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**Mecklenburg County Manager's "Board Bulletin"**  
 Mecklenburg County [web@subscriptions.mecklenburgcountync.gov]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 9:50 AM  
**To:** Steve Johnston



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**Feb. 12, 2020**

**Criminal Justice Services Receives Million-Dollar Grant**

Mecklenburg County's Criminal Justice Services received a \$1 million grant to continue their work to advance local criminal justice reform.

The grant, given by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, is part of the [Safety and Justice Challenge](#). The Safety and Justice Challenge is a \$217 million national initiative to address racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system and reduce the local jail population.

Mecklenburg County is one of five jurisdictions selected for the additional funding, which will provide the department and its partners the support needed to expand strategies to address racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system.

Mecklenburg County was first selected to join the Safety and Justice Challenge Network in 2017 and has since used the resources and funding provided by the Challenge to implement bold reforms, including enhancing pretrial services, case processing, failure to appear/failure to comply (FTA/FTC) warrants, automating the Public Safety Assessment (PSA), improving the bail policy, working to eliminate ethnic and racial disparities, and improving community engagement.

The award brings the Foundation's total investment in Mecklenburg County to \$3 million to date.

For more information on Criminal Justice Services or the award, contact department director [Sonya Harper](#) or visit [www.SafetyandJusticeChallenge.org](http://www.SafetyandJusticeChallenge.org).

**Next Community Budget Workshop Feb. 12**

There's still time to register for this week's Community Budget Workshop for the Fiscal Year 2021 budget season. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at the Betty Rae Thomas Recreation Center.

The workshop series was created to provide an additional way for County residents to share their priorities as planning gets underway for the FY21 budget. This is the second of five workshops being held in various regions of the County during February.

County Manager Dena R. Diorio and Budget Director Michael Bryant will attend the events to engage with County residents. The workshops are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Registration is required. Residents may visit [www.MeckBudgetWorkshops.eventbrite.com](http://www.MeckBudgetWorkshops.eventbrite.com) to register.

**Event Details:**

- Community Budget Workshop – West Region
- Wednesday, Feb. 12, 6 – 8 p.m.
- Beattie Rae Thomas Recreation Center, 2921 Tuckaseegee Road, Charlotte, NC 28208

For more information on the Community Budget Workshops or the FY21 budget process, contact Budget and Management Director [Michael Bryant](#).

**Community Support Services Co-hosts Event to Teach Teens About Dating Violence**

To kick off Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Mecklenburg County Community Support Services (CSS), the [Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage](#) and [Turning Point, Inc.](#) provided a free educational event to reinforce the development of healthy dating relationships during their Teens for Courage Summit on Feb. 1, 2020 at Carowinds.

The goal of the summit was to educate high school students to the warning signs of dating violence as well as inspire teens to get involved in prevention work through the creation of clubs at their schools.

During the event, CSS's LoveSpeaksOut Teen Dating Violence Prevention Team provided a 90-minute dating violence workshop. During the workshop teens were able to use the "Poll Everywhere" platform to vote on various scenarios by using their cellphones.

The workshop received overwhelmingly positive feedback for its engagement and content. Each year, LoveSpeaksOut educates thousands of teenagers about teen dating violence.

For more information about the program contact [Elyse Hamilton-Childres](#), CSS Prevention and Intervention Services Division Director.

**CALENDAR REMINDERS**

- Wednesday, Feb. 12 - Community Budget Workshop – Bette Rae Thomas Recreation Center, 2921 Tuckaseegee Road, Charlotte, 6 – 8 p.m.

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