



Duplin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

March 7th, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Present: Trisha-Ann Hoskins, Ciaria Miller, Juan Jimenez, Ashley Reiger, Jason McGuirt, Jesse Dowe, Lance Turner, Jessica Harper, A.J. Connors, Anthony Thomas, Lisa Robinson, Jasmine Williams, Earlean Rivers, Diane Herring, Candice Matthis, Penny Thorne, Nikita Newkirk.

Present Via Telephone: Nancy Hodges

Jason McGuirt, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the March 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 February Minutes: A motion was made by Jessica Harper, seconded by A.J. Connors to adopt the JCPC meeting minutes; motion carried.

Program Application Presentations:

Anthony Thomas & Lisa Robinson, Mt. Calvary program coordinators, presented the Customized Youth Development program and explained the programs geared toward 14 through 17-year old's with a special focus on college preparation and career development from 9am to 2 pm on Saturdays, during an 8-week period in a small class size of 7 students during each session. Breakfast and lunch are provided to students with an option for transportation services and the providers do follow up with participants as needed.

Ciaria Miller & Juan Jimenez, MCEC Psychological Services, presented the process of psychological services provided to the referred youth. The psych assessments cost has increased and the allotted slots available are ten for the year. Assessments take place in Clinton with the contracted psychologist.

Earlean Rivers, DNA Structured Learning Program, serve ages 10 through 17 and serve children who have been expelled out of school. DNA has tripled their enrollment for the year. Currently seeking funds for an interpreter, but have a temporary who will come in to interpret as needed. She only had to terminate one from the program due to non-compliance. DNA has hired a new teacher to join the team. They have been provided three hot spots supplied by the Board of Education. They serve two full class rooms with 8 students per classroom. There is a morning and afternoon program and they are provided breakfast, snack and lunch. The program also has a small farm, which provides the students with therapeutic interaction with animals during their time at the program.

Ciaria Miller, MCEC for Restitution & Teen Court, presented that these two components are provided in this program. Restitution and community service program provides youth with assigned community service where juveniles can complete their hourly assignment and handles any victim loss with restitution as required by court order or diversion contract. The length of time allowed for completion per student varies, and can range from thirty days to one year. They've had to consider and conduct budget cuts while still maintaining operations. The worksite advisor does maintain contact with families to support them with additional resources and workshops. There has been drastic improvement with parental participation since implementing site supervisors. In the case that the child doesn't participate in their referral to teen court, then the SRO receives the referral back and they decide what next steps will be. Pick up locations are available upon request.

Candice Matthis, Program Manager MCEC for Building Peace & Mentoring, reported that they start off with a meet and greet with the referred students and those from DJJ, and lessons are conducted in small groups. The anticipated age of participants is seven years old through middle school. Sessions are held at the schools so students don't miss classes. A session follows a curriculum but can be adapted to the students struggle. Diane Herring explained they do cover conflict resolution, career development and communication. Mentoring is also provided under this agreement and they are always looking for volunteers but that will not keep a referral from being served.

Stakeholder Updates

- Sheriff's Office- Lance reported that activity has picked up in the schools.
- District Attorney's Office & Court – Jason McGuirt reported that there were thirteen murders that seem trivial in reason as to why the crime was committed.
- County- Trisha Hoskins reported that there is a Board retreat this week so some of our appointed members would not be able to attend due to the budget meeting leading up to the retreat.
- Eastpointe- No one available to deliver report.
- Juvenile Justice—Jessica Harper reported that referrals have picked up but it's been steady.
- DJJ, District 4 report – Nancy Hodges reported that she is at a staff required training in Greensboro. This is a busy time because of the RFP and the cycle of funding due to the assessment of the programs. The act of "car hopping" has inspired a campaign about how to safely store weapons due to the increase in gun deaths of the youth.
- Penny Thorne for the Monitoring Committee —Penny Thorne reported that they did participate with all the Agencies monitoring reports but that she missed DNA. Nancy went back a second day with Lauren Tucker, and they walked around and observed the program and its opportunities for short term school suspensions and school referrals. They do offer gardening and animal husbandry as well as student-teacher interaction.

Old Business

Nothing to report at this time

New Business

Funding Committee meeting before the April 4th meeting.

Misc.

Teen Court needs Judge participants. Financial Fortitude Awareness will be held at JSCC in the Auditorium. 4-H Awards are held tonight.

Conclusion

Motion was made by Jessica Harper, seconded by Penny Thorne, to close the meeting, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Trisha-Ann Hoskins