

# THE BALTIMORE CITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

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## MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 12, 2014 MEETING

**Council Members In Attendance\*:** Chair Judge Barry Williams; Mary Abrams, Administrative Clerk for District I, District Court of Maryland; Carolyn A. Atkins for Wendell M. France, Director, Central Region, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Kimberly S. Barranco, CJCC Executive Director; Tammy M. Brown, Governor's Office; Jay Cleary for Sam Abed, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services; Joseph Clocker, Director, Parole and Probation, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Frank Conaway, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Elizabeth Embry for Gregg L. Bernstein, State's Attorney for Baltimore City; Natalie Finegar for Elizabeth Julian, Baltimore City Public Defender; Wendell M. France for Gregg Hershberger, Secretary, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; David McMillan for Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of Baltimore City; Deputy Police Commissioner Jerry Rodriguez for Commissioner Anthony Batts; W. Michel Pierson, Administrative Judge Circuit Court; Tyrone Roper for Bernard J. McBride, President and CEO, Behavioral Health System Baltimore; Rod J. Rosenstein, U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland; Barbara Baer Waxman, Administrative Judge for District I, District Court of Maryland; Bernard C. "Jack" Young, President, Baltimore City Council.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Margaret Boyd-Anderson, CJCC; Doug Colbert, Maryland Law School; Veronica Land-Davis, Roberta's House; Ernest Eley, Jr., DPSCS; Deirdre Gardner, Roberta's House; James S. Haskell, LCSW-C, Baltimore VA Medical Center; Charles Innes, Citizen; Claire Rossmark, DLS; Kim Trueheart, Citizen; Bob Weisengoff, DPSCS; Kate Wolfson, Safe and Sound Campaign.

**\*We request that all in attendance sign the attendance sheet which is available at each meeting.**

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## MEETING DIALOGUE

The meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m. and Judge Barry Williams greeted the Council.

### **I. CHAIR'S REPORT – JUDGE BARRY WILLIAMS**

Judge Barry Williams requested a motion to approve the October 8, 2014 meeting minutes and they were adopted unanimously. He advised that the next meetings will be held on December 10, 2014 and February 11, 2015. Judge Williams further advised that there will not be a January meeting due to the opening day of the General Assembly.

### **II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – KIMBERLY SMALKIN BARRANCO**

Kimberly Barranco informed Council members that a report rotation for 2015 was included in their packets and she asked them to review the schedule and let her know as soon as possible if there are conflicts with the assigned reporting dates.

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Ms. Barranco provided highlights on the District Court Mental Health Court graduation ceremony in which she had the honor of attending last week. She reported that the Mental Health Court is a specialized court docket that is established for defendants with mental illness which substitutes a problem-solving approach for the traditional adversarial criminal court processing. She explained that participants voluntarily participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan developed jointly by a team of court staff and mental health professionals. Ms. Barranco further explained that the overarching goal of the Mental Health Court is to decrease the frequency of participants' contacts with the criminal justice system by providing participants with judicial leadership to improve the social functioning, employment linkage, housing needs, treatment, and support services of participants. Ms. Barranco stated that Mental Courts rely on individualized treatment plans and ongoing judicial monitoring to address both the mental health needs of offenders and public safety concerns of communities. Ms. Barranco reported that at last week's ceremony there were 36 participants acknowledged for their continuing success and 17 participants who graduated from the program upon successfully completing all of their requirements. She said that many of the participants thanked Judge George Lipman, who presides over the Mental Health Court, their probation agents, Assistant Public Defenders, and the Assistant State's Attorneys for their support along their journey. Ms. Barranco highlighted that many of the graduates spoke from their hearts as to how they have regained their lives back. She said that the graduation ceremony and the success of the graduates and participants is a testament to the efficacy of this problem-solving court.

Judge Williams thanked Ms. Barranco for her report and he called on Director Wendell "Pete" France for the Central Region report.

