

**Orange County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting**  
**Friday, April 21, 2023 (12:00noon – 2:00pm)**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**Proposed Minutes**

**Attendees: Kysha Thompson, Sharron Hinton, Crista Collazo, Jon Berkeley, Tina Sykes, Lateef Mitchell, Laurie Williamson, Gayane Chambless, Joal Broun, Susan Worley, Frances Henderson, Caitlin Fenhagen, Jamie Jacobs, Kayla Merkel, Pam Weiden, Terence Johnson, Caraina Edwards, Val Hanson, LaDanna Strong, Matt Hughes, David Carter, Rebekah Rapoza (\*Members in bold)**

**Absent:** Charlos Banks, Rachel Gessouroun, Dana Crews, Tami Pfeifer

**Excused:** Amanda Farris, Bernard Miles, Carol McClelland, Phyllis Portie-Ascott

**Welcome**

The meeting opened with a welcome from Chair, Sharron Hinton, and introductions. Quorum has not been met so the agenda will be reorganized to allow for additional members to join before proceeding with JCPC business.

**Program Updates**

*Dispute Settlement Center* – They have served 12 youth year-to-date and have five active referrals, so they expect to surpass their estimated served for the year. They have been receiving a lot of diversion referrals and referrals directly from the bench.

**Q: Question for all the programs, is data collected on race and ethnicity of youth served and if so, could that information be provided, at least quarterly, to the RED committee?**

**A:** That information is collected and entered into NCALLIES. The information should be easy to pull and provide a report.

*The Exchange Club* – They have served 12 youth year-to-date in the in-home program and have another three referrals pending. They have served six youth in the group program and last week received four new referrals, so they should be on track to meet their projected number served. They have come up with a plan for a hybrid group sessions in an effort to get more engagement from families because a lot were reporting that they don't have the time or transportation or other excuses.

*Reintegration Support Network* – They have received five referrals in March and two of those individuals have been admitted to the program and they expect to enroll the other three soon, bringing their year-to-date served to eight. They have been receiving a lot of referrals recently from Lateef and the school counselors, and even some parents. They have worked on streamlining the referrals process and it can be done directly from their website.

*Volunteers for Youth* – Referrals have also been picking up for them, especially those coming from the court counselors. They have been having a bit of conversation with the court counselors because it seems like many are new. Teen Court coordinator, Jamella, will be on maternity leave soon so another staff member will be filling in for the summer. Susan is retiring soon so they will be bringing in a new executive director in the summer.

*Wrenn House* – No representative present to give an update.

## **JJ Data Update**

There is no data to present this month because Amanda has been out and unable to run the reports. However, they do have some staff updates to provide. One of the supervisors recently left to go to another district, Paige Walsh is the Intake Court Counselor, and Derek Fitz recently joined at the beginning of the month and will be taking over some of the Orange cases. Last month they received about 35-40 new intake cases and Paige has been booked with at least two intakes per day for the last month and a half and they are still gaining more numbers this month. They are trying to get more staff into the office help. While Amanda wasn't able to run specific stats, common offenses are stolen vehicles, communicating threats, and assaults; there have also been a lot of gun possession charges going along with these other offenses.

### **Q: Do we have a sense of where under 18 are accessing guns?**

**A:** There really isn't a definite answer. There are some robberies of homes, people leaving vehicles unlocked, and ghost guns being ordered online.

Caitlin Fenhagen with Orange County Criminal Justice Resource Department provided an update on an initiative they are looking to bring to Orange County that is modeled from Durham's Project Build. Project Build is not interested in seeking any JCPC funding because they are a county funded program in Durham and if they are going to have any of their staff come over here it would have to be as a county employee. Caitlin included Project Build in her department's budget request for next fiscal year with a lot of support from stakeholders, but unfortunately the manager's budget is very tight next year and so they are in the process of trying to see if they can potentially get funding from ABC Board, early intervention funds from opioid funds and Chapel Hill PD funds. Chapel Hill and Carrboro police departments both feel strongly that the program is needed. It would provide intensive case management in the homes, communities, and schools for high-risk teens.

### **Q: Is there an opportunity to get JCPC funding if Project Build was a county program? Is that doable, has it been done somewhere else?**

**A:** It can be done. There are other JCPC programs that are run by the county with blended funding. The county acts as the program manager and the employee is written into the grant and all the programming expenses is also part of the budget. But it all comes down to the RFP and we are already past that phase in the year and so we'd have to look at for FY24-25 planning.

## **Minutes Review and Approval**

The Council reviewed the minutes from the regular February 2023 meeting. Joal Broun motioned for minutes to be approved and was seconded by Sharron Hinton. Gayane Chambless would like to make an amendment to the minutes because her intention at the meeting was to send a Doodle poll for the RED committee, not the Funding committee. The mover accepts the amendment to the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the special February 2023 meeting. Joal Broun motioned for minutes to be approved and was seconded by Crista Collazo. Motion passed unanimously. Gayane Chambless abstained from voting.

