

Duplin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
Minutes of the Meeting
March 2, 2021

George Futrelle called the meeting to order at 12:35pm and welcomed all to the March 2021 meeting of the Duplin County JCPC.

Invocation was offered by Mayor Connors.

Commissioner Dowe and George Futrelle had to return to budget meetings at 1 pm, at which time Darryl McCaster finished out chairing the meeting.

Present: George Futrelle, Jesse Dowe, James Crayton, Jason McGuirt, Jasmine Williams, AJ Connors, Ashley Reider, Darryl McCaster, Melissa Reese, Judge Mario White, Lance Turner, Joanne Chavis, Sandra Hill, Earlean Rivers, Juan Jiminez, Diane Herring, Candice Mathis, Nikita Newkirk, and Nancy Hodges.

Excused: Ciaria Miller

A motion was made to adopt the February 2021 JCPC meeting minutes (emailed Feb. 24th); motion – AJ Connors ; 2nd – Sgt. Turner; motion carried.

Old Business

- Monitoring Committee report – On Tuesday, February 9th, the JCPC programs were monitored via WebEx. Committee members Melissa Reese and Jason McGuirt participated and received reports from all currently funded programs/components. All programs reported altered operations due to the pandemic, and even though referral numbers have been understandably affected, all were recommended for continuation funding in 2021-22. A motion was made to approve the monitoring committee summary and recommendations; motion - Darryl McCaster; 2nd – Jesse Dowe; motion carried.

New Business – Funding and Review committee report provided by Sgt. Turner; seeking motion to approve the recommendations of the committee. James Crayton recused himself from voting on the funding because of his affiliation with faculty for Mt. Calvary.

- The Funding & Review Committee met to make recommendations for the \$212,657 JCPC funding for 2021-22 via WebEx on Wednesday, February 24th beginning at 930 am.
- Sgt. Turner reviewed the funding recommendations for the programs interviewed that responded to the RFP by the deadline. The plan for funding was provided to membership (report attached to the meeting notice) and included the following:

Duplin Juvenile Psychological Services - MCEC	\$7,750
Diversity Nurtures Achievement Structured Learning	\$32,347
Duplin Restitution/Community Service and Teen Court - MCEC	\$89,660
Building Peace in Schools - MCEC	\$77,738
Mt. Calvary Leadership	\$3,662
JCPC Administration	\$1,500

A motion was made to approve the recommendations of the funding committee; discussion and overview of deliberations followed. Motion to approve – AJ Connors; 2nd – Judge White; motion carried; James Crayton abstained from voting.

- The state has offered DNA Structured Learning the possibility of obtaining “Emergency Discretionary funding.” DNA is working on a revision to include additional unrestricted funding that the agency had available that has been utilized to help cover the cost of operations. The balance of funds needed to complete the fiscal year will be requested from the state. A motion to approve a letter supporting DNA’s emergency discretionary request was made by Melissa Reese; and 2nd by AJ Connors; motion carried. Notice of the approved amount will be provided to the JCPC and County Finance as soon as the state approves the written request. A budget revision will be forthcoming.
- Third Quarter Accounting is due Friday, March 26th. Most programs are running a little lower on expenditures due to the pandemic. Programs are encouraged to make a plan for any excess funding to be used for other supplies, curriculum and/or equipment needs and provide that justification in the Third Quarter Accounting form at submission.

II. Agency Reports

- Psychological Services – Juan Jiminez reported for the program; one referral for February that was successfully completed; total served ytd - 5. One pending admission currently; anticipate another referral later this week.
- Teen Court/Restitution – Teen Court report: Three referrals for the month of February and intake appointments have been scheduled; court dates are set for March 10 and 24. There was one juvenile in the program beginning February and one successful termination for an ending count of 0. Volunteers have completed projects that are displayed on the MCEC website; interns have started working with the program as well. Restitution program report – provided by Nikita Newkirk; no new referrals for February. Beginning of 7 and one unsuccessful termination for an ending count of 6.
- Building Peace/Mentoring – for Building Peace, the report was provided by Diane Herring; four new referrals for February, and an ending count of 7. Program continues to provide services that are age appropriate. Due to the pandemic and still having no access to the schools, sessions are continuing virtually. Jason McGuirt

commented on the importance of delivering independent living and life skills and commended the program for serving participants in that way. Mentoring report provided by Nikita Newkirk – serving 3 currently, with no new referrals; mentees are 14-17 years, and are being mentored face to face. Two of the three are planning to have summer jobs so the program is focusing on interviewing skills, resume building and preparation.

- DNA Structured Learning – Earlean Rivers reported for the program; no new referrals with an ending count of two. Currently, the program is going well. One is in the process of possibly being placed out of the home; termination date pending placement decision. Program has remained open with appropriate social distancing. For the remaining participant, coordination with the Parent, Dr. Kea and Mr. McCaster to develop a plan for the juvenile to return to school. Also, reached out to Building Peace to refer some DNA participants for those much-needed skills sessions, and DNA is able to provide the transportation to/from those sessions as appropriate.

Other Announcements – Mayor Connors discussed getting back to an in-person meeting option in April if possible. Will check into the room at James Sprunt and if not available, look for another location. Melissa Reese asked that there continue to be a virtual option. WebEx would be available if an in-person meeting occurs in April.

Closure and Next Meeting

A motion to adjourn was made by Sgt. Turner; 2nd AJ Connors; motion carried.

Next meeting is set for Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nancy Hodges, 3-2-2021