

**Orange County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting**  
**Friday, February 3, 2023 (12:00noon – 2:00pm)**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**Proposed Minutes**

**Attendees: Amanda Farris, Bernard Miles, Amy Fowler, Tami Pfeifer, Carol McClelland, Sharron Hinton, Gayane Chambless, Dana Crews, Tina Sykes, Lateef Mitchell, Laurie Williamson, Hathaway Pendergrass, Crystal Wynn-Lewis, Joy Clark, LaDanna Strong, Susan Worley, Kassi Dadufalzi, Caitlin Fenhagen, Caraina Edwards, Jamie Jacobs, Stephanie Cloughesy, Joal Broun, David Carter, Rebekah Rapoza (\*Members in bold)**

**Absent:** Charlos Banks, Rachel Gessouroun, Crista Collazo, Jon Berkeley

**Excused:** N/A

**Welcome**

The meeting opened with a welcome from Chair, Sharron Hinton, and introductions.

**Minutes Review and Approval**

The Council reviewed the minutes from December 2022. Amy Fowler motioned for minutes to be approved and was seconded by Carol McClelland. Motion passed unanimously.

**JCPC Business**

*Monitoring Committee* – Volunteers for Youth’s program monitorings have been completed and the paperwork has been turned in. Exchange Club monitoring has been postponed until next week while they went through an intensive accreditation process. Carol will be reaching out to her assigned programs to schedule her visits now that the email issue with Freedom House has been fixed.

*Funding Committee* – This committee has members and needs to select a chair and set a date to meet. Gayane will coordinate a doodle poll for committee members to set a time to meet and select a chair at that time.

**Guest Speaker:** Crystal Wynn-Lewis, Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator, Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Youth of color make up 46% of the youth population ages 6-17 in NC but represented 71% of complaints, 80% of detentions, and 78% of commitments to YDC. Black/AA make up 24% of the youth population ages 6-17 in NC but represented 58% of complaints, 66% of detentions, and 66% of commitments to YDC.

Racial and Ethnic Disparity, as defined by the JJDP, means that minority youth populations are involved at a decision point in the juvenile justice system at disproportionately higher rates than non-minority youth at that decision point. JJDP is the first, and probably only, piece of comprehensive juvenile justice legislation passed by Congress. It specifically outline standards for the fair treatment of juveniles and authorizes states to innovate efforts to prevent delinquency. There are four Core Protections of JJDP: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, Sight and Sound Separation, Adult Jail and Lock-up Removal, and Racial and Ethnic Disparities (formerly DMC).

State compliance is required for Title II funding and is achieved when states address RED through identification, development of 3-year RED action plan, and outcome-based evaluation. Data collection is

required related to five “contact points” and the Governor’s Crime Commission is NC’s designated state agency to monitor compliance. The five contact points that need to be reported on include: arrest, diverted/not approved, detention, YDC placement, and transfer.

Data is published on fiscal year basis with most current data from FY21-22. According to US Census data, there are almost 21,000 youth ages 6-17 in Orange County (White = 61%, Black/AA = 12%, Hispanic/Latino = 16%, Asian = 10%, Native American = 0.34%). There were a total of 316 complaints files against 103 juveniles (Black/AA = 67%, White = 24%, Hispanic = 6%, other = 3%). When talking about disparities you need to look at the relative rate index (RRI). In Orange County, youth of color are 5 times more likely to receive a complaint than their white counterpart. Over the past 5 years, there has been about a 60% increase in the number of complaints received. When looking at the number of complaints not approved, 24% were not approved for Black/AA compared to 40-45% for the other races/ethnicities. There were 5 youth in Orange County that were transferred to adult court and all of them were youth of color (5 Black/AA, 1 Hispanic/Latino).

Orange County had 55 school-based complaints (out of total 316). 53% were White youth, 42% were Black/AA youth, 4% Hispanic/Latino, and 1% other. When looking at offense group by race, this data stood out because Orange County has higher rates than other counties in NC in terms of the breakdown of violent, serious, and minor offenses. Felony Class A-E made up 23% of complaints which is over 3x times the state average.

What could we do with the RED data? It should be used to help law enforcement, judges, community leaders, and other decision makers understand the reality of racial and ethnic disparities within the community. Examine the resources on hand and determine from the data how to distribute them to ensure all youth have access to the same opportunities. Talk to law enforcement to see what their policies are and find out if they are encouraged to divert young people and if there are diversion programs available.

The RED Section of Court Services’ primary role is to assist jurisdictions in reducing the disproportionate representation of youth of color in the NC juvenile justice system by providing data analysis, education and awareness, JJDPa compliance, grant management, and Juvenile Minority Sensitivity Training (JMST). There are 8 REDuction Strategies that have proven to be effective: 1) focus on data and utilization; 2) increase collaboration with other state and local agencies, police, judges, and the community; 3) changing culture away from punitive or procedural focus toward a focus that’s best for the youth and community; 4) affiliate with National JJ (Youth Justice) Reform Initiatives; 5) creating alternative to detention, secure confinements, and formal system involvement; 6) intentional focus has to be on RED reduction; 7) leadership at both state and local levels; and 8) making RED a long-term priority.

