

Orange County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting
Friday, December 1, 2023 (12:00noon – 2:00pm)
Virtual Teams Meeting

Proposed Minutes

Attendees: **Amanda Farris, Phyllis Portie-Ascott, Paul Bell, Carol McClelland, Crista Collazo, Charlos Banks, Dana Crews, Bernard Miles, Gayane Chambless, Kysha Thompson, Lateef Mitchell, Laurie Williamson,** Erica Cooke, Andrew Poole, David Carter, Andre Richmond, Caraina Edwards, Ellie Waibel, Valoree Hanson, Christy Watson, Caitlin Fenhagen, Jamie Jacobs, Scott Dryer, Rebekah Rapoza, Sarah Black, Pamela Weiden
(*Members in bold)

Absent: Rachel Gessouroun, Judge Joal Broun

Excused: Tina Sykes, Sharron Hinton, Tami Pfeifer

Welcome

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

JCPC Business

Conflict of Interest Forms – If you are on the Council and you haven't completed your conflict-of-interest form, please submit them as soon as possible. If you are unsure if you have completed the form, please contact Rebekah for confirmation.

Program Updates

Dispute Settlement Center – Everything is going really well. The biggest update with the program is they have hired two people to fill out the restorative justice team. They are CJ Suitt and Elizabeth Hambourger. CJ Suitt will be the primary person working with youth. They have been working pretty consistently with a few youth. Every month, all referrals have been from DJJ. Their biggest challenge over the last couple of months has been getting in touch with Guardians. They have had quite a few Spanish speaking referrals as well and have staff to help with that. It can sometimes be a challenge making sure the right staff person is available to take calls and make calls in that capacity. Most of their referrals have been for fighting or assaults and a couple for larceny.

Q: What does it really mean when you say the referrals are coming from juvenile justice? Is it through the schools and can you break it down by school district?

A: It's not from the schools. These are direct referrals from court counselors as part of a diversion plan. We work with youth who is some way, in the community, have been in conflict, assault, fight, something like that, or involved in stealing or something like that. These referrals are directly from juvenile justice. We work with youth, primarily ages 13 to 17. We do some work with younger youth as well who has caused harm to another person and then work with them through accountability processes addressing the impact of their harm, ideally bringing folks together to have a facilitated dialogue or circle process about ways to repair the harm and move forward. If the person who's been impacted or the person who's harmed is not available or willing to participate in that process, then we usually work with the youth one on one to help

them craft a meaningful apology letter. It's a strength based approach, really hoping to have them feel accountable with what they did, but also moving forward in that.

Q: So it means that their offense did not happen while they were at school?

A: Sometimes it does. It could have been referred by an SRO to juvenile justice. We are getting the referral from juvenile justice. I don't have those numbers directly in front of me of which of, if any of those are school based offenses. I think we have worked with two youth with school based offenses in the last few months and those were from the prior school year, not this school year.

Q: And do you remember from those two, which district?

A: I know definitely one was Orange County Schools. I'm not doing the work directly, but I could get that information for next time.

The Exchange Club – They are working with one family in in-home and three families started group in November that will be in the next report. Most of their referrals are coming in through the Department of Social Services. They are out in the community trying to market in the context of the school system. They let DJJ know they have open referrals as well, and then other community connections to see about getting more enrolled in group and in home. They are having some trouble with some of the families on the in-home part and engaging them and getting them to start services. However, these clients were from DSS, so they connected with those social workers to help engage them and help them understand they're not coming from Child Protective Services. Sometimes that can be a barrier depending on what particular referral source the family is coming from. It's a little easier to open juvenile justice and school system referrals.

For group, they had an advisory score last year for SPEP and did not have to do a PEP technical plan. For in home, the biggest issue with the SPEP score was the risk level in how youth were referred. They are working with families for five months, doing at least three hours a week of in the home counseling. They can take higher risk youth in that context. They will make sure staff are trained to properly assess their risk score. In terms of their plan moving forward, they will make sure their language and their intake tools are very clear and staff are trained to go over those hours and the duration with the family in a comprehensive way. They will also make sure referring sources are communicating the actual requirements of the program to the families when they make the referral.

