Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice

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Reimaging Emergency Response, Director of EMS, Buncombe County

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Investing in Pretrial Services, Director of Criminal Justice Services, Mecklenburg County Manager’s Office

Judge J.H. Corpening
Promoting Diversion & Recovery Courts, Chief District Court Judge, New Hanover and Pender Counties

August 14, 2021
Background

Formation of the Task Force
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Governor Cooper established the Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice (TREC) through Executive Order 145 in June 2020.
Background

Membership

Comprised of a diverse cross-section of leaders from across North Carolina:

• Advocates
• Elected officials
• Judges
• Prosecutors
• Public defenders
• Law enforcement
Structures
Listening Sessions & Public Comment Session

- Six listening sessions to hear from community leaders
- Three two-hour public comment sessions
Key Process Issues
Task Force Going Forward

- 2021 quarterly meetings
- Monthly implementation committee meetings
- ARP Technical Assistance Sessions in July
- TREC learning sessions
- Updates on TREC’s work: ncdoj.gov/TREC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee #1</th>
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<th>Committee #3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Branch</td>
<td>Judicial Branch</td>
<td>Legislative Branch</td>
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<th>Committee #4</th>
<th>Committee #5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Policy Committee</td>
<td>Communications &amp; Public Education</td>
<td>Data, Study, &amp; Evaluations</td>
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Local Law Enforcement Actions

Improve policing practices and revise use of force standards
Local Law Enforcement Actions

Reform investigations
Local Law Enforcement Actions

Reinvest in communities and strengthen community policing
Local Government Solutions

Reimagine public safety and reinvest in communities
Local Government Solutions

Promote local public safety and wellness solutions in schools and communities
Court Solutions: An Overview

• Reimagine public safety using restorative justice and equity for victims and survivors of crime
• Reduce school-to-prison pipeline and increase racial equity in the juvenile justice system
• Reduce the number of offenses in the criminal code
• Improve pre-trial release and bail practices
• Make criminal trials fairer
• Promote racially equitable prosecutorial practices
Other Committees

Court Solutions: An Overview

- Address sentencing and incarceration disparities
- Amend prison programming
- Reduce collateral consequences of criminal convictions
Reimaging Emergency Response
Taylor Jones
Director of EMS, Buncombe County
Imagine Real Community CHANGE

One Buncombe: CHANGE Team
Community Helping Address Needs, Goals, and Ensuring Equity
Changes Happening Now

• Haywood St. Respite - Justin has successfully built trust with Yvette! She said she doesn’t let “friends” leave the respite without Haywood St Staff, but would be comfortable if Justin was there.

• “Y’all literally saved my life. I was lying to myself & y’all just kept showing up until I was ready.” - client that also reports 30 days abstinence.

• 439 Contacts have been made by CP team involve patients with suspected Opioid misuse, as of July 29th, 2021
Is there a “right time” to have a crisis?

• Numerous people struggling with behavioral health issues, substance use, or homelessness experience crises after hours and on weekends, when the 9-1-1 system is the only option.

• In collaboration with the Emergency Services Medical Director, we will expand the paramedic scope of practice to allow Buncombe County Paramedics to work in teams in tandem with trained behavioral health staff to offer unique and unprecedented care, including Mobile Medication Assisted Treatment and diversion from the ED at critical times. These services will be offered 24/7.
Community Paramedic: Phase 1
Post-Overdose Response Team

- Visits individual with Peer Support and Community Paramedic within 72 hours and offers clinical assessment.
- Determines need for higher level of care.
- Can complete assessment virtually.

Visits individual with Clinician and Community Paramedic within 72 hours. Takes on Linkage to Care and Healthy Opportunities navigation. Provides Peer Support services. *With CHANGE, this would be a co-responder model from 911.*

Dispatches from 911 Call, Uses Naloxone, Stays with Individual to ensure correct dosage of Naloxone and talks them through/refers to Recovery, Treatment and Harm Reduction options/Healthy Opportunities. Provides ongoing basic medical support, Suboxone induction, and clearance for detox.
What could it look like with expansion?
Expansion: Community Paramedic Project

• With the resources to expand the Community Paramedic Program and accurately capture our Data, we could duplicate our efforts to meet the demand on PORT.

• Also add additional teams in partnership with the community to address other needs we have identified through our work and relationships thus far.
Team 2 (new)- Mobile MAT

-The MAT team acts as an extension of PORT.
-Works in tandem with the PORT team to go a step beyond initial overdose response and provide 24/7 mobile on-site suboxone administration
-Provides organized wrap around care in collaboration with Mahec and AMCHC in a "Buncombe Bridge to Care" Pilot.
-Paramedic and Community Health Worker/Peer Support can also follow-up in real time for diversion and re-entry services.
Team 3 (new)- Homeless Outreach

The Homeless Outreach and Shelter Team will be able to:
-do daily “rounds” in the community as a street team
-do welfare checks
-collaborate and cross train with grassroots and non-profits in de-escalation for after-hours response to local shelters.
-provide education and outreach at community events
-participate in community events on behalf of Community Paramedic
The Behavioral Health Crisis Response Team will be an interdisciplinary team with one law enforcement member/liaison embedded. This team will cross train with LE to develop a pilot for our area. This team responds to events that the homeless outreach team is not able to handle without Law Enforcement co-response. This team will work together to re-imagine public safety, determine what co-response protocol best fits our population and area, and how alternative transport or de-escalation can be accomplished safely for the team and community.
Collaboration throughout process

Co-located 911 dispatch, our 4 teams will be dispatched in coordination with one another and other teams needed.

