

Orange County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting
Friday, August 6, 2021 (12:00noon – 2:00pm)
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Proposed Minutes

Attendees: **Sharron Hinton, Carol McClelland, Tami Pfeifer, Amanda Farris, Meg McGurk, Donna King, Bernard Miles, Gayane Chambless, Hathaway Pendergrass, Crista Collazo**, Jamezetta Bedford, Susan Worley, Kelsey Mosley, Lia Kaz, Val Hanson, Latiff Mitchell, Toshina Wiggins, Denise Briggs, Rebekah Rapoza (***Members in bold**)

Absent: Greg Rouse, Luke Dennis, Blair Nell, Robyn Glass, Charlos Banks

Excused: Sherita Cobb, Megan Johnson, Tina Sykes, Stephanie Jones, Amy Fowler,

Welcome

The meeting opened with a welcome from Chair, Sharron Hinton and introductions. Agenda was shifted around to allow time for more members in join in order to reach quorum.

Program Updates

Dispute Settlement Center – July has been pretty slow so far and they haven't received any new referrals. Last year, as with other programs, they had low referral rates and served a total of 14 clients: 7 were aged 14-17, 4 were aged 10-14 (usually age 13 as they don't often serve youth younger than that) and 3 were aged 18+; 10 were male and 4 were female; 8 were black/African American, 1 was Asian, and 5 were white.

Q: What are your referral sources?

A: Most are court counselor referrals.

Exchange Club – Representative was not present

Volunteers for Youth – The Community Service program has 19 kids currently and Teen Court has 4, both of which are upticks from the last year. They have been working with Lia and Val on ways Teen Court can incorporate restorative practices. Teen Court was really disrupted by the pandemic and they have found that their reliable teen volunteers have scattered and they are working on ways to get them reengaged now that school is returning to in-person. They have held two car washes for community service hours which went well.

Q: For group activities, is it possible to send out a notice or have they found they have enough people show up?

A: They do not advertise because it isn't a typical fundraiser; they are focusing on serving specific groups, such as washing the court counselor and police vehicles.

Wrenn House – They have not had any youth from Orange County during the month of July. At the end of last fiscal year they had served 9 which was a large increase from the 3 that were served in FY19-20.

Q: Can you share any information about what the predominant causes were for the referrals last year?

A: All of the youth served have been referred by the court counselors. She would have to go back and look at files for the specific reasons for the referrals, but typically they are coming out of detention or are looking for another placement.

JJ Data Report

Jon Berkeley has been hired as the new court counselor supervisor; he was unable to attend today's meeting but will be joining future meetings.

They are currently transitioning from one reporting system to another and do not have access to either at the moment so there is no monthly data to report. However, at the last meeting a council member had asked about some Raise the Age data and she was able to pull that. From December 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021, they saw many minor offenses, including: simple assault, simple possession of a controlled substance, resisting an officer, and injury to property. However, they have had some more serious offenses, including robbery with a dangerous weapon and first degree burglary. The minor offenses are staying within juvenile court; however, the more serious ones are going through the transfer process. These offenses are not necessarily being committed by Orange County youth, but could be youth who are coming to, or traveling through, the county.

Q: As we are talking about Raise the Age, if a youth is moved to Superior Court because of the offense, how can they come back down to juvenile court? Is that even a possibility? Is there any way the JCPC can help advocate to have more cases kept in juvenile court?

A: If the District Attorney sends an indictment up to adult court, it is not possible for a judge to overrule it. In order for it to be sent back to juvenile court, the DA would have to agree for the transfer. The JCPC can help advocate by speaking with the DA. While A-G felonies require a mandatory transfer, the case can be remanded back down if initiated by the DA.

Minutes Review and Approval

Quorum was not met; June 2021 minutes approval will be tabled until October meeting.

JCPC Business

JCPC Work Plan Calendar – This is the calendar of activities that the JCPC needs to complete each fiscal year. It provides an overview of the work of the JCPC that needs to take place in order to meet our goals as the end of the year, including the risk and needs assessment, program evaluations/monitoring, request for proposals, and funding recommendations. This calendar will serve as our template for our work for the fiscal year. This document is provided by the Department for JCPCs to be able to see all of the required legislative mandates. If you see an activity in a particular month that we don't do in that month, just know that it is a fluid calendar and the months may not match exactly.

Conflict of Interest Form – Every voting council member must sign this form every year certifying that they have no interest in the programs or agencies that receive funding. In the event that someone has checked "yes", that there is a conflict, there needs to be a short explanation of how the JCPC will handle the conflict (could be as simple as the member abstaining from funding votes). Technically, members should not be voting until the form has been completed and submitted. Please get those signed and returned to Rebekah as soon as possible.

Committee Sign-Up – We have Monitoring, Risk & Needs, and Funding committees. Wherever your level of interest falls, please feel free to sign up for one or more committees that you'd like to participate in. They all do important work that is integral to the larger work of the board and we need everyone's participation.