Minutes Review and Approval

The Council reviewed the minutes from December 2023 meeting. Gayane Chambless motioned for minutes to be approved and was seconded by Bernard Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

JCPC Business Continued

Risk and Needs Report & RFP – The committee met and went over, in depth, the YASI, the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument information. The YASI is a tool that's utilized in juvenile justice for every youth that comes to our doorstep on that summary of data. There were 87 individuals who were screened through YASI. They looked at where we were higher than the

state average in certain categories to show our elevated risk and needs and where we may need services to fill some gaps. The summary of observations were as follows:

Elevated Risk and Needs:

- 79% of youth scored as moderate to high risk level per the YASI instrument.
- 66% of youth scored as moderate to very high moderate needs level per the YASI instrument.
- 41% of youth scored as very low to moderate strength level per the YASI instrument.

Legal History Domain

- 54% of youth had a previous delinquent referral which is 9% higher than the state rate.
- 13% of youth had a prior referral under age 12 which is 3% higher than the state.
- 39% of youth had felony referrals which is 3% higher than the state.

Family Domain

- 30% of youth have a prior runaway history which is 11% higher than the state rate.
- 26% of parents have marginal or inadequate supervision which is 7% higher than state.

School Domain

- Only 41% of youth are attending school which is 12% lower than the state rate (which is not regular attendance).
- 40% of youth have 5 or more unexcused absences which is 14% higher than the state.
- 37% of youth are failing most of their classes which is 20% higher than the state.
- 42% of youth have no interest in school activities which is 8% higher than the state.
- NCDPI school data report card for 2022-2023 shows a high rate of short-term suspensions per 1,000 youth for both school systems in Orange County. These suspensions show an ethnic disparity amongst black, two or more races and students with disabilities.

Community and Peers Domain

- 55% of youth have some association with delinquent peers and 14% of youth associate with gangs which is higher than the state rate.

Alcohol and Drugs Domain

- 45% of youth have previous alcohol and/or drug use which is 5% higher than the state rate.
- 21% of youth reported that they were under age 12 at first use which is 11% higher than the state rate.
- 79% of those youth are not receiving substance use treatment which is 13% higher than the state rate.

Mental Health Domain

- 41% of youth responded to having mental health problems and/or having a diagnosis.
- Only 17% of those youth with a diagnosis were currently in treatment which is 6% lower than the state rate.
- 21% of youth were victims of physical abuse which is 11% higher than the state rate.

Employment and Free Time Domain

- 38% of youth are not engaged in structured or unstructured activity.

These are the things that stuck out from the data and the information was plugged into the RFP to look at those domains and the areas where services are needed. In looking at the RFP, Orange County is allotted \$359,096 and it requires a 30% match which is met by the county. The types of services we are looking for are checkbox services which include:

- Mentoring Services
- Parent/Family Skill Building
- Interpersonal Skill Building
- Vocational Skills
- Experiential Skills
- Tutoring/Academic Enhancement
- Mediation/Conflict Resolution
- Restitution/Community Service
- Teen Court
- Family Counseling
- Home Based Family Counseling
- Individual/Group/Mixed Counseling
- Temporary Shelter Care
- Runaway Shelter Care
- Juvenile Structured Day

The risk and needs committee suggested a start date of January 8th to advertise this request and give until February 9th, which is more than the 30 days required. Amand Farris made a motion to accept and advertise the request for proposal and it was seconded by Bernard Miles. The Vice Chair opened it up for discussion.

Q: Will the information covered be included in the minutes?

A: The information was emailed by Rebekah to JCPC members.

Q: Is there any opportunity to use this data to see if we could increase the allocation from JCPC?

A: At this point, there has been no notification that the General Assembly is going to increase allocations for 24-25. However, there can be some creative things done to leverage dollars such as nonprofits applying for the Governor's Crime Commission grant.

