



JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

September 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Cpl. Tisha Jones, Judge Patricia Evans, Allan Lang, Pastor Ronald Thomas, Tasha P. Jones, Jeff Forde, Robert Gaddy, Umar Muhammad, Arnold Dennis, Drew Cummings, Gayle Harris, DeWarren K. Langley, Faye Paige, Stephanie Williams, Anita Daniels, Brenda Howerton, Fungai Muzorewa-Bennett,

Members Excused Absent: Michael Becketts, Michelle Smith, Angela Nunn, Herman Scott

Members Absent: Nicole Jimerson

Staff Present: Jim Stuit, Gudrun Parmer, Celia Jefferson

Welcome

DeWarren Langley, vice chair opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

DJJ Update

Cindy informed the Council about NC Department of Public Safety Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice FY 2014-2015 Alternatives to commitment Programs Request for Proposals. She shared that the 2004 and 2005 Sessions of the North Carolina General Assembly provided the Department funding to provide residential and/or community-based intensive services for Level III youth who are committed to the Division for placement in a Youth Development Center, Level III youth who are re-entering the community after receiving commitment programming in a Youth Development Center, and Level II youth who are most at-risk of a Level III disposition and commitment to a Youth Development Center (YDC). The Department is issuing this Request for Proposals (RFP) for \$100,000 in the DPS Central Area Counties of North Carolina, to invite submissions of proposals for funding in fiscal year 2014-2015, to address the priorities, population, and services as described in the RFP. (The grant can be found on the DPS website).

Cindy noted that the final accounting billing starts next week. Durham only had one program that will need to pay funds back to the state in the amount of \$543. A notification will go out to the chairs, coordinators, and programs next week. Cindy reported that she monitored the Project BUILD program and they had made a huge improvement in the way they keep records. Its design is being implemented by the Comprehensive Gang Model. She had to modify the program based on the needs of the kids. Michelle Young, program director was unique in her creativity of getting the program and staff steered toward the DJJ population. Cindy will email her report to Angela Nunn, JCPC chair and Celia Jefferson, JCPC Coordinator.

Approval of Minutes

DeWarren asked everyone to review the minutes for any additions or modifications. **Motion:** Umar motion that the minutes be accepted as presented. **Action:** Seconded and approve.

DeWarren noted that Tasha Jones will present on juvenile arrests ages 15 or under at our next meeting on October 22. DeWarren handed out a signup sheet for the subcommittees. He asked that everyone sign up for at least one of the following committees: Funding/Review Committee, Public Awareness/Publicity, and Risk & Needs Assessment Committee.

Rites of Passage

DeWarren shared a withdrawal letter from ROP Board Chair thanking the JCPC for the many years of funding the Rites of Passage Program. It has come to their attention that since they are an all-volunteer group that they do not have the mechanisms in place to administer all the JCPC requirements. Therefore, the Chain withdraws its application for funding for this FY Year 2014-2015. Cindy noted that the funds in the amount of \$8,400 will have to be re-allocated by December 31st. She gave two options on how to re-allocate the funds. 1). the funds can be offered to existing programs to enhance their program or 2). Advertise just as we have always done it with 30 days before closures. The funding committee could look at those needs and the one given funds will have to have a 30% match in the budget cash or in kind or a combination of both. They will also have to do a program revision to capture that money. The executive committee suggested that the funds should be used for a mentoring program. Arnold commented that we should let the programs know that this is a onetime allocation and it might not be available for their use next year. Tasha noted that we have several needs in the original RFP for our kids. She stated that we did not have any programs to apply for specific types of services to meet those needs. Tasha recommended that we share with the existing programs that if they have a specific need they should share it with the council and that we still have the following types of services that need to be met: Mentoring under age 12, Parent/Family skill Building, Interpersonal Skill Building, and tutoring/Academy Support. **Motion:** Allan motion that we handle the \$8,400 allotment internally and apply it to various groups. **Action:** Seconded and approved.

Suspensions/Tardies

Michelle Young, Project BUILD stated that her student intern Christian from A&T put together some information on suspension for our discussion. One of the things they are dealing with the young people that they serve is a lot of kids this year have already been suspended. They are being suspended for more and more minor things. She has staff in the following schools: Lakeview, Northern, Riverside, Southern, and Lowes Grove. At these schools young people are getting in school suspension (iss). If kids stay an hour in ISS, they will have 3 tardies, a day in iss is 4 tardies and for out of school suspension (oss) six tardies. Many schools in Durham County are on the block schedule. In some schools kids take eight classes for the whole year. Other schools they take a block of 4 classes for one semester and another block of 4 classes for another semester. Every day is like two days. As an example, if you were a young man who is on oss and you are out for 5 days, you are really out for 10 days in terms of the level of materials you missed. When you look at young people who are already performing at a low level in school, have behavior problems are being pushed out of school and much further behind than their peers. She noted that oss should be reserved for serious things. Young people should not get suspended for talking back to a teacher, or being late. She commented that she knows that these things are important, but she would rather see kids in school than oss. The school has many

options they can use without suspending the kids. She believes that suspension is rising. It is detrimental to kids to be suspended. It counts as a negative life event, almost like a serious illness, disruption in homes. This breaks that child bond with the school and it disengages them with the school and it can create a snow ball effect. Michelle commented that it is really hard for her to do her job and JCPC to do their job when the school policies are in conflict with keeping young people out of school. She would like to see someone ask the school to please look at their school policies.

Brenda Howerton suggested that Michelle should have a conversation with the superintendent. Umar commented that his question is do they utilize the kids lunch time as a tool. Take away social time. There are other districts that are using different strategies. Arnold thanked Michelle for coming to speak with the council. Pastor Ron thinks the level of discrepancy and how the teachers handle things is a problem. He commented that teachers should have set standards as well as the students. Cindy commented that we as a legislative body are bound to educate the public about the cause of delinquency and, now you must feel compelled to respond. She strongly recommended that we write a letter to encourage the school board to take notice and that there are some systematic changes that need to take place. Fungai suggested that we table this conversation until we are firm on where we stand. Tasha noted that we should write a letter asking to have a conversation with the school board. Gayle suggested that the superintendent should be invited to come and talk with the council and our program providers. Drew shared thoughts on what we might ask them. For an example, the regular missed day's versus suspension, truancy and other things. He also would ask how many arrests are happening when children are out of school for suspension. Allan noted that dealing with suspension and tardies, the school does not apply these issues equally. He announced that the school board is meeting tomorrow evening and everyone should try to attend.

Motion: Arnold motion that we invite the superintendent to one of our meetings so that we can address the suspension issue. We want to hear from him in terms of policy and we want to share with him some of our concerns and have some of our people there and address the issue.

Action: Seconded and approved. Brenda suggested that we wait until we hear from the chair before any final decisions are made. Tasha recommended that once we have a date, we should send an email out to the board members asking if they have specific questions so they will have some answers when they come.

Gang Reduction Steering Committee

DeWarren reached out to the City and County manager about adding an appointment position on their agenda for JCPC. He is willing to serve in that position. **Motion:** Umar motion that DeWarren be the representative from JCPC on the Gang Reduction Steering Committee. **Action:** seconded and approved.

Announcements

Durham Parks and Recreation is sponsoring Campus College tours on October 27 from 8:30am to 5:00pm. Also, their Night Flight basketball league starts on October 10th ages 14 – 18. If

interested please call Roger Hill at 560-4292. Jeff will send DeWarren flyers to email to the Council.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.