

Orange County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting
Friday, August 4, 2023 (12:00noon – 2:00pm)
Hybrid Zoom Meeting
113 Mayo Street, Hillsborough NC 27278

Proposed Minutes

***Attendees:* Sharron Hinton, Carol McClelland, Gayane Chambless, Amanda Farris, Crista Collazo, Tami Pfeifer, Paul Bell, Phyllis Portie-Ascott, Lateef Mitchell, Laurie Williamson, Dana Crews, Joal Broun, Nicole Hunter, Joy Clark, Christy Watson, Jamie Jacobs, Kayla Merkel, Cait Fenhagen, LaDanna Strong, Terrence Johnson, Val Hanson, David Carter, Rebekah Rapoza (*Members in bold)**

Absent: Charlos Banks, Rachel Gessouroun

Excused: Tina Sykes, Bernard Miles, Kysha Thompson

Welcome

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

Minutes Review and Approval

The Council reviewed the minutes from June 2023 meeting. Carol McClelland motioned for minutes to be approved and was seconded by Gayane Chambless. Motion passed unanimously.

JCPC Business

Nominating Committee/Election of Officers – We received a few nominations who declined. Sharron Hinton accepted the nomination for Chair and Carol McClelland accepted the nomination for Vice Chair. Sharron and Carol were the only members who accepted their nomination. The committee asked for nominations from the floor and received none. The Nominating Committee is presenting the following slate of officers to the Council: Sharron Hinton as Chair and Carol McClelland as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

FY23-24 Meeting Calendar and Workplace Calendar – All of the meetings will be hybrid with the in-person location being held at Hillsborough DSS. Please add these dates to your calendar. The Workplan Calendar outlines the tasks and responsibilities of the JCPC throughout the year along with dues dates. Primary responsibilities are related to evaluation, monitoring, and funding.

Committee Sign-Up – Committees are Risk and Needs, Funding, Monitoring, and RED.

- Risk and Needs: Carol McClelland, Gayane Chambless, Tami Pfeifer, Amanda Farris, Crista Collazo, Judge Broun, Phyllis Portie-Ascott, Cait Fenhagen, Lateef Mitchell, and Jamie Jacobs.
- Monitoring: Carol McClelland, Sharron Hinton, Laurie Williamson (volunteered to co-lead), and Amanda Farris.
- Funding Committee: Carol McClelland, Amanda Farris, and Laurie Williamson.
- RED: Gayane Chambless, Tami Pfeifer, Terrence Johnson, Christy Watson, Crista Collazo, Jamie Jacobs, Dana Crews, Lateef Mitchell, and Kysha Thompson.

Q: Is there also an option to have a publicity committee?

A: There is an option for a public awareness committee. The purpose would be to identify local events or host an event that would share information about the JCPC and funded programs. If the council decided to hold a banquet at the end of the fiscal year for stakeholders, the admin funds could be used to support this.

There is interest from the council in establishing a Publicity Committee. The following council members have volunteered to serve: Christy Watson, Carol McClelland, Sharron Hinton, Crista Collazo, and Kysha Thompson.

Conflict of Interest Forms – Please complete the Conflict of Interest form and return to Rebekah. All council members are required to complete this annually. Paper forms are being passed around for those in person and were also emailed for those who are attending virtually.

New Member Orientation/Refresher – Each year the JCPC consultant can provide a new member orientation. This is also a good opportunity for a refresher for members who have served for years. The version that is usually presented is about an hour in length but can be scaled back. David can either present a version just to the new members (Paul, Phyllis, Lateef, Judge Broun, Dana) or can provide it to the full council during the October meeting. The council would like to have David present to all members at October meeting.

Program Updates

This is the first time that program providers are using the new report template.

Dispute Settlement Center – During the month of July they received three referrals, all from DJJ, and all males (1 Asian, 1 Black or African American, and 1 White). Despite some of the challenges of learning how to complete the new form, they think it will be a helpful tool.

Joy will be leaving DSC to take a position with Person County Schools at the end of the month. Val and Will will facilitate the programming while undergoing this staff transition.

Q: How have the listening sessions been going?

A: The community circles have been going well and have been focusing on the community as a microcosm.

Q: How many pending referrals are there? How will those be handled while in transition?

A: DSC has discussed how the program staffing will be handled during the transition. Val and Will are going to be pulling back from some of their other duties while in this transition to make sure they can cover the referrals.

Q: Where are most of the referrals coming from?

A: Court counselors.

Q: When working with the court referrals, how much is restorative justice versus other types of mediation/conflict resolution and/or accountability?

A: It's considered all accountability.

Q: Are all the referrals that are received served at home?

A: Referrals are received from different agencies and almost all the youth are still living in the home; they are not working in youth development centers (YDC). There is restorative work that happens in YDC but DSC is not providing those services.

The Exchange Club – They started the month with three cases and received one referral. All three were discharged: one successful and the other two unsuccessful. For the two unsuccessful cases, they stated they didn't need the services any longer and the referring worker agreed. During the month of June, they lost a program staff because she moved out of the area; they are currently in the interview process and hope to have someone hired soon.

Reintegration Support Network – No referrals were received in July, but they have four participants that are still enrolled. They are sending out program highlights that will include reminders about the referral process. The biggest barrier they are tackling as an organization at the moment is transportation. David is currently working with them to help revise their transportation policy because they have realized there is a tremendous need for mentors to be able to transport youth.

Q: How many youth have you been serving since being funded by JCPC last year?

A: They are surprised that they don't receive more referrals from court counselors or other JCPC organizations. They partnered with Boomerang with their first efforts at a summer camp that served 10 students. Overall, they have seen a 50% increase in referrals during the 22/23 fiscal year.