Q: How do we effectuate notice to the community for organizations that already exist or that could use funding to help with more specific needs for youth in Orange County?

A: It happens through conversations. Also, a document can be attached to the RFP to give detailed descriptions of the programs.

Q: Is there an applicant workshop already scheduled? If so, can those workshop dates be added to the RFP

A: Yes. It will be added to the RFP before it goes live.

Amanda Farris motioned for the amended RFP to be approved and was seconded by Crista Collazo. Motion passed unanimously.

Program Updates Continued

Reintegration Support Network – They received two new referrals and admitted them both into the program in November. They have a total of seven youth who are currently receiving services. The goal is 15 youth for the year. They created an incentive tier to provide gift cards to youth who are engaged in programming. Their SPEP was advisory. They now have a lead mentor position who will be involved in capacity building with other mentors, training of mentors and community support.

Volunteers for Youth – Starting with the Community Service program, they had a lot of referrals come in and are working on getting everyone through orientation and into the program. They are trying to come up with more options for working with youth and working with them more on a one-on-one basis. With older youth, instead of just doing punitive community service, they want to try to get into what's next in their life and try to match things up that will help them and be beneficial to them reaching their goals while they are earning hours.

Teen Court has been working really hard since the last meeting and things are starting to come together. Numbers are a concern, but they are starting to get referrals. They have been going out to meet with SRO's, meeting with people within the schools and they had a meeting planned with UNC to help increase their numbers coming in for referrals.

Wrenn House – They had one youth admitted in October for a total of two. The other youth was admitted in September. They received a youth referral from Wake County DJJ but that youth did run away. The youth served in October stayed for 43 days while DSS was securing kinship placement, and she had a successful discharge. Wrenn House is a structure only program and does not have a SPEP.

JJ Data Update (See chart at end of minutes)

September – 12 juveniles at intake (7 were RTA); 43 delinquent complaints; 2 undisciplined complaints; 6 school-based complaints; 34 complaints approved for court; 0 complaints diverted; 1 complaint closed; 8 juveniles placed in detention for 167 days; and 0 YDC admissions.

October – 21 juveniles at intake (10 were RTA); 46 delinquent complaints; 4 undisciplined complaints; 4 school-based complaints; 34 complaints approved for court; 4 complaints diverted; 10 complaints closed; 7 juveniles placed in detention for 191 days; and 2 YDC admissions.

Of those in detention, four to five of those were transfers. The top three offenses were breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, larceny of a motor vehicle, and misdemeanor larceny. For the RTA population, the top offenses were larceny of a motor vehicle, resist/obstruct/delay, and injury to personal property.

Consultant Update

The consultant gave a new member orientation presentation. Gang violence data will be sent out to members. Orange County went from 36 complaints in 2022 to 65 complaints, regarding gun violence or guns, in 2023.

Announcements

DSS has a new position for a Youth Services Coordinator and one of the duties of this new position is going to be the JCPC Coordinator. Caraina Edwards will be the new JCPC Coordinator. Rebekah will help her through the process.

Medicaid expansion has launched.

Erica Cook was introduced as the new OC Youth Build Coordinator.

Arielle who is an outpatient therapist for adolescents and children at Freedom House is trained in Seven Challenges.

The next JCPC meeting is February 2nd at noon.

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	YDC Admissions
Oct	14	4	40	2	7	32	5	5	3	80	0
Nov	15	6	40	2	16	17	7	9	5	93	0
Dec	18	4	36	3	19	1	6	5	3	29	0
Jan 23	11	4	27	0	11	13	0	0	3	28	0
Feb	29	14	47	9	20	33	14	9	3	62	0
March	29	13	70	3	14	55	11	7	5	91	0
April	17	6	38	3	13	31	6	2	5	74	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
July	8	1	55	2	0	57	0	0	7	139	0
August	10	4	19	1	3	15	3	2	7	164	0
Sept	12	7	43	2	6	34	0	1	8	167	0
Oct	21	10	46	4	4	34	4	10	7	191	2