



CABARRUS COUNTY JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL
Regular Meeting held September 21, 2022
Governmental Center 2nd Floor Multi-Purpose Room, Concord NC
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

LaShay Avery	Steven Ayers	Megan Baumgardner	Mark Boles
Sonja Bohannon-Thacker	Matthew Greer	Steve Grossman	Amy Jewell
Jamica LaFranque	Marta Mearas	Heather Mobley	Steve Morris
Connie Philbeck	Sharon Reese	Beth Street	David Wall
Jacob Wentink	Michelle Wilson	Terry Wise	

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carolyn Carpenter, Beth Downs, Rodney Harris, Brian Heintz

VACANT SEATS: Two Youth under age 21 or one Youth under age 21 and one Member of the Public representing the interests of Families of At-Risk Youth; one Member At-Large

JCPC ASSOCIATES PRESENT: Daniel Sevigny, Joanie Bischer

GUESTS PRESENT: Adrian Attaway (KPD SRO), Mikayla Branch, Travis Burke (Sheriff’s Deputy), Sheryl Conrad (DJJ), Ashley Fitch, Kareem Hammond (The Minds of Men), David Highsmith II (DJJ Court Counselor), Anissa Jones (Teen Court), Bonita Jones (TYM), Heather Jones, Kristen McEvoy (Teen Court), Reggie McNeil (TYM), Sarimar Miller (DJJ Court Counselor Supervisor), Karen South Jones (SOSET), Lakesha Steele (TYM), Chef Kimberly Townsend (Aspire), Shakia Washington (TYM), Angelina Wilson (DPS)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Megan Baumgardner called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m. and welcomed members and guests. Quorum was established with 19 of 23 members present.

Approval of August Meeting Minutes: Megan called for corrections, additions, or a motion regarding the August 17 meeting minutes. Mark motioned to approve the minutes as written. Heather seconded. With no further discussion, Council voted and the motion carried.

Approval of Membership & Nominations Committee Meeting Minutes: Megan called for corrections, additions, or a motion regarding the Committee’s September 7 meeting minutes. Mark motioned to approve the minutes as written. Heather seconded. With no further discussion, Council voted and the motion carried.

Approval of Agenda: Megan asked members to review today’s agenda for discussion or a motion. After obtaining a reply to an agenda question, Sonja motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Jamica seconded. With no further discussion, Council voted and the motion carried.

PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Megan introduced Angelina Wilson from DPS, a recruiter for Tarheel Challenge Academy. The school is a no-cost, approved academic alternative program serving youth ages 16 to 18 and sponsored by DPS and the National Guard. Ms. Wilson discussed the school's objectives and provided details about enrollment requirements, campus activities, and student achievements. She responded to multiple questions from Council members.

UPDATES FROM DPS AREA CONSULTANT

Daniel referred members to *DPS Talking Points* for updated client counts from individual programs. He stated referrals are increasing. Daniel mentioned that FY 21-22 Final Accounting is complete and provided refund amounts due to the state from Fostering Solutions Crisis Beds, JCPC Administration, SOSET, and a YDI program. Refund requests were sent to county finance.

A discussion followed regarding Fostering Solutions' unused funds in FY 21-22. David clarified the unspent dollars should not be interpreted to indicate that the need for crisis beds has decreased. Rather, it indicates that DJJ staff were often unable to secure a bed at the time a juvenile was in crisis. David and Saudi explained there was a 50/50 chance of facilitating a bed placement across District 19 last year, particularly for male teens. The pandemic is partly responsible for a reduction in available foster homes and has resulted in juveniles in crisis being sent to detention, placed in DSS custody, or enrolled in in-home intensive family counseling. Pinnacle Family Services' current funding thru JCPC was also discussed. Megan chairs TYM's monitoring committee and said she will address the issue during monitoring. She recommended that further discussion be tabled until the November meeting when Daniel returns and a Pinnacle representative can be present to provide an assessment.

OLD BUSINESS

Megan yielded the floor to Mark who discussed revisions to the mobile app/website received following its rollout last month to Council members and programs. It was agreed that Tarheel Challenge Academy and the new 9-8-8 hotline should be added under the app's *Other Non-JCP Funded Resources*. Mark will provide the changes to ITS. He mentioned that ITS is extremely busy and requests take time to implement.

Megan discussed the final roster for Monitoring Committees provided in the meeting packet. Mark agreed to take the vacant chair for the YDI committee. He is also chair of the SOSET and Teen Court committees. It is anticipated that a newer council member will assume the SOSET chair next year with Mark's guidance this year. Megan asked members who are not signed up for a committee to please do so. She indicated that monitoring should be completed in October and November, leaving December for any follow-up required. Reporting to the Council will be done in January and February. Monitoring Committee chairs should remember to include Daniel and Joanie in scheduling.

NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

Approval of New Member Recommendations: Megan yielded the floor to Heather who chaired the Membership & Nominations Committee. Heather stated the committee met twice to finalize recommendations for current and upcoming vacancies. For efficiency, Heather suggested one vote for a slate of four recommended candidates, followed by one vote between two candidates for the remaining vacancy. She added that all recommended candidates were in attendance today. The Committee recommends: (1) Deputy Travis Burke as Sheriff's designee replacing Deputy Brian Heintz; (2) Mikayla Branch representing Youth under Age 21; (3) Officer Adrian Attaway, KPD's SRO at A.L. Brown High School, as the At-Large member replacing Joy Butler; and (4) Ashley Fitch as the At-Large member replacing Beth Downs. The Committee was unable to reach consensus on a recommendation for "Member of the Public representing the Interests of Families of At-Risk Youth" because Heather Jones and Lakesha Steele were both well-qualified applicants.

Mark motioned to approve conducting one vote for the slate of four candidates. Heather Mobley seconded. With no further discussion, Council voted and the motion carried. LaShay then motioned to recommend appointment of the four candidates. Heather Mobley seconded. With no further discussion, Council voted and that motion also carried.

At this time, Heather introduced Ms. Jones and Ms. Steele. Both are parents of youth currently or previously enrolled in TYM programs. The candidates then separately addressed the Council. Following their presentations, Daniel explained perceived conflicts associated with both candidates due to their connections to a JCPC-funded program and voting restrictions to which they may be subjected at Council's discretion. Following discussion, it was agreed that both women were excellent candidates. Mark explained how difficult this decision was, then motioned to recommend Ms. Jones's appointment. David seconded. Council voted and the motion carried. Appreciation for Ms. Steele's interest was expressed. She was advised that applications remain on file for two years and she could be contacted if another suitable vacancy occurs. Daniel added that New Member Orientations via Webex will be scheduled in October and November.

Megan next asked Daniel to discuss the status of programs' in-person operations. NC's Covid-19 State of Emergency was lifted August 15. JCPC is an advisory council to the BOCC and DPS recommends following their policy for in-person operations. The BOCC has met in person all year. Daniel explained that virtual methods are permitted when a program's funding application includes virtual components and JCPCs agree to fund with that knowledge. When an application includes only in-person components, programs are required to adhere to contract unless a state of emergency is in place. The program managers in attendance indicated they are conducting in-person activities. No representative from YDI was present so Megan recommended this item be tabled to October to discuss YDI's in-person operations.

PROGRAM UPDATES / QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Verbal program updates were then presented as follows: *Aspire* by Chef Kimberly Townsend, TYM by Shakia Washington and Reggie McNeil; *SOSET* by Karen South-Jones; *Teen Court* by Anissa Jones and Kristen McEvoy. Program managers and coordinators provided specific information on program content, staffing updates, referral sources, outreach efforts, and success stories. Programs also responded to multiple questions from Council members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Reggie mentioned he learned that North Carolina is one of two finalists to host the World University Games, which is the second largest competition next to the Olympics. The other finalist is South Korea.

COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS

Michelle asked if Terry's votes throughout the meeting should be confirmed since he joined the meeting via MS Teams Audio. It was discovered that he could hear Council, but Council was unable to hear him. Michelle was able to message Terry online and he confirmed his votes were all "ayes."

LaShay mentioned that during Council's August meeting she volunteered Partners Behavioral Health to include information about JCPC during its Crisis Intervention Team programs. She advised that a Partners' coordinator will contact program managers to request their participation in the *Resources* portion of programs. This would involve a five-minute talk about individual programs so officers can continue to make referrals.

Sonja next advised that the Housing Coalition completed a report about individuals, including youth, who are not in a stable shelter environment. Ed Hosack, CEO of Cooperative Christian Ministries, would like to address the JCPC. Megan suggested that Mr. Hosack contact Joanie to arrange a presentation for an upcoming meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Megan reminded members that next month's meeting is October 19. She then asked for final comments. Hearing none, she called for a motion. Michelle motioned to adjourn and Jamica seconded. With no opposition to the motion, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Submitted by Joanie Bischer

Key to Acronyms

BOCC = Board of County Commissioners CEO = Chief Executive Officer
DJJ = Department of Juvenile Justice DPS = Department of Public Safety
DSS = Department of Social Services ITS = Information Technology Services
KCS = Kannapolis City Schools KPD = Kannapolis Police Department
SOSET = Sex Offense Specific Evaluation & Treatment (a JCPC-funded program)
SRO = School Resource Officer
TYM = Transforming Youth Movement (a JCPC-funded program)
YDI = Youth Development Initiatives (a JCPC-funded program)