### **III. CENTRAL REGION REPORT – WENDELL M. FRANCE, DIRECTOR, CENTRAL REGION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**

Wendell M. France, Director, Central Region, DPSCS advised that a copy of the Central Region Statistics Report was provided in the meeting packets for the Council's review and stated he would answer any questions the Council may have about the report. Mr. France reported that 10% of the bookings are converted to citations by the State's Attorney Office. Mr. France announced that Betty Johnson is the new Baltimore City Detention Center Jail Administrator and Cherie Peay is the new Assistant Jail Administrator as of October 11, 2014.

Judge Williams thanked Director France for his report.

### **IV. BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT –DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER JERRY RODRIGUEZ**

Deputy Police Commissioner Jerry Rodriguez advised that he was attending on behalf of Commissioner Batts and he informed the Council that a member of the Baltimore City Fire Department died while battling a fire during the early morning hours. Deputy Commissioner Rodriguez referred the Council to the Police Commissioner's Report included in their packets.

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Deputy Commissioner Rodriguez reported that as of November 8, 2014 homicides are down 7% compared to the same time last year and non-fatal shootings are down 9%. He further reported that the total violent crime in Baltimore City is down 10% and the total Part I crime is down 8%. Deputy Commissioner Rodriguez advised that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) will be arriving in Baltimore in the very near future as part of a collaborative study. He further advised how initiatives will be specifically modeled after the Las Vegas model and that BPD has begun to implement these initiatives. Deputy Commissioner Rodriguez explained that since implementation of these initiatives there has been a reduction in police officer involved shootings. He further explained that when compared to previous years' data, which detailed officer involved shootings as high as 30, current statistical data identifies a reduction and that year-to-date there are 12 officer involved shootings. Deputy Commissioner Rodriguez commented that the decline in officer involved shootings is going in the right direction and BPD takes the use of lethal force by an officer as a very serious incidence. He stated that BPD will look at every detail preceding, during, and immediately after a police involved shooting in order to verify if other alternatives in the realm of training and/or the provision of equipment could have prevented the incident.

Judge Williams thanked Deputy Commissioner Rodriguez for BPD's report and he called on Frank Conaway for the Clerk of the Circuit Court's report.

## **V. CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT'S REPORT – FRANK CONAWAY, CLERK**

Frank Conaway advised that he requested Marion Soto, Manager of the Criminal Division for the Baltimore City Circuit Court to provide an overview of the Criminal Division. Ms. Soto reported that the Criminal Division of the Clerk's Office is the record-keeping office for all Circuit Court for Baltimore City criminal matters and the majority of information received is entered into the Judicial Information Systems Mainframe computer, with the exception of Search and Seizure Warrants, Sealed Documents, miscellaneous cases, and Show Cause Orders for jury duty. She further reported that in addition to record-keeping, the Criminal Division provides assistance and service to the public, attorneys, and other government agencies on a daily basis.

Ms. Soto explained that the New Case Unit receives the majority of all documents filed in the Clerk's Office and documents are reviewed for proper form, accuracy, and completeness. She further explained that the Bail Department receives and records all corporate, cash, and property bails that are posted for Circuit Court cases and that they record all Failure to Appear warrants when the bail is forfeited. Ms. Soto said that they are also responsible for initiating judgments in cases where the bail forfeiture is not satisfied. Ms. Soto identified that the Computer section enters all motions, orders of court, new cases, dispositions, entry of appearances, and all docket information from the courts into the computer on a daily basis in addition to updating the District Court computer with Circuit Court traffic dispositions. Ms. Soto further stated that the Docket Preparation Unit prepares the dockets for the court day-to-day and the Unit retrieves files and researches the computer system in order to verify a

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defendant's location so that the defendant can be present at court. She discussed that the Docket Preparation Unit also processes all subpoenas, writs, jail cards, and summonses that are requested by attorneys, pro se defendants, and the court. Ms. Soto further discussed that they process all Change of Docket Request forms which are received from the court.

