



Duplin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

February 1, 2022

Meeting Minutes

Present: AJ Connors, Lance Turner, Erica Bostic, Jessica Harper, Darryl McCaster, Penny Thorne, Jason McGuirt, Jasmine Williams, Melissa Reese, Wendell Boykins, Sonya Armstrong, Joanne Chavis, Tracey Simmons-Kornegay, Diane Herring Earlean Rivers, Nancy Hodges, Ciaria Miller, and Juan Jiminez.

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

Invocation was offered by Mayor AJ Connors.

Introductions followed.

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

Stakeholder Updates

- Sheriff's Office- Lance Turner reported kids in school getting more disruptive resulting in more DJJ involvement
- District Attorney's Office & Court – Jason McGuirt reported many out with covid; this is creating backlog in court cases which in turn results in cases not being moved through the court and jail overcrowding. Court staff and jurors out with covid or quarantine resulted in some counties suspending jury trials.
- County- discussed the JCPC board member appointment process; everything will begin with the county's application for board appointment. Also, the JCPC will vote to recommend applicants to the BOC for appointment when there are vacancies.
- Eastpointe- Melissa Reese- State of the Child is going to be virtual on March 11, information will be shared with the JCPC. This is a great conference and the virtual format will make it available to a larger audience.
- DJJ, District 4 report – Jessica Harper reported increased petitions coming in and the new "Vulnerable Juvenile" designation for those juveniles under the age of 10 with a qualifying charge; there have been 3 so far in the District. Also, juveniles eligible for Level 3 disposition that also have mental health concerns will likely receive a Care Review, and for those that qualify, Comprehensive Clinical Assessments will be required

within 45 days of disposition. Wendell Boykins also reported the district is hiring for two positions; Onslow and Sampson counties.

- **Area Consultant-** discussed the new Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, effective July 1 which separates Adult Corrections and Juvenile Justice within the Department of Public Safety. Also, there will be some gun-violence prevention training and public awareness activities coming up in the near future, as well as training for Department staff, program and JCPC membership in Racial and Ethnic Disparities and the impact experienced in the criminal justice system.

Old Business

- **Monitoring Committee update** – JCPC monitoring needs to be completed in the month of February; Jason asked any members that have served before or are willing to serve now on this important committee please let us know.
- **Membership Update** – Jason McGuirt reported that one of the students did respond but has not completed the application/appointment process. Nancy will forward the information. There are also two positions up for appointment on Feb. 7th BOC meeting date; DSS designee applicant is Sonya Armstrong and at-large commissioner appointee will be filled by Penny Thorne. Both have completed the county application and a motion was made by Lance Turner and seconded by AJ Connors to recommend both candidates to the BOC for approval. Motion carried.

New Business

- RFP has been posted on the county web-site. Total funds available \$212,657. Program applications are due by February 14th and the program application training will be virtual on Feb. 9th at 930am. New program applicants can email denise.bond@ncdps.gov to register.

Agency Reports

- **Psychological Services** – Juan Jimenez reported one terminated in December for an ending count of 0; admitted one in January, ending count of one. Served 7 ytd.
- **Teen Court** – Ciaria Miller reported for the program; participants completing life skills sessions and community service; having some trouble getting referrals to finish required sanctions but will be connecting with SRO's to help encourage completion. Began with 17 and added 6, terminated 5 for an ending count of 18 in Dec. In Jan. added 4 and terminated 2 for an ending count of 21; 35 served ytd.
- **Restitution program** – Diane Herring reported for the program; began with 6, admitted one for an ending count of 7 in Dec. No change in January; 10 served ytd.
- **Building Peace** – Diane Herring reported for the program; 10 served in Dec. total of 13 served year to date; added 12 in January for a total of 25 served ytd. Added participants from Wallace Elementary.

- **Mentoring program**– Diane Herring reported for the program; Mentoring has served 5 year to date.
- **DNA Structured Learning** – Earlean Rivers reported for the program; DNA Structured Learning has served a total of 5 year to date with one admission in Dec. Three more admissions in January for a total of 8 ytd.

Conclusion

Appreciation for Erica Bostic, for coordinating the meal for the meeting with Mae's Catering; will continue to have them provide the meal. Thanks to the efforts of TrishaAnn, Tracy Chestnutt and other finance office staff, they've been set up as a vendor for future meetings.

A motion to adjourn was made by Darryl McCaster, seconded by Deputy Lance Turner; motion carried. Next meeting **March 1 at 12 p.m.** in the Williams Room 100 at James Sprunt Community College, 133 James Sprunt Dr, Kenansville, NC 28349.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nancy Hodges