

# 2023-2024 Work Plan Discussion, continued Douglas County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

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MARCH 14, 2023

# Agenda for Today's Meeting

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- Review of Topics Presented in February
- Establish Workgroups and Discuss Next Steps
- Discuss May Meeting Agenda

# Review of Topics presented in February

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## - Justice System Focused Ideas:

- Institute a Regular Jail Review Process
- Failure to Appear
- Alternative Responses to Probation Violations
- Competency Restoration
- Pretrial Defendants

## - Topics Beyond the Justice System:

- Align with Existing Community Efforts
- Continued Support for Initiatives at the Intersection of Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice
- Build out Data Reporting and Monitoring
- Review Bylaws and Infrastructure of CJCC

## - Work that is Continuing:

- Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities
- Continued Evaluation of Programs and Services

# Justice System Focused Proposed Workgroups

## 1. Failure to Appear

- Workgroup 1: Improve Court Appearance Rates
  - Goal: Reduce failure to appear rates by evaluating information made available to defendants about court dates, maximizing the use of this information, and exploring strategies to overcome barriers to court appearance.
  - Examples of Potential Policy or Practice Change:
    - Improved Court Notification Reminders
    - Increased access to receiving court reminders
    - Options for defendant initiated rescheduling of court dates
  - Potential Members: Self Help Center, DA's Office, Defense Counsel, District Court staff, CJS, Municipal Court staff, Court Services, Other CJCC Members

### CRIMINAL COURT APPEARANCE INFO



Find your court date and location at the top of your citation.

106 E. Margaret Lane, Hillsborough  
179 E Franklin St, Chapel Hill

If you miss your court date, you may be arrested and/or your driver's license may be revoked.

### HAVE A QUESTION?



123-456-7890



[WWW.ORANGECOUNTYNC.GOV/CJRD/COURTFAQ](http://WWW.ORANGECOUNTYNC.GOV/CJRD/COURTFAQ)

Sign up for text message reminders for your court date!



### HELP IS AVAILABLE.

If you need a ride to court, can't afford your fine or ticket, or are worried your driver's license may have been suspended, contact the Criminal Justice Resource Department at 919-245-2303 or [www.orangecountync.gov/CJRD](http://www.orangecountync.gov/CJRD)

### FIX IT ONLINE.

Some cases can be handled online and you do not need to go to court. Go to [nccourts.gov/services](http://nccourts.gov/services) and click Citation Services. You may be able to pay the ticket online, ask for a reduction in the amount, or show you've fixed the issue.

# Justice System Focused Ideas, Cont.

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## 1. Failure to Appear, continued

- Workgroups 2 (District Court) and 3 (Lawrence Municipal Court): Alternative Response to FTA
  - Goal: Reduce the use of jail as a response to Failure to Appear in appropriate cases by understanding the processes by which an Order for Arrest is issued for FTA, exploring alternative responses to FTA other than jail bookings, and evaluate reducing the length of stay for FTA-only bookings.
  - Starting Points for Workgroups:
    - Process map of current responses to failures to appear
    - Alternatives to jail booking that can be considered
    - Opportunities to reduce the length of stay for FTA-only jail bookings
  - Potential Members:

<b>District Court Workgroup:</b>	<b>Municipal Court Workgroup:</b>
Judiciary	Judiciary
Clerks	Clerks
DA's Office	Prosecutor's Office
Defense Counsel	Defense Counsel

# Justice System Focused Ideas, Cont.

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- 2. Alternative Responses to Probation Violations other than jail bookings
  - Workgroup: Alternative Response to PVs for both District Court and Lawrence Municipal Court probation caseloads
    - Goal: Reduce the number of individuals booked into jail for violations of probation and reduce the length of stay in custody for these individuals
    - Starting Points for Workgroup:
      - Understand the types of violations of probation clients
      - Opportunities to reduce length of stay for PV jail bookings
      - Opportunities to reduce use of jail as a PV sanction, where appropriate
    - Potential Members:
      - DA's Office
      - Defense Counsel (for all clients)
      - Community Corrections
      - Court Services
      - Municipal Court Staff
      - CJS Adult Services (House Arrest)

# Justice System Focused Ideas, Cont.

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## 3. Jail Review Process

- Workgroup 1: Review larger populations of the jail bookings that may be drivers of jail population
  - Goal: Use data to evaluate specific populations of individuals that may be driving the jail population, which can also drive policy or practice change related to these populations
  - Starting Points for Workgroup:
    - Update Vera analyses through 2022 and the present as a starting point to evaluate how the impact of specific types of jail bookings have changed
    - Previously suggested workgroups can be a starting point for this type of jail review process
  - Potential Members:
    - CJCC

## 4. Individual Jail Review Process

- Consider when to begin an iteration of this process

## 5. Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- Proposal to embed Equity and Inclusion Consultant within each workgroup to provide equity lens
- Consider the existing workgroup and focus ongoing