

Orange County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting
Friday, December 2, 2022 (12:00noon – 2:00pm)
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Proposed Minutes

Attendees: Sharron Hinton, Gayane Chambless, Carol McClelland, Bernard Miles, Amy Fowler, Laurie Williamson, Tami Pfeifer, Tina Sykes, Kysha Thompson, Hathaway Pendergrass, Joy Clark, Susan Worley, LaDanna Strong, Val Hanson, Pam Weiden, Jamie Jacobs, Kassi Dadufalza, Sarah Black, David Carter, Rebekah Rapoza (*Members in bold)

Absent: Charlos Banks, Rachel Gessouroun, Dana Crews, Jon Berkeley

Excused: Amanda Farris, Lateef Mitchell, Crista Collazo

Welcome

The meeting opened with a welcome from Chair, Sharron Hinton, and introductions. Quorum is not met so the agenda will need to be moved around.

JCPC Business

Monitoring Committee – Monitoring committee members are Amy Fowler, Carol McClelland and Laurie Williamson. They will coordinate responsibilities through email and decide who will monitor which programs.

RED Committee – David will reach out to the RED Coordinator with the State to see if she can give a presentation at the February meeting. Currently, Gayane and Lateef have volunteered to serve on the RED Committee and will coordinate a time to meet, hopefully before the February meeting.

Monthly JCPC Program Report – We have talked previously about having funded programs utilize this report. It is optional but provided by the State to give more structure in program reporting to JCPCs. The question before the JCPC today is do we want to make this a new requirement.

The form is set-up to help both programs and JCPC track their progress. There are sections to record data on referral sources, number admitted and served, terminations, youth demographics, and fiscal/budget information.

Q: Do the programs see any challenges to completing this report?

A: One of the biggest challenges would be getting fiscal information to report monthly. It would require establishing new protocols with their accounting team to be able to get the information on a timely basis.

Q: If the JCPC decides to adopt this form, would all information be required every month? Do we have flexibility to require certain information?

A: Since the report is optional anyways, you can choose which sections programs would need to complete.

Programs stated that they find the report to be helpful for programmatic information but the financial information could be a bit burdensome. It would be good to see information reported monthly and would also provide data for when looking at trends.

Q: Is there an ability to change or add additional categories to the demographic section?

A: The options available under the demographic section are taken directly from the options available in NCALLIES. This leads to a larger issue of NCALLIES possibly needing an update to the demographic options available in the system.

The JCPC would like to explore if there is already a template developed by another county that has more inclusive demographic options and if it's possible to have NCALLIES updated as well. David will reach out to the lead consultant and report back.

To summarize, the JCPC is in favor making the financial section of the report optional, changing Hispanic black to Hispanic non-white, and adding greater inclusionary language within the demographic section.

Carol McClelland motioned to adopt this form with the option to complete the financial section and contingent upon what David finds out from a higher level with regards to changes to the demographic section and Bernard Miles seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Risk and Needs Committee – The Risk and Needs Committee met last month to review YAZI data, identify the needs of the youth in our county and where there may be gaps in services. The YAZI is administered by the juvenile court counselors and is 33 questions long. There are some questions that are historic, such as legal history, and others that are more dynamic and answers can change overtime. The committee also reviewed racial equity report provided by the Southern Coalition on Juvenile Justice, but for some reason Orange County schools did not provide any data.

Some of the areas of concern for Orange County include:

- Prior runaway history
- Family history of substance use problems
- Family history of mental health problems
- Marginal or inadequate supervision
- Poor school performance (failing classes, attendance rate)
- School infractions or interventions
- Short-term suspension, particularly among black youth, multiracial youth, and youth with disabilities
- Association with delinquent peers and gangs
- Alcohol and drug use with few youth receiving services/treatment
- Mental health problems
- Prior physical or sexual abuse history
- Low rate of involvement in structured activities

After reviewing the data, the committee decided that the following program types should be considered for funding and included in the RFP:

- Interpersonal skill building
- Substance abuse counseling
- Individual, group, mixed counseling
- Mediation/conflict resolution
- Parent and family skill building
- Family counseling
- Temporary shelter care
- Runaway shelter care
- Restitution/community service

- Mentoring services
- Teen Court
- Tutoring/academic enhancement
- Experiential skills
- Juvenile structured day

The committee asked for discussion around posting and closing date for the RFP. The JCPC decided they would like to advertise on January 9, 2023 and close on February 8, 2023.

