



**CABARRUS COUNTY JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL**

**Regular Meeting held May 17, 2023**

**Governmental Center, Concord NC**

**MINUTES**

**(as amended by Council 6.21.2023)**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Adrian Attaway	LaShay Avery	Steven Ayers	Megan Baumgardner
Sonja Bohannon-Thacker	Mark Boles	Mikayla Branch	Travis Burke
Carolyn Carpenter	Ashley Fitch	Matthew Greer	James Howden
Amy Jewell	Heather Jones	Marta Meares	Chris Measmer
Heather Mobley	Connie Philbeck	Sharon Reese	Ashlie Shanley
Jacob Wentink	Christy Wilhelm	Michelle Wilson	Terry Wise

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jamica LaFranque, Emily Coltrane

**VACANT COUNCIL SEATS:** None

**JCPC ASSOCIATES PRESENT:** Daniel Sevigny (DPS Area Consultant), Joanie Bischer (Admin)

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Darryl Bego (YDI); Susan Jolley (Aspire); Anissa Jones (CRC); Kristen McEvoy (CRC); Reggie McNeil (TYM); Sarimar Miller (DJJ); Jeannie Sherrill (Families First NC)

**CALL TO ORDER and ATTENDANCE**

Chair Megan Baumgardner called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. and welcomed members and guests. A quorum was confirmed with 23 of 26 members present. The following votes were then conducted:

Approval of April 19 Meeting Minutes Megan asked for corrections, additions, or a motion. Heather Mobley motioned to approve the Minutes as written. Marta Meares seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda Megan asked for corrections, additions, or a motion. Heather Mobley motioned to approve the Agenda as presented. Judge Wilhelm seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

**UPDATES FROM DPS AREA CONSULTANT**

Daniel referred members to *DPS Talking Points* and an attachment, which contained proposed legislative changes regarding juvenile capacity. Daniel next announced that House Bill 848 was introduced in April 2023 and included a “step pay plan” for DJJ employees. He added that Cabarrus JCPC was one of approximately 70 counties that adopted a resolution last summer supporting adequate and timely wage increases for DJJ employees. Cabarrus County adopted the resolution on July 18, 2022 following a presentation to the BOC by Megan and Mark.

Daniel discussed the NC S.A.F.E campaign (**Secure All Firearms Effectively**). The campaign's kick-off by Governor Cooper is set for the week of June 4-10. JCPCs are encouraged to plan events that raise awareness of gun safety in their local communities before January 2024.

Daniel advised that the county's share of the daily rate for state-operated detention facilities will increase from \$135 to \$150 effective July 1. Daniel next reminded everyone that RYCNC's virtual 12 to 1 pm "Lunch & Learn" sessions for restorative justice training are in progress. RYCNC's Zoom schedule was recently emailed to Council and programs. Daniel also announced DJJ's kick-off for Teen Court evaluations. The last Teen Court evaluations were conducted in the 1990s. Goals include determining whether the traditional Teen Court model reduces recidivism, and the benefit-cost ratio of Teen Court programs. Data from 2019 to the present will be utilized. Lastly, Daniel mentioned that the client count/tracking data of Cabarrus JCPC programs' is good. The total number estimated to be served this FY was 338 and 296 youth have been served to date.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Regarding a previously-tabled amendment to JCPC By Laws for virtual attendance, Megan advised that Michele Wilson has obtained language currently in use by the BOC regarding virtual attendance. She suggested the matter be re-tabled so this language can be distributed to the Council in advance of a vote at a future meeting. There was no opposition to this suggestion.

### **NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS**

Daniel advised that no budget revisions were submitted for consideration.

Megan announced that LaShay Avery submitted her resignation as Council's LME/MCO Regional Director. She is moving to Texas to be near family. LaShay advised that today was her final JCPC meeting and June 2 is her last day with Partners. She also mentioned that an internal candidate is under consideration for her position. LaShay received best wishes from members and was thanked for her service. Megan then called for a motion or discussion. Michelle motioned to accept LaShay's resignation. Sonja Bohannon-Thacker seconded. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Megan next advised that the terms of Carolyn Carpenter, Heather Mobley, Connie Philbeck, and Judge Wilhelm expire June 30. She stated that each member had confirmed their willingness to serve another term and then called for a motion or discussion regarding recommendations. Mark motioned to recommend that all four members be appointed to another term. Marta seconded. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. The BOC will consider member term renewals and resignations during its June 19 meeting.

Next on the Agenda were nominations for JCPC's FY 23-24 Chair, Vice-Chair, and Parliamentarian. The floor was opened for discussion or motions. Heather Mobley motioned to nominate Megan as Chair if she was willing to serve. Mark seconded. Megan confirmed she was willing. With no further motions or discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Heather then motioned to nominate Mark as Vice-Chair if he was willing to serve. Marta seconded. Mark confirmed he was willing. With no further motions or discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Michelle motioned to nominate Commissioner Measmer as Parliamentarian if he was willing to serve. Sharon Reese seconded. Commissioner Measmer confirmed he was willing. With no further motions or discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Megan opened the floor to discuss the rule on YDI's formal written appeal of Council's funding decision on behalf of the Vocational & Career Development Academy. Megan read aloud from JCPC By Laws, *Article VII: Miscellaneous, Section 2. Appeals Process*. She explained that the Rule on Appeal was to determine whether Council failed to follow or violated minimum standards, policies, or procedures when considering FY 23-24

funding allocations. Megan advised that the appeal process does not guarantee an appellant the right to address Council during a Rule on Appeal. However, YDI was offered an opportunity to highlight items it specifically wanted Council to consider via a three-minute oral presentation during this meeting. TYM was also offered a three-minute opportunity to speak because YDI's Appeal contained statements pertaining to TYM's vocational program. Mr. Bego's subsequent email replies were provided to members. Megan read Mr. Bego's final email requesting 10 minutes to "fully read my appeal content and to show the video." The video was part of YDI's funding presentation during JCPC's March meeting. Rather than making the decision herself, Megan proposed that the full Council decide whether to hear presentations. There was no opposition to this proposal.

