



Duplin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

April 5, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Present: AJ Connors, Lance Turner, Erica Bostic, Jessica Harper, Darryl McCaster, Penny Thorne, Jasmine Williams, Melissa Reese, Sonya Armstrong, Diane Herring, Earlean Rivers, Nancy Hodges, Juan Jiminez, Nikita Newkirk, Bill Batchelor, Leon Kea, and Ashley Reiger.

Darryl McCaster, Department of Public Safety, called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the April meeting of the Duplin County JCPC at 12:31 p.m.

Invocation was offered by Mayor AJ Connors.

Introductions were bypassed for this meeting.

Darryl McCaster entertained a motion for Approval of the March Minutes: A motion was made to accept the JCPC March meeting minutes by Mayor A.J. Connors and seconded by Melissa Reese; motion carried.

Stakeholder Updates

- *Sheriff's Office*- Lance Turner reported students are still disruptive/same.
- *District Attorney's Office* – Jason McGuirt was absent and no representative available to report from the District Attorney's Office and from the
- *Courts* - no report.
- *County*- No report on behalf of the Duplin County Government.
- *Eastpointe*- Melissa Reese reported there are some mental health trainings available.
- *DJJ, Chief Court Counselor*, District 4 report – had no report.
- *Area Consultant- JCPC*—report given by Nancy Hodges. JCPC still has money for transfer. The amount is \$1200. Psychological Services will use \$700 and Community Service & Restitution/Teen Court will use \$500 of the available money.
- *Duplin County Schools*—Dr. Leon Kea, Duplin County schools and the partnership with DNA Structured Learning is at a temporary halt. “We are trying to get a MOU approval for DNA Structured Learning with Duplin County Renaissance Center and the Duplin County Board of Education.” They will submit the MOU (Memoranda of Understanding) for approval for the May 2022 Board of Education meeting. Hopefully, partnership with DNA Structured Learning and the

Renaissance will resume by the end of May. Mrs. Earlene stated that 2 weeks ago the Duplin County Board of Education discontinued services between DNA and the Renaissance because no MOU was in place to serve the students. The DJJ student is still receiving services except for educational services at this time. DC Board of Education's attorney is reviewing the documentation.

Old Business

- Approval of transfer of JCPC funds: William Batchelor reported that Nancy stated that JCPC has \$1200 to transfer to Psychological Services or one of the other mediation center programs if they need it. An approval of transfer from program to program is needed and can be revised before May 1, which is the deadline for transfers. That will leave enough in JCPC administration to cover the end of yr. expenses; DNA had applied for some discretionary funds. Psychological Services needed some of the funds for psychological services @ \$700 visit (which would be the 10th of possible 12 and this will give them enough for one more before June 30). Motion for transfer of JCPC funds from program to Psychological Services and other program services with revisions before May 1 made by Jessica Harper and seconded by Jasmine Williams; motion carried.

New Business

- JCPC Funding– Funding Committee Report given by Lance Turner– he reported the funding for 2022-2023; Total funds available \$212,657 from NCDPS Community Programs - County Funding Plan and the Local In-kind Match = \$31,970. Duplin Juvenile Psychological Services = \$10,150 + Local In-Kind = \$1015 = \$11,165; DNA Structured Learning = \$45,000 + \$15,131 = \$60,131; Duplin Restitution/Community Service & Teen Court = \$78,269 + \$7904 = \$86,173; Building Peace in Schools = \$77,738 + \$7920 = \$85,658; JCPC Administration = \$1500. Motion to accept the report given by Melissa Reese and seconded by Jessica Harper; motion carried.

Agency Reports

- **Psychological Services** – Juan Jimenez reported that began with 1 count; 1 admission (a juvenile court referral) with 2 terminations; end count = 0; 9 and a referral for Thursday will increase =10 ytd. Goal will be 12 served by the end of year. DJJ sends referrals (especially Sandra and Darryl) for psychological assessments.
- **Teen Court** – Juan Jimenez reported for the program; Began with 18 with 0 admissions; and terminated 6 (4 successful & 2 unsuccessful) for an ending count of 12 in March; 41 served ytd. Teen Court referrals consistently coming in;

schools visits conducted in March; Youth completing community service & jury duty as required. Life Skills Classes were held in-person & virtually. New youth volunteers starting. Being held back at court. Teen Court April 6th and 20th.

- **Restitution program** –Nikita Newkirk reported for the program; began with 8, admitted 4 (referrals from DJJ) for an ending count of 12. Community Services clients completing tasks as assigned; High crime rate in neighborhood, behavior problems, fighting, mental issues and substance use in the home.
- **Building Peace**– Diane Herring reported for the program; 2 admissions age 7 to 9 (ytd = 7; age 10 -13= 6(ytd = 33); ages 14-17 = ytd (10); The beginning count was 42 with 8 admissions and 13 terminations = ending count of 37; (ytd served = 50); 1 admission and 5 referrals for behavior and bullying; total youth served ytd = 7. Program currently serving B. F. Grady, Warsaw Elementary and Wallace Elementary Schools, and adding North Duplin (starting the first week of April 2022). Proposed year end served= 60 but going over.
- **Mentoring program**– Nikita Newkirk reported for the program; Mentoring has served 7 year to date. Beginning count = 5; 1 admission; Ending count = 6. Goal for year = 10. Need volunteers.
- **DNA Structured Learning** – Earlean Rivers reported for the program; DNA Structured Learning has served a total of 5 was the beginning count and 4 is the ending count. The honored young man that attended the March meeting has successfully transitioned back into school. DNA Structured Learning is on hold for now due to needing an updated MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between them and Duplin County Schools.

Announcements: Darryl McCaster thanked everyone for all they do.

A motion to adjourn was made by Deputy Lance Turner and a second was made by Mayor A.J. Connors; motion carried. Next meeting May 3, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. Darryl McCaster adjourned the meeting at 12:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Penny Thorne