



Duplin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

March 1, 2022
Meeting Minutes

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

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 February Minutes: A motion was made to adopt the JCPC meeting minutes by Mayor Connors and seconded by Trisha-Ann Hoskins; motion carried.

Stakeholder Updates

- Sheriff's Office- Lance Turner reported social media trauma from over the weekend, where kids are brewing from cyber bullying and it's causing threats at school as well as physical altercations.
- District Attorney's Office & Court – Jason McGuirt reported there have been some arrests from certain organization for a lack of integrity with contribution. Their needs to be a new jail because of the lack of space for housing inmates. Court attendance is a problem.
- County- Trisha-Ann Hoskins reported there was an appointment of a Social Services director; the Commissioners had a Board Retreat to address things that have been long time impacting the county negatively as well as bringing to light some of the deficits the county has been dealing with and how to best address it; the Budget Committee is hosting a Budget Retreat to review requests and needs of the Departments in the county.
- Eastpointe- Melissa Reese reported the State of the Child has had a great level of participation because of the virtual option to attend with almost nine-hundred (900) individuals registered for the March 11th conference.
- DJJ, District 4 report – Jessica Harper reported that her Division of Juvenile Justice has become its own division and is back to being called the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency

Prevention. They hope it will help with funding, but are focusing on organization because they want to be self-sufficient.

- Area Consultant- Nancy Hodges reported that there's nothing new to add but there is a funding committee meeting after this JCPC meeting to review funding requests. The cost of everything has gone up but the money has remained the same so were needing to re-evaluate. We will also need to prepare to engage face to face because of the dialing back of COVID mandates.

Old Business

- **Monitoring Committee update-** Dr. Kea reported that all programs were recommended for continuation funding; one of the things reported was the need to target services to older teens considering the system has raised the age of jurisdiction. The program doesn't have juvenile jurisdiction until age ten (10) unless it's a qualifying felony. The age has been raised to eighteen (18) and beyond for kids under juvenile court jurisdiction.

New Business

- JCPC Funding committee meeting after JCPC meeting. There is the same level of funds (\$212,657) with more requests, so a review is necessary because costs for certain services have increased.

Agency Reports

- **Psychological Services** – Juan Jimenez reported; February with beginning count of one (1), with one client being successfully terminated from the program, and one (1) new admission by reason of delinquency property crime. Total served YTD eight (8), with referrals from DJJ.
- **Teen Court** – Ciaria Miller reported for the program; February received seven referrals, admitted 6, beginning count of twenty (20), terminated seven (7), with ending count of eighteen (18). Teen Court has served forty-one (41), with expectation of forty (40). School visits to strategize with officers to plan for next year. Trying to keep kids from becoming repeat offenders with communication with officers involved. Courthouse is still closed, so participation is hybrid virtual or at the school.
- **Restitution program** –Ciaria Miller reported for the program; Have not received any new referrals or any admitted youth, with a beginning and ending count of eight (8); trying to get more sights to open back up but youth is getting hours completed. Referrals are slow and they are under as far as what they are set to serve.
- **Building Peace**– Diane Herring reported for the program; February had seven (7) new admissions, two (2) from ten to thirteen (10-13) and five (5) from fourteen to seventeen (14-17), served YTD is forty (40), with the expectation to serve sixty (60). All requests came recommended from Guidance Counselor from Wallace Elementary for fighting and behavioral issues including an additional five (5) brought in last week.

- **Mentoring program**—Ciaria Miller reported for the program; there is no new admissions; start count is five (5) with an ending count of five (5); Communication with CPS in DSS for referrals; reached out to a non-profit organization that teaches men to become mentors in hopes to receive candidates in the mentorship program.
- **DNA Structured Learning** – Earlean Rivers reported for the program; February, beginning count of five (5) with one (1) new admission. Reached out to Melissa for new training because of issues with kids vaping and how to mitigate that issue; King Powell of Rose-Hill Magnolia in Faison, reported his first-hand, detailed experience of what it's like to attend DNA structured Learning and how he has excelled tremendously, specifically from a level three (3) to a level five (5) and an increase in math scores. Earlene Rivers reported about the specific services DNA structured learning provides to help children learn from their consequences; as well as partner with other services.

Conclusion

Melissa Reese, Eastpointe, reported by looking into school specific data; alcohol and marijuana are main drugs in Duplin County, vaping is popular amongst females, other narcotics are a concern, and bullying has been a problem as well as taking guns to school. The Sticker Shot campaign will sync with Community Impact NC, who will attend the next meeting. The Sticker Shock campaign will go to stores and put stickers on different alcohol to remind the store clerks to look and check ID's. Grocery stores are a potential issue regarding the consumption of underaged drinking as well as the purchase of smoking and vaping sales, because of lack of "Checking ID's". There is a Broadband Contract that will be in progress in the coming year to help with children's access to WIFI and competitive pricing by laying lines throughout some of the rural areas of Duplin County.

Respectfully Submitted:

Trisha-Ann Hoskins