



**CABARRUS COUNTY JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL
December 15, 2021 – Regular Meeting (via Webex)
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Ayers	Megan Baumgardner	Sonja Bohannon-Thacker	Mark Boles
Carolyn Carpenter	Beth Downs	Perry Gabriel	Matthew Greer
Steve Grossman	Rodney Harris	Brian Heintz	Amy Jewel
Jamica LaFranque	Marta Meares	Heather Mobley	Connie Philbeck
Sharon Reese	Beth Street	Michelle Wilson	

MEMBERS ABSENT: LaShay Avery, Baylee Barkley, Joy Butler, Steve Morris, David Wall, Terry Wise

VACANT COUNCIL SEAT: Youth under Age 21

JCPC ASSOCIATES PRESENT: Daniel Sevigny, Joanie Bischer

OTHERS PRESENT: Darryl Bego (YDI), Sheryl Conrad, Bryan Dupree (Pinnacle Family Services), Emma Flores (TYM), Rachel Grossman-Zack (Guardian Ad Litem District 19 Administrator), James Haythe (TYM), Anissa Jones (Teen Court), Karen South Jones (SOSET), John J. Kirkpatrick IV (TYM), Kristen McEvoy (Teen Court), Reggie McNeil (TYM), Sarimar Miller (Court Counselor Supervisor), Adriane Robins-Ward (Golson Family Services), Claude Whitfield (TYM), Parnell Woods (Juvenile Court Counselor)

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, and ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Megan Baumgardner at 7:30 a.m. She welcomed members and guests. Attendance was taken silently via Webex participant sign-in. Quorum was established. Nineteen of 25 council members attended.

Vote to Approve November 2021 Meeting Minutes

Megan advised that November Minutes were included in the meeting packet emailed December 8 and asked if there were corrections or additions. None were heard or seen. A motion to approve November Minutes as written was made by Perry Gabriel and seconded by Heather Mobley. With no further discussion, motion to approve the Minutes as written carried without opposition.

Vote to Approve December 2021 Agenda

Megan advised that Darryl Bego of Youth Development Initiatives (YDI) requested an addition to today’s Agenda. He seeks approval for a budget revision with the *Family Life Skills Academy*. Megan suggested adding YDI’s request to the Agenda as *Item E* under *New Business*, then called for discussion or comments. None were heard or seen. A motion to approve the Agenda as amended was made by Connie Philbeck and simultaneously seconded by Marta Meares and Perry. The motion to approve the Agenda as amended carried without opposition.

UPDATES FROM DPS AREA CONSULTANT

Daniel shared current client count and tracking numbers for each funded program. He next reported on items included in the state budget approved by Governor Cooper as follows:

- To establish a separate Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) within the Department of Public Safety (DPS), a recurring \$1.36 million is provided beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23. This funding supports 13 new positions needed to operate DJJ as a standalone division separate from DPS' adult corrections and prisons. Chief Deputy Secretary William Lassister will lead.
- To expand wrap-around services for juveniles transitioning into communities from Youth Detention Centers (YDC), a non-recurring \$500,000 is provided for DJJ in FY 2021-22. This specific youth population is critically important and one where resilient transitional support services are needed to help reduce high recidivism rates.
- A non-recurring \$2 million is provided in FY 2021-22 for the operating costs of additional juvenile detention beds. The number of detention beds has skyrocketed due to *Raise the Age* legislation. Conversely, YDC numbers are decreasing.
- To meet projected juvenile justice needs associated with *Raise the Age*, \$10.7 million is provided to renovate and reopen the Richmond Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Rockingham. As reported in news media, the Mecklenburg center closed its doors due to short staffing. It currently serves only Mecklenburg youth. The Richmond center will help alleviate the subsequent strain placed on the Cabarrus Center.

Lastly, Daniel announced that Eddie M. Buffalo Jr. is the new DPS Secretary.

OLD BUSINESS

Megan shared an update on Steve Morris' council seat which expires December 31, 2021. The Board of Commissioners was notified of JCPC's recommendation for his reappointment. The Board will consider 2022 appointments for commissioners during its regular meeting on December 20.