### **Program Updates**

*Dispute Settlement Center* – In FY 21-22, they handled 10 referrals and so far YTD, they are just wrapping up their eighth referral and will be working on 9, 10, and 11 next week and are on track to potentially double last year’s number. Shout out to the court counselors for keeping the referrals coming and diverting the youth where possible.

*The Exchange Club* – We have received one referral for the month of December and was a slow month. They are still having issues with getting their families to attend group so they decided to get creative and allow the parents to do group virtually and see if they would bring the youth. The in-home component is thriving and they are trying to find a way to get the same support over to the group.

**Q: What was the source of your one referral in December?**

**A:** It was DSS.

*Reintegration Support Network* – No referrals were received in January. They have two individuals who are currently participating in the JCPC portion of the program and have four individuals who are wait listed. They met with David last week to sort through some things and they continue to learn the ways of the JCPC. They have 10 mentors available with great diversity, including bilingual.

*Volunteers for Youth* – They have seen referrals pick up quite a bit since the holidays for community service but the numbers for Teen Court are still low. They've had conversations with the court counselors to figure out how they can work together to get more referrals for Teen Court. They are also looking at opportunities to offer community service projects for youth in other JCPC programs.

**Q: Do you ever get referrals directly from schools for community service?**

**A:** No. Not for community service but for Teen Court. However, they would be open to that so long as JCPC is.

**Q: Is there a written standard of what can be deflected and what cannot? How often is training being provided on deflection, for example, an annual training with all the SROs?**

**A:** The Criminal Justice Resource Department is continuously providing outreach to law enforcement about the options and programs available. By statute, law enforcement discretion must be maintained. However, each local agency can set their own parameters that they expect their patrol officers to follow in terms of diversion, whether adult, juvenile or harm reduction. Particularly for the youth deflection program, there is an agreement between the district attorney's office and all law enforcement agencies that a first time juvenile will be deflected. However, if they are already in the juvenile justice system or have been, then they will not get the benefit of deflection, although there have already been some exceptions to that.

Conversion around diversion and the barrier to utilizing JCPC programs when there is a requirement that the youth's information be entered into a database, when the goal of deflection is to avoid all entering them in any kind of system. However, without the use of a database, program progress and success cannot be tracked and measured and that in turn could affect the ability to receive funding from the State. NC Allies removes names from information when reports are generated. It would be great if there was way to enter youth's information anonymously.

*Wrenn House* – They had one referral in December and none in January. They recently reviewed the data from FY21-22 and noticed that the instances of youth reporting a history of running away was 9% higher than the state average. And they also saw that 13% reported being kicked out of their home at some point which is also higher than the state average. These stats show that there is a need for their services in community.

**Q: Where did the referral in December come from?**

**A:** DSS

### **JJ Data Update**

Paige Walsh was recently reassigned to Orange County and is doing intake. She was in Alamance but lives closer to Orange and was reassigned. They are also hoping to have another staff member on board soon. There are still 8 vacancies in the district and they are working hard to get staffed back up.

December – 18 juveniles at intake (4 were RTA); 36 delinquent complaints; 3 undisciplined complaints; 19 school based complaints; 1 complaint approved for court; 6 complaints diverted; 5 complaints closed; 3 juveniles placed in detention for 29 days; 0 days used at Wrenn House; and 0 YDC admissions.

January – 11 juveniles at intake (4 were RTA); 27 delinquent complaints; 0 undisciplined complaints; 11 school based complaints; 13 complaints approved for court; 0 complaints diverted; 0 complaint closed; 3 juvenile placed in detention for 28 days; 0 days used at Wrenn House; and 0 YDC admissions.

The top offenses from January were communicating threats and simple assault. The more serious ones were robbery with a dangerous weapon (those were the 3 youth that were in detention).

**Q: Do you keep statistics on the age of youth (elementary, middle, high) and school district?**

**A:** Reports can only be run by the county so it would combine both Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools. However, more complaints do come in from Orange County Schools. Some of this data can be obtained from their website and does provide a three year comparison.

**Consultant Update**

Thank you to Commissioner Fowler for sending up a resolution to Orange County Commissioners to support a step pay plan for juvenile justice staff. They did sign the resolution back in January and Deputy Secretary Billy Lassiter is currently gathering other county resolutions and data to bring to the General Assembly as they begin their session.

Third Quarter accounting will be due March 24 so now is the time to look at your expenditures and budgets to make sure you are track with spending as planned. Also make sure that you are utilizing in-kind as that could generate a refund at final accounting. There is a possibility of discretionary funds that would be offered based on the refunds collected from last year's final accounting.

There are a couple facilities that will be coming online by the end of the fiscal year. One is a transitional living facility in Wayne County that will join the male one in Craven and female one in North Hills, Raleigh. There is also an Eckerd male residential facility that is coming Caswell County that they've been working on for the last year and a half.

**Announcements**

Judge Pendergrass announced he will be coming off JCPC as Judge Cabe is working with the judges for each court to be on the corresponding committees. Judge Broun will be taking over as the JCPC representative and will bring a lot of knowledge and insight to the council.