement and strengthens connections.

**ADJOURNED (Item 10)** Vice-Chairperson *Col. Meletis* asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was made by Jacque Poirier and seconded by Sam Flournoy. The motion was passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.**

**Next meeting: October 24, 2023**