

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

Proposed Minutes

***Attendees:* Kysha Thompson, Jon Berkeley, Tina Sykes, Phyllis Portie-Ascott, Dana Crews, Gayane Chambless, Carol McClelland, Lateef Mitchell, Bernard Miles, Joal Broun, Susan Worley, Joy Clark, Val Hanson, Darnell Ellis, Jamie Jacobs, LaDanna Strong, Matt Hughes, David Carter, Rebekah Rapoza (*Members in bold)**

Absent: Charlos Banks, Rachel Gessouroun, Crista Collazo, Tami Pfeifer

Excused: Amanda Farris, Laurie Williamson, Sharron Hinton

Welcome

The meeting opened with a welcome from Vice Chair, Carol McClelland, and introductions.

Minutes Review and Approval

The Council reviewed the minutes from April 2023 meeting. Gayane Chambless motioned for minutes to be approved and was seconded by Kysha Thompson. Motion passed unanimously.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the special May 2023 meeting. Gayane Chambless motioned for minutes to be approved and was seconded by Kysha Thompson. Motion passed unanimously. Gayane Chambless abstained from voting.

JCPC Business

RED Committee Update – The committee met and reviewed what the State is asking us to look at. The first order of business that was reviewed was looking at the diversity of JCPC members to make sure that we have all possible voices represented, particularly from a racial and ethnic lens. The Council is currently comprised of 18 members of which 56% is African American/Black and 44% is Caucasian/White. We have no Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Asian American, Pacific Islander, or multi-racial representation. As we look to fill vacant positions on the Council (Youth under 21, Business Community, Parks & Rec), we may want to consider members of racial/ethnic groups that are not currently represented.

Updated minutes from committee meeting will be shared with the JCPC email group after this meeting.

Val Hanson stated that she may know a couple UNC students who interned with DSC who might be interested, and one in particular is Latino. Val will reach out to her this week to see if she's interested and pass along her information to Rebekah and/or Sharron if she is.

Nomination Committee – The Council needs a member to serve as Chair for the Nomination Committee and coordinate the officer elections for the August meeting. The two positions that Orange County holds elections for are Chair and Vice Chair. Carol was a former Chair of the committee and provided a summary of the tasks – email members requesting nominations, confirm with nominations if they accept, and present the slate at the August meeting.

Q: Can programs serve on this committee?

A: No. Only JCPC voting members.

Commissioner Portie-Ascott, Tina Sykes, and Carol McClelland volunteered to serve on this committee.

David Carter clarified that only current voting members of JCPC can nominate or be nominated. The Chairperson's role is to call and lead meetings, work with Rebekah to prepare an agenda, and work with the Area Consultant on any items that need to be addressed. The Vice Chair's role is primarily to step in when the Chair is absent, like Carol is doing today.

Monthly Program Report – This is a new form that the Community Program section developed a few years ago for programs to submit monthly data to the JCPC. It goes into detail about referrals, admissions, terminations, demographics, expenditures, and narrative sections for program updates. Programs submit these reports to the JCPC coordinator and Chair monthly and can be shared at the meetings. This report can also come in handy if a program is not able to be present at a meeting. It is also a good way to track historical data and can easily review prior months. Some JCPCs use this report and others don't; it's optional.

David was able to confirm with the Division that the report format can be modified to fit our county's needs/interests. Discussion was had about if we want to incorporate the form and if we'd like to make any modifications. Fiscal reporting section was changed to add a section for non-binary under demographics and change the fiscal section from reporting actuals to writing a narrative update.

Gayane Chambless made a motion to approve the form as amended and was seconded by Bernard Miles.

Q: What is the purpose of collecting this information every other month?

A: JCPC policy requires that funded programs provide a report to the JCPC on their progress and activity monthly, or at every meeting.

Q: Are there program goals/objectives on the report?

A: Measurable objectives are reported out in December and at year-end (six- and twelve-month reports).

Q: Who monitors the programs? Is it other programs or committee members?

A: Council members go out and monitor the funded programs.

With no further discussion needed, the motion passed unanimously.