Ms. Soto reported on the Records Department and said that this department is responsible for retrieving and filing all files for judges, attorneys, the public, and other court agencies. She further reported that they file all documents into court files daily and they assist the public, attorneys, and outside agencies through mail and telephone requests for microfilm and general file information. Ms. Soto stated that the Warrant Section is responsible for processing all warrants, which includes Failure to Appear, Violation of Probation, and any other warrants issued by the court. She further stated that they update the file and computer and verify that all information received is accurate. Ms. Soto informed that Post Convictions in Baltimore City criminal cases for both Circuit and District Courts are processed at the Circuit Court and that notification to all necessary parties are made once a petition is filed. She further informed that post convictions are assigned in rotation amongst the judges and that the hearings are not held before the original judge who tried the case.

Ms. Soto explained that the Expungement Unit processes all Circuit Court expungements, except for juvenile cases and that there is a \$30.00 filing fee for a petition for expungement depending on the disposition. She further explained how the Clerk's Office works closely with the State's Attorney's Office, Police Department, and other agencies as well as the judge designated to handle expungement hearings. Ms. Soto said the time frame to process an expungement from beginning to end is approximately 90 days from the filing date. She further stated that expunged cases are sealed and maintained in the Clerk's Office for a period of at least three years. Ms. Soto advised that the Clerk's Office processes all Circuit Court and District Court Appeals and that an appeal must be filed within 30 days for the appeal to be considered timely filed. She further advised that the Clerk's Office has 60 days to process a Direct Appeal and 30 days to process Applications for Leave to Appeal. Ms. Soto said the Clerk's Office receives executed search and seizure warrants from the District Court as well as Circuit Court. She further stated that search and seizure warrants are extremely confidential and are not for public access. Ms. Soto explained that search and seizure warrants can only be displayed upon request by an order of the court.

Ms. Soto concluded by discussing that the Criminal Division reviews and analyzes data from computerized reports to ensure efficiency of the division and the court system as a whole. She reported that this year to date, there are 4,145 felony cases; 7,477 misdemeanor cases; 2069 felony warrants; and 1,302 misdemeanor warrants which have been processed by the Criminal Division.

Judge Williams thanked Mr. Conaway and Ms. Soto for their report and he called on Joseph Clocker for the Central Region Parole and Probation Report.

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## **VI. CENTRAL REGION PAROLE AND PROBATION REPORT- JOSEPH CLOCKER, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY SUPERVISION, CENTRAL REGION DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**

Joseph Clocker, Director, Community Supervision, Central Region, DPSCS gave a PowerPoint presentation on the initiatives of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Central Region Community Supervision. Mr. Clocker stated that approximately 86% of general supervision cases statewide are probation cases and the remainder 14% are parole mandatory release cases. He further stated that contact standards are driven by supervision levels and as of October 26, 2014 general supervision high level supervision cases were at 27%. Mr. Clocker said that high level offenders are subject to contact standards of being seen twice a month. Mr. Clocker reported on the Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) and stated that there are 40 agents working on 1,084 active cases. He further reported that 706 violation warrants were issued and 650 cases were revoked in FY 2014 for either technical violations or for committing a new offense. Mr. Clocker discussed the Family Assault Supervision Team (FAST), which currently monitors 876 active cases by 11 agents. He further discussed how FAST agents collaborate with organizations such as the House of Ruth, Harbel Prevention and Recovery, BPD's Family Violence Unit, and the State's Attorney's Office. Mr. Clocker said that FAST agents are members of the CJCC's Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee and Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and they serve on the Mayor's Office Domestic Violence Stat Team.

Mr. Clocker provided statistics on the Drug Treatment Court and Felony Diversion Initiative (FDI). He reported that as of September 1, 2014 there were 7 agents working on 291 active Drug Treatment Court cases and 5 agents working on 161 Felony Diversion cases. Mr. Clocker further reported that the Drug Treatment Court has seen a completion success rate of 75% through September 1, 2014 and that during the same timeframe, the Felony Diversion Initiative is equally impressive with a 78% success rate. Mr. Clocker explained that these outcomes are results of cooperative efforts between the Courts, State's Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, DPSCS, and the Behavioral Health System Baltimore. Mr. Clocker stated that as of September 1, 2014, the Re-entry Unit and Public Safety Compact has 6 agents who work on 460 active cases by providing case management and post release services to aid parolees in a smooth transition into the community. He identified that the Reentry Unit partnerships includes Alternative Directions, Catholic Charities, Christopher Place, Marian House, Living Classrooms, Mayor's Office of Employment Development, and the Rec Center. Mr. Clocker further identified that the Public Safety Compact Partnerships include Safe and Sound Foundation and Jericho.