## **JCPC Business**

*Budget Revision presentations –*

Exchange Club – The revision is due to lapse salary adjustment.

Sharron Hinton motioned for budget amendment to be approved and was seconded by Laurie Williamson. Motion passed unanimously.

Reintegration Support Network – Due to change in staff members, they needed to update the budget for staff salary and FICA. They are also proposing the addition of a new line items to help with interpretation and translation services, advertising their JCPC program services, and an IT assessment to

help with the development of policies and enhancing infrastructure. All of these new requests would be funded through the use of lapse salary.

Crista Collazo motioned for budget amendment to be approved and was seconded by Sharron Hinton. Motion passed unanimously.

*Funding Committee* – The Funding Committee was unable to meet during the last couple months so it was decided to incorporate the meeting into our regular JCPC meeting since there are no new program application requests and the total of all requests does not exceed the county's allocation. The JCPC would like to give applicants the opportunity to speak briefly about their proposals for next year, highlighting any changes.

Dispute Settlement Center – We are looking to continue the same work and are only requesting slight increase in requested funding.

They are currently funded at \$58,000 and are requesting \$59,000 for FY23-24. Crista Collazo made a motion to approve funding Dispute Settlement in the amount of \$59,000 for FY23-24 and was seconded by Gayane Chambless. Motion passed unanimously.

Exchange Club – No program updates or changes to report for next year.

They are currently funded at \$60,760 and are requesting \$59,049 for FY 23-24. Laurie Williamson made a motion to approve funding Exchange Club in the amount of \$59,049 for FY23-24 and was seconded by Joal Broun. Motion passed unanimously.

Reintegration Support Network – We have seen the most interest in the mentoring program so with the new proposal we are focusing on one-on-one mentoring instead of life skills but at a similar cost.

They are currently funded at \$61,627 and are requesting \$57,778 for FY 23-24. Gayane Chambless made a motion to approve funding Reintegration Support Network in the amount of \$57,778 for FY23-24 and was seconded by Crista Collazo. Motion passed unanimously.

Volunteers for Youth: Community Service and Restitution – We are not proposing any major changes and are continuing services as in the past and are not requesting any funding increase. They are currently funded at \$84,730 and are requesting the same for FY 23-24. Laurie Williamson made a motion to approve funding Volunteers for Youth Community Service and Restitution in the amount of \$84,730 for FY23-24 and was seconded by Gayane Chambless. Motion passed unanimously.

Volunteers for Youth: Teen Court - We are not proposing any major changes and are continuing services as in the past and are not requesting any funding increase. They are currently funded at \$69,625 and are requesting the same for FY 23-24. Sharron Hinton made a motion to approve funding Volunteers for Youth Teen Court in the amount of \$69,625 for FY23-24 and was seconded by Laurie Williamson. Motion passed unanimously.

Wrenn House – No representative present. They are currently funded at \$16,475 and are requesting the \$18,632 for FY 23-24. Sharron Hinton made a motion to approve funding Wrenn House in the amount of \$18,632 for FY23-24 and was seconded by Crista Collazo. Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative budget – We haven't really had any expenses this year because we have been virtual. In the past we have used it to pay for meeting requests, conferences and associated travel, and would propose the same for the upcoming year. Admin budget is currently at \$7,879.

After funding all program requests at full ask, there is \$2,403 unallocated and a decision needs to be made on what to do with those funds. Options include: leaving unallocated until December 31 and allow programs to apply for those funds or add into the admin budget now to use for training or sponsorships for

kids at camp or public awareness/outreach. Consensus seems to be that the council would like to add the additional funds to the admin budget to allow for greater flexibility with the funds. Gayane Chambless made a motion to approve funding Admin budget in the amount of \$10,282 for FY23-24 and was seconded by Crista Collazo. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Consultant Update**

The department is also seeing a statewide increase in gun charges among juveniles and they tend to be acquiring them through vehicle and home break-ins and online ghost sales. Stats are showing that that deaths from gun violence has surpassed that of motor vehicle deaths. The department is working on safety campaign to include a safe week of action from June 4-10. This will include radio, social media, and billboard campaigns to spread the message of gun storage safety. The department has also asked for \$7.6 million in the budget for programming to address gun safety and programming for at-risk youth.

Some other items in the legislative bills is money for startup and operating costs for Richmond (detention center) and Rockingham County facilities (hybrid YDC and detention center). Both facilities should be online by the end of the year. They are also looking to expand C.A. Dylan for a residential crisis unit and whose beds would be for youth experiencing family and mental health issues where juvenile justice needs to place them and mental health beds are full.

Trainings are being offered by the Restorative Youth Coalition of NC. They are holding lunch and learns monthly on the third Friday from 12-1 via Zoom.