

Regular Meeting of the Arlington County Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB) held in person in the Jury Assembly Room at the Arlington County Courthouse on Thursday, September 5th, 2024, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Arlington County Board Member Matt de Ferranti, CCJB Chair
City of Falls Church Vice Mayor Debbie Hiscott
Paul Ferguson, Clerk of Circuit Court
Skip Burley, District 10 Probation and Parole
Chief Deputy Tara Johnson, Arlington County Sheriff's Office (ACSO)
Major Gretchen Foster, ACSO
Brian Henshaw, Clerk of General District Court
Allison Arnold, Magistrate's Office
Judge Jason Rucker, General District Court
Judge Cari Michele Steele, General District Court
Chief Judge Judith Wheat, Circuit Court
Judge Daniel Lopez, Circuit Court
Teya West, Dept. of Human Services (DHS) Community Corrections Unit (CCU)
Suzanne Somerville, DHS Clinical Services Bureau
Earl Conklin, Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Services Unit
Deputy Chief LaTasha Chamberlain, Arlington County Police Department
Chief Shahram Fard, City of Falls Church Police Department
Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti
Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Jeff Overand
Grace Woodward, Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney
Katy Steinbruck, Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR)
Anthony Smallwood, OAR
Wanda Younger, Resident
Graham Weinschenk, County Board Office

I. CALL TO ORDER.

At 3:02p.m., the meeting was called to order by Chair Matt de Ferranti.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (APPENDIX 1).

On motion by Matt de Ferranti and seconded by Teya West, the Board approved the minutes of the July 18, 2024, meeting (Appendix 1). No amendments were made.

III. DIVERSION, SERVING THE UNHOUSED, AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

Circuit Court Chief Judge Wheat described an ongoing circumstance where adults involved with the justice system may have access to housing in Maryland or DC, but not in Virginia. These adults are on probation under supervision by District 10 and are required to remain in Virginia because they cannot be transferred, for whatever reason, to other jurisdictions where they may have housing. This results in a dilemma in which the Court's options are to send them to shelters,

release them to the streets (which usually results in re-arrest), or keep them in the County Detention Facility. Many shelters around the region, including in Arlington, won't take them until residency is established after 90 days. This dynamic also creates additional barriers to connecting this population with various services. The primary question arising from this situation is whether there is a way to resolve some of the housing issues in order to streamline the process of connecting people to services.

Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti agreed with Judge Wheat's description, and emphasized issues with this population's access to transportation that will get them to the physical locations where they need to go to enroll or access services.

Judge Wheat and other attendees highlighted that the PathForward shelter has been full over the past year and a half and that the wait time for a shelter bed is approximately ~120 day/ 4 months. For non-Arlington residents, there is a 90 day residency requirement, and attendees reported that people are left with no option but to sleep on the streets for 90 days in order to gain residency. This requirement is an Arlington policy meant to reduce pressure on the system as need for services grows. This jurisdictional strictness is also increasing regionally as the need increases and, unfortunately, most of these individuals do not have a specified locality in which they reside. The County will also often refer people to shelters in other localities or in DC, with DC requiring a pass from District 10 due to interstate compacts.

The topic was opened for conversation and discussion and the possibility of a working group was suggested, and Chair de Ferranti asked to be included in the meetings and suggested that additional conversations occur via email. CCJB staff will follow up with the members via email, aiming for an initial conversation before the end of the year.

IV. CHAIR'S UPDATE.

Chair de Ferranti presented the Chair's Update, which consisted of a brief description of the next steps re-establishing the CCJB via resolution. The tentative timeline is for the County Board to adopt a new resolution in September that will better position the CCJB to achieve its goals of access to expertise, research, and best practices; identifying opportunities for efficiencies, new funding sources, and cost-effective strategies; and better understanding and addressing interactions between the criminal justice system and health/social issues. The four primary components of the resolution are records and transparency, the membership, administration and leadership, and strategic planning. The topic was opened for discussion.

Chief Judge Wheat asked a clarifying question regarding term limits.

Community member Wanda Younger expressed her support for the inclusion of additional resident representatives and the importance of including community voices.

V. CARRYOVER OF PRETRIAL SERVICES DISCUSSION.

Judge Lopez of the Circuit Court shared his belief that there is significant room to improve Arlington's Pretrial Services. Specifically, the Judge highlighted DC's Federal-run Pretrial

Services Agency and Fairfax County's Pretrial Services as models worth emulating in Arlington. Judge Lopez also shared his support for a Pretrial program under the Court Services Unit or the General District Court, and the other judges in attendance expressed their strong agreement for such a change, including locating the program in the Court House.

Katy Steinbruck from OAR expressed a desire that services focus more intently on diversion and deflection from the justice system.

Community member Wanda Younger asked to follow up on her prior questions regarding re-evaluation of inmates for participation in pretrial.

VI. CCJB MEMBER UPDATES

Deputy Chief LaTasha Chamberlain shared that the community policing dashboard is now live online and that regional security preparations for the Presidential inauguration are ongoing.

Katy Steinbruck from OAR shared that there will be an open house on October 23rd to celebrate the organization's anniversary and their recent renovations to create a welcome center.

