



## Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

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### Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)

Thursday, October 19, 2023

8:30am – 10:00am

**Hybrid: 35 Woodfin Street, Conference Room 330 (2nd Floor) or Virtual via Zoom**

**Welcome and Introductions:** Jorge Redmond, JCPC Chair

**Review and Action of the August 17, 2023 Board Minutes:** Jorge Redmond, JCPC Chair

- Motion to Approve
  - 1<sup>st</sup>-D. Tyrell McGirt
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>-Angela Garner
- Revision to correct the spelling of Chief Clement's name

#### Introductions

- a. Chief Sylvia Clement Introduced New Court Counselors
  - a. Isabella Johns
  - b. Brian Vladimir Gilligans
  - c. 2 additional court counselors starting October 30<sup>th</sup>
- b. Tiffany Iheanacho, Director of Buncombe Justice Services and Program Manager of Buncombe County's Youth Justice Clinical Program (BCYJCP) introduced new JCPC Program Staff
  - a. The Program recently hired Ava Vaughn, a Licensed Clinical Therapist to provide CCAs and Group Counseling. The program has been subcontracting with the nonprofit, "From the Ashes" to provide its Group Counseling and Substance Misuse Services. This will still be available in addition to Ms. Vaughn's new role in providing both CCAs and Counseling for Buncombe Youth.
  - b. Ms. Vaughn will be working with Sylvia and her staff on accepting referrals to the BCYJCP.

**Planning Committee Update:** Angie Garner, Committee Chair

- Meeting with committee right after today's meeting
- Risk and Needs data will be reviewed including:
  - Mental health needs
  - Types of charges for which youth are referred to DJJ
  - Physical and Behavioral health needs
  - Family and School domain needs

- Reviewing of YASI (Youth Assessment Screening Instrument) Data captures the strengths and needs of youth served by DJJ. Court Counselors use the YASI to assess strengths and needs. Lorraine will take the committee through assessment data to gain an understanding of the needs to be identified by the JCPC for funding purposes and to be addressed by JCPC Programs.

**NCDPS Court Juvenile Justice Update:** Sylvia Clement, Chief Court Counselor

- Still having staffing challenges
- Caseloads are still being carried by managers due to the shortage of Court Counselors
  - Up to 50 for veteran court counselor
  - Supervisor may have up to 45
- Juvenile Complaints are still on the rise with varied needs coming from schools and parents
- A STEP Pay plan for court counselors was passed in the state budget. It was one of four positions to receive a STEP Pay plan. This is slowly helping with hiring additional Court Counselors. New hires are very welcome and will help but it will take time to get back to a fully staffed, fully trained department.
- There is still a need for more male court counselors.
  - Crimes mostly being committed by males and there is sometimes a need for gender-specific staff to meet the situational need.

Staff appreciation day held in September at Camp Greer for all Juvenile Court Services staff in the Western Area. The day was very helpful and much needed after all the work Court Services has been doing to cover caseloads with fewer staff and assist in facilities.

**NCDPS DJJ Community Programs Update:** Lorraine Williams, Western Area Consultant

- Reviewed program report for all JCPC funded programs
  - Breakdown of numbers for projected vs. actual, number referred by DJJ, number admitted in the current 23-24 program year, and the number of youth served who are 16 or older.
  - Eliada shouldn't be included in the report since they closed JCPC services after the 22-23 Program Year.
- SPEP-Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol
  - The goal of JCPC programming is to not have youth re-offend-known as Recidivism
  - SPEP is a tool to implement best practices in local programs
  - Programs compare their outcomes for program dosage and duration, risk levels of youth served and other factors with what the research has shown to be most effective in reducing recidivism for the type of program offered.
  - SPEP also fulfills the JCPC's role of being responsible for oversight of how JCPC dollars are used and allocated by ensuring that funded programs are effective, as is mandated by General Statute.
  - Lorraine reviewed SPEP Scores for each program

## Program Updates

- Buncombe Alternatives
  - Two programs: Teen Court and Earn and Learn
  - The programs have received 95 referrals this past year
  - Pilot program underway in line with goals of School-Justice Partnership: many cases are now being referred directly from the schools rather than going to DJJ first

### Teen Court

#### 1. School-based Teen Court

- Serves as an alternative to middle school OSS (Out of school Suspension)
- Referrals directly from the school system
  - i. Buncombe County Schools
    - 1. Enka-Intermediate, High
  - ii. Asheville City Schools
    - 1. Asheville Middle and High schools
    - 2. Montford North Star

#### 2. Court Based Teen Court

- DJJ referrals and Community Referrals
- Both DJJ and Community referrals are addressed using the regular Teen Court model
- This model uses a peer-jury model with youth volunteers who are trained to deliberate as part of the teen court session.
- Buncombe Alternatives is working with community referral sources to get accurate information on the needs for youth referred since these youth are not receiving the full YASI assessment that is provided when they are referred through DJJ. This is a challenge right now due to the levels of the needs of the youth being referred to programs right now.

### Earn and Learn

- Restitution / Community Service Program
  - Restorative not punitive
  - Applied for a grant that will help identify information needed through direct community referrals that would be present if sent from DJJ
- Potential future program update formats
    - a. Brief written update, whether monthly, bi-monthly
    - b. Possible dashboard with available information
    - c. Several JCPC members asked questions about accountability of programs and specifically asked about having demographics for each program for youth served. Members also

asked about the past Critical Incident from Aspire and raised concerns about higher-risk youth attending this program. Kim Castano, Exec. Director of Aspire, responded that they currently serve 26 counties and acknowledged that their growth has presented some challenges. She said that they continue to create a safe environment for youth and have responded to concerns in recent incident reports.

### **JCPC Membership**

- a. Conflict of Interest forms
  - a. New forms are signed every fiscal year. These are needed by the Allocations meeting to be sure any potential conflicts of members are reviewed.
- b. New JCPC Member Application Review & Action
  - a. Applicants were given opportunity to speak, unless sharing at the previous meeting.
  - b. Motion to approve all 3 designee applicants including Sgt. Craig Loveland, Scott Dennis, and Khadiya Ross.
    - i. Jeremy Bricker-motion
    - ii. Angel Redmond-2nd
  - c. One community member spot was available; applicants included Stan Ingber, Matt Schofield, and Banta Whitner. Another applicant, Dr. Hawley, withdrew his application after the August meeting.
  - d. Motion for community member Banta Whitner to be approved.
    - i. D. Tyrell McGirt-motion
    - ii. Jeremy Bricker-2nd

### **Public Comment/Announcements**

### **Adjournment**