Program Updates

Dispute Settlement Center – They received two referrals this week that might carry forward into the new fiscal year, so they've already hit the ground running. And it appears as though they will surpass their projected number to be served for this fiscal year.

Q: Is your projection of youth served broken down by race and gender?

A: The projection is an overall number of total youths admitted.

The Exchange Club – They project to meet their goal for the in-home program but continue to struggle with the parenting solutions group. The families just haven't been very compliant with coming to group despite their best efforts to meet them everywhere they possibly can, even offering a hybrid format. They are receiving the referrals but getting the families to actually come to the group has been the issue. They are willing to do the in-home service, but coming to group, even with transportation being offered, has been a problem. They are looking for suggestions on how they can increase participation. Other than that, everything is going well.

Q: What are the barriers to their attendance in person or virtual?

A: Usually it's work, someone's sick, or they forgot. They tried the hybrid format, varied the days of the week and schedule them in the evenings.

Q: Are any of them saying they can't make this day, but can do this one instead?

A: They are missing completely. We've offered make up sessions to keep them going but they don't even show up the for the makeup sessions.

Reintegration Support Network – They are just finishing out their first year and have wrapped up a monitoring review with David and another member of their team, which they think went really well. They are working on a lot of follow-ups from the feedback from the review and this past year has really been instrumental in helping them create a lot of very vital structure in the program.

They have served 8 youth and the goal was 15. They served 3 youth through group skill building and another 5 through individual skill building.

They have a new Executive Director, Terrance Johnson, who has been serving as acting ED until he became official in May.

Volunteers for Youth – Teen Court Coordinator, Jamella Smith, gave birth to a baby boy last week. While Jamella is on maternity leave, Nicolle Verdin, Youth Services Coordinator, will be taking over Teen Court duties. Referrals to both programs have been low all year, but just in the last month, they have seen an explosion of referrals for the Community Services program. Scott, who has worked in the Community Service program for 21 years said he's never seen anything like it. It's never a good thing with you get a lot of referrals like that, but we are ready to be busy for the summer.

This is Susan's last meeting as she is retiring June 30. Nicole Hunger will be coming in as the new Executive Director and will be at the next meeting in August.

Wrenn House – Since the last meeting, we have served one Orange County youth, three in total since July. Most of the referrals come from DSS. The highlight for Wrenn House is that we just hired another clinician, so now there are three on staff.

JJ Data Update (See chart at end of minutes)

February – 29 juveniles at intake (14 were RTA); 47 delinquent complaints; 9 undisciplined complaints; 20 school-based complaints; 33 complaints approved for court; 14 complaints diverted; 9 complaints closed; 3 juveniles placed in detention for 62 days; 0 days used at Wrenn House; and 0 YDC admissions.

March – 29 juveniles at intake (13 were RTA); 70 delinquent complaints; 3 undisciplined complaints; 14 school-based complaints; 55 complaints approved for court; 11 complaints diverted; 7 complaints closed; 5 juveniles placed in detention for 91 days; 0 days used at Wrenn House; and 0 YDC admissions.

April – 17 juveniles at intake (6 were RTA); 38 delinquent complaints; 3 undisciplined complaints; 13 school-based complaints; 31 complaints approved for court; 6 complaints diverted; 2 complaints closed; 5 juveniles placed in detention for 74 days; 0 days used at Wrenn House; and 0 YDC admissions.

Q: Do we know which schools in particular the school-based complaints are coming from? And the race and sex?

A: We don't have the race and sex of the students, but it looks like the majority of the complaints are coming from Orange County Schools; I don't think we've received any from Chapel Hill-Carrboro.

Q: Similar question, wondering if there's a breakdown between middle and high school.

A: Again, there isn't a breakdown by age, but most of the complaints are more assaults. They have had situations where parents have come into the office and asked that they do something because their child was assaulted off school property, but it started in school. Since they aren't law enforcement they can't investigate and so they've been getting in touch with the SROs to see if they can help.

Q: Are you seeing an increase in weapons on school campus?

