# Prince William County Community Criminal Justice Board

## January 23, 2024

**PRESENT:** Vice-Chairperson Peter Meletis, Judge Rogers, Terry Fearnley, Michael Carlson, Louis Sagar, Tony Kostelecky, Elizabeth Edwards by telephone, Tara Petty, Jacques Poirier, Tracey Lenox, Chris Sanders, Kimberly Keller, Dan Manza, Mariana Barros, Levi Bass.

**STAFF:** Steve Austin, Tomaudrie Thomas, Palina Gaines, Amal Hajjami, Ann Trullender, Wendy Dempsey, & Allison Intihar.

**CITIZEN:** Nik Gambhir

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m.

**CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS (Item 1)** Vice-Chairperson Col. Meletis welcomed incoming members, Yesli Vega to represent Prince William County and Sonia Vasquez Luna, Council Member for the City of Manassas. He also introduced Allison Intihar, Criminal Justice Services, Manager of the Intensive Team, and our Overnight Investigation Team. She supervises the overnight pretrial investigators that do the VPRAI reports for the courts.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

Vice-Chairperson Col. Meletis asked for a motion to approve the agenda. **The motion was made by Tony Kostelecky and seconded by Terry Fearnley. The motion was passed unanimously.**

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)

Vice-Chairperson Col. Meletis requested a motion to approve the October 24, 2023, meeting minutes. **The motion was made by Jacques Poirier and seconded by Kimberly Keller.**

## Members voted. The motion was passed unanimously. CITIZENS TIME (Item 4) – *None.*

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANTS (Item 5)** reported by *Colonel Meletis*-

* The ADC has partnered with George Mason University to oversee inmate suboxone programs. ADC has a mental health grant from DCJS that helps support two mental health therapists*.*

## PRESENTATIONS (Item 6)

Prince William County Drug Court Presentation reported by Palinda Gaines, Drug Court Coordinator, CJS.

* Drug Court Program for Justice-Involved Individuals.
	+ The Greater Prince William Adult Drug Treatment Court, a 14-month program providing intensive treatment and supervision to participants through evidence-based practices.
	+ Participants are responsible for their own progress through the program, with movement contingent upon adherence to requirements and program growth goals.
	+ The drug court in Prince William County aims to reduce recidivism by providing non-adversarial treatment for substance-dependent residents.
	+ Drug Court program helps felony offenders achieve sobriety, employment, and housing through structured phases, with restorative prosocial activities and referrals from law enforcement and public defenders.
	+ Ms. Gaines explained the referral and vetting process for the program, including the role of the Commonwealth's Office and the clinical assessment conducted by a clinician at the CSB.
	+ Ms. Gaines highlights the complexity of some referrals and the need for appropriate matching of participants with the program's resources.
	+ Please continue to refer potential clients to the drug court for vetting. Dan Manza added:

## Drug court services and treatment options.

* + Drug court clients receive standardized treatment plans with individual and group therapy, medication-assisted treatment, and peer support.
	+ Drug court capacity limited by funding, seeking grants to expand services.

## EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING (EBDM & PUBLIC SAFETY ASSESSMENT

**(PSA) UPDATE (Item 7)** reported by *Steve Austin & Amal Hajjami.*

## Data dashboard development-

* + Sub-committee of EBDM: Mental Health workgroup.
		- Amal Hajjami reported that the workgroup is mapping peer recovery houses in the Prince William County area.
		- The GIS team within Prince William County will create layers of interactive mapping. This will help to connect people who need recovery house services, which may not be known. It will help stakeholders to make referrals by using GIS technology,
		- The team is standardizing data with a data dictionary to ensure consistency across police agencies and departments, and meeting with Community Safety initiative to discuss potential uses of the dashboard.
* **EBDM & PSA Updates** by *Steve Austin*:
	+ The EBDM team is developing a data dashboard to visualize criminal justice data for better decision-making, with a focus on internal use and publicly available data.
	+ County officials plan to continue working with George Mason University on the Dashboard along the County’s Office of Community Safety
	+ The PSA team is working with our County’s DoIT Department to install the PSA App to score the PSA and training will be set for March.
	+ The training plan for the new PSA pretrial risk assessment instrument includes stakeholder training and a six-hour training for CJS staff.
	+ The policy team meets on January 24, 2024, to finalize details, including supplemental information to provide and subcommittees working on other areas of the pretrial justice system.
	+ Tracey Lenox emphasizes the importance of community engagement and stakeholder input in the development of the pretrial risk assessment tool for Prince William County.
	+ Tracey Lenox highlights the unique challenges of implementing this tool in Prince William County, including the need to address concerns from judges, public defenders, and community leaders.
	+ Many subcommittees have been created of this group to problem solve. Balance between community safety and constitutional rights of the defendant not to be held, are both enormous factors that need checks and balances.
* **Improving Pretrial Services for DV cases** reported by *Tomaudrie Thomas.*
	+ Tomaudrie Thomas discusses the subcommittee's work on streamlining pretrial violations handling processes, including internal workgroup and stakeholder input.
	+ The proposed changes include handling minor violations internally, sending one letter to the court prior to the violation date, and focusing on successes rather than only addressing violations.
	+ Ms. Thomas discusses the agency's efforts to address gaps in services for domestic violence cases.
	+ The ODARA (Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment) has been selected for DV/IPV (Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence) risk assessment tool which is assist in making DV decisions in Prince William County and to possibly assist with release condition recommendations as well as pretrial and probation supervision.

## DCJS QUARTERLY REPORT (ITEM 8) reported by *Tomaudrie Thomas;* see attached draft DCJS packet, which is the 2nd Quarter report dated October – December 2023.

* Pretrial:
	+ Pretrial Investigation Rate: total investigations performed: 1533. Our overnight staff goes to ADC and interviews individuals to provide recommendations to the courts and to assist the Court in deciding whether the person should be released or detained, and which conditions should be included to ensure court appearance and public safety. Individuals can decline the interview, and other factors explain why not everyone gets interviewed.
	+ Court decisions: 64% of the time, the Court agrees with the recommendations of CJS and conditions of release.
	+ Defendants placed on pretrial supervision: 94% are released and placed on recognizance or unsecured bond.
	+ 63% 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 84%; the public safety rate is 88%, meaning they did not have

another arrest while they were on pretrial supervision with CJS; our compliance rate is 78%; meaning those cases that are closed did not violate any technical conditions.

* Probation:
	+ Total individuals placed on probation: 175 individuals: Last year at the same time: 133 individuals. 71% of placements for LOP are misdemeanors, and 29% are felonies.
	+ 91% of our local probation cases are low risk; 9% medium risk.
	+ Probations outcomes: 70% of those placed on misdemeanors are successful under supervision, 53% of felonies are successful under our supervision.
	+ Public Safety Rate: 90% of the time, while on LOP, they complete supervision without getting a new arrest.

## ROUND TABLE TOPICS MEMBERS (Item 9)

* Kimberly Keller, DSS, introduced a new supervisor, intake officer, Mariana Barros. The Gang Resistance Program is being implemented as an interactive gaming tool and will be offered weekly.
* Steve Austin, CJS, reported that the Annual Report is at the printers and will be forthcoming for distribution.

**ADJOURNED (Item 10)** Vice Chairperson Colonel Meletis asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was made by Tony Kostelecky and seconded by Jacques Poirier. The motion was passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.**

# Next meeting:

**April 23, 2024**