Suzanne Somerville from the DHS Clinical Services Bureau shared that they had a candlelight vigil for international overdose awareness day yesterday. They also have a new diversion therapist who is working through the intercepts.

Chief Deputy Tara Johnson from ACSO shared that they have a new wellness dog, Hope. They also have a new bomb detection K9 who will be coming in a few weeks. ACSO is also making a concerted effort to be more involved in the community. Lastly, Arlington and the other Sheriffs' offices in Northern Virginia will be making changes at the academy to only provide a jailer certification instead of a full LEO certification in order to prevent people from getting the full LEO certification and then leaving Sheriffs' offices for a police agency. This will also streamline the training process by reducing the amount of time required.

Vice Mayor Debbie Hiscott from Falls Church extended her thanks for the invitation, and that she is glad to be here.

Chief Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Jeff Overand reported that the Commonwealth's Attorney's conviction review attorney is getting started. She is an attorney w/ six years' experience.

Earl Conklin, from the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Services Unit reported that they are in the process of creating a new mentorship program for youth with no caring adults in their lives and are working to hire for that role.

Chief Shahram Fard, the Chief of the Falls Church Police Department expressed his thanks for the invitation to join the group. He is new to Falls Church after 25+ years of experience in Alexandria and is looking forward to learning more.

Judge Rucker expressed his appreciation to the County Board for their funding of the new bond diversion position. He also shared that Judge O'Brien is retiring on July 1st of next year.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair de Ferranti adjourned the meeting at 4:12pm

Next meeting: November 7th, 2024, at **3pm** in the 10th Floor Jury Assembly Room

Appendix 1: July 18th, 2024 Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Arlington County Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB) held in person in the Jury Assembly Room at the Arlington County Courthouse on Thursday, July 18th, 2024, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Matt de Ferranti, Arlington County Board Member, CCJB Chair
Paul Ferguson, Clerk of Circuit Court
Marcie Perez, District 10 Probation and Parole
Skip Burley, District 10 Probation and Parole
Lt. Dena Beatty, Arlington County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Pretrial
Sheriff Jose Quiroz, ACSO
Major Gretchen Foster, ACSO
Bruce Adam, Chief Magistrate
Teya West, Dept. of Human Services (DHS) Community Corrections Unit (CCU)
Suzanne Somerville, DHS Clinical Services Bureau
Tiffany Jones, DHS Marcus Alert
Earl Conklin, Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Services Unit
Chief Andy Penn, Arlington County Police Department
Deputy Chief LaTasha Chamberlain, Arlington County Police Department
Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Commonwealth's Attorney
Brad Haywood, Public Defender's Office
Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR)
Katy Steinbruck, OAR
Kelvin Manurs, Arm and Arm
Khadijah Berkley, Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia
Graham Weinschenk, County Board Office
David Barrera, County Board Office

I. CALL TO ORDER.

At 3:31p.m., the meeting was called to order by Chair Matt de Ferranti.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (APPENDIX 1).

On motion by Paul Ferguson and seconded by Dena Beatty, the Board approved the minutes of the May 23, 2024, meeting (Appendix 1). No amendments were made.

III. CARRYOVER OF PRETRIAL SERVICES DISCUSSION.

This item was postponed until the September 5th, 2024 CCJB Meeting.

IV. CHAIR'S UPDATE.

Chair de Ferranti presented the Chair's Update, which consisted of the proposed next steps for re-authorizing and re-establishing the CCJB. Graham Weinschenk, Chair de Ferranti's Aide in

the County Board Office also participated in the update. The tentative timeline is for the County Board to adopt a new resolution in September that will better position the CCJB to achieve its goals of access to expertise, research, and best practices; identifying opportunities for efficiencies, new funding sources, and cost-effective strategies; and better understanding and addressing interactions between the criminal justice system and health/social issues. The four primary components of the resolution are records and transparency, the membership, administration and leadership, and strategic planning. The topic was opened for discussion.

Circuit Court Clerk Paul Ferguson shared his support for this proposal.

Elizabeth Jones Valderrama requested that the CCJB ensure that there aren't scheduling conflicts with other CCJBs in the region.

Chief Public Defender Brad Haywood shared that he supports the proposal and suggested that other County Board Members should get involved in order to grow support on the Board for the CCJB's work.

V. DIVERSION, SERVING THE UNHOUSED, AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

This item was heard after the CCJB Member Updates were provided; Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti shared a summary of the topic, and the full item was postponed until the September 5, 2024 CCJB Meeting because Circuit Court Chief Judge Wheat was delayed in court.

Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti shared that the topic aims to start a conversation about the people who are incarcerated because they don't have housing. They are often not from Arlington, and therefore cannot receive many Arlington services. They often go from one hearing to another trying to get a plan and housing in place, but it is often without success. The Commonwealth's Attorney reported that this occurs often in Circuit Court but is occurring even more often in General District Court. Circuit Court Chief Judge Judith Wheat is interested in a conversation about what changes could be made in order to rectify the situation.