In the discussion that followed, multiple members stated that standard procedure as set forth in JCPC By Laws should be followed. To wit, the Council shall rule on the appeal based on the information contained within the written appeal submitted by Mr. Bego. It was agreed that no value would be added to the process from oral and/or video presentations. It was noted that JCPC's existing By Laws were reviewed and approved by a county attorney in September 2022. Megan called for further discussion or a motion. Sonja motioned that Council evaluate the appeal based only on information contained within the YDI's written appeal. Heather Mobley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Michelle and other members of the A&F Committee next shared the allocations process for the benefit of members who may not have been present during all deliberations. The A&F Committee first met on March 1 to review and consider next year's program applications and to pose questions to applicants. During Council's March 15 regular meeting, all program applicants made presentations to the full Council and then responded to questions. On March 29, the A&F Committee met again to develop funding recommendations for the full Council's consideration. Factors that contributed to the two options developed included thoughtful attention to statutorily-required programs, referral sources, program histories, and information provided by DJJ. In Option 1, no funding was allocated to YDI's vocational program. Following considerable discussion around Option 2, the Committee allocated funds to YDI's vocational program. When the full Council considered funding recommendations during the April 19 meeting, it selected Option 2 after several adjustments were agreed upon. None of those adjustments changed YDI's allocations in Option 2. However, allocations to other existing programs were decreased. Three program applicants received no funding at all. It was noted that the amount of funds requested from Cabarrus JCPC for FY 23-24 were well above the \$459,927 available. It was also noted that a conservative estimate of the time members invested in funding deliberations exceeded 10 hours.

At Sonja's request, Megan read aloud from JCPC By Laws *Section VI: Funding Procedures, Section 1. Screening of Programs* and *Section 2. Voting to Fund*. Members were asked to consider whether any procedures were ignored, unmet, or violated. Following additional discussion, Megan called for motions or further discussion. Heather Mobley motioned to deny YDI's appeal and Commissioner Measmer seconded. Nineteen members voted aye and four members abstained. The motion to deny carried.

**Note:** One member arrived at 8:11 a.m. after the completion of all Council voting. This member is required to abstain from any voting due to four absences thus far this FY.

#### **PROGRAM UPDATES / QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Verbal reports were presented as follows: Teen Court by Anissa Jones and Kristen McEvoy, TYM programs by Reggie McNeil, Aspire programs by Susan Jolley, YDI programs by Darryl Bego, and SOSE by Karen South Jones. Information provided included client counts, referral sources, successful terminations, one program's relocation to the new courthouse, continuing partnerships and internships, new mentor additions, music production highlights, life skills lessons, vocational skills development, parental participation, and a youth's employment success.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Daniel clarified that the proposed legislative changes regarding juvenile capacity are contained in House Bill 834 which was introduced April 19, 2023.

Darry Bego thanked Council for receiving YDI's letter of appeal and expressed his desire to clarify that he never questioned the commitment or caliber of any Council members. He stated he was aware that members volunteer their time and would never question their integrity or commitment. He stated his concerns were really around his "being able to explain to staffers, with everything they're asked to do, in a way that makes sense to them," and to understand Council's funding approach given the comparison with TYM's vocational program. He stated he meant no offense to anyone nor took any offense.

## **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

In response to Michelle's question, LaShay explained "Maintenance of Effort Dollars" allocated to Partners Behavioral Health from the county. The county can request how the money is spent. She indicated that JCPC can present to the BOC a letter request regarding 2024-25 dollars. Michelle asked about the next steps following today's Rule on Appeal. Megan advised that under JCPC By Laws Article VII, the disputing agency may appeal the Council's Rule in writing to the county manger within the next five days. If that appeal is denied, the disputing agency may further appeal to the BOC, and thereafter to the State Division. FY 23-24 funds cannot be disbursed until the appeal is resolved.

Judge Wilhelm announced that a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new courthouse is scheduled May 31 at 10:30 a.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend and facility tours will be conducted.

Megan advised she will be absent from the June 21 meeting but reminded members that it will be informal and relaxed as Council hears success stories from programs and youth, and discusses trends affecting juvenile justice. Breakfast will be provided.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no further comments, Megan called for a motion. Heather Mobley motioned to adjourn and LaShay Avery seconded. With no opposition to the motion, the Chair thanked everyone for their time. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 a.m.

*-Submitted by Joanie Bischer*

### **Key to Acronyms**

1. A&F = Allocation & Funding
2. BOC = Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners
3. CRC = Conflict Resolution Center
4. DJJ = Division of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention
5. DPS = Department of Public Safety
6. FY = Fiscal Year (JCPC's fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30)
7. RYCNC = Restoring Youth Coalition of North Carolina
8. SOSE = Sex Offense Specific Evaluation
9. TYM = Transforming Youth Movement
10. YDI = Youth Development Initiatives