Mr. Clocker offered information on the Mental Health Court and he reported that as of October 26, 2014 there are 3 agents working on 139 active cases. Mr. Clocker said that agents collaborate with various stakeholders such as the Patuxent Institute Second Chance Project; Baltimore City Detention Center; Spring Grove Hospital; Developmental Disabilities;

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Behavioral Health System Baltimore; and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration and these collaborations support those diagnosed with mental health disorders and alcohol and drug addictions. Mr. Clocker reported on COMET, the Collaborative Offender Management Enforced Treatment initiative which as of October 26, 2014 has 18 agents working on 673 active cases. He further reported that this initiative concentrates on a team approach built on evidence-based risk assessments and differential supervision strategies. Mr. Clocker identified that as part of the 2014 Halloween initiative, Child Sex Offenders were given the “No Candy” signs to post on October 31<sup>st</sup> by noon in addition to agents conducting home verifications with the Baltimore Police Department (BPD).

Mr. Clocker conveyed that the Drinking Driver Monitor Program has 5 monitors who oversee 1,311 active cases and he further conveyed that special conditions imposed may include breathalyzer testing, drug testing, alcohol treatment, ignition interlock compliance, AA meetings, MD Shock Trauma tours, and victim impact panels. Mr. Clocker reported that there were 1,032 investigations completed in FY 2014 by 15 investigators. He further reported that recent collaborations include the Lexington Market/Westside Project where strategies have been developed to deal with quality of life issues in the area of Lexington Market and Operation Ceasefire. Mr. Clocker noted that they participate with BPD on Operation Ceasefire, a series of formal “call-ins” or forums. He further noted that during these call-ins, presentations are made by family members, community figures, and individuals from faith-based communities to identify the offenders through parole and probation data within high-crime areas. Mr. Clocker identified that BPD, MTA Police, UMB Police, the Downtown Partnership, the Mayor’s Office of Human Services, Behavioral Health System-Baltimore, the Recovery Network, the State’s Attorney’s Office, the Mayor’s Office of Economic and Neighborhood Development and Lexington Market merchants are collaborating on the Lexington Market/Westside Project and stakeholders in Operation Ceasefire include BPD, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office, and Baltimore City Housing.

Mr. Clocker concluded the presentation with discussing the Pretrial Release Services Program. He reported that the Pretrial Release Services Program Case Management Section supervised 6,050 cases and conducted 21,924 program investigations. Mr. Clocker further reported that the failure to appear rate for court appearances is 6.35% and re-arrest rate is 3.24% in fiscal year 2014. Mr. Clocker discussed re-entry, the process of transition that individuals (predominately male and disproportionately nonwhite) make from prison or jail to the community and why re-entry matters. He shared that the number of people released from prison in the United States has increased 350% over the last 20 years and that 3 out of 4 have a substance abuse problem, but only 10% in state prisons have had formal treatment prior to their release. Mr. Clocker further shared that 2 out of 3 lack a high school diploma and 40% have neither a diploma nor a GED. He stated that more than 1 out of 3 jailed inmates report some physical or mental disability and about 1 out of 5 prisoners are released without community supervision. Mr. Clocker further stated that approximately 2 out of every 3

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people released from prison in the United States are re-arrested within 3 years. Mr. Clocker advised the Council that a Report Preview/Report of the Re-Entry Policy Council handout was included in their packets. He further advised that [www.reentrypolicy.org](http://www.reentrypolicy.org) is a public/private partnership, which is funded in part by the US Department of Justice, US Department of Labor, and US Department of Health and Human Services. He noted that this website has information on charting the safe and successful return of prisoners to the community.