Carol McClelland made a motion to accept the RFP as written with posting dates of January 9-February 8, 2023 and was seconded by Amy Fowler. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Review and Approval

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

Program Updates

Dispute Settlement Center – They currently have four open referrals and one black male, one white female, and two black females just finished up. Taking the young people through the accountability has really been eye-opening for them, especially when talking about who has been affected by their actions and how.

The Exchange Club – Both group and in-home programs are going well. They have received seven referrals last month and are working hard to engage parents in group. This has been a struggle because they want to continue programming virtually and not in-person. The in-home component is currently at capacity and going well; everyone loves the in-home component.

Q: Where is your Parent Teen Solutions program located?

A: Currently are held at a church in Chapel Hill that is on the bus line. But they are always looking for donated space.

Q: Is there a location in northern Orange for those who wouldn't have easy access to Chapel Hill?

A: We can. The issue currently is trying to match a location to where the parents are located. They tend to follow the flow of the referral. Historically the referrals have been coming from Chapel Hill-Carrboro area.

Q: Are you able to meet the language needs of Spanish speaking families?

A: We are currently working with volunteer interpreters and have had an issue with their availability around group time.

Reintegration Support Network – Jamie Jacobs has served as the Executive Director for RSN for the last four years and is stepping aside to take on responsibilities of programming and to serve as the Director of Operations since Megan Raymond will be leaving RSN. The acting Executive Director has been with the organization for four years and resigned from their board so that he could take on this role while they search for a new Executive Director.

They don't see the transitions having any impact on programming. They have on-boarded a new participant program manager and he has been instrumental in bringing in a number of referrals in such a short amount of time.

Volunteers for Youth – Both Teen Court and Community Service/Restitution programs are going well. Numbers still have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. We, of course, do not want kids getting into trouble but would like to make sure we are serving those in need. They received four referrals for Teen Court last month and are working to get them all admitted into the program. We are working on a community service activity for Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and more information on that will be forthcoming.

Q: How many referrals for Community Service program have you received?

A: Currently have four referrals and four enrolled, so these referrals will double the number served.

Wrenn House – We currently have served two youth from Orange County and have one open referral.

Q: Do you know where the referrals are coming from or if any were referred by DSS?

A: The current referral is from DSS. The two were referred by CSS and a self-referral.

JJ Data Update

No data to present at this month's meeting.

Consultant Update

The state is currently in crisis situation with staff shortages at the juvenile detention facilities, so much so that some facilities have had to close and youth have been moved to others within the state. This is problematic because some facilities are already at, or over, capacity. Some of juvenile court counselors throughout the state have been going into the facilities to help with staffing shortages and are working 60+ hour weeks. Billy Lassiter has worked really hard with the legislature trying to get them to pass some retention initiatives such as bonuses, pay raises, etc. The general session that the house held discussed and passed bills for the adult system, but somehow left out the juvenile system. Billy is asking county commissioners to pass resolutions to support compression increases for juvenile justice facility staff so that they can retain and recruit staff. David has a draft he will share and this request is going out across the state to all county commissioners.

Announcements

Freedom House is recruiting for a child therapist.

Orange County has two spots on Alliance Board of Directors. Commissioner Fowler will be stepping down and another commissioner will be replacing her since she will now have conflict of interest as a pediatrician when the switch to tailored plans is made. The other spot is also open if anyone knows of someone with interest and expertise in substance abuse or mental health but not currently being receiving payment as a provider from Alliance. If someone is interested they will need to apply through Alliance's website and then be approved by the Board of County Commissioners.