

Orange County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting
Friday, June 7, 2024 (12:00noon – 2:00pm)
Hybrid Meeting

Proposed Minutes

Attendees: **Charlos Banks, Paul Bell, Rachel Gessouroun, Amanda Farris, Laurie Williamson, Sharron Hinton, Kysha Thompson, Lateef Mitchell, Joal Broun, Gayane Chambless, Tami Pfeifer, Dana Crews,** Jeremy Smith, Sarah Black, Val Hanson, Christy Watson, Crystal Wynn-Lewis, Scott Dryer, David Carter, Jamie Jacobs, CJ Suitt, Kassi Dadufalza, Nicole Hunter, Rachel Donovan, Rebekah Rapoza (***Members in bold**)

Absent: Tina Sykes, Crista Collazo

Excused: Bernard Miles, Phyllis Portie-Ascott

Welcome

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

Minutes Review and Approval

The Council reviewed the minutes from Feb 2024 meeting. Kysha Thompson motioned for minutes to be approved and was seconded by Amanda Farris. Motion passed unanimously.

The Council reviewed the minutes from Apr 2024 meeting. Amanda Farris motioned for minutes to be approved and was seconded by Kysha Thompson. Motion passed unanimously.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the special May 2024 meeting. Kysha Thompson motioned for minutes to be approved and was seconded by Laurie Williamson. Motion passed unanimously.

JCPC Business

Nomination Committee – The Council need members to serve on the nomination committee to poll members to see if there is any interest in being Chair and Vice Chair. A slate of officers would need to be ready by the end of July.

Vacancies – We have some vacant positions that are mandated or recommended by the state for JCPC's. The current vacancies are person under age 21, member of the business community, representative of parks and rec, and a substance abuse professional. The RED committed identified these vacancies as an opportunity to increase representation and to increase the African American and Latino voice. Gayane has reached out to El Futuro about serving as the substance use professional to bring in the Latino voice. She also reached out to someone who works with the Chapel Hill Parks & Rec. There are at-large positions that could be served by community members as well. Send recommendations to Caraina or Sharron.

Guest Speaker: Crystal Wynn-Lewis, Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator, Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Racial and Ethnic Disparity, as defined by the JJDPA, means that minority youth populations are involved at a decision point in the juvenile justice system at disproportionately higher rates than non-minority youth at that decision point. JJDPA is the first, and probably only, piece of comprehensive juvenile justice legislation passed by Congress. Partnership in the JJDPA is strictly voluntary. If you do participate, it does provide funds to improve delinquency prevention. State plans must adhere to requirements and

agree to certain standards of care for juveniles. There are four Core Protections of JJDP: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, Sight and Sound Separation, Adult Jail and Lock-up Removal, and Racial and Ethnic Disparities (formerly DMC). To meet federal compliance with RED, states and territories must “implement policy, practice, and system improvement strategies at the state, territorial, local, and tribal levels, as applicable, to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system, without establishing or requiring numerical standards or quotas.

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Data is published on fiscal year basis with most current data from FY22-23. According to the 2020 US Census Report, there were 20,726 youth ages 6-17 in Orange County (White = 61%, Black/AA = 12%, Hispanic/Latino = 16%, Asian = 10%, Native American = 0.34%). There were a total of 402 complaints filed against 115 juveniles (Black/AA = 67%, White = 24%, Hispanic = 6%, other = 3%). There was a slight increase in complaints and distinct juveniles from FY21-22 (316 complaints against 103 juveniles) to FY22-23. Of the 402 youth, 62% were black youth, 20% white youth, 15% Hispanic, 2% Asian, 1% Native American, and 2% Multi-Race. When talking about disparities you need to look at the relative rate index (RRI). In Orange County, youth of color are 6 times more likely to receive a complaint than their white counterpart. As a result of the OJJDP recommendation, states are required to look at the black relative rate index (Black RRI) independent of having youth of color grouped together. Black youth are 16 times more likely to receive a complaint in Orange County. When looking at the RRI, anything over 1 is considered disproportionate except for those complaints not approved or disposed of. The number of youths getting in trouble in Orange County is low. The issue is on the front end with the number of complaints. Over the past 5 years, the number of complaints has increased. There has been some improvement by race on the number of complaints (White – dropped 4%, Black – dropped 5%). There was a 9% increase for Hispanics and a 2% increase for other races. When looking at the number of complaints not approved, 25% were not approved for Black/AA compared to 41% for White youth and 30% for Hispanic youth. Only 14% of the complaints were adjudicated. There were 16 youth in Orange County placed in detention (12 Black/AA, 2 Hispanic/Latino, 2 White/Caucasian). There were no youth in YDC placement. There were 5 total transfers to Superior Court (3 Black/AA, 2 Hispanic/Latino).

