



ALBEMARLE-CHARLOTTESVILLE REGIONAL JAIL

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Colonel Martin Kumer
Superintendent

Stakeholder Interviews Supplemental

Albemarle Charlottesville Feedback

General Observations

- Every part of the criminal justice system in the city of Charlottesville and the county of Albemarle is having difficulty filling positions. This is true across the board, including Region Ten and the treatment community.
- The Drug Court and the Behavioral Docket need more program support in the community. One judge, for example, said he wishes he had more options for the people who come before him, but those options do not exist.
- There has been a rise in meth cases in Albemarle County, but somewhat less so in the city of Charlottesville. However, meth and opioid use are endemic across many Virginia counties.
- Community alternatives to detention for defendants with substance abuse problems are needed to avoid jail becoming the default option. The Public Defender's office, for example, noted that for those with active substance abuse disorders, mental health, or homelessness, jail has become the de facto place to be sent.
- There is a need for crisis intervention/stabilization and emergency residential drug treatment. The Chief Probation Officer from District 9 described a need for "wraparound" services for persons under supervision in crisis.
- The July 1, 2022 "exodus" of DOC inmates hitting the streets is a concern. Pre-release planning is lacking and state probation officers are understaffed.
- The changes caused by HB 2038 to technical violations of probation are causing unintended consequences.
- The largest single source of ACRJ inmates is state probation violations (20%).
- Work release and other jail-based programs had to be suspended due to covid.
- There may be a need for a special management unit at ACRJ for the general population and a separate one for mentally ill at the jail. Now they tend to be mixed together.
- There is a need for more minimum security housing, dedicated classrooms, programming space, and outdoor recreation.
- No charge to defendants/offenders for HEI, and no credit earned.
- Would like quicker access to video room for cellblocks.

Albemarle Commonwealth Attorney James Hingeley and Charlottesville Commonwealth Attorney Joseph Platania

- Financial bail is not requested by their offices so pretrial detention is no longer an issue at the jail.
- The biggest problem for ACRJ is finding an “off ramp” for violators of felony probation. One CA favors a Day Reporting Center (this was the only voice in support of a DRC).
- Charlottesville opted out of JADE (Jefferson Area Drug Enforcement Taskforce). The CA didn’t want to prosecute simple possession.

Ross Carew, OAR/JACC Director and Neal Goodloe, OAR/JACC Criminal Justice Planner

- ACRJ Superintendent Kumer emphasizes evidence-based practices. He wants a safe and secure facility but also wants to improve lives and reduce recidivism.
- Technical violations of probation are a problem at the jail and take up too much bed space.
- Seeing a rise in meth cases in Albemarle County, but less so in the city of Charlottesville. Meth and opioid use are endemic, however, in many Virginia counties.
- The State Probation people have a wealth of data, but are not using it for research. OAR/JACC has asked for access to state data, but always get rebuffed.
- The July 1, 2022 “exodus” of prison inmates hitting the streets is a big concern.
- We looked at a Day Reporting Center about ten years ago but were concerned about economy of scale and the idea went nowhere. It is difficult enough to fill positions in the area without adding a DRC.

Lacy Parker – Defender (for Liz Murtaugh)

- The Defenders office serves Albemarle and Charlottesville, but not Nelson.
- Judge Quatrara handles Albemarle first appearances, Judge Sneider does Charlottesville cases.
- Initial appearances happen by video in General District or Circuit Court. The judge explains charges, advises about counsel, determines eligibility for court-appointed counsel, and asks the prosecutor for its position on bail. These IAs have always been remote, not simply since COVID.
- Bail review hearings happen within a week of the initial appearance.
- The defense attorneys do not always get the VPRAI or the pretrial report.
- An indictment requires a defense attorney.
- For Probation Violation cases, the defendants are usually on felony supervision, so the judge uses the violation report from the probation office.
- For those with active substance abuse disorders, mental health, or homelessness, jail has become the de facto place to live.
- Housing in the area has gotten exponentially worse with COVID.
 - Home to Hope won’t initiate until defendants are out of jail
 - Salvation Army Shelter is filled most of the time, was filled all summer
 - PACEM – serves as an overnight shelter in the winter, but no day shelter

- Crisis Management System has nothing for Substance Abuse or Mental Health
- Police recognize this problem and would love for a solution also
- Would love for defenders to get the VPRAI and pretrial report on every case. They are faxed to the Commonwealth Attorney's office, why not the defenders?
- Drug Court and Therapeutic Mental Health Court utilizes a treatment team from OAR and the clinician from Region Ten, and the judge.
- Defendants who go into the Drug or Therapeutic Court only return if there is an allegation that requires them to go to court.
- Region 10 has been unable to fill all of its open positions; when services are not available, judges are inclined to detain.
- Pretrial detention seems to have decreased.
- Those with a domestic violence charge or any serious charge, or any serious history are routinely detained pretrial.
- Need a warm hand-off.
- Thoughts on DRC – should be used for low level charges, which would be the likely defendants. Maybe something could be helpful for homeless defendants, offering temporary housing.
- We have a good relationship with the ACRJ. Superintendent Kumer cares.

Charlottesville Circuit Judge Richard Moore and Charlottesville General District Court Judge Matthew Quatrara

- Martin Kumer is doing a great job – he is ahead of the curve and very cooperative and flexible with judges. Very satisfied. He has developed many more programming options than most superintendents.
- Understaffing is a major problem all around in Charlottesville.
- Treatment in the community is a major need.
- We have several important alternatives to detention:
 - Work Release – we use it often for non-violent defendants, but would prefer a dedicated unit in the institution for work release. COVID dealt a real blow for work release.
 - Weekend Time – generally Friday through Sunday, or Saturday through Monday, though occasionally can be during the week. Would be better to have a special ward for weekenders.
 - HEI – this used to post-sentence only, for non-violent offenders who were close to the end of their sentence. Since COVID this is now used for pretrial with a GPS machine at home. These defendants are all supervised by the same staff from the jail.
 - Drug Courts – This has been active for 25 years, since 1997. Defendants have to opt in, at the direction of their attorney. This could possibly be increased by 10% but not much more. This is not a huge valve release for the jail.
 - Therapeutic Community – this is an in-jail drug treatment program that offered treatment in a controlled environment. COVID put an end to this.

- The TC is not available for women, though there is a ¼ demand for women as there is for men.
 - 30-60 days in these communities was ideal. It would be great to have a separate wing of the jail where the TC participants would live – one for men and one for women would be ideal.
- Probation Violators are not a huge problem here. The majority of arrestees come before the judge between 1-3 days, with a trial set between 3 weeks and 2 months.
- Suggest that more defendants in the HEI program would help. We don't want defendants to lose their jobs. Some people fear a higher percentage of failures and tampers.

Chief Probation Officer Amy Morris, District 9

- Has responsibility for 2,000 square miles but is seriously understaffed.
- Has an authorized staff of 28, but has 12 vacancies that are very difficult to fill with qualified individuals.
- There is a serious need for crisis intervention with wraparound drug and mental health treatment services.

Neta Davis (for Lisa Beitz) Region Ten

- Understaffing is the number one problem. Staffing for the specialty docket teams suffers as a result.
- Retention is a problem due to low pay. Qualified mental health treatment staff can get a higher salary working in telehealth for a health insurance provider.