A: We haven't seen too much of that on school property in Orange County that they are aware of.

Q: Is there a difference in response from the two school districts on how they engage students, and as a result, the difference in numbers?

A: They think that a lot is being handled in-house with Chapel Hill- Carrboro and they aren't sending over referrals. Where in Orange County, they are reporting some stuff to us.

In 2019, the Chapel Hill Carrboro school system went about creating a new discipline policy which would require more specific categories and less discretion for principals, assistance principals, and teachers. For about a year now, they have started to implement that and that could be the reason why DJJ is seeing less referrals. There was a strong push from the board on removing discretion and once you remove that you, you also remove disparate treatment.

Consultant Update

NC Safe Campaign starts next week. The Governor has proclaimed June 4-10 as secure all firearms effectively campaign. There will be kickoff events next week and the one that is closest to Orange will be Wednesday, June 7 in Greensboro at 400 W Washington St at 5:30am. Deputy Secretary Lassiter will be there along with representatives from sheriff's department and police department, and other dignitaries from Greensboro. They will be distributing gun locks and gun safety information to the public. There will also be some gun locks given to JCPCs/programs to distribute at local community fairs for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Department is going to be increasing the amount of detention costs starting July 1 because operation costs have gone up. The cost is currently \$270 per day split 50/50 between the State and County. July 1 the cost per day will increase to \$300 per day split 50/50 between State and County. The average cost to have a youth housed at a YDC is somewhere around \$130,000 per year. Luckily for Orange County, based on Jon's report, Orange County doesn't have any YDC commitments.

The Department has a vacancy rate of 28% and it's hard to hire court services staff and facility staff. Any advocacy to state legislators for increased funding for juvenile justice would be greatly appreciated.

There is going to be a new Eckerd facility in Caswell County that can accommodate 40 males. They are just starting to get all their residency and occupancy paperwork approved and expect to be operational by early July. This will be the third male residential site in NC, and they hope it will ease some of the burden for youth that are needing residential care for mental health.

There are still lunch and learns happening monthly through the restorative youth coalition. They are webinars where people can get introductions to restorative practices concepts. Anybody is welcome; JCPC, school personnel, etc. The coalition has presented to 95 out of 100 JCPCs in the state about what restorative justice is, the different processes, and how to make each county more restorative.

Announcements

Orange Partnership has a grant that provides funding to Orange County organizations and agencies working with youth to provide youth mental health first aid training through Alliance. Orange Partnership would pay for the books and Alliance would provide the training. If there are any agencies, particularly JCPC funded programs, who are interested in having staff trained, let Gayane know.

The Health Department is in the middle of their community health assessment and asking for help encouraging residents/clients you work with to complete the survey. This survey is how the Health Department sets their priorities for the next few years. More information is available on their website.

Orange County Juvenile Justice Stats for JCPC 2022-2023

2022-2023	Juveniles at Intake	RTA Juveniles	Delinquent Complaints Received	Undisciplined Complaints Received	School Based Complaints	Complaints Approved for Court	Complaints Diverted	Complaints Closed	Juveniles placed in Detention	Days in Detention	Wrenn House Days	YDC Admissions
Apr	8	4	17	0	2	13	2	2	1	30	0	0
May	14	9	45	2	4	37	8	2	7	104	14	1
Jun	12	2	24	1	5	21	2	2	5	55	24	0
July	8	1	12	2	1	9	5	0	1	31	0	0
Aug	8	4	11	1	0	10	0	2	3	55	0	0
Sept	4	3	12	0	1	11	0	0	4	82	0	0
Oct	14	4	40	2	7	32	5	5	3	80	0	0
Nov	15	6	40	2	16	17	7	9	5	93	0	0
Dec	18	4	36	3	19	1	6	5	3	29	0	0
Jan	11	4	27	0	11	13	0	0	3	28	0	0
Feb	29	14	47	9	20	33	14	9	3	62	0	0
Mar	29	13	70	3	14	55	11	7	5	91	0	0
Apr	17	6	38	3	13	31	6	2	5	74	0	0