Orange County had 110 (27%) school-based complaints (out of total 402). 29% were White youth, 52% were Black/AA youth, 10% Hispanic/Latino, 6% were Asian, and 3% were multi-race. The top 7 charge offenses were as follows: simple assault (27), communicating threat of mass violence on educational property (13), communicating threats (12), possession of weapons other than firearms and explosives on school grounds (8), simple affray (7), truant < 16 (5), and assault government official/employee (4).

How to use your RED data: (1) Analyze data to provide insights to law enforcement, judges, community leaders, and decision-makers regarding racial and ethnic disparities within their areas of jurisdiction (2) Highlight the collaborative approach in discussions with the JCPC membership, emphasizing the shared responsibility in supporting their yearly planning using available data. (3) Reassure the audience about the fairness of the process by utilizing data analysis to determine the most efficient and equitable allocation of funding. (4) Reinforce the role of data in assessing existing resources and ensuring equitable access to opportunities for all youth, highlighting the commitment to fairness and inclusivity. (5) Collaborate with law enforcement officials to share data, understand their policies, and inquire about

youth diversion programs. (6) Advocate for community and family participation and consider young individuals' viewpoints.

CJJ Conference: Dana Crews was one of the representatives who attended the conference in Washington, D.C. A lot of good information was shared at the conference. She said it was enlightening to hear from youth with lived experience who were leading the work and it was very beneficial to have meaningful conversations with these youth. The youth shared ideas that they felt would be beneficial to other youth. She spoke on how other states collaborate and work together to address juvenile justice issues.

Program Updates

Dispute Settlement Center – They finished up working with 1 youth in May. They did not receive any new referral in April or May. There were a few youths they were struggling to get in touch with, but the court counselors were trying to help them navigate to get some different contact information. Their biggest challenge was with scheduling and getting to meet with the youth. Another challenge was the retirement of Francis Henderson this summer. They are hopeful to be working with Orange County Schools this coming program year.

Q: Have you been getting referrals directly from the schools through the year?

A: They have not received any referrals from the schools. All the referrals was from DJJ.

The Exchange Club – With the group component of the parenting solutions, Charity and Taylor were able to successfully close out 4 families that they were working with in April, ending that group. They recently started another group in May. Currently there is only 1 family in that group, but they received 1 referral. It is sometimes a challenge with getting the parents to respond. They are trying to engage the referrals on the waiting list to get them enrolled. There were 2 referrals in April and 1 admission. There were 2 referrals in May and 2 admissions. They are making inroads with the school system to get referrals to their community programs.

Q: Which school system, is it both or just one?

A: Both

Q: Does your in-kind space work for the majority of your families or are there any kind of barriers for Northern Orange?

A: Most of the referrals are coming out of the Carrboro-Chapel Hill area, so it works fine for what we have now. We have a backup in-kind space in Hillsborough that can be utilized if more referrals come from that area.

Reintegration Support Network – There were no new referrals in April, currently working with 8 youth. There were 2 new referrals in May, one was JCPC. They are getting a lot of referrals due to substance use, mental health concerns, and history of trauma. They successfully closed out 3 JCPC participants after they completed over 16 weeks of engagement with their assigned mentors. They are looking to strengthen those relationships with the families, getting families onboard. They currently have 3 new referrals. Mentors for youth are being referred through the pipeline.

Q: How are you recruiting mentors?

A: Posting applications on Indeed and recommendations from community partners.

Q: How many mentors are women?

A: Out of the 10 current mentors, 8 are women.

Volunteers for Youth – There were no new referrals in April for community service and restitution, but 1 youth was admitted into the program. In May, there were 2 referrals and 1 admission. For Teen Court, there were no referrals in April and 1 admission. There were no referrals or admissions in May. They had a successful completion in May. They are meeting with the local police departments and Orange County Sheriff's Department to make sure they understand Teen Court is a viable option for diversion.

Wrenn House – In May, they did not admit any youth from Orange County, but they did discharge a youth with them for 35 days. They did have 2 additional Orange County referrals that were made from Orange County DSS. They are officially launching their Youth Ambassador Program. The Haven House Youth Ambassadors will have the opportunity to contribute their lived expertise and ideas to all aspects of the agency. This can include programming, social media, and outreach events. Youth will be compensated for their contributions.

JJ Data Update (See chart at end of minutes)

April – 13 juveniles at intake (5 were RTA); 32 delinquent complaints; 1 undisciplined complaints; 4 school-based complaints; 22 complaints approved for court; 3 complaints diverted; 7 complaints closed; 3 juveniles placed in detention for 55 days; and 0 YDC admissions.

May – 18 juveniles at intake (8 were RTA); 18 delinquent complaints; 3 undisciplined complaints; 6 school-based complaints; 1 complaints approved for court; 5 complaints diverted; 1 complaints closed; 2 juveniles placed in detention for 9 days; and 0 YDC admissions.

Q: What were the school related complaints?

A: Simple assaults.

Consultant Update

House Bill 834 is now sitting on the Governor's desk. That bill is an amendment to the raise the age law that went into effect in 2019. Part of the amendment is providing flexibility to charge juveniles with Class A through E felonies that would no longer go through juvenile court. If the Governor signs the bill, it would go into effect December 1 of this year. The NCSafe campaign kicked off a week of action this week. There have been quite a few events across the state where our department have been advocating for safe gun storage, passed out gun locks and pistol safes and a lot of media information is being sent out to make sure the public is aware of how to safely store firearms. We have a lot of material our office can supply to the JCPC. We will be attending the Suicide Prevention Summit at UNC on the 13th.

The Eckerd Caswell site did open in May and they had an open house. The facility will be taking in 20 male youth to start. Once they get systems oriented and staff oriented the full capacity will be 40 male youth. The Rockingham County Youth Development Center opened back in April or May. It's going to be a 60 flex bed facility. Due to the rising number of detention beds being needed in the state, it's going to have 48 beds for detention and 12 beds for Development Center youth. There is now 2 transitional living programs for juvenile justice involved youth or youth exiting from juvenile justice jurisdiction and one of them is in Guilford County called Hearth. They have apartment style living and they offer transitional living assistance. Haven House started their own transitional living program in Wake County last month.

JCPC policy will be updated and be effective July 1. Most of those changes were for programs. Program providers will just need to make sure that you cover the new policy updates with staff and have them sign the policy acknowledgement form.

Final accounting will be due in August.

Announcements

The statewide Suicide Prevention Summit will be held next Thursday at the Friday Center. Orange County was one of the 10 counties that will be at the event selected for the work that's happening in Orange County. It's being run through the Health Department. Laurie wrote the grant for seed money for Orange Resilience Initiative. It's a statewide effort focusing on preventing suicides.

The Health Department is looking at applying for a grant through Blue Cross/Blue Shield to provide mental health services to youth. The grant is for up to 5 years, with a range of \$75,000 to \$300,000.

The upcoming meeting will be scheduled for August 2nd at 12pm.

Adjourn

Amanda Farris motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Gayane Chambless.

Orange County Juvenile Justice Stats for JCPC 2023-2024

2023 - 2024	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
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
Jan 24	10	4	15	0	3	13	2	0	7	113	0
Feb	15	7	20	1	5	9	8	4	4	93	0
March	15	6	80	1	5	47	1	2	5	106	1
April	13	5	32	1	4	22	3	7	3	55	0
May	18	8	18	3	6	1	5	1	2	9	0