



Duplin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

September 6, 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, Ciaria Miller, Kimberly Wickline, Jordon Whaley, Stacy Jones, Diane Herring, Earlean Rivers, Nancy Hodges, Juan Jiminez, Nikita Newkirk, Leon Kea, and Tomela Hill.

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

Invocation was offered by Mayor AJ Connors.

Introductions followed.

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

Stakeholder Updates

- **Sheriff's Office-** Lance Turner reported that there is an adjustment period for the beginning of school but the school buses are still learning their routes and that has contributed to tardiness and confusion. He explained that its too early to discuss substance use because there isn't usually a lot to report for the beginning of the school year.
- **District Attorney's Office & Court** – Jason McGuirt reported that there haven't been as much juvenile crimes because of the lack of SRO's there's not a lot of interaction. He has seen a lot of drug use in the county such as THC and vaping.
- **County-** Trisha-Ann Hoskins has nothing to report pertaining to the council but there is a lot of director positions opening up in the county which is contributing to added pressures on the administrative office.
- **Parks & Recreation-** Jordon Whaley reported an incident at the county park that subjected a juvenile to exposure to marijuana and alcohol by that child's parents.
- **Eastpointe-** Lauren Tucker reported that virtual sessions are now available to parents and students and classes for mental health and behavioral health issues are also ready for use. She is looking into programming for vaping.

- **DJJ, District 4 report** – Jessica Harper reported for the program that the summer has been slow. They are focusing on psychological evaluations and explained that cost for evaluations has increased to \$700 and is a great resource for Juvenile Justice. Retention of staff is an issue as well as replacement of licensed staff. Jason McGuirt reported that there will be a child advocacy center in a couple weeks that will service Duplin and Wayne County in Mount Olive for victims of sexual assault instead of going all the way to Greenville for services and treatment.
- **Area Consultant-** Nancy Hodges explained the conflict of interest process for JCPC and administered the forms. She announced that final accounting is complete and the billing process has begun. She discussed the current finances in brief and expressed gratitude for each programs ability to utilize the funds. This year we will need to do a full Needs Assessment since this is a planning year for the next biennium. There are new committees that need to be assigned as well as filling Commissioners appointed vacancies and discussion on solutions to maximize participation.

Old Business

- **None**

New Business

- Discussion of JCPC Committees; particularly Membership/Nominating. Jessica Harper volunteered to assist with appointments and it is hoped that Jesse Dowe will also assist when new members are up for appointment. A Committee sign-up will be circulated. Data review will need to occur in October in preparation for the RFP publication in January.

Agency Reports

- **Psychological Services** – Juan Jimenez reported that they are aiming to serve 12 juveniles, served 1 juvenile for property crime.
- **Teen Court** – Ciaria Miller reported for the program no new cases, but juveniles conducted community service and other activities. Reached out to the homeschool population in Duplin County. Some interest due to the outreach. 2 current cases, 5 terminations and 2 juveniles scheduled to complete service this month. New policies and forms being implemented. Also, this program needs volunteers.
- **Restitution program** –Nikita Newkirk reported for the program; 5 new admissions, all are crimes against persons and dependency amongst parents and negative peer association amongst peers, begging count of 6, 5 new admissions, terminated 3, YTD 5 served.
- **Building Peace**– Diane Herring reported for the program; 3 new admissions 10-13 y.o, 18 satisfactory terminations. Issues are parent consent and the majority of the time the child needs the services and parents aren't supporting the child's needs to receive services.

- **Mentoring program**–Nikita Newkirk reported for the program; beginning count 6, ending count 6, no new admissions, mentoring bis going well, volunteers are always welcome. Referrals are always coming in.
- **DNA Structured Learning** – Earlean Rivers reported for the program; Beginning count of 2, end count of 1; Approval of MOU to resume operations. Featured on Channel 9 news, recipient of Grant, and began a summer program.

Conclusion

THC and vaping are an issue, volunteers are needed for agencies, juvenile participation/retention in agency provided programs are affected by what parents are willing to facilitate even if child needs a program for which they were referred. Programs often plan activities/outings that will encourage participation and even that isn't always enough.

There are student vacancies in JCPC that need to be filled to maximize participation. Transportation is provided for some programs so students are not without a means to complete program requirements. Teen Court is not back in courthouse fulltime but there are alternative ways to accomplish this.

Respectfully Submitted:

Trisha-Ann Hoskins