**Prince William County Community Criminal Justice Board**

**October 24, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Bradley Marshall, Vice-Chairperson Peter Meletis, Chief Judge Lisa Baird, Chief Judge Kimberly Irving, Col. Meletis, Terry Fearnley, Jim Nesterick, Michael Carlson, Louis Sagar, Captain West, Officer Andrew Brooks, Lt. Matthew McCauley, Dr. Tauheeda Yasin, Tony Kostelecky, Jennifer Kooyoomjian.

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

**CITIZEN:** Eugene Brown

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

**CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS (Item 1)** Chairperson Brad Marshall thanked Tina Laguna who has accepted a position at Alexandria Police Department for her role on the board and wishing her the best. Welcoming incoming member, Tara Petty to represent City of Manassas Police Department. Welcome to all the board members and alternates.

Introductions:

* Chairperson Brad Marshall, Law Firm of Vanderpool, Frostick & Nishanian
* Chief Judge Lisa Baird, Prince William County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court
* Chief Judge Kimberly Irving, Prince William County Circuit Court
* Peter Meletis, Superintendent of the Prince William County ADC, Vice-Chairperson of CCJB
* Capt. West, ADC, Manages Classification and Treatment Section
* Steve Austin, Director of Prince William County Criminal Justice Services
* Tomaudrie Thomas, Deputy Director at Prince William County Criminal Justice Services
* Tauheeda Yasin, Office of Community Safety
* Amal Hajjami, Senior Public Safety Analyst, Criminal Justice Services
* Tony Kostelecky, Commonwealth Attorney’s Office
* Lt. Matthew McCauley, Prince William County Police Department
* Officer Andrew Brooks, City of Manassas 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
* Chris Mayers, Senior Pretrial/Probation Officer/VTD Coordinator, CJS
* Jennifer Kooyoomjian, Juvenile Court Services Gang Prevention/Intervention
* 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

# APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

Chairperson Brad Marshall asked for a motion to approve the agenda. **The motion was made by Col. Meletis and seconded by Tony Kostelecky. The motion was passed unanimously.**

# APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)

Co-Chairperson Col. Meletis requested a motion to approve the July 25, 2023, meeting minutes. **The motion was made by Terry Fearnley and seconded by Tony Kostelecky. Members voted. Chairperson Marshall recused himself because he was not present. The motion was passed unanimously.**

**CITIZENS TIME (Item 4)** – *None.*

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANTS (Item 5)

* Lt. Matthew McCauley provided an update on a recent grant:
  + The Prince William County Police Department secured a substantial grant from Edward Byrne Memorial Grant amounting to $128,483.00.
  + This grant will facilitate the upgrading or replacing of radio systems, both car and portable and includes chargers, batteries and the accoutrement that would come with 20 radios, enhancing communication.
* 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 (Item 6)

Greater Prince William Veteran’s Treatment Docket Presentation presented by Chris Mayers, Senior Pretrial/Probation Officer/VTD Coordinator, CJS. *See attached*.

* Mr. Mayers highlights the importance of the docket, emphasizing that it provides essential services to veterans and holds them to high standards.
* The docket was sanctioned by the Supreme Court in 2019 and has since undergone changes to become more efficient and evidence-based, with multiple partners involved in its operation.
* Veterans' treatment courts provide alternatives to incarceration, saving lives and futures.
* Mr. Mayers explains how the Veteran Treatment Docket works, including the screening process and how they use the VA database to identify veterans.
* He discusses the importance of the screening process and how it helps ensure that veterans are placed in the appropriate docket based on their risk level.
* A specialized docket for veterans with substance abuse issues.
* Explains the phases of the program, including the MRT group and drawing steps, which take 6-7 months to complete.
* The mentor is a volunteer from the community, with 14 mentors currently supporting 16 individuals on the docket.
* Highlights the unique aspects of the docket, including the outreach liaison and DVS representative, and the focus on evidence-based practices such as urine screening twice a week.
* The docket links services to the Veteran and is generally funded by the Veteran's Administration.
* Steve Austin highlights the success of the Veterans Docket, which has grown significantly since 2021 despite lack of funding. He added that Chris Mayers has done a phenomenal job, and he is seeking funding for this position.
* Greater Prince Williams Veterans Treatment Docket graduation scheduled in the Prince William County General District Court on November 29, 2023, at 3:00 pm.

