



Duplin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

February 7, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Present: Trisha-Ann Hoskins, Bill Bachelor, Nancy Hodges, Jessica Harper, Penny Thorne, Earlean Rivers, Lauren Tucker, Jordon Whaley, A.J. Connors, Nikita Newkirk, Jasmine Williams, Ashley Reiger, Maury Castillo, Ernest Schlotz.

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 A.J. Connors.

Introductions followed.

The Chairman entertained a motion for Approval of the December Minutes: A motion was made by Penny Thorne, seconded by Jessica Harper, to adopt the JCPC meeting minutes; motion carried.

Stakeholder Updates

- Sheriff's Office- No one available to report at this time.
- District Attorney's Office & Court – Jason McGuirt reported that they are shorthanded and it has been very busy. There was a string of murders, property crimes and other offenses requiring attention.
- County- Jordon Whaley reported that a 17-year-old broke in to cabin lake and stole \$253, but they did receive the money back in full and the County is not pressing charges.
- Eastpointe- First Aide class for adults was conducted and can be conducted if parties are interested.
- Juvenile Justice—Jessica Harper reported shortage in staff and believes its due to the raised ages that has caused a great adjustment period causing a loss in staff.
- DJJ, District 4 report – Nancy Hodges accompanied by Bill Bachelor (second district) reported that a new resolution for certified position for tactical defense positions are underfunded because of the competing moneys for the adult correction position as opposed to the position with the juvenile corrections facility. This was a recent decision that was labeled an oversight and has not been corrected to fund the juvenile corrections officers. This error has caused a significant decline in staffing and staff morale has decreased and has dominoed to negatively affect the juveniles in their care.
- Area Consultant- Nancy Hodges reported a change in the Chain of Command and staffing shortages, to include transportation and the lack of Distance “Virtual” hearings that are causing mental distress on juveniles involved in this process when traveling

hours-long distances for a hearing that lasts 20 minutes. Vacancies are emphasized as being a huge issue and is detrimental for these programs.

Old Business

DNA Letter of Support.

New Business

The Health Department presented a presentation about the usage of vapes and the effects caused by their usage on the human body following the types of vapes that are being found on underage youth in our state and more specifically, Duplin County children. The presentation went on to cover the different discretionary ways juveniles are concealing vapes and what is being found in those vapes that have since been confiscated.

Department of Public Safety Facility Resolution Support.

Motion was made by Trisha Hoskins, seconded by Mayor A.J. Connors, carried unanimously to approve the Resolution to support the Department of Public Safety Facility.

JCPC Monitoring is being conducted by a hybrid approach via virtually. Dates need to be set up, and volunteers were requested from JCPC.

Agency Reports

Building Peace—January 2023 (Volunteers Needed)

Mentoring—January 2023 (Male Volunteers Needed)

Psychological Assessments—January 2023

Restitution & Teen Court—January 2023

DNA Structured Learning—December 2022 & January 2023 (Volunteers Needed)

Misc.

Young man stole teachers credit card and was arrested after making large purchases. Subject was 18 but was still in the system. Nancy Hodges commented on the process.

RFP Applications are due to Chairman Jason McGuirt by 5pm on Friday, February 10th, 2023.

Intensive Intervention Service was briefed on by Nancy Hodges regarding cognitive behavioral strategies for teens and the issues associated with that program but commended the quality of the training. DJJ referral is required for 16 & 17-year-old. If anyone is interested in RFP, March 10th is when application is due for the intensive intervention funds.

March 7th, 2023 is the State of the Child Conference with 17 workshops planned with a virtual option planned.

The Child Advocacy Center opened in Mt. Olive and will serve Wayne and Duplin County.

Conclusion

Duplin County is dealing with vacancies, a shortage of volunteers and juvenile vaping. The

distribution of funds has negatively impacted our ability for job retention in the Juvenile Detention Facilities. New services have opened for juveniles like the Child Advocacy Center and the Intensive Intervention Service. Referrals have picked up for the month of January as seen in the reports submitted and shared with JCPC. A turnover in the Chain of Command has made way to leadership regarding juvenile advocacy. Staff shortages are affecting all departments and agencies but the salary study conducted has helped fill those vacancies in the County Departments. RFP applications are due, and the State of the Child Conference is coming up on March 7th.

Motion was made by Jessica Harper, seconded by Jordon Whaley, to close the meeting, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Trisha-Ann Hoskins