Jefferson Area

# **Community Criminal Justice Board**

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Albemarle ● Charlottesville ● Fluvanna ● Goochland ● Greene ● Louisa ● Madison ● Nelson ● Orange

Minutes

Quarterly CCJB Meeting

November 9, 2022

5:00 to 6:30 pm

OAR Conference Room

750 Harris Street, Suite 207

Charlottesville, VA

Members Present: Hosea Mitchell, Ted Voorhees, Paul Anderson, Ross Carew, Amanda Galloway, Martin Kumer, William Logan, Sena Magill, Avnel Coates, Kaki Dimock

Staff Present: Neal Goodloe, Criminal Justice Planner

Susan Morrow, Assistant Director, OAR-JACC

A quorum of at least eight voting members was achieved.

**Albemarle-Charlottesville Evidence-Based Decision-Making Policy Team Strategic Plan:**

The EBDM Policy Team has been taking part in a strategic planning process, under a technical assistance grant from the National Association of Counties. The planning process has included a survey of government and non-profit agencies, inmates at the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail and probationers. The inmate survey produced over 250 responses. The consultants on the project from Rulo Strategies are currently reviewing the results of the surveys. A full-day strategic planning workshop will be held on December 5th at City Space to identify priorities and develop an action plan for future EBDM work.

**Sequential Intercept Model:**

A group of 40 criminal justice and behavioral health agency professionals met at the Albemarle County Office Building for a 1.5 day workshop on August 29-30. The workshop was led by consultants under a technical assistance grant by the SAMSHA GAINS Center. The object of the workshop was to update the Sequential Intercept Map (SIM) for the Region Ten service area, identifying intervention points for people with behaviora health issues who come in contact with the criminal justice system, at each of six intercepts across the criminal justice process, from first responders all the way through termination from probation.

In addition to updating the last map, created in 2015, the SIM work group also identified a number of current gaps in the delivery of behavioral health services, and rank-ordered priorities to address those gaps. The top four priorities identified were:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Votes** | **Priority for Change** |
| 1 | 19 | 1. Establish crisis receiving center(s) options without barrier to entry |
| 2 | 18 | 1. Stabilize workforce recruitment and retention across behavioral health and criminal justice systems |
| 3 | 14 | Expand Mobile crisis options (Marcus Alert, etc.) |
| 3 | 14 | 1. Increase short- and long-term housing options for individuals with seriously mentally illness and co-occurring disorders |

These priorities will be rolled into the EBDM strategic planning process, noted above.

Kaki Dimock outlined how the Albemarle County Police Department, Fire/Rescue, Department of Social Services and Region Ten are putting together a co-responder team that will include two specially-trained police officers, a member of Fire/Rescue, and a behavioral health clinician working with ACDSS to respond to citizens in behavioral health crisis. The team, known by the acronym HEARTS, will be operational in early 2023. The goal of the HEARTS team is to safely triage and de-escalate situations involving citizens in behavioral health crisis, thus reducing the likelihood of arrest while increasing the likelihood of getting the person successfully linked to an appropriate level of behavioral health care.

Ted Voorhees advised the CCJB of a new program in Culpeper operated by Rappahannock Rapidan Community Services (RRCS) that was visited by representatives of Orange County Department of Social Services.  It is called the S.E.E. Recovery Center, which is intended address the needs of people in crisis due to mental health or substance use problems.  It is focused on peer support and it is hoped that the opioid abatement settlement money might be used to add to rural behavioral health treatment capacity through this program.

**One Stop Reentry Shop:**

Ross, Paul and Neal reported on the efforts of the One-Stop Shop, a reentry resource fair assembled in the District 9 parking lot on Wednesdays over the summer and early fall of 2022.

Beginning July 1, 2022, House Bill 5148 created a set of earned sentencing credits for Virginia Department of Corrections inmates that awarded eligible, non-violent inmates up to 15 days earned credit for every 30 days served. Since the time credits were applied retroactively, up to 3,000 Virginia DOC inmates (and state-responsible inmates held in Virginia’s jails) were initially eligible for early release between 7/1/2022 and 8/31/2022. The actual number ended up lower than that because of modifications made by the Virginia General Assembly that impacted the eligibility of ~700 of those inmates. The added burden on criminal justice and behavioral health agencies locally was therefore less significant than initially anticipated.

The “One-Stop Shop” was set up to provide a variety of reentry resources for those just released from confinement, in addition to anyone with a previous period of incarceration who might benefit from additional resources. These resources included Medicaid enrollment, health care referrals, job search assistance, educational resources, housing assistance, behavioral health referrals, social services, basic toiletries, food, and other essentials. The events were well-attended. The One-Stop Shop will continue to operateon a monthly basis at the Carver Recreation Center.

