

**Orange County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**  
**Friday, December 6, 2024 (12:00pm – 2:00pm)**  
**Hybrid Teams Meeting**

**Agenda**

- Welcome/Introductions/Quorum Confirmed
- Minutes Review and Approval – October 2024
- JCPC Business
  - Monitoring Committee (Appointment if no volunteers)
  - Risk & Needs Committee report & RFP vote
- Guest Speaker: Michelle Langston – Guitars Not Guns
- Program Updates (inc. monthly program report & PEP/SPEP)
  - Dispute Settlement Center
  - The Exchange Club
  - Reintegration Support Network
  - Volunteers for Youth
  - Wrenn House
- JJ Update
- DPS Area Consultant Update
- Announcements

**Upcoming Meetings:**

JCPC Meeting – February 7 @ 12pm

Handouts:

October 2024 Minutes

**Orange County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting**  
**Friday, December 6, 2024 (12:00noon – 2:00pm)**  
**Virtual Teams Meeting**

**Approved Minutes**

Attendees: **Amanda Farris, Dana Crews, Kysha Thompson, Gayane Chambless, Paul Bell, Rachel Donovan, Lateef Mitchell, Crista Collazo, Joal Broun, Tami Pfeifer,** David Carter, Christy Watson, Alejandra Garcia, CJ Suitt, Nicole Hunter, Mark Mitchell, Erica Cooke, Courtney Brown, Chaquita Breland, LaDanna Strong, Scott Dreyer, Mimi Langston, Timeka Harper-Purcell, Jamie Jacobs, Soteria Shepperson, Sophie Suberman, Kassi Dadufalza, Valoree Hanson, Terence Johnson, Caraina Edwards (**\*Members in bold**)

Absent: Rachel Gessouroun, Tina Sykes

Excused: Bernard Miles, Sharron Hinton, Phyllis Portie-Ascott, Hugh Miles

**Welcome**

The meeting opened with a welcome from Vice Chair, Dana Crews, and introductions.

**Minutes Review and Approval**

The Council reviewed the minutes from December 2024 meeting. Amanda Farris motioned for minutes to be approved and was seconded by Gayane Chambless. Motion passed unanimously.

**JCPC Business**

*Monitoring Committee* – The process for conducting the monitoring of programs was discussed. The committee must be comprised of voting members only. Amanda Farris and Dana Crews agreed to be on the committee. David Carter offered to help facilitate the process.

*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 113 youth assessed during fiscal year 2023-2024 through the 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 following indicators were reported:

- 70% of youth have a moderate to high risk level which is 12% higher than the state rate.
- 70% of youth have a moderate to high needs level which is 24% higher than the state rate.
- 58% of youth have prior felonies.
- 57% of youth have a person crime.
- 27% of youth have a crime involving a weapon.
- 27% of youth have run away from home.
- 25% of youth have inadequate supervision at home.
- 46% of youth have five or more unexcused absences.
- 37% of youth are failing most of their classes.
- 63% of youth have negative/delinquent peer influence.

- 49% of youth have alcohol/drug use and the majority of those youth are not receiving treatment.

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 – including Truancy Mediation, Victim-Youth and Family Group Conferencing, Responsive Circles
- Restitution/Community Service
- Teen Court – including Sentencing and Responsive Services
- Family Counseling
- Home Based Family Counseling
- Individual/Group/Mixed Counseling
- Substance Abuse Counseling
- Temporary Shelter Care
- Runaway Shelter Care
- Juvenile Structured Day

The risk and needs committee suggested a start date of January 8<sup>th</sup> to advertise this request and give until February 7<sup>th</sup>, which is the 30 days required. Amanda Farris made a motion to accept and advertise the request for proposal and it was seconded by Crista Collazo. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Guest Speaker**

*Michelle Langston: Guitars Not Guns* – Our mission is to provide guitars and lessons to foster children and at-risk youth in a classroom setting with qualified teachers as an alternative to violence and gang involvement. The focus of the program is security, empowerment, creativity, and mentorship. We target foster and at-risk youth ages 8-18. Each class consists of a maximum of 10 students with 3 adult instructors. Each program is 8 weeks long with a one-hour session each week. The first class will be held in Carrboro at the Arts Center. The current arrangement is Thursday nights at 6pm. Those who complete the 8-week program earn the right to keep the guitar. They are then invited to return for a second 8-week session of more advanced instruction. We are working on lining up transportation for youth who want to sign up for the program.

### **Q: Can a kid be referred at any time?**

**A:** There needs to be 8-10 students signed up and ready to go. It's not something we can do on a rolling basis.

**Q: By what date do you need everyone? Is there a cost?**

A: There is no cost. Could get started the Thursday after students return from winter break.

**Q: Can you tell us a little bit about the instructor?**

A: His name is Joe and he's a local musician. He's involved in bands in the Triangle area. He's looking to get experience teaching and kind of augment his career as a musician and just help out in the community.

**Q: Is it Orange County only?**

A: Kids from the Triangle area in general are welcome.

**Q: Do you have a flyer you can share with the group and we can share with our networks?**

A: I don't have a flyer, but the website is [www.guitarsnotguns.org](http://www.guitarsnotguns.org)

**Q: Is there any exclusionary criteria that would prevent someone from being a part of your program?**

A: Not aware of anything but can discuss a specific case offline and engage with headquarters.

### **Program Updates**

*Dispute Settlement Center* – In October, we got 2 referrals (1 white male and 1 African American male). Overall goal this year is 20. Did not close any cases for the month. Our usual challenges are reaching out to parents and timing. We are continuing to adjust to no longer having Val Hanson on our accountability team. This transition has been hard but relatively smooth. For November, we had 1 admission (white male) and 1 successful completion.

