



CABARRUS COUNTY JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

June 15, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Governmental Center 2nd Floor Multi-Purpose Room

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

LaShay Avery	Steven Ayers	Megan Baumgardner	Sonja Bohannon-Thacker
Mark Boles	Carolyn Carpenter	Beth Downs	Matthew Greer
Steve Grossman	Rodney Harris	Amy Jewell	Heather Mobley
Steve Morris	Connie Philbeck	Sharon Reese	Beth Street
David Wall	Michelle Wilson		

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joy Butler, Perry Gabriel, Brian Heintz, Jamica LaFranque, Marta Meares, Terry Wise

VACANT COUNCIL 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

JCPC ASSOCIATES PRESENT: Daniel Sevigny, Joanie Bischer

OTHERS PRESENT: Darryl Bego (YDI), Shannon Chambers (TYM), Lindsey Hardin (Pinnacle Family Services), David Highsmith (Court Counselor), Ms. Jones (Parent), Anissa Jones (Teen Court), Kristen McEvoy (Teen Court), Reggie McNeil (TYM), Chef Kimberly Townsend (Aspire), Jacob Wentink (Active Living & Parks Dept), Multiple Juveniles whose Identities are Protected.

CALL TO ORDER and ATTENDANCE

Chair Megan Baumgardner called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m. She welcomed members and guests to Council’s final meeting of Fiscal Year 2021-22. Attendance was taken. A quorum was established with 18 of 24 members attending.

Approval of May 2022 Meeting Minutes

Megan advised that minutes from the May 18 meeting were included in the packet emailed June 8. She called for corrections, additions, or a motion. No comments were heard. Carolyn Carpenter motioned to approve the May minutes as written. Heather Mobley seconded. With no further discussion, the motion to approve May minutes as written carried without opposition.

Approval of June 2022 Agenda

Megan asked members to review today’s agenda. She called for comments or a motion. No comments were heard. Steve Morris motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Mark Boles seconded. With no further discussion, the motion to approve the June agenda as presented carried without opposition.

UPDATES FROM DPS AREA CONSULTANT

Daniel Seigny reported that DPS provided supporting data for JCPC's Resolution to be presented to county commissioners in July. He mentioned that Cabarrus JCPC met deadlines for year-end budget revisions, annual plan, and certification. Daniel urged programs to watch for DPS requests via email for DocuSign signatures on FY 22-23 applications.

Daniel announced that Rowan and Randolph Counties were selected as District 19 test pilot sites for a proposed \$1 million recurring expansion of EKG Gun Violence Education training. Due to a significant uptick in juvenile firearm-related crimes, the Division seeks to invest in firearm violence prevention and awareness programs to educate youth about the dangers of guns and responsible gun ownership. Daniel stated he would like to bring the programs to Cabarrus County in the future.

Lastly, Daniel stated that the 2021 County Databook is available online. (See *DPS Talking Points* for website link.) It compiles county-specific data on juvenile populations, complaints, arrests, top offenses, YDC statistics, and more. He added it is a great resource for collaborations outside JCPC.

OLD BUSINESS

Megan next yielded the floor to Mark for an update on the mobile app. Using the large screen, he shared the latest formatting, functionality, and graphics for the app and its companion website. He expressed appreciation for Todd Shanley and team for their ongoing collaboration. Mark responded to questions regarding adding other resources and the images selected. He indicated that Council will have an opportunity to approve the app/website prior to roll-out.

Megan announced that she will present Council's Resolution supporting wage increases for DJJ's youth division personnel to the Board of Commissioners during its regular meeting on Monday, July 18. All were invited to attend, but member attendance is not required.

Megan also announced that she and Mark will be guest speakers at a training session called *Fundamentals of Juvenile Justice*. The training is hosted by the NC District Attorneys Association in conjunction with Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. It is scheduled on July 20 at the Kannapolis Police Department. All are welcome to attend. Tables will be available in front of the venue for programs to meet attendees.

NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

Megan yielded the floor to Michelle Wilson who explained a proposed revision to the By Laws. Current language in Article II Section 5 indicates the DPS Area Consultant and Program Directors will serve as *ex-officio* members of the Council. Mark had noted that per Robert's Rules of Order, *ex-officio* members have all membership privileges including the right to make motions and vote. Michelle consulted with County Legal. It was suggested that Program Directors be removed from this language to avoid potential conflicts. The DPS Area Consultant will remain an *ex-officio* member due to his integral position with Council. However, the Area Consultant's rights will exclude the right to motion or vote. Megan added that these changes simply comport with Council's current practices. She asked for further comments before calling for a motion. Connie Philbeck mentioned the By Laws incorrectly refer to her employer as "Department of Juvenile Justice." She said they are now known as the "Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention." She asked if the By Laws should reflect this change. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to table the vote on revisions until the August meeting. This will allow Council members more time to review By Laws and suggest other revisions. Michelle will speak Mr. Koch again in two weeks.

Megan next opened a discussion regarding the July meeting. This meeting is typically cancelled because programs are normally less active and it is the beginning of the fiscal year. She called for comments or a motion. Sergeant Greer motioned to cancel and Michelle seconded. With no further discussion, the motion to approve cancelling the July meeting carried without opposition.

Megan then suggested that the agenda item under *New Business* for Council's brainstorming session relative to FY 22-23 be set aside until after presentations by programs. There was no opposition to her suggestion.

FY 2021-22 FUNDED PROGRAMS' YEAR-END PRESENTATIONS

Megan opened the floor to programs. Presentations were completed in the following order:

Youth Development Initiatives: Family Life Skills Academy/Vocational & Career Development Academy

Darryl Bego shared comments that he stated consistently appear on program evaluation forms. Parents and juveniles describe a heightened awareness of identity, self-confidence, and personal accountability. "When you know better, you do better." Darryl added there's no greater feeling than witnessing juveniles experience a sense of accomplishment after successfully completing tasks they feared they couldn't do.