One significant impact of the new sentencing credit legislation is the freeing up of space in the Virginia Department of Corrections, which has resulted in the quickening of the intake of state-responsible inmates into the prison system from Virginia’s jails. In addition, sentenced, non-violent state-responsible felons remaining in jail are now eligible for the credit, reducing their sentences by ~33%. These two factors have combined to significantly reduce the number of felony-level jail inmates serving long jail sentences, resulting in fewer bed day expenditures at both ACRJ and CVRJ, and falling average daily populations at both jails. ACRJ now has fewer than 250 inmates in the facility (and another 30 or so on Home Electronic Incarceration), compared to nearly 500 inmates prior to the onset of the pandemic.

**Drug Courts in the CCJB:**

Drug Courts now serve the Circuit Courts in Albemarle/Charlottesville, Fluvanna and Orange/Madison. Nelson County recently received approval from the Supreme Court of Virginia to operate a drug court, and has been awarded a three-year Federal grant of ~$500,000 to fund a drug court staff and to enhance treatment capacity.

**CCJB Meeting Policy:**

Effective September 1, 2022, the Virginia General Assembly modified the statute that governs open meetings in the Commonwealth (§ 2.2-3708.3). For boards such as the CCJB, the new regulations require the following:

* The CCJB may hold all-virtual public meetings, provided that it has adopted a policy, by recorded vote at a public meeting that defines how, and how often, they are run.
  + An indication of whether the meeting will be an in-person or all-virtual public meeting must be included in the required meeting notice along with a statement notifying the public that the method by which the CCJB chooses to meet shall not be changed unless the public body provides a new meeting notice;
  + Public access to the all-virtual public meeting is provided via electronic communication means;
  + The CCJB may not convene an all-virtual public meeting more than two times per calendar year, or consecutively with another all-virtual public meeting;

In accordance with this statute, a motion was made by Sena Magill, and seconded by Martin Kumer, to establish an annual schedule of two virtual CCJB meetings held each year (on the second Wednesdays in January and July), with two in-person meetings to be held on the second Wednesdays of April and October. The in-person meetings will not have a virtual option. Meetings will be held from 4:00 to 5:30 pm (both virtual and in-person).

A voice vote was taken: 10-yes, 0-no. The motion passed unanimously. The written policy will be ratified at the January 11, 2023 CCJB meeting.

**Crime and Incarceration Trends:**

Neal Goodloe presented a summary of both long-term (2001-2020) and shorter-term (2012-2021) crime trends for the eight CCJB jurisdictions. Among the highlights were the following:

* Nationally, the index violent crime rate fell 29% between 2001 and 2020. The rate was 399 per 100,000 in 2020.
* Virginia’s index violent crime rate dropped 37% during the same time span and was 208 per 100,000 in 2020, nearly half the national rate.
* The index violent crime rate decreased from 2001 to 2020 in the City of Charlottesville (down 66%), Fluvanna County (down 56%) Albemarle County (down 53%), Greene County (down 42%) and Orange County (down 35%).
* The index violent crime rate increased from 2001 to 2020 in Nelson County (up 51%), Madison County (up 33%) and Louisa County (up 18%).
* In 2020, the lowest index violent crime rates per 100,000 residents were observed among the CVRJ member jurisdictions: Orange (62), Madison (68), Fluvanna (69), Louisa (80) and Greene (85).
* The highest index violent crime rates per 100,000 in 2020 were among ACRJ member jurisdictions: Charlottesville (342), Nelson (163), and Albemarle (98).
* Nationally, the index property crime rate fell 46% between 2001 and 2020. The rate was 1,958 per 100,000 in 2020.
* Virginia’s index property crime rate dropped 47% during the same time span and was 1,456 per 100,000 in 2020, well below the national rate.
* The index property crime rate decreased from 2001 to 2020 in Albemarle County (down 61%), Charlottesville (down 55%), Fluvanna County (down 54%), Louisa County (down 42%), Orange County (down 36%), Nelson County (down 34%), and Madison County (down 24%).
* The index property crime rate increased from 2001 to 2020 only in Greene County (up 18%).
* In 2020, the lowest index property crime rates per 100,000 residents were observed among the CVRJ member jurisdictions: Fluvanna (401), Madison (506), Orange (555), Louisa (907) and Greene (997).
* The highest index property crime rates per 100,000 in 2020 were among ACRJ member jurisdictions: Charlottesville (1,966), Nelson (1,485), and Albemarle (1,202).
* The narcotics crime rate decreased from 2001 to 2020 only in the City of Charlottesville (down 45%).
* The narcotics crime rate increased from 2001 to 2020 in every CCJB county: Madison County (up 1,300%), Nelson County (up 350%), Orange County (up 220%), Fluvanna County (up 114%), Greene County (up 110%), Louisa County (up 82%), and Albemarle County (up 25%).
* The lowest narcotics crime rates per 100,000 in 2020 were in the following jurisdictions: Albemarle (224), Charlottesville (245), Madison (249), Orange (251), Fluvanna (277).
* In 2020, the highest narcotics crime rates per 100,000 residents were observed in the following jurisdictions: Greene (496), Louisa (374) and Nelson (298).
* Statewide, the Group A reported crime rate fell 19% from 2012 to 2021.
* The Group A reported crime rate decreased in seven of eight CCJB member jurisdictions from 2012 to 2021 (increasing only in Nelson County).
* The greatest decreases in Group A reported crime were observed in the City of Charlottesville (down 39%) and Louisa County (down 36%).
* In 2021, Charlottesville (with the fifth-highest population density per square mile in the Commonwealth) had the highest per capita Group A reported crime rate of the eight CCJB member jurisdictions, ranked 23rd out of Virginia’s 133 jurisdictions (and 22nd among 37 Virginia cities).
* Fluvanna County had the lowest overall Group A reported crime rate among CCJB member jurisdictions, ranked 120th in Virginia.
* Statewide, the Group A reported Crimes Against Person rate per 1,000 Virginians fell 12% from 2012 to 2021.
* The Crimes Against Person rate decreased in five of eight CCJB member jurisdictions from 2012 to 2021, while increasing in three jurisdictions.
* The greatest decreases in the Crimes Against Person rate were observed in the City of Charlottesville (down 35%) and Louisa County (down 24%).
* The greatest increases were found in Nelson County (up 153%), and Orange County (up 32%).
* In 2021, Charlottesville had the highest per capita Crimes Against Person rate of the eight CCJB member jurisdictions, ranked 22nd out of Virginia’s 133 jurisdictions (and 21st among Virginia’s 37 cities).
* Louisa County had the lowest Crimes Against Person rate among CCJB member jurisdictions, ranked 119th.
* The Virginia Group A reported Crimes Against Property rate fell 28% from 2012 to 2021.
* The Crimes Against Property rate decreased in seven of eight CCJB member jurisdictions from 2012 to 2021, increasing only in Nelson County (up 24%).
* The greatest decreases in the Crimes Against Property rate were observed in Louisa County (down 45%) and in Orange County (down 43%) .
* Significant decreases of more than 20% were also found in Albemarle, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene and Madison.
* In 2021, Charlottesville had the highest per capita Crimes Against Property rate of the eight CCJB member jurisdictions, ranked 16th out of Virginia’s 133 jurisdictions (and 15th among Virginia’s 37 cities).
* Fluvanna County had the lowest Crimes Against Property rate among CCJB member jurisdictions, ranked 118th.
* The Virginia Group A reported Crimes Against Society rate rose 3% from 2012 to 2021. An increase in Crimes Against Society was observed between 2015 and 2019, followed by a significant drop in 2020-21 with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the decriminalization/legalization of marijuana possession.
* The Crimes Against Society rate decreased in five of eight CCJB member jurisdictions from 2012 to 2021 (Albemarle, Charlottesville, Louisa, Madison and Orange), while increasing in Fluvanna, Greene and Nelson.
* The greatest decreases in the Crimes Against Society rate were observed in Charlottesville (down 57%) and Madison County (down 42%) .
* The most significant increases were in Greene (up 63%) and Nelson (up 56%).
* In 2021, Orange County had the highest per capita Crimes Against Society rate of the eight CCJB member jurisdictions, ranked 72nd out of Virginia’s 133 jurisdictions.
* Madison County had the lowest Crimes Against Society rate among CCJB member jurisdictions, ranked 128th.
* All eight CCJB member jurisdictions ranked in the bottom half of the Commonwealth in Crimes Against Society per 1000 residents in 2021.

**Incarceration Rates:**

* Virginia enjoys some of the lowest reported crime rates in the United States.
* Yet, Virginia has some of the highest jail and prison incarceration rates in the country.
* The United States has the highest incarceration rates in the world.
* In 2019, Virginia had among the lowest reported index crime rates in the U.S. (ranked 38th overall), but among the highest overall incarceration rates (ranked 10th overall).
* Virginia’s prison incarceration ranked 16th, and the Commonwealth’s jail incarceration ranked 7th nationally in 2019.
* Virginia had the third highest incarceration to crime ratio of all 50 states in 2019.
* ACRJ and CVRJ currently have much lower jail incarceration rates than do most other regional jails in Virginia (ranked 24th and 21st respectively out of 26 regional jails in the Commonwealth).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

The next meeting will be held (via Zoom) on Wednesday, January 11th, from 4 to 5:30 pm.