Judge Williams thanked Mr. Clocker for his report and he called on Judge Halee Weinstein for the CJCC Warrant Committee Report.

## **VII. WARRANT COMMITTEE REPORT- JUDGE HALEE WEINSTEIN, CHAIR**

Judge Halee Weinstein reported that the Warrant Committee meets bi-monthly to provide a forum for the facilitation of warrant service and discussion of related concerns. She informed that the committee was originally created in response to the issue of numerous individuals being released with open warrants from the Central Booking and Intake Facility (CBIF) and the Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC), the Committee continues to monitor the release of individuals with open warrants, addresses additional issues involving numerous types of warrants and citations, and disseminates information to all involved criminal justice agencies and stakeholders. Judge Weinstein advised that the Committee is comprised of representatives from the Judiciary, the Baltimore Police Department Central Records and Patrol Divisions, the District Court Clerk's Office, the State's Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, the Court Commissioner, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services: Central Booking Facility, Pretrial Release Services, Parole and Probation, the Maryland Parole Commission, and the Information Technology & Communication Division, the Maryland Transit Administration Police, the Department of Juvenile Services, and the Sheriff's Office. Judge Weinstein thanked the Council and their representatives for the terrific work that the Committee is doing.

Judge Weinstein highlighted that during this past year, the Warrant Committee accomplished a number of goals:

- Due to the diligence of the Warrant Committee in monitoring the progress of its Warrant Service Protocol to expedite the service of outstanding warrants and facilitating communication between the members' agencies involved, the number of individuals released from CBIF with open warrants continues to miniscule. From November 1, 2013 through November 4, 2014, only 9 warrants or .0005% of the 18,578 warrants served during that period were unserved. Warrants which are not served are invariably old and cannot be located, or are needed on a weekend when a true test copy cannot be obtained from the Court.
- The Committee coordinated a protocol with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Sheriff's Office to serve warrants for Circuit

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Court VOP cases on defendants in DOC facilities and commit them to DPSCS pending their hearing, and facilitated the clearing of a backlog of VOP warrants.

- The Committee addressed the issue of fingerprinting individuals who are convicted, but who have not otherwise been booked and fingerprinted. The installation of LiveScan machines in each District Court and the Circuit Court is in process.
- Committee members established a protocol for warrant service for detainees at CBIF to re-book those offenders with outstanding warrants.
- The Committee monitored the process of converting statements of charges to citations and reviewed the effect of their addition to the dockets in the Early Resolution Court.
- The Committee also monitored defective citations written without arrest.
- The Committee continued to encourage and facilitate through meeting discussions the recall and dismissal of warrants by the State's Attorney's Office in an effort to further reduce the warrant backlog.
- The Committee discussed the frequency of unsigned offense reports and draft statement of charges as well as solutions to alleviate their occurrence.
- Committee members reviewed the existing written book and charge procedure and suggested edits to conform to current practice.
- The Committee facilitated communication between the stakeholders regarding expungements and addressed discrepancies in the records.
- The Committee assisted in the dissemination of information regarding the protocol created to address the requirement for inked signatures on statements of charges and statements of probable cause and monitored the Rules Committee for a change in the requirement.

Judge Weinstein said that moving forward, the Warrant Committee will continue to monitor the warrant service protocol, encourage warrant backlog reduction efforts, and address issues and concerns raised by members. She further stated that there has been tremendous improvement in many of these areas due to the increased communication and collaboration between the member agencies represented on the Committee, and the Warrant Committee will continue to serve as an effective mechanism allowing the CJCC to fulfill its mission to work cooperatively to enhance public safety and reduce crime in Baltimore City.

Judge Williams thanked Judge Weinstein for the CJCC Warrant Committee Report and he called on James S. Haskell, LCSW-C, Veterans Reentry Specialist, Baltimore VA Medical Center for his presentation on Incarcerated Veterans.



