



CUMBERLAND COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

Justice System Advisory Council (JSAC)

STRATEGIC PLAN

Introduction

Public safety and the administration of justice are essential functions of a comprehensive local justice system. In Cumberland County, that system is comprised of county and municipal public safety personnel and state court officers and officials who are supported by local elected officials in county and municipal administrators. Additionally, the system impacts and is impacted by other governmental, nonprofit, and community-based organizations and individuals. In such a siloed environment, intentional and proactive communication, coordination, and collaboration are necessary to ensure the provision of effective and efficient services to citizens.

Mission

The purpose of the Cumberland County Justice System Advisory Council (CCJSAC) is to provide a working forum to support communication and collaborative coordination between and among key justice system officials, advisory bodies, agencies, organizations and departments, and community leaders. The goal of the CCJSAC is to serve as an advisory body to the policymakers, judiciary, and stakeholder groups of the justice system in Cumberland County. The CCJSAC will use intentional and proactive communication, coordination, and collaboration to ensure the provision of effective and efficient services to citizens.

Planning Board Background

The Cumberland County Judicial System Advisory Council (JSAC) was created in August 2020. The Council was formed with the purpose of creating a better justice system in Cumberland County. The goals included creating more efficient systems, ensuring equality, establishing a unified voice, collaborating with other agencies, and taking a proactive approach to addressing the needs of the community

Current Members

Glenn Adams,
Cumberland County Commissioner

Judge James Floyd Ammons, Jr.
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge

Judge Toni S. King,
Chief District Court Judge

Cynthia P. Black,
Public Defender

William R. West,
District Attorney

Amy Cannon,
County Manager

Lisa A. Scales,
Clerk of Court

Chief Gina Hawkins,
Fayetteville Police Department

Sheriff Ennis W. Wright,
Cumberland County Sheriff's Office

Ellen B. Hancox,
Trial Court Administrator

Strategic Planning Process

In November 2020, the committee asked the National Criminal Justice Association to prepare and distribute a survey as part of their ongoing efforts to assist the council with strategic planning training and technical assistance. This assistance is provided through an award with the US Department of Justice Bureau of justice assistance.

The council reviewed the results of the survey report dated April 2021 which identified behavioral health, domestic violence, and JSAC engagement as our key concerns. Additional data that was reviewed was the final report entitled *Transforming Services for Persons with Mental Illness in Contact with the Criminal Justice System in Cumberland County dated May 17, 2019.*

The council acknowledged that our community has valuable resources but there is no organized hub to provide all needed resources. Several organizations have provided services in the past but have changed leadership and mission. Some organizations have increased services, but the community is unaware of those changes especially the judicial stakeholders. Funding for these organizations may change due to grants and other sources of income which affect the continuity of services.

Strategic Priorities

The following are the objectives and priorities of the CCJSAC:

1. Reduce recidivism. Addressing the causes of recidivism.
2. Evaluate the strengths, challenges, resources, and strategies for improving mental health and substance abuse in the criminal justice system.
3. Evaluate the impact mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, racial injustice in the criminal justice system.
4. Develop a central hub acting as a central case manager to provide services such as mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment and assistance with daily living resources to include housing.
5. Determine potential grant opportunities and identify eligible agencies and programs to help provide resources to meet our goals.

Strategic Initiatives

1. Evaluate current organizations such as Connections of Cumberland County as a potential case manager.
2. Recommend a county funded collaborative partnership.
3. Establish a subcommittee to contact and vet organizations eligible to provide resources.
4. Evaluate the current gap in services when individuals leave the Cumberland County Detention Center.
5. Evaluate the benefits for establishing a crisis response team for local Law Enforcement Agencies.
6. Evaluate the benefits for a shelter with a 30-day minimum like a halfway house with staff to help individuals in transition to help them reenter society and provide assistance to apply for benefits such as SSI, housing, Medicaid, and other benefits.
7. Marketing and Media will be necessary so individuals will be aware of available resources and for community awareness.

Evaluation and Monitoring

An annual meeting will be devoted to the review of our goals and progress. An annual report will be compiled.