Risk and Needs Committee date change – Typically the work of the Risk and Needs Committee has happened in January but it is proposed to move that committee to earlier in the fiscal year, around October. The work of this committee typically is the starting point for the rest of the work – request for

proposals, funding decisions, and annual plan process – and starting it earlier would provide more time to accomplish the subsequent work without being pressed for time.

All of the committee work is important and typically they only meet one time. The Risk and Needs Committee is the only one that is open to everyone and it is encouraged to have community members and program providers also involved as the data is reviewed because they may be able to provide additional information.

The following attendees volunteered for the Risk and Needs Committee: Gayane Chambless, Tami Pfeifer, Crista Collazo, and Latiff Mitchell; Bernard Miles volunteered for the Funding Committee.

Consultant Update

The due date for Final Accounting has passed and Denise is currently reviewing the documentation.

Program providers should mark their calendars to present their FY20-21 Measurable Objectives report at the October meeting. Before you run the report, please go into client tracking and make sure the data has been cleaned up and all errors have been fixed. If you need any assistance, please reach out to Denise.

JCPC Member Orientation presentation

Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils were established as part of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998. They are a partnership between the state, county, and program providers. The intent of the JCPC is to prevent juveniles who are at-risk from becoming delinquent by providing the right services at the right time to the right kids. The JCPCs were granted specific powers and duties in order to be able to get the work done. Among them are: looking at local data (risk and needs) to determine gaps in services; evaluating program performance; and providing funds for treatment of juveniles.

JCPC membership is legislatively mandated and must include individuals in certain positions with the ability for county commissioners to add up to 7 members of their choosing; membership cannot exceed 26. Some positions can appoint a designee to serve in their spot and only those on the membership listing who have been approved by the county commissioners can vote on JCPC matters. JCPC officer positions include Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer (this position is optional). The Chair and Vice Chair are responsible for conducting the meetings; in the event neither is able to attend, members can appoint and vote on a member to fill in at the beginning of the meeting.

In order to help get work done in between meetings, JCPC has sub-committees: Risk and Needs, Monitoring, Funding, Nomination, and Executive (JCPC Officers and Chairs of committees). All meetings are subject to open meeting law and dates/times/location must be posted. Committee work is extremely important and where a lot of JCPC work gets done so it's important that members get involved in the committees.

Annual tasks of the Council include: completing a Conflict of Interest form, studying risk and needs data to be able to come up with request for proposals, interviewing funding applicants, evaluating program providers, making funding decisions to present to the County Commissioners, and completing and submitting an approved County Funding Plan and Certification. Certification is required every year and funds cannot be released by the State until it has been received. By completing the Certification we are saying that all of the legislative requirements are addressed: membership, by-laws, elected officers, conflict of interest, meeting frequency, open meetings, recorded minutes, and funding and planning activities.

The JCPC uses structured decision-making tools when making funding decisions. These include: risk and needs data and input from community leaders; program monitoring (local and State); measureable objectives reports; agencies having sound fiscal controls to manage Department funds; and that they meet NC Comprehensive Strategy (the right services, for the right child, at the right time). The State will monitor each program at least every three years unless something requires immediate attention. Additionally, all newly funded programs are monitored within the first year.

Programs receive a SPEP (Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol) score as required by the Reform Act requiring statewide evaluation tool. All program types have a chart showing what the required dosage and duration of services should be. SPEP will help JCPCs make sure they are providing the most comprehensive services in their communities and that they are compatible with evidence-based practices. SPEP is not a score that is used by the JCPC to make a funding decision. If a program's SPEP score isn't as high as it should be, they are provided an opportunity to share their plan to improve services/score through a Program Enhancement Plan.

The ongoing responsibilities of the JCPC include: promoting public awareness of Council work; following open meetings laws; supporting locally funded programs; and being active on the council, including committee work. Orange County receives an annual funding allocation from the Department in the amount of \$359,096. Programs can serve 6-17 year olds when referred by juvenile court and/or other sources (SROs, DSS, schools, law enforcement, parents, and other funded programs). Raise the Age legislation requires that 18-21 year olds can only be referred by juvenile court.

Announcements

Dispute Settlement Center is available to hold dialogue for agencies or groups (adults and youth) especially around Covid.

Freedom House Recovery Center was awarded SAMHSA funding to expand services to include integrative healthcare.

DSS is hosting a Southern Hospitality hiring event on Friday, August 27 from 9a-12p at the Skills Development/NCWorks Center now located in Europa Center in Chapel Hill.

NC Child Treatment Program is providing groups for young people who have problematic sexualized behavior. They are working on training clinicians around NC on CBT to be able to work with these youth. If you are working with any youth who are experiencing these behaviors, please reach out to them.

While Boomerang is not funded by JCPC this year, they will still have access to space at DSS to be able to continue their satellite location in Hillsborough for northern Orange students.

Upcoming Meeting:
JCPC Meeting – October 1 @ 12pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting