



Duplin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

May 3rd, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Present: Trisha-Ann Hoskins, AJ Connors, Diane Herring, Erica Bostic, Jessica Harper, Nancy Hodges, James Crayton, Jasmine Williams, Jason McGuirt, Jesse Dowe, Juan Jimenez, Lance Turner, Darryl McCaster, Dr. Kea, Penny Thorne, Melissa Reese, Sandra Hill, Earlean Rivers, and Connor Smith.

Jason McGuirt, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the May meeting of the Duplin County JCPC.

Invocation was offered by Mayor AJ Connors.

Introductions followed.

The Chairman entertained a motion for Approval of the April Minutes: A motion was made to adopt the JCPC meeting minutes by Darryl McCaster and seconded by Mayor Connors; motion carried.

Stakeholder Updates

- **Sheriff's Office-** Lance Turner reported they are shorthanded on officers with injuries and vacancies, there will be summer school programs. Increase in vape usage, and narcotics use in water bottles. Focus on vape shops because of the negligence of sales to minors.
- **District Attorney's Office & Court** – Jason McGuirt reported that the courts are operating on a regular schedule. The jail has housing space issue. Drug use is an ongoing issue. Not as much alcohol as there is marijuana sales and vaping around schools. Juvenile crimes are experiencing a great deal of drugs, and sexual issues. Lack of understanding of health risk for vaping and how it affects the youth.
- **County-** Trisha-Ann Hoskins & Commissioner Jesse Dowe had nothing to report.
- **Eastpointe-** Melissa Reese reported there is lots of new trainings and requests. There has been major breakthrough with Vaping issues with willingness to train students. There was a connection made with Community impact which is a state funded agency, that are also getting requests for training on the vaping crisis. There is no vaping program in school, but it's still a relatively new crisis, so avenues of

confrontation are being explored. The vaping issue is being addressed in policy (which aligns with tobacco and THC possession), but not in course education or charging of the law. There is still issues with vape stores not carding merchants that were under age. Parents are also acting in ignorance, by supplying vapes to their children for various “reasons” because they have no education on the harmful effects of vaping that supersede any “reasons”.

- **DJJ, District 4 report** – Jessica Harper had nothing to report.
- Area Consultant- Nancy Hodges reported that spending revisions can be submitted by the tenth of June so the county can close things out in county finance. We may need to discuss funding for next years catering service. Vice-Chair needs to be nominated because the current Vice-Chair is stepping down. Whoever would like to be nominated needs to contact the vice-chair before discussing plans to be nominated at next meeting.

Old Business

- o **Monitoring Committee update-** Nancy Hodges reported that everything has been very successful. Dr. Kea reported that there will be a Strategic Planning Meeting. It’s open for all to attend and there will be discussion regarding the previous reference to summer school; this meeting will be held at Kenansville elementary at 6pm on May 9th. There was discussion of a principals meeting with a virtual option to recruit candidates.

New Business

- o **Membership Update** – Jesse Dowe would like to openly invite any who have an interest to reach out and get involved with this Board, so if there are any names that come to mind who would have an interest in this Council, please give them the invitation to attend to afford them the option to be involved. Chairman confirmed the same need for membership due to the lack of seats filled that require representation; this is to include youth representation. There was discussion about hosting meeting during the day, suggestions were made but no solutions were decided on due to conflicting views.

Agency Reports

- **Psychological Services** – Juan Jimenez reported; April with beginning count of (0), with (1) client being successfully terminated from the program, and (10) ending count. Total served YTD (12).
- **Teen Court** – Juan Jimenez reported for the program; April received (2) admitted, beginning count of (12), terminated (9), with ending count of (5). Teen Court has served (43).
- **Restitution program** – Juan Jimenez reported for the program; Have a beginning count of (12), (2) admissions, 6 terminations, and ending count of (8); YTD (17), (2) referred by Juvenile Court by means of delinquency, truancy, and impulse control issues.
- **Building Peace**– Diane Herring reported for the program; April had six (6) new admissions, served YTD is (56), with the expectation to serve (50). There will be building peace in the summer depending on admissions.
- **Mentoring program**– Juan Jimenez reported for the program; there is (1) new admissions; start count is (6) with an ending count of (7).
- **DNA Structured Learning** – Earlean Rivers reported for the program; April, no new referrals due to the board of education for putting the program on hold. but have submitted several samples of

MOU's to the attorney for the board to look over, with the assurance that DNA had done nothing to encounter this adverse action. She will continue to provide services to her current students after completion of the program. An MOU will still need to be reinstated by law.

Conclusion

Vaping and the harmful effects of vaping is a great concern. Community outreach is an issue because of short staff. Teacher participation is an issue when it comes to JCPC for insight as well as the student participation. Next meeting is June 7th at the Ed Emory Auditorium and will be catered by Billy's Pork and Beef.

Respectfully Submitted:

Trisha-Ann Hoskins