



Duplin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

October 3rd, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Present: Jason McGuirt, William Batchelor, Darryl McCaster, Trisha-Ann Hoskins, Jordon Whaley, Jesse Dowe, Ciaria Miller, Earlean Rivers, Tiffany Blackburn, Kristen Hall, Ariella Brinkley, Juan Jimenez, Diane Herring, Lauren Tucker, Ashley Reiger, Lance Turner, & A.J. Connors.

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

Invocation was offered by Mayor Connors.

Introductions followed.

The Chairman entertained a motion for Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made by Lance Turner, seconded by Commissioner Jesse Dowe to adopt the JCPC meeting minutes; motion carried.

Stakeholder Updates

- Sheriff's Office- Lance Turner reported that students have been more fascinated with the SRO weapon. The students in Duplin County go through Hunter Safety by 8th grade.
- District Attorney's Office & Court – Jason McGuirt reported that there have been felony traffic offenses with juveniles. There has been a rise in underage driving. Domestic violence and drug use have been reported in Turkey, NC, which is on the boarder of Duplin County, but a bigger issue is regarding mushrooms or other psychedelics which is a schedule one offense, whereas meth and cocaine is schedule two offense, so mushrooms are more dangerous. Xylazine is a newer intravenous drug epidemic that is plaguing the county youth and adults. Narcan can't even help this drug overdose. Children are to turn in all medication to the nurse, even over the counter medication.
- County- Trisha Hoskins reported that we just voted in our New County Manager, Bryan Miller and Assistant County Manager, Carrie Shields. Jordon Whaley reported for Parks and Rec, they will be having a Trunk or Treat, and so will the events center and they will be hosting a Thanksgiving Event that will be free. The legislature is going to have a public defenders office to represent defendants, and traffic attys are on a court appointed list. The state pays them by the hour to rep Duplin county offenders. But there will be a public defenders office and they will be on salary for the county. There will be a difference in what happens with these cases because of the process. The reason for the change is because we don't have enough attorneys willing to do "community service" and the attorneys who are willing are overwhelmed with 90+ traffic cases.
- Eastpointe—Lauren tucker reported on the upcoming programs for the Substance Abuse Coalition about the football games they will be covering to offer information drive to inform attendees about vaping. They are doing a Recovery Court Conference and they will have a workshop available that offer certain certs for attending. They are willing to do first aide and suicide prevention workshops within the county to aide in awareness and public safety. Early addiction intervention is an aspiration at this time.

- Juvenile Justice— Tiffany Blackburn discussed a Sampson County case regarding poly-substance use and acceptance programs taking these kids on, especially the issue of siblings (where one sibling is accepted and the other denied). Aggression has been an issue because of meth use, and these juveniles had such extensive mental health needs because of the use of these types of drugs. The Court had stopped taking applications for a while but have opened back up. Ariella Brinkley reported for foster care and confirmed that there is a deficit in the acceptance of Level 3 facilities taking level 3 juveniles.
- District 4 – William Batchelor reports that they had Court Counselor salaries will be on the same scale for court councilors, applications are rolling in but they are all female and they need males to hire because most of their juveniles are males. There was a close down of Union County Blended Model Transition Home, where some juvenile court kids to be displaced. There is a pilot program, a place called “The Farm” in Goldsboro for juveniles to farm and take care of a lot of practical issues like banking and merchandising and this will be open to Duplin County kids.

Old Business

Conflict of Interest Form

Membership Vacancies

Reviewing Stem Funding Program Scores: Reduce Recidivism

New Business

Programs for Vaping Exposure

Program Reports

Archived at the County Managers office.

Conclusion

Motion was made by Lance Turner, seconded by Jordon Whaley carried unanimously to conclude the meeting and meet November 7th.

Respectfully Submitted: Trisha-Ann Hoskins