**Q: Are you getting referrals from the school system?**

A: No. Orange County Schools decided not to sign the contract this year. Right now, we're only receiving referrals through DJJ and that is what our program agreement is for. We don't have any sort of MOU or anything like that with the school system right now. We are having side conversations with some folks who are working in Orange County Schools who would like to be trained in restorative practices. So we've got some inroads there and we're working with that.

*The Exchange Club* – For Parent Teen Solutions, we received 5 referrals for the month of October. Most were from DSS and 1 was from DJJ. We were able to enroll them for Parent Teen Solutions. We are still trying to hire somebody for that position. The agency is low on the budget due to the position not being filled. Staff is meeting with the clients in the homes or in the community. We are still having difficulties getting with the schools to allow us to get an MOU to come in and provide services. For the Adolescent Substance Abuse Program, we are still having difficulties getting referrals for this program. We've reached out to DJJ, DSS, different mental health agencies, and Orange County and Chapel Hill – Carrboro schools to try to receive referrals. We only have 1 client who is not really receiving group, but we are still going through the curriculum with them to kind of give them the service they need.

*Reintegration Support Network* – Our goal for this year was 15. In the month of November, we received 4 referrals and we an additional youth. We currently have 10 active JCPC youth. Things have been going well with all of our programming. RSN mentors provided over 47 hours of direct support to our participants in just the month of November. We secured a trial membership at the Arts Center for mentors and participants to use their MakerSpaces. We hosted our first annual gratitude gathering a couple of weeks ago just before Thanksgiving and included 3 of our JCPC participants as well as family members and most of our mentors and staff were there. Emily Hill is a communications and development consultant funded by the Oak Foundation Capacity Building grant and she will assist us in developing a more coherent communications policy as well as individual and corporate donations to strengthen funding for the program. Overall, we have 11 active participants and 6 referrals in process. We recognized and started recruiting for mentors in the Northern Orange/Mebane area. We just brought on a new mentor in that area, and we are hoping to bring on another one in the next couple of weeks. I think we have 11 or 12 active mentors as of right now.

**Q: Can you share the demographics of those referrals?**

**A:** I can have Jen or Lucy send some of that demographic information to Caraina.

*Volunteers for Youth* – Starting with the Community Service program, for October we had 1 referral and 1 admission. We are a little behind on numbers, but we received 2 referrals in the last two days. The one in October was an unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. We had 3 referrals in November. All those referrals were admitted as well. Those offences were 1 driving without a license and 2 were simple assault charges.

For Teen Court in October, we had 2 referrals but 1 would not accept responsibility for their charge so they were not able to be admitted in the program. The 1 admission was for operating a vehicle without a driver's license. There were no referrals in November. We've been meeting and discussing alternative options to increase participation in Teen Court. We're working on implementing a more restorative circle within Teen Court for youth that are participating.

*Wrenn House* – For October and November, we did have 1 youth from Orange County utilize the bed in October and all through November. We did receive a couple of additional referrals during that time from Orange County, but we were not able to admit because we have been at capacity since the beginning of October with that Orange County contract bed in utilization. Our target number for the year is 10 and we are currently at 3. Ideally, I would like to see that number closer to 5 as we reach the midpoint. It was the same youth occupying the bed for October and November. It was a 17-year-old female, and the referral came from DSS. She stayed for a little over 20 days in October, voluntarily left early because she wanted full access to her cell phone, which is not allowed. She came back four days later and stayed for over 30 days. She successfully discharged to a long-term placement. We currently have two vacancies.

**JJ Data Update**

House Bill 834 went into effect December 1<sup>st</sup>. No juveniles have been arrested that are 16-17 years old for the A-E felonies. We are working to award funding for the capacity remediation process that takes effect January 1<sup>st</sup>. We have a new employee, Anthony Goose, in the Orange County office. We are thrilled to have Alejandra and Anthony on board and Orange and hope to

eventually have another person. Things have been steady in our office. We did the RED presentation for staff and went through all the data.

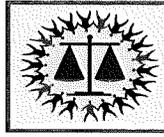
### **Consultant Update**

There's a request for proposal that our department sent out hoping that we could get clinical nonprofits or a clinical provider that has that nonprofit arm to apply for doing the remediation which includes an assessment and there's phases within this program that they are utilizing that other states have used in the remediation process for youth. So basically, if a youth is charged with a delinquent offense and they go before the court and the court deems the youth not competent to stand trial, there's a process for having the kid assessed so that they can go through a remediation process. The RFP closes Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. They would like to get a provider approved and funded by March 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a backlog on data requests. There are other data points that can be assessed or looked at from our website [ncdps.org](http://ncdps.org).

### **Announcements**

Toy Chest is Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 10am-7pm and Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 9am-4pm. We need volunteers, especially Spanish speaking.

The next JCPC meeting is February 7<sup>th</sup> at noon.



**Orange County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**  
**Friday, February 7, 2025 (12:00pm – 2:00pm)**  
**Hybrid**

**Agenda**

- Welcome/Introductions/Quorum Confirmed
- Minutes Review and Approval – December 2024
- JCPC Business
  - Conflict of Interest Forms
  - RFP (vote on new date to advertise)
  - Program Budget Revision Presentations (vote)
    - Volunteers for Youth
    - Reintegration Support Network
  - Committee Reports (if any)
- Program Updates (inc. monthly program report)
  - Dispute Settlement Center
  - The Exchange Club
  - Reintegration Support Network
  - Volunteers for Youth
  - Wrenn House
- JJ Data Report/Update
- DPS Area Consultant Update
- Announcements

**Upcoming Meetings:**

JCPC Meeting – April 4 @ 12pm

Handouts:

December 2024 Minutes

Conflict of Interest Form