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## **VIII. PRESENTATION- JAMES S. HASKELL, LCSW-C, VETERANS REENTRY SPECIALIST, BALTIMORE VA MEDICAL CENTER**

James S. Haskell, LCSW-C gave a PowerPoint presentation on the VA Maryland Veterans Justice Program Services and he explained how bringing VA Clinical Services into the judicial arena for justice involved veterans in Baltimore City is a simple concept with potentially profound effects. Mr. Haskell stated that there is a synergistic effect of a joint collaborative effort by VA Maryland Health Care- Veterans Justice Program and Baltimore City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. He further stated that the judicial leverage matched with VA Clinical Services is the equivalent to a compliant patient who is no longer an offender, because risk factors which underlie their behavior have been successfully addressed. Mr. Haskell shared that typically, clinical behaviors which are associated to the Veteran's criminal behaviors are eliminated after the Veteran receives treatment and social services. He informed that the VA's comprehensive package of treatment and social services includes medical, psychiatric and substance abuse outpatient and residential treatment programs and transitional housing and income assistance and employment services.

Mr. Haskell described how the VA Maryland Justice Program provides for an appropriate and comprehensive clinical response to the justice involved Veteran, which includes an initial face-to-face evaluation of the Veteran. He explained that most Veterans are incarcerated at the time of the intake and some may be released on bail, but vast majorities are incarcerated; therefore, intakes are conducted at Baltimore Central Booking and Intake Center (BCBIC), Baltimore City Detention Center (BCDC), and other settings. Mr. Haskell reported that based upon the clinical assessment, a Post Release Treatment Plan is developed to facilitate access to the comprehensive array of services which are indicated for each justice involved Veteran. He further reported that the Post Release Treatment Plan may be presented to the Veteran's Public Defender at his/her request who may then present it to the court. Mr. Haskell noted that the VA Maryland Justice Program does not advocate for an incarcerated Veteran's release. He further noted that the VA does not provide diversion services for the court or justice system. Mr. Haskell explained that diversion programs are very specific types of programs which are answerable to correctional agencies and can be required to accept custody, and have to provide specific diversion reports. Mr. Haskell further explained that the VA instead provides healthcare services, but does not accept custody of Veterans and does not provide the types of reports (long and detailed) that diversion programs do. Mr. Haskell advised that the VA Maryland Justice Program incorporates post release case management in addition to the psychosocial assessments and post release treatment planning. He further advised that identification of primary risk factors which contribute to Veteran patterns of recurring arrest and incarceration are the lack of compliance to readily available treatment services; lack of stable housing (need for transitional or supported housing services in the community); and lack of meaningful employment.

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Mr. Haskell discussed that the VA Maryland Justice Program utilizes Critical Time Intervention or CTI, which is an evidence-based model of transitional case management service delivery. He further discussed how CTI is a 6-month program that is used to solidify linkages to VA and Community Services in order to address identified risk factors. Mr. Haskell informed that CTI provides for available dialogue with a Veteran's Parole or Probation Agent to facilitate a successful completion of Parole/Probation requirements. Mr. Haskell identified that there are three Phases of CTI; Phase I-Transition to Community, Phase II-Try Out, and Phase III-Transfer of Care. He further identified that each phase requires a two month timeframe and the areas of focus are narrow; therefore, no more than three areas of focus are worked on per phase. Mr. Haskell reported that the intensity of services within each phase is conducted within a two month interval and includes:

- Phase I- Transition to Community
  - Intense Period of Engagement
  - Assessment
  - Choose Areas of Treatment
  - Begin Linkages
- Phase II- Try Out
  - Less Frequent Meetings
  - Adjusting and Monitoring the Linkages
- Phase III-Transfer Care
  - Finalizing Linkages
  - Adjusting and Monitoring the Linkages
  - Termination

Mr. Haskell shared how the VA addresses the prevalence of Domestic Violence issues. He explained that Veterans are asked during their intake assessments if domestic violence disputes are involved in the current case. Mr. Haskell reported that 22% responded affirmatively within the Baltimore-Washington D.C. Region; whereas, the National response was only 17%. He further reported that the Baltimore VA Hospital is piloting a Domestic Violence (abuser-intervention) Program. Mr. Haskell stated that their goal is to incorporate the DV Program to their list of services, which is currently offered to Veterans. He further stated that the DV Program will be tailored for Veterans and will be an alternative to the House of Ruth's abuser intervention program.

