



Mecklenburg County

Criminal Justice Services

Sonya L. Harper, Director

Criminal Justice Services



Criminal Justice Services (CJS) is responsible for promoting improvements in the criminal justice system through interagency cooperation, coordination, and planning. It was formed in 2010 by the Mecklenburg County Manager's Office in response to findings from a Justice & Public Safety Task Force.



Our Mission

We lead data-driven decision-making, effective programming, and interagency collaboration to reduce criminal justice involvement and strengthen the well-being of our community.

The primary responsibilities of CJS include:

- Promoting collaboration between city, county, and state criminal justice agencies
- Establishing and measuring criminal justice performance measures
- Managing criminal justice programs and services
- Developing initiatives that enhance systemic performance and heighten public safety



Criminal Justice Services Units



Business Management



Pretrial Services



Recovery Court



Re-Entry Services



Forensic Evaluations



Research & Planning



Business Management



- Provides CJS with budget and contract management support. Also instrumental in department strategic planning and other general operational functions.



Recovery Courts

- CJS operates 6 Recovery Courts
 - District
 - Superior
 - DWI
 - Family
 - Juvenile
 - Mental Health
- Recovery Courts are court directed programs that provide substance use and mental health services to those involved in the criminal justice system



Forensic Evaluations Unit

- FEU conducts court-ordered psychological evaluations, diversionary screening and services to justice-involved individuals.



- Capacity to Proceed Screening Evaluation
- Juvenile Capacity to Proceed
- Juvenile Transfer to Superior Court Evaluation
- Parenting Capacity Evaluation
- Parental Competency Evaluation (Rule 17)
- Risk Assessment for Future Violence
- SOAR -CJ
- Behavioral Health Jail Diversion



Pretrial Services

- Pretrial Services assists the courts in making release decisions of pretrial defendants while preserving public safety
 - Nationally Accredited
 - Conduct Public Safety Assessments
 - Provide Pretrial Supervision Services



Re-Entry Services



- Re-Entry Services provides case management and referral services to people returning to Mecklenburg County following a period of incarceration
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Educational/Vocational Training
 - Referrals for community-based services
 - Generational Wealth Pilot
- Adults returning from state and federal prison and the Mecklenburg County Detention Center



Research and Planning

- Integral part of CJS strategic planning by providing program evaluations, policy analysis, and performance tracking
- Tasked with researching and assisting in developing, piloting, and implementing new projects and programs aligned with the CJS mission
- Safety & Justice Challenge
- Criminal Justice Advisory Group (CJAG) support
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) monitoring
- Criminal Justice Data Warehouse
- Grant Proposals
- Performance Evaluation & Monitoring
- Research & Reporting



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Criminal Justice Services

- Questions





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