Aspire Cabarrus: Kids at Work/The Connection

Chef Kimberly Townsend was accompanied by several juveniles enrolled in the culinary and music production programs. Two youth addressed the council and described their positive experiences. A young man in the music program said he told his friends they should join him because, "... It keeps me out of trouble." A young lady in the culinary program described learning to cook with different ingredients and said she most enjoyed being able to talk and express her feelings during classes. The teens answered questions from Council members.

Conflict Resolution Center: Teen Court

Kristen McEvoy and Anissa Jones were accompanied by a young volunteer with the program who stated she feels Teen Court is an amazing program that changes young lives. She enjoys participating with the program because, "... everyone deserves a second chance." She plans to continue volunteering with Teen Court through her upcoming senior year.

Transforming Youth Movement: Get Hired, SHIFT Mentoring, SHIFT Restitution & Community Service

Reggie McNeil and Shannon Chambers were joined by two young men and a parent who each addressed the Council. The first teen expressed that he learns life skills on a daily basis in the mentoring program. "I'm learning how to not get mad." A juvenile's mother then spoke. She stated her son's enrollment in the mentoring program was suggested by his defense attorney following a serious school-related incident and expressed gratitude to TYM for changing the direction of her son's path. Another young man enrolled in TYM's Get Hired program explained that he only wanted to learn about the hiring process itself but along the way, he also learned how to push himself to apply for jobs he thought, "... were out of my league." He said he made new friends through the program, learned to discard a victim mentality, and gained confidence, drive, and ambition.

Programs were thanked for their participation and the youth were applauded. Mark mentioned that two council seats for youth under age 21 were vacant and invited applications. LaShay Avery added that a student attending the Rowan-Cabarrus Early College expressed an interest in JCPC and awaits approval from her counselor. Megan stated the Membership & Nominations Committee plans to meet in July or August to review applications.

Megan next announced that RCCC will host a summer open house to showcase facilities and programs on June 18. She directed members to the RCCC flyer in the meeting packet in the *Need to Know* section of today's agenda for more information.

Darryl expressed appreciation for DJJ court counselors for their extraordinary efforts in assisting juveniles. He recounted a situation where the counselor's input was invaluable in successfully enrolling juveniles in beneficial programs. David Wall added he will certainly share those comments and introduced Court Counselor David Highsmith who was in attendance today.

COUNCIL MEMBERS DISCUSSION

Megan next initiated a conversation between programs and members regarding how Council can improve next fiscal year. A discussion followed with comments from Amy Jewell, LaShay Avery, Heather Mobley, Connie, Michelle, Sharon Reese, Lindsey Hardin, and David around improving public outreach, increasing referrals, filling gaps in services, providing behavioral and mental health assessments for non-covered youth, and avoiding harmful labeling associated with juvenile sex offenses.

Reggie spoke about costs associated with program sustainability, continuums of service, and lowering recidivism. Megan acknowledged the Council pushes programs to diversify their own funding sources each year but added it doesn't necessarily mean programs should reduce requests for JCPC dollars each year. Megan added that diversifying JCPC dollars means Council must balance its funding to accommodate ever-changing service needs while also protecting successful programs. Shannon Chambers asked Council to consider that DJJ-involved youth programs requires costly resources and administration as opposed to a mentoring program that involves school guidance counselors. She stated that sustainability for TYM means diversifying its funding to provide programs that also meet the needs of DJJ-referred youth *after* their court involvement ends. More discussion followed around programs that improve parental involvement and strengthen families. David asked members to remember that JCPC dollars are not intended to fully fund every youth program. Rather, they are designed to fill gaps in services. He said DJJ does have access to parent/family programs through other agencies. He added this Council does an excellent job of filling gaps in services while supporting other needed services through the diversity of its funded programs.

Rodney stated the county has made a significant investment in behavioral health treatment and will continue to do so over the next three to four years. Nearly \$15 million is allocated for programs such as Genesis and Cabarrus Health Alliance to provide free or low-cost treatment services. He requested that when service gaps are identified, they be shared with Council so providers can modify their services and amend budgets accordingly.

Carolyn Carpenter thanked Mr. Highsmith for joining today's meeting and stated she appreciated our court counselors' attention to and collaboration with JCPC.

Megan initiated a discussion regarding written monthly reports from programs. Although the written report process was implemented to streamline meetings, she stated she believes that few members are actually reading them. She spoke with Daniel about the issue and discovered that programs are obligated to provide oral reports. To comply, she suggested eliminating written reports and asking programs to verbally respond to similar questions during each meeting. There was no opposition to this suggestion. Prior to the August meeting, Joanie will remind programs that written reports are no longer required and to prepare for Council's verbal questions.

Carolyn was congratulated for receiving the North Carolina School Boards Association's *Scholars Circle Award*. The award was presented during the Cabarrus Board of Education's June meeting. Carolyn completed more than 900

hours of training through the NC Academy for School Boardsmanship during the 2021-22 academic year.

Megan asked for comments on today's meeting format. If Council agrees, she would like to continue an end-of-year wrap-up with future June meetings. Megan also introduced and welcomed Jacob Wentink. He is the Active Living & Parks Department's recommended candidate to replace Perry Gabriel who resigned effective June 29.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Megan reminded everyone that the July meeting is cancelled and Council will meet next on August 17. She asked if anyone had further comments. Hearing and seeing none, she called for a motion. Mark motioned to adjourn and Sergeant Greer seconded. With no further comments or opposition to the motion, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

Submitted by Joanie Bischer