



Duplin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

December 6, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Present: Trisha-Ann Hoskins, Stacy Jones, Sandra Hill, Jesse Dowe, Penny Thorne, Ciaria Miller, Earlean Rivers, Lauren Tucker, Jordon Whaley, Diane Herring, A.J. Connors, Nikita Newkirk, Jasmine Williams, Kimberly Wickline, Lance Turner, Nancy Hodges, Dr. Leon Kea, Ashley Reiger, Erica Bostic.

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

Invocation was offered by Mayor A.J. Connors.

Introductions followed.

The Chairman entertained a motion for Approval of the November Minutes: A motion was made by A.J. Connors, seconded by Jordon Whaley, to adopt the JCPC meeting minutes; motion carried.

Stakeholder Updates

- Sheriff's Office- Lance Turner reported that the County has a newly elected Sheriff and all the deputies were sworn in behind the sheriff. Still short four SRO's. Tightened up on security at ball games and no bags allowed except clear bags.
- District Attorney's Office & Court – Jason McGuirt reported that he is prosecuting the ball game shooting case, also a lot of murders in the last two months in different ways.
- County- Trisha-Ann Hoskins reported that the mentoring fliers have gone out and have received some interest.
- Eastpointe- Nothing to report at this time.
- DJJ, District 4 report – Nothing to report at this time.
- Area Consultant- Nancy Hodges reported a significant staff shortage of 80% in one of the State's YDC facilities for various reasons, one in particular is the need for competitive pay for new and existing staff as well as the budget cuts for Juvenile Staff that occurred in the last biennial budget approval. All staff step pay and compression relief went to the newly formed Department of Adult Correction. Measures are being taken to alleviate some of these issues, including the requirement for Court Services to help staff the Carbarrus facility, but there are still significant problems occurring due to these staff shortages that are potentially dangerous.

Old Business

Nothing to report at this time.

New Business

Nothing to report at this time.

Agency Reports

Chairman McGuirt differed to the reports sent via email to be reviewed for the following programs: Psychological Services, Teen Court, Restitution program, Building Peace, Mentoring program, & DNA Structured Learning.

Conclusion

Duplin County is dealing with crime amongst the youth, one of the top ten in the state is “breaking and entering of a motor vehicle.” Though most are not locked, when a juvenile takes something from a vehicle, it’s a felony. There is a staff shortage state wide within DJJDP, certified positions are severely underpaid, the murder rate is up in Duplin County, rape is at a high, security measures are increasing, and mentors are taking an interest in the programs that are in need. Another issue is certified foster care homes that will not take special circumstance children even though they are certified in specialized/therapeutic foster care.

Building Peace and Teen Court continue to need volunteers. Children currently in the mentoring program with Nikita Newkirk have been making wise decisions about confrontation and their grades have improved.

The Duplin County 23-24 RFP was reviewed as a group and will be posted on the county’s website asap. The JCPC grant-writing workshop will be planned for late January; details to come.

Motion was made by Lance Turner, seconded by Commissioner Dowe, to close the meeting, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Trisha-Ann Hoskins