VI. CCJB MEMBER UPDATES

Elizabeth Jones Valderrama from OAR shared that Katy Steinbruck is celebrating her 25th anniversary with the organization. They are also planning to have an open house in October. In addition, the organization is looking for new Board Members, particularly people with expertise in finance and nonprofit financials. Lastly, OAR recently received two grants from the Bureau of Justice Administration, one for substance use disorder services for pre- and post-release, and one for the pre- and post-release work OAR does with residents of the Community Readiness Unit in the Detention Facility.

Earl Conklin from the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Services Unit reported that there has been an increase in domestic violence cases. JDR is also in the process of engaging with National Capital Treatment and Recovery to provide services directly at the Northern Virginia

Juvenile Detention Center. Mr. Conklin also shared that the recent Gang Prevention Soccer Tournament was a big success and extended his thanks for the partnership.

Bruce Adams, the Chief Magistrate, reported that the Magistrate's office is fully staffed again due to a recent transfer in from a different jurisdiction. They are also restarting a booking project that was previously on hiatus.

Marcie Perez from District 10 Probation & Parole reported that they have hired 6 new officers in the last few months. Skip Burley provided an update on the Arlington County Re-Entry Council, sharing that they are trying to work with DC to get them more involved in Arlington. The Re-Entry Council will also be present at multiple locations for the upcoming National Night Out on August 6th. Lastly, they are also starting a new initiative to try and ensure that no one is experiencing homelessness while on probation.

Sheriff Jose Quiroz reported that the Detention Facility's average daily population is 371. This number is 100+ inmates higher than in 2022 and 50+ inmates higher than in 2023. The Sheriff also reports that the staff turnover rate is beginning to slow down, having shrunk from 16% in FY22 to 9% in FY24. The Detention Facility is adding a new wellness canine for staff and inmate use, and also recently expanded injectable medication-assisted treatment (MAT). The expansion of injectable MAT has made a big difference and there has been very positive feedback. Lastly, the Detention Facility, led by an inmate, recently painted a mural in the mental health ward.

Suzanne Somerville from the Department of Human Services' Clinical Services Bureau shared that this is the 1-year anniversary of the Mobile Outreach Support Team (MOST), which works to divert people with low level charges from incarceration. She also reported that DHS recently filled the open position for the diversion therapist who works to divert people earlier in the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) process. In addition, she shared that new drug testing devices are allowing for quicker identification of substances and trends in use within the County. As a result, the drug Xylazine (also known as "tranq") has been identified as a cutting agent used with fentanyl in some drugs within the County. Xylazine is not responsive to NARCAN because it is not an opioid. Lastly, International Overdose Awareness Day is on Sept. 6, and there will be a remembrance vigil.

Chief Public Defender Brad Haywood reported that his office is setting new records for their workload. He shared that this is not necessarily due to high caseloads, but rather the large amount of work that is required, which is usually similar to social work. The need for additional shelter beds is high, and he reported that having more shelter beds would result in fewer people in the Detention Center.

Lt. Dena Beatty from the ACSO Pretrial Program reports that, for the previous fiscal quarter, 317 people were receiving pretrial services with a 94% appearance rate, 89% compliance rate, and 97% public safety rate.

Teya West, from the Community Corrections Unit shared that they recently hired a new probation officer, and he is fitting in well. She also reported that the CCU had a grant approved for FY25.

Tiffany Jones, the DHS Marcus Alert Coordinator, shared that the behavioral health crisis response system has protocols and procedures in place to ensure that callers receive a compassionate response during a crisis. The Marcus Alert is live as of July 1. As a Marcus Alert requirement (Protocol One), call takers and dispatchers at the Emergency Communications Center (911) have been trained to differentiate what calls are appropriate to transfer to the Regional Crisis Call Center (988), which is operated through a regional partnership. So far, there have been five transfers from 911 to the 988 team, and the 988 team also has the ability to dispatch Regional Mobile Teams if needed. DHS will work to hire a second MOST team, and they also report training 120 first responders in Crisis Intervention. Lastly, she reports that they have two high school interns who are very engaged and helpful.

Arlington Chief of Police Andy Penn shared that the online crime map had a slight delay but should be out before the next CCJB meeting. They report spending significant time recently on election security, inauguration security, and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's upcoming visit. He also shared that ACPD's employee vacancy rate has declined from 18% to 16%. Lastly, the Teen Academy is ongoing, and the participants are looking forward to the crime lab where they get to do forensics.

Kelvin Manurs, representing Arm & Arm, is working to do more outreach and engagement with youth. They have recently engaged with AHC and their partner Harbor Group Management to do peer support and training with youth twice a month. In addition, they are starting a Peer Recovery Specialist Training program that leads to a state certification for young adults aged 18+ and are planning to launch soon.

Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti reports that the partnership with OAR is going very well. They are overcapacity with Restorative Arlington and have received a lot of phenomenal feedback. They are seeing a much lower recidivism rate with the restorative processes in comparison to non-restorative practices.

Khadijah Berkley, from the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia, thanked the CCJB for the invitation to attend and shared that she was looking forward to attending future meetings and working more closely together.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair de Ferranti adjourned the meeting at 4:37pm

Next meeting: September 5th, 2024, at **3pm** in the 10th Floor Jury Assembly Room