**Public Safety Assessment (PSA) (Item 7)** reported by Steve Austin and Tomaudrie Thomas.

* The Pretrial Assessment aims to predict, help identify, intervene, and assist in pretrial success.
* PSA Update:
  + Finalizing release conditions matrix with three levels of supervision based on PSA scores.
  + The system will be implemented in late January, with training for staff and stakeholders, and a focus on strategic timing to maximize retention of information.
  + Tomaudrie Thomas discusses a workgroup established to address gaps in the pretrial system for domestic violence and intimate partner violence cases.
  + Tomaudrie Thomas discusses the challenges of selecting a validated risk assessment tool for pretrial services, considering factors such as cost, validity for both men and women, and impact on workload.
  + Tomaudrie Thomas also addresses the need to provide resources to victims or survivors through the permanent protective order program, and to open lines of communication if violations occur.
  + Tomaudrie Thomas discusses streamlining pretrial violation handling internally and reporting to the court, with a focus on consistency and best practices.

**EBDM Update (Item 7)** reported by Steve Austin and Amal Hajjami.

* 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. The group last met on September 21, 2023.
* Steve Austin updates the group on EBDM-related projects, including a peer recovery mapping process and partnering with the county and GIS office to map peer recovery homes in Prince William County.
* EBDM dashboard is under development, a template has been created in partnership with AmeriCorps team. They have completed their service, and the initiative will continue.
* 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.
  + Next Steps:
    - Studying the back end of the dashboard to see what we can improve.
    - The creation of a secure email server with George Mason University to initiate those data dumps in a secure way with no breaches.
    - Analyzing data from the agencies.
  + Supplementary Insight:
    - Steve Austin emphasizes preventive measures and mental health support.
    - The distribution of Narcan continues to address opioid overdoses and enhance public safety. Col. Meletis added that approximately 110 inmates are taking suboxone.

**DCJS Quarterly Report (Item 8)** reported by Tomaudrie Thomas*;* see attached draft DCJS packet, which is the quarterly report dated July 1, through September 30, 2023.

* Pretrial:
  + Pretrial Investigation Rate: total investigations performed: 835. Total screened: 1094. 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.
  + Judge Irving explains that a new arrest does not necessarily result in a new pretrial violation, as long as there has been no conviction. She agrees that a new case management system will help better discern pretrial violations from new arrests.
* 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)

* Judge Baird reported that a new Judge's position for the JDR Court has been requested before the General Assembly. The local bench will be asking for support from some stakeholders by asking for letters in support of this position. The position will be created next year with funding, if approved. She added that the adult criminal dockets are backed up, and that this new position would greatly improve the wait times.
* Captain West reported on the creation of the Reentry Center for Justice-involved individuals at the ADC. The Reentry Center has been created to support individuals released from jail, providing resources for housing, transportation, and more. Capt. West highlights the importance of connecting justice-involved individuals with relevant services, including clothing, transportation, and tickets to different jurisdictions. Captain West has been working on creating a one-stop shop for reentry resources in the jail, partnering with peers and community organizations to provide support for individuals upon release. The tool is an evolution of Captain Wests' 2015 initiative and will increase public safety by connecting individuals to services before they reenter society.

**ADJOURNED (Item 10)** Chairperson Brad Marshall asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **The motion was made by Capt. West and seconded by Col. Meletis. The motion was passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:07p.m.**

**Next meeting: January 23, 2024**