



Duplin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

December 2023 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Invocation – Jason McGuirt welcomed all and wished Mayor Connors a happy belated birthday.

Introductions followed with several new faces. Those present: Jason McGuirt, Penny Thorne, David Nunnery, James Ward, Juan Jiminez, Ciaria Miller, Earlean Rivers, Michael Hooker, Wendell Boykin, Darryl McCaster, James Crayton, A.J. Connors, Kristen Hall, Jordon Whaley, Ariella Brinkley, Diane Brown, Diane Herring, Lauren Tucker, Jasmine Williams. Lance Turner (excused) advised the Chair he would be absent.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by A.J. Connors, Jordon Whaley seconded; motion carried.

Stakeholder Updates

- Sheriff's Office/Law Enforcement –Chief Crayton indicating crime is up; some motor vehicle crimes in Town of Wallace by juveniles; town of Wallace will be expanding by 400 homes by 2027. Discussion followed.
- District Attorney's Office – Fentanyl continues to be a major issue county-wide and will likely be an issue in the schools at some point. Discussion followed.
- Courts – no report today
- County – no report today
- Eastpointe – consolidation with Sandhills as planned, followed shortly thereafter by a consolidation plan with Trillium. No final word's been shared. Stay tuned for more regarding this new entity. Consolidation will make this the largest MCO in the state. Tailored plan is still set to roll out in the new year and Medicaid expansion was announced Dec. 1.
- DJJ, Chief Court Counselor – Chief Boykins made the report for DJJ. No big changes; staying busy with three vacancies, one Court Counselor, Transportation, and Field Service Specialist.
- Area Consultant – James Ward made the group aware of the new Crisis and Assessment Center in Lenoir County on the old campus of Dobbs YDC. Open house at that new facility is scheduled for Thursday afternoon. This will be a great help to the Easter Area as the program can provide DJJ referrals with both crisis placement for up to 30 days and/or a comprehensive clinical assessment. There will be one detention bed reserved primarily for younger youths or special populations. Discussion regarding the need for inpatient assessment and treatment for drug use followed.

Old Business

- Membership – pending appointment; will get with TrishaAnn Hoskins to make sure Kristen Hall is formerly appointed in Dr. Kea's position.

New Business

- 2023-24 RFP draft was review as a group; discussion followed. Program services as advertised in the previous fiscal year were approved for advertisement with a due date of Feb. 9, 2024. A reminder that the new 24-25 application won't be posted until later in December. The RFP was approved by the group and will be provided to the county for posting on the web-site.

Program Reports

- **Triumphs and Tribulations** – 1) Building Peace, Diane Herring reported no issues and numbers are coming along; may have some pending referrals from Rose Hill. 2) Psychological Assessments, Juan Jiminez had a beginning count of one with a successful termination and assessment has been provided to DJJ; 4 served year to date. 3) Restitution-Community Service was provided by Juan Jiminez reported 16 served year to date; have had one SRO referral for communicating threats. For RCS and Teen Court they're constantly looking for new Community Service sites; currently have 15 sites and need additional sites in Faison, and Beulaville. Teen Court, Ciaria Miller reported going from no referrals to 15 in the past month; have 13 cases that will be heard shortly; referrals include lots of communicating threats in the mix. 4) DNA Structured Learning, Earlean Rivers brought dessert today so many thanks for that. Further reporting for DNA includes: very busy lately with no day off since Sept except regular school closing days; Narcan training has occurred on-site. Program has already exceeded enrollment by 10 for the fiscal year. Program has open doors for volunteers. 5) Mt. Calvary Customized Youth Development, Diane Brown reported for the program began first class on Nov. 18 and 8 have been enrolled with 10 pending; the program has had one field trip so far.

Miscellaneous

- Other Announcements – on the swim beach area, Cabin Lake will host a movie night Dec. 16 – Grinch movie starts at 6pm. MCEC will host winter clothing drop offs at office, DNA, Mt. Calvary and will continue through Jan. 15. Kindness Project at Duplin Commons was a great success. Several members of the School of Opportunity, DNA among others. . .next on Feb. 12, 2024 at Duplin Commons begins at 11:30 – 1:30pm. Dec. 15 at Duplin Commons annual Christmas event MCEC Appreciation for community support. Town of Wallace PD is partnering with others to provide Toys for Tots now through Dec. 13 with the event to follow on Dec. 16. Jason McGuirt announced he's planning to continue through the end of the fiscal year as Chair but is now located in Sampson County so will likely not be able to serve as Chair in the 24-25 fiscal year.
- Motion to Adjourn – Wendell Boykins; seconded by Darryl McCaster. Motion carried.

- Next meeting: February 6th (Airport)

No January 2024 meeting.