Mr. Haskell concluded the presentation and identified there were 141 Intake Psychosocial Assessments; 116 Post Release Treatment Plans (Court Letters), and 42 Parole/Probation (monthly) Reports year-to-date on Justice Veterans served. He further identified that there are currently 36 Veterans receiving Case Management Services. Mr. Haskell advised that the VA Maryland Veterans Justice Program Services desired outcomes includes reduced recidivism, reduced crime/arrest, safer neighborhoods, reduced correctional expense, unclogged courts, and improved Veteran wellbeing secondary to improved access of mental health and substance abuse treatment services, housing, and employment opportunities.

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Baltimore City Council President Bernard C. “Jack” Young inquired about the VA Maryland Veterans Justice Program Services coordination of efforts with The Journey Home, which is Baltimore’s Plan to make homelessness rare and brief. City Council President Young noted that there are a lot of homeless Veterans in the City of Baltimore. Mr. Haskell replied that on November 7, 2014 his organization participated in The Veteran Stand Down Event which was held at the Baltimore Convention Center, designed to support homeless Veterans. Mr. Haskell added that his VJP Staff are dedicated to outreach and locating Veterans who may be in need of VA services.

Frank Conaway, Clerk of the Circuit Court asked if there was any correlation between unemployed Veterans and those who get in trouble. Mr. Haskell replied that he noticed when the economy tanked there was an increase of Veterans who had no previous criminal history until they lost their employment and housing. He further replied that there is a connection between lack of employment, lack of income, and criminality and the rates have progressed among those who are homeless within the population. Mr. Haskell expressed the importance of getting the homeless Veterans into transitional housing programs and he informed that the VA has 300 Veterans in this area. Mr. Haskell stated that Veterans can walk-in for services between the hours of 9:00 a.m. through 1:00 p.m. to receive an open plan for homeless Veterans. He further stated that his program works with HUD to assist Veterans with obtaining stable housing.

Elizabeth Embry, Deputy State’s Attorney questioned how incarcerated individuals are identified as Veterans. Mr. Haskell responded that the VA receives a weekly report from BCBIC, but by the time the VA is in receipt of the report the Veteran may no longer be incarcerated. He further responded that Maryland was one of five states that participated in a pilot project with the VA Central Office to locate Veterans in the prison system. Mr. Haskell described that the project involved dumping data behind a secure VA firewall and matching it up to a DOD database to locate anyone who ever joined the military. He said that there were 8% located within the prison system and 5% eligible Veterans were in jail. Mr. Haskell mentioned that as of 1980 Congress required that military enlistees serve two years before becoming eligible for Veteran’s benefits; however, before 1980 enlistees were eligible after having served one day of active duty. Tyrone Roper from Behavioral Health System Baltimore stated that he wanted to establish a relationship with Mr. Haskell’s program.

Mr. Conaway invited all Council members to his investiture as Clerk of the Circuit Court and to the investiture of his daughter Belinda Conaway as Register of Wills on Thursday December 4, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the War Memorial Building.

Judge Williams thanked Mr. Haskell for his presentation.

Judge Williams adjourned the meeting at 1:28 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 12:30 p.m., Courthouse East, Room 510.

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**MEETING HANDOUTS**

- 1) Minutes from the October 8, 2014 meeting
- 2) CJCC Report Rotation for 2015
- 3) Central Region Statistics Report
- 4) The Police Commissioner's Report
- 5) Central Region Parole & Probation Report
- 6) VA Maryland Veterans Justice Program Services – PowerPoint
- 7) VA Maryland Health Care System Veterans Justice Program Flyer

*Respectfully submitted,*

Kimberly Smalkin Barranco  
CJCC Executive Director