



## Duplin County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

November 2, 2021

Meeting Minutes

**Present:** AJ Connors, Ashley Reiger, Ciaria Miller, Diane Herring, Jessica Harper, Nancy Hodges, Trisha-Ann Hoskins, Jasmine Williams, Jason McGuirt, Jesse Dowe, Lance Turner, Darryl McCaster, Melissa Reese, Nikita Newkirk, Earlene Rivers, and Penny Thorne.

**Excused:** Mario White.

Jason McGuirt, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the November 2021 meeting of the Duplin County JCPC.

Invocation was offered by Mayor AJ Connors.

Quorum was confirmed.

The Chairman entertained a motion for Approval of the October Minutes: A motion was made to adopt the October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 JCPC meeting minutes by Mayor AJ Connors, seconded by Deputy Turner; motion carried.

### Stakeholder Updates

- Sheriff's Office-
- District Attorney's Office-
- Courts-
- County- "Shackle Free" Proposition, Newsletter, and Re-Districting County Map.
- Eastpointe-
- DJJ, Chief Court Counselor-
- Area Consultant-

### Old Business

- **Risk/ Needs Assessment Summary--** Jasmine William reported for the program; She discussed the virtual meeting they had in the risk needs committee. She explained the 5 highest risk factors for juveniles and the 5 elevated needs to assess the individuals. The information she provided are drafted into the RFP. Nancy Hodges discussed the issues above and how the children are being classified as well as the possibility of revision of classification for these offenders so they may get the services and programs to the proper age group during intake and

assessment. Jessica Harper addressed the council and reiterated the importance of reclassification of juvenile offenders.

### **New Business**

- **Membership Update:** Erica Bostic representative—There are three students who are interested in attending the JCPC council who can offer a different perspective on the interests of juvenile offenders who are subject to the criminal justice system. The goal is to get three more candidates under 21 years of age.

### **Agency Reports**

- **Psychological Services** – Ciaria Miller reported for the program; She explained the department establishes care and they are on schedule for assessment but the service charge for psychological assessment has changed to \$700 per assessment.
- **Teen Court** – Ciaria Miller reported for the program; implementing a divergent program, referrals come from the SRO, In the process of recruiting volunteer minors; October/ November has picked up for teen court. Twelve (12) students were referred in the month of October. Served nineteen (19) juveniles YTD. They have become regular as far as teen court scheduling is concerned. First in person session in October was a positive experience for all, but the vibe is different when the sessions don't take place in the court house. Goal is to re-establish session in the courthouse.
- **Restitution program** –Nikita Newkirk reported for the program; Community service placement typically at Sarah's Refuge Domestic Violence Women's Shelter. Two (2) juveniles were remitted and referred by juvenile court due to poor social skills. Year to date served was seven (7) and the ending count is four (4). Currently waiting on East Duplin for referrals from the principal.
- **Building Peace**– Diane Herring reported for the program; four between the ages seven (7) to nine (9) and four between the ages of ten (10) to thirteen (13) that came from Warsaw elementary. Ms. Herring is requesting that the students get referred to her program before they make it to teen court to help mitigate the likelihood of them going to teen court. The goal is to reduce the likelihood of young children from making it into the system by doing a mentorship for kids ages six (6) to seventeen (17) via this social class program that is evidence based. This is to put into action a more trauma informed school system programs.
- **Mentoring program**– Nikita Newkirk reported for the program; one on one structured learning program with supportive guidance. Total children served in the program for the year is three (3) with six (6) referrals. Largest issue is getting adult male volunteers to support the male dynamic that is at a deficit for the program.
- **DNA Structured Learning** – Earlean Rivers reported for the program; Referrals can come from the DJJ/court-involved and school; involves student and parent; aides in employment and learning. Trial: Child not progressing; Trend: Kids are not used to being back in the classroom. Current

count is one (1). This juvenile is making progress in a traditional school setting. He does well with hands on assignments, so the transition from digital to hardcopy has shown to offer improvements in child's ability to learn and maintain documents.

## **Conclusion**

Other Announcements – There are funds available for specific needs or requests for any existing programs with legitimate needs. There are job opportunities for juvenile court counselor positions that will be available in Onslow county in a few weeks. The Warsaw veterans' parade is within the week on a Saturday. Rides are free for children on Friday night and on Saturday there is a chicken drop in the world's largest frying pan to celebrate Poultry Jubilee and a cake auction to give back to the community. There will be a wing cook off this Friday as well and the Band of Oz is on stage and then Saturday there is the Johnson boys and chairman of the bull. Today is election day if you live within the limits of any city township. If you would love to sit in to see what the teen court is about, you are free to sit in on a session. The mentoring program is looking for someone who may have been involved with the system, college aged or a teen court participant to be added to the council for a different perspective on the judicial process of juveniles. Also, in need of male mentors for a two hour a week per year commitment volunteer program service. Implement more trauma informed school system programs.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor AJ Connors, seconded by Deputy Lance Turner; carried unanimously by the JCPC Council to adjourn the meeting until December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. in the Williams Room 100 at James Sprunt Community College, 133 James Sprunt Dr, Kenansville, NC 28349.

Respectfully Submitted:

Trisha-Ann Hoskins