Megan initiated an informal discussion about returning to in-person meetings in January. Although JCPC has a recurring monthly reservation for the Government Center's Multi-Purpose Room, it is not large enough to accommodate JCPC meetings given the County's indoor social distancing requirements. If Council chooses to meet in person, another venue must be reserved in advance. Alternative venues were suggested during the November meeting. After some discussion, the consensus was to meet virtually in January due to rising COVID infection rates from the Omicron variant and holiday travel. Megan mentioned that once NC's State of Emergency is lifted JCPC meetings must be held in person. She advised this item will be on a future agenda for further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

Vote on Finalized FY 2022-23 Request for Proposal (RFP)

Megan opened the floor for discussion of the RFP. Daniel shared the finalized RFP on screen. He noted the dates for online publication, deadline for applications, mandatory virtual training sessions, and location for delivery of printed NCALLIES applications. Daniel clarified that in order to be considered, the electronic applications must be completed and five hard copies delivered to Megan's office by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 4. Megan asked if there was any further discussion. None was heard or seen. Marta motioned to approve the RFP as presented. Motion was seconded by Heather and Sonja Bohannon-Thacker. Megan called for members to vote verbally or via chat. Motion to approve the RFP as presented carried without opposition. Megan advised that the RFP will be posted to the county's website and JCPC's website on January 3. Interested programs can be referred to either site.

Vote on Proposals for FY 2021-22 Unallocated Funds

Megan opened the floor to discuss program proposals for \$11,365 in unallocated funds. Daniel stated proposals were received from Teen Court and YDI's *Vocational & Career Development Academy*. Both proposals were included in December's meeting packet. Teen Court requests the full \$11,365 to: (1) Increase hours and salary for the Teen Court Coordinator; (2) Increase training opportunities for teen volunteers; (3) Increase exposure within the community and social media; (4) Increase collaborations with other non-profits; and (5) Prepare to incorporate traffic court referrals. YDI requests \$5,760 for the addition of an experienced male program advisor.

Darryl explained that YDI has a qualified and fully-screened candidate to replace a former male advisor and stated that acquiring a strong male advocate is critical in this program, especially while transporting youth. Teen Court's Kristen McEvoy next explained her proposal. She stated the primary goal is to maintain consistent and seasoned staffing by paying appropriate wages. Specifically, she wants to increase the part-time hours and hourly wage of the Teen Court Coordinator. She added that the Coordinator works many unpaid hours due to increasing referrals, and her hourly wage is far below the state's average for the position.

Darryl and Kristen responded to questions from Council members and a discussion followed regarding aspects of each proposal. Several members suggested splitting funds equally between the two programs. Several members suggested allocating \$7,670 to increase wages for two Teen Court positions, leaving \$3,695 for YDI. Megan opened the floor for further comments. None were heard or seen. Brian Heintz motioned to split the funds equally. Jamica LaFranque and Marta seconded simultaneously. Amy Jewel then motioned to fully fund the Teen Court positions. Because a motion and second were already on the floor, the first motion required a vote per parliamentary procedures. Megan called for members to vote verbally or via chat. With 12 Ayes and five Nos (two members abstained), the first motion to approve a 50/50 split of unallocated funds between Teen Court and YDI carried. The second motion was therefore lost. Each program will receive \$5,682.50 of the unallocated funds.

Presentation of Monitoring Reports

Megan opened the floor for monitoring reports. (Minutes from each monitoring activity were included in the December meeting packet.) Megan chaired the monitoring committee for the four Transforming Youth Movement (TYM) components: *Fostering Solutions Crisis Beds*, *Shift Mentoring*, *Get Hired*, and *Shift Restitution and Community Service*. She shared each component's strengths, weaknesses, and progress to date. The Committee recommended consideration for continued funding without conditions for all four components. Megan noted that a TYM participant asked to attend the monitoring. This juvenile provided feedback, asked questions, and actively participated in the entire activity. Multiple TYM staff members were also present and participated. Sari Miller remarked that she's heard many positive comments from juveniles participating in the *Get Hired* program and added, "They absolutely love it ... and they adore Ms. Flores."

Marta presented monitoring reports for Aspire's two components: *Kids at Work* (culinary) and *The Connection* (music production). She and Perry co-chaired the meeting. Chef Kimberly Townsend and her staff operate the programs in a Kannapolis church and are enthusiastic about the programs' models. Marta shared details about how Aspire's programs are structured, along with ideas on how to increase Aspire's community exposure and referrals. The Committee recommended consideration for continued funding without conditions for both components. A brief discussion followed regarding DJJ involvement and eligible/appropriate referrals. The pandemic has affected Aspire's referrals ever since the programs began in 2020. Megan added that the nature of the culinary experience precludes virtual-only participation.