CHANGE Team referral response recommended for Suspected Overdose, Intoxicated Patients, Mental Health Crisis, and Wellness Checks.

Community Paramedics respond with paired PORT/MAT, Community Health Care Workers, Community Social Workers, law enforcement liaison, and Mental Health Counselors. All of these members will be imbedded into teams that work in coordination with one another.
How are we going to achieve this?
With the help and coordination of our proposed City, County, and Community/Grassroots collaborations

- Safer Together
- MAHEC
- Vaya health
- Justice Services
- Health and Human Services
- Sheriffs department
- Asheville Police Department
- Asheville Fire Department
- 911 Dispatch

- ANCHOR Collaborative
- * Umoja Health and Wellness Justice Collective
- Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness
- Family Preservation Services
- Homeward Bound
- Jordan Peer Recovery
- Consulta tu Compa
- Eleanor Health Foundation
- RHA Mobile Crisis
- Haywood Street Congregational
- BeLoved
Equity Impact: Community Focus

• Racial Equity Action Plan set out six categories of goals
  • The Community Paramedic Programs helps work towards all six
• Community Focus:
  • Create pathways to ensure engagement in racial equity strategies that improve quality of life
  • Provide racial equity education and communication to the community
  • Improve quality of life outcomes through racial equity initiatives
Equity Impact: Foundational Focus

• Racial Equity Action Plan set out six categories of goals
  • The Community Paramedic Programs helps work towards all six

• Foundational Focus:
  • Cultivate a thriving workforce within Buncombe County that ensures racial equity
  • Institute organizational policies and processes to ensure equity and accountability
  • Establish Buncombe County as an equity inclusion model
What could be to come!

• Other communities have seen cost savings through an expansion of the Community Paramedic Program.
  • Examples: less community members in jail, less patients in hospitals, less people on the streets
  • Decrease in equipment costs later if the community is impacted in the right way!
  • Improved accessibility to mental health services
• Working together to make decisions as a community

Excited to see what is to come!
Investing in Pretrial Services
Sonya Harper
Director of Criminal Justice Services, Mecklenburg County
Manager's Office
The Pretrial Decisions Determine Mostly Everything.

Caleb Foote, 1956
Mecklenburg County: Then

2008

• Planning to build new jail for $360,229,000

• Pretrial Average Daily Population: 1,953

• Projected bed capacity need for 2020: 5,111 beds

Inmates sleeping on the floor in an overcrowded direct supervision housing pod.
Questions we started to ask

• Who is in our jail?
• Why are they in our jail?
• Who are we releasing?
• Who are we supervising?
• What are our bond setting practices?
Where we were in 2009...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charge</th>
<th>Percent given Secure Bond</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Driving While License Revoked</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driving While Impaired</td>
<td>95%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paraphernalia</td>
<td>99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resisting Arrest</td>
<td>97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Possession of Marijuana</td>
<td>98%</td>
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Research Overview

Case disposition
Detained defendants were significantly more likely to be convicted than similar defendants who were released pretrial.

Likelihood of a sentence to incarceration
Detained defendants were over four times (4X) more likely to be sentenced to jail and over three times (3X) more likely to be sentenced to prison than similar defendants who were released at some point pending trial.

Length of a sentence to incarceration
Sentences for detained defendants were also significantly longer: Jail sentences were nearly three times (3X) as long, and prison sentences were more than twice (2X) as long.
Research Overview

Public safety pretrial (short term)
As length of pretrial detention increased up to 30 days, recidivism rates for low and moderate-risk defendants also increased.

Low-risk defendants held 2-3 days were almost 40 percent more likely to commit new crimes before trial than similar defendants held no more than 24 hours.

Public safety post-disposition (long-term recidivism)
Low-risk defendants held 8-14 days were 51 percent more likely to commit another crime within two years after completion of their cases than similar defendants held no more than 24 hours.
Likelihood of Being Arrested
Disproportionality at Filing Charges
Disproportionality at Booking
Rationale for Risk-Based Decision Making & Maximizing Equity

- Protect public safety
- Promote objective decisions and reduce biases
- Use system resources wisely
- Uphold “least restrictive means” in state statute
- Preserve legal and constitutional rights afforded defendants
Risk Assessment Tool
Public Safety Assessment

- Developed by the Arnold Ventures

- Largest and most comprehensive multi-jurisdictional dataset of pretrial information

- 1.5 million cases from approximately 300 different cities, counties, and federal jurisdictions

- Does not require face-to-face interview
Mecklenburg PSA Validation - FTA

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FTA Scaled Score</th>
<th>Court Appearance Failure Rate</th>
<th>Court Appearance Success Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>87.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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Mecklenburg PSA Validation – Violence Flag

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<th>Success Rate</th>
<th>Failure Rate</th>
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<tr>
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<td>85.6%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>91.9%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
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Financial Implications

Daily detention cost in Mecklenburg County

- $152.95 per inmate

Pretrial Services supervision is a more cost-effective option

- Average daily cost is approximately $3.08 per defendant
Mecklenburg County: Now

2021

- No new jail

- 2015 closure of the Work Release Center

- 2016 consolidation of adult jail population to Jail Central with bed capacity of 1,904

- Pretrial Average Daily Population: 912
Questions

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Questions and Answers
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