Volunteers for Youth – They did not submit their report form; it got lost during the transition of the new director. They will submit it after this meeting.

Teen Court is still slow because their coordinator just had her baby and Nicole has been working with both Community Service and Teen Court programs. They have served one family and have a total of three. Community Service referrals are rolling in. The biggest challenge right now is the transition from Susan to the new director. They will also be reaching out to other referral sources for Teen Court because their numbers have been low these past couple years (most of it was because of Covid). Their goal this fiscal year is to not cancel Teen Court and go back to the mock trials that they used to hold. Any ideas and referrals are always welcome.

Wrenn House – No representative is present to report. JCPC Chair read their report.

They are projected to serve 10 youth this year and have received one referral/admission in July. The referral was from DSS for a white male due to a disrupted placement. Staff continue to provide case management, counseling sessions, and life skills to youth in care. Wrenn House Clinician has increased completion of Person-Centered-Plans for each youth in case. Life skills sessions have addressed nutrition and social boundaries. They indicate that there is great collaboration with stakeholders and representatives regarding the Orange County youth admitted and that communication was effective and response times were fast.

JJ Data Update (See chart at end of minutes)

Christy Watson is the new supervisor for Orange County and Jon is going to be taking over Alamance. Christy is willing and able to join the JCPC and fill Jon's vacant seat if that's a wish of the JCPC and the County Commissioners.

May – 13 juveniles at intake (7 were RTA); 65 delinquent complaints; 0 undisciplined complaints; 12 school-based complaints; 53 complaints approved for court; 9 complaints diverted; 3 complaints closed; 5 juveniles placed in detention for 62 days; 0 days used at Wrenn House; and 0 YDC admissions.

June – 16 juveniles at intake (10 were RTA); 20 delinquent complaints; 1 undisciplined complaint; 1 school-based complaint; 13 complaints approved for court; 4 complaints diverted; 5 complaints closed; 5 juveniles placed in detention for 121 days; 0 days used at Wrenn House; and 0 YDC admissions.

Three of the five youth in detention are transfers to superior court and two had more serious offenses that resulted in a YDC commitment. Top types of offenses for May were breaking and entering motor vehicles, possession of stolen property, and larceny. Top offense for June was simple assault.

Q: Were there any gun related incidents?

A: In June there was a discharging a firearm offense, but it was only youth who is younger than 16.

Q: When talking about youth in the Raise-the-Age category, where are they served? Wrenn House or a higher level facility?

A: All of the JCPC programs serve all ages of youth and have the same services available to them. DJJ also has additional programs that they can refer the older youth to. The Raise-the-Age youth used to be served in the adult system and we are highlighting them to see how many we are now serving in the youth system due to the change that occurred in December in 2019.

Q: What is the difference between Wrenn House and YDC?

A: YDC is a locked, secure facility and Wrenn House is a voluntary, runaway/temporary shelter.

Q: Where are the YDCs located?

A: The closest one operated by a county is in Durham. The closest ones operated by the State are in Butner and Wake County.

Q: Is there a new one being built in Caswell?

A: Rockingham. Caswell is building a new Eckerd facility.

DJJ is seeing more serious charges, and the transfers to superior court typically sit in detention. And then once they are transferred, they can sit there until they make bond, which a lot of juveniles can't. They can end up sitting there month after month until their matter is heard in adult court.

Consultant Update

The state budget still hasn't passed yet. However, when it finally does pass there are probably a couple juvenile justice bills that should go through. House bill 186 addresses the mental capacity of juveniles. The department has concerns about making sure the courts are not pushing kids through court when there is a question about whether they understand the proceedings.

The newest YDC/detention center that is getting ready to open is Rockingham County and should be opened around December. The positions for this facility have been posted already and it appears that there may have been an increase in the salaries due to the hiring/retention difficulties.

The department has been asked to look at doing some more outreach around firearm prevention. There is an EKG (Educating Kids about Gun Violence) program that was started by the Fayetteville Police Department years ago and is now being offered at detention centers and residential sites. The department is seeing if they can get funding to provide this type of prevention/intervention programming in communities. The department has hired a staff person with lots of experience working with gangs to help develop a curriculum and they expect to have something to release sometime next year.

Programs will report at the next meeting on the final measurable objective outcomes from last fiscal year. Each program type has a set number of outcomes, and each program answers the questions when a participant is terminated. Most programs have an expectation that they will have at least 75-85% successful outcome.

SPEP is another area that is looked at year-end and will be reported on at the next meeting. It stands for Standard Program Evaluation protocol and measures dosage and duration for the youth in the program. Each program type has its own requirements and is used to measure like program types against each other.

Risk and Needs data will be released in the upcoming months and David will have the data prepared for the committee to review this fall between October and November.

The Ekerd facility is waiting for final signoffs so that it can open. It has now been pushed back to September.

Final Accounting is due August 15 and should be submitted in NCALLIES. David will work on inputting the information for the admin budget.

NCJSA fall conference will be happening October 4-6 in Greensboro at the Embassy Suites Hilton near the airport. There is a booking link where you can register for the conference. Registration cost is \$120, and rooms are at state rate of approximately \$110/night. Admin budget could be used to help assist with the costs for council members who are interested in attending. If anyone is interested in attending, please email Rebekah.

Announcements

Orange Partnership, through a SAMHSA grant, can cover the cost of Mental health First Aid. If there are any JCPC members that would like to do the full day of Juvenile First Aid, it's August 21. Please reach out to Laurie Williamson.

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
June	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 23	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
March	29	13	70	3	14	55	11	7	5	91	0	0
April	17	6	38	3	13	31	6	2	5	74	0	0
May	13	7	65	0	12	53	9	3	5	111		0
June	16	10	20	2	1	13	4	5	5	121		0