



Duplin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

October 5, 2021
Meeting Minutes

The Call to Order was provided by Chairman, Jason McGuirt.

An Invocation was provided by George Futrelle.

Those present: Jason McGuirt, Nancy Hodges, George Futrelle, A.J. Connors, Lance Turner, Erica Bostic, Earlean Rivers, Darryl McCaster. Attending via WebEx: Ashley Reiger, Joanne Chavis, Ciaria Miller, Diane Herring, Dr. Leon Kea, Jessica Harper, Juan Jiminez, Melissa Reese, Nikita Newkirk, Jasmine Williams, Penny Thorne. A quorum was established.

Those excused: James Crayton, TrishaAnn Hoskins, Davis Brinson, Judge White.

Introductions followed.

The Chairman entertained a motion for Approval of the September Minutes: Motion made by A.J. Connors and seconded by Lance Turner; motion carried.

Stakeholder Updates

- Sheriff's Office – Lance Turner reported that things were moving along at the schools; they're down several SRO's right now due to one vacancy and two out due to accident/illness.
- District Attorney's Office – Jason McGuirt reported the courts are pretty much back to normal; Juvenile Court is being held and things going ok. The Chief Justice made a visit last week.
- Courts – Judge White is in court in Jones County today.
- County – George Futrelle reported for the county; quite a bit of construction going on at the airport and projects planned for the county coming up include Animal Control and Transit. Still having some positive COVID cases due to the Delta variant but vaccinations continue to be available for those interested. There's an AgriBusiness event coming up Oct. 21-23 and Cycle NC is coming up this weekend.
- Eastpointe – Melissa Reese reported that most employees are still virtual, but she is out in the community providing training. Mental Health First Aid is being trained; if interested in this or other training, please contact Melissa. Working with the Teen court volunteers to implement "Sticker Shock" which encourages folks not to sell or provide alcohol/substances to underage teens.

- DJJ, Chief Court Counselor – Wendell Boykins is in staff meeting; Jessica Harper reported the district is still learning more about the handling of juveniles ages 6 – 10 pursuant to the recent legislation that raises the minimum age of jurisdiction. Intakes are also going up in the county with kids back in school now.
- Area Consultant – Nancy Hodges highlighted the information on program SPEP and Quality Scores that was provided via email. All Duplin County programs are high quality and receive that score at least every three years; max points is 20. Those providing therapeutic interventions: Building Peace, Mentoring and Restitution all received a full SPEP score. Prior to the pandemic, juveniles that were predominantly low risk and likely referred by the schools, weren't really in the data set in the previous fiscal year due to schools being closed. This has caused the SPEP scores to increase slightly because programs score higher when working with higher risk juveniles, even though the total number served was considerably less due to the pandemic. Program Enhancement Plans have been provided. Programs are commended on their high quality and excellent scores during this past year when the pandemic was impacting programs across the state in less than positive ways.

Old Business

- Committee volunteers – Risk/Needs Committee will consist of Darryl McCaster, Jason McGuirt, Jasmine Williams and Penny Thorne; meeting will be conducted via WebEx on Tuesday, October 12th at 930am.
- Conflict of Interest/Membership update – conflict of interest forms are available for any that may not have completed one yet. These can be hard-signed or e-signed and returned to the Chairman. Membership update on vacant Student positions, Business, United Way or Non-profit, Parks and Rec, and Juvenile Defense Attorney; still working on filling these positions.

New Business

- A recognition and presentation in honor of George Futrelle's service as JCPC Chair followed. George was provided a picture created by one of the participants in the community service program. The service provided to Duplin County JCPC programs and support for the JCPC process are greatly appreciated.

Program Reports - **Triumphs and Tribulations**

- Building Peace – serving 2 currently; served 5 year to date. Triumph: Program is back in the schools!
- Mentoring – program has served 2 year to date and ended September with 2 in the program. Looking forward to returning to providing services in the schools!

- Psychological Assessments – admitted 2 in September; served 4 year to date. Triumph: Any time a juvenile completes an assessment and the information provided to the court counselor helps ensure the right services are provided.
- Restitution – admitted 1 since the beginning of the fiscal year; served 4 year to date.
- Teen Court – admitted 4 in September; served 11 year to date. Numbers are picking up and sessions are going on in person for the most part.
- DNA Structured Learning – added 2 in the month of September; served 4 year to date. Triumph: The DJJ referral that remained in the program much of last year really bonded with Earlean Rivers and this youth is now working though he is no longer in school.

Conclusion

- A.J. Connors provided information about trade jobs and educational opportunities for welders, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, etc. These hourly rates are significant and the Community College has offerings for young adults who may not be interested in a college track but still want to be able to make a good living.
- Darryl McCaster asked to confirm the meeting time which is 1230 pm. The plan is to have the food out prior to 1230pm so folks can get their plate and be ready to start at 1230 pm.
- Jason McGuirt announced that the next meeting will only be provided “in-person.” Masks will be worn and hand sanitizer provided.
- Motion to adjourn was made and properly seconded.
- Next meeting: Nov. 2nd at 1230 pm