Megan then asked if there were other monitoring presentations. Perry chatted that he is ready to present YDI's monitoring, but his microphone was not functioning. Beth Street, Daniel, and Jamica attended YDI's monitoring and a brief summary of the monitoring for *Family Life Skills Academy* and *Vocational and Career Development Academy* was provided. YDI's facilities, progressive curriculum, and historical presence within the community all contribute to its success. The Committee agreed that Darryl Bego himself is a positive force and a strength in each component. During monitoring, Darryl indicated YDI's primary weakness at this time is funding for full-time staff. Both components were recommended for consideration for continued funding without conditions.

Vote on Approval of Monitoring Meeting Minutes

Megan stated that Minutes from each monitoring activity were included in December's meeting packet and asked Council to review them. She opened the floor for discussion or motions to approve or correct Minutes. With none heard or seen, Sonja motioned to approve TYM's minutes as written. Megan, who was present at TYM's monitoring, seconded the motion. Megan stated that members' silence could be accepted as approval in these votes. Hearing and seeing no opposition, the motion to approve TYM's Minutes as written carried.

Megan called for discussion or motions to approve or correct Aspire's Minutes. Marta attended Aspire's monitoring and motioned to approve as written. Michelle seconded. Hearing and seeing no opposition, the motion to approve Aspire's Minutes as written carried.

Megan called for discussion or motions to approve or correct YDI's Minutes. Michelle motioned to approve as written. Marta seconded. Hearing and seeing no opposition, the motion to approve YDI's Minutes as written carried.

Vote on YDI's Budget Revision

The final item for Council's consideration was YDI's budget revision for *Family Life Academy*. Megan stated that Daniel reviewed the request. Daniel shared YDI's revision on screen. Darryl briefly explained that due to COVID restrictions, more virtual sessions were required. He requested moving \$2,000 from Line Item 220 (Food) to Line Item 390 (FLA Trainings) to cover expenses associated with additional online sessions. Darryl stated this revision places the budget exactly where it was at this time last year. This is a line item adjustment only; no additional funding is requested. With no further comments heard or seen, Connie motioned to approve YDI's budget revision as presented. Sonja seconded. Megan called for any further discussion. There was none. Members were required to vote verbally or via chat. Motion carried without opposition.

UPDATES FROM PROGRAMS / COUNCIL MEMBERS QUESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS

Megan opened the floor for comments from programs or questions from Council. There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Megan opened the floor for comments or discussion from the public. Darryl remarked that YDI's monitoring and Perry's leadership were "awesome." He then briefly discussed the positive impact of vertical time continuums and collaborations as they pertain to juvenile justice and crime prevention services. He stated there is research supporting the success of extending services. The longer youth are served, the more likely they are to refrain from criminal activity. He added he is happy to talk to or share research with any interested person. Reggie McNeil added that he supports Darryl's remarks for wrap-around services and extended collaborations. He expressed appreciation for JCPC's proactive approach.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Megan called for comments from Council. She remarked that that the monitoring activities were interactive and informative. She mentioned that during TYM's monitoring an idea to incorporate program presentations and success stories into Council's June 2022 meeting was briefly discussed. She added that transforming the June meeting into an informal and relaxed wrap-up of the fiscal year, to include a breakfast and a forum for program presentations and success stories, can be further discussed in a future Council meeting.

Heather mentioned that she has all types of hand sanitizer and wipes to share with anyone who can use them during our season of colds, flu, and COVID. She added that she can arrange for pickup or drop-off and requested interested parties to email her.

Sonja announced that three new licensed clinical social workers will be hired for Cabarrus Health Alliance due to an expansion of its Behavioral Health Division. She stated employment opportunities and information can be found on their website. Megan added that anyone with a referral should contact Sonja directly.

ADJOURNMENT

Megan opened the floor for any final comments or concerns. None were heard or seen. A motion to adjourn was made by Michelle. Motion was seconded by Jamica. Hearing and seeing no opposition, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:16 a.m.

Submitted by Joanie Bischer