

Wake County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
Minutes
September 16, 2021 (via WebEx)

JCPC Attendees: Sharif Deveaux, Darryl Blevins, Eric Johnson, Jonathan Glenn, Katherine Edmiston, Donald Pinchback, Carla Huff, Ruth Sutherland, Kim Newsome, Marrius Pettiford, Natalie Mabon, Lori Christian, LaShawn Hewitt and Dr. James West.

JCPC Guests: Denise Briggs, Toshina Wiggins, Charlenzo Belcher, Blair Frazier, Jennifer Gibbs, Toni Calabrese, Derrick Bird, Monica Nzhoboshe, Nick Sharp, Harold Malette.

JCPC Staff: Tammy Strickland

Welcome: Sharif Deveaux opened the meeting after confirming a quorum: 12 of 18 present.

Approval of Minutes

The June minutes were approved as written, following a motion by Darryl Blevins and a second by Marrius Pettiford.

Old Business:

Sharif clarified action taken in the form of a letter of support he signed on June 30, 2021 for the Family Resource Center South Atlantic YOUTH mPower! program. The funds were provided by DPS and not by JCPC. The program required a letter of support from JCPC. JCPC will promote the program to juvenile service providers, program staff will present to the JCPC council and participate in stakeholder and advisory groups, if needed.

Sharif reported that Eric Johnson signed a letter of support on Feb. 17, 2021 when he was chair for JCPC. Haven House was the recipient of DPS funds for the Community Alternatives Program (CAP) and GRIT (Gang Reduction Intervention Team). Although JCPC provided the letter of support there is no required monitoring or oversight. Denise Briggs confirmed this.

New Business:

JCPC Orientation

JCPC Orientation was provided by Denise Briggs, JCPC Implementation Specialist from DPS. During the training Denise said the JCPC chair votes only when needed to break a tie. If the chair and vice-chair are not available at a meeting the council can designate someone from the council to chair the meeting. Most of the work done by the council is done in committee meetings. Sharif asked Denise for something in writing to confirm the chair does not vote, except to break a tie. Sharif said to the group that the work of JCPC councils and providers is more impactful than what happens in court. The court "sets the table" and counselors and program staff "serve the meal".

Executive Committee Update:

JCPC/Committee Priorities:

Sharif reported the following JCPC/committee priorities:

- Review all policies and procedures and ensure that we as a body are following these fully, efficiently and in full compliance.
- Establish Racial Equity on all committees
- Fill all vacancies- currently 3 statutory required positions are vacant: a member of the faith community, a member under the age of 21 and a member of a local Parks & Recreation department. Darryl Blevins offered to reach out to the Zebulon Parks and Recreation department.

Data and Annual Planning Committee Recommendation:

The Data and Annual Planning Committee responsibilities will transfer to the Executive committee. This action requires a change in the bylaws. Denise recommended that community partner members be involved in Data and Annual planning as its important input when identifying gaps. Historically data is gathered and presented to the Data and Annual planning committee. Sharif offered to invite program providers to review the data with the committee in a non-voting role. Dr. West asked if it would be possible to have an advisory board. Sharif will discuss this idea with the executive committee as it is a great idea to have outside eyes on the work being done.

This discussion serves as notice that at the next meeting there will be a vote on revising the bylaws to move the Data and Annual committee responsibilities to the Executive committee.

FY 21-22 JCPC Calendar/Workplan Review:

Sharif proposed a change to the meeting schedule from monthly to every other month to allow members to spend more time participating on committees where the bulk of the work of the council is done. He noted that members volunteer their time, and their time is limited. There are meetings already scheduled for October and November so this will start with the 2022 calendar. Sharif asked for comments. Jonathan commented that this framework ensures that committee work gets done and may increase synergy between committees. There are currently 10 meetings scheduled per year as July and December are executive team meetings.

Sharif requested that the group vote to adopt the work plan as discussed. 14 members voted yes and there were no objections, so the plan was approved.

FY 21-22 Conflict of Interest Forms:

Annual Conflict of interest forms are due and only four have been received. Sharif asked members to please get these submitted to Tammy who will send an email reminder this week. Denise said best practice requires that forms be signed before members vote.

Committee Updates:

Funding Committee:

Jonathan reported on plans to disperse unallocated funds to new providers, current providers, or a combination of new and current providers. There were two applications received from new providers: one is not located in Wake County and the application was submitted after the deadline so it will not be considered. The other program will be interviewing with the committee on September 23rd.

Budget revisions were submitted by four of our current providers: Spaces 2, Easter Seals, Haven House and 4H Spaces. The committee is in the process of reviewing the applications and expects to have a recommendation no later than September 23rd and will bring it to a vote at the October meeting.

Next steps for the funding committee include taking a deep dive into reviewing the funding process and developing consistent processes for all reviews, using clearly defined criteria which informs our commitment to racial equity. Dr. West asked whether Wake county applied for federal crime prevention funds. He heard that Mecklenburg county applied for and received these funds. Denise said these funds are more like “seed money” to get new programs up and running. Sharif said the committee will investigate these federal funds and consider applying for them.

Community Relations Committee:

Carla reported the committee plans to look at the JCPC website at the next scheduled meeting and review the distribution of resource information.

Program Support and Accountability:

Ruth Sutherland reported the committee members are contacting liaisons and encouraging them to check in with their programs. The committee plans to review roles and expectations and is gearing up and planning for the 6-month review and monitoring.

Denise Briggs asked about the Measurable Outcomes form that the Executive committee approved in 2019 or 2020 that was rarely used. Sharif said the Executive committee discussed it at the August meeting and reaffirmed the decision to use the form to collect info from providers monthly. The forms will be submitted monthly to Tammy and reviewed by the Program Support and Accountability committee. There was a long discussion of the challenges of measuring recidivism and the integrity of the information submitted if it's by provider self-report. There are also challenges with the manpower needed to analyze the data. Denise said a process needs to be determined to confirm what should be collected and measured. Sharif said a modification to the tool has been made and the committee will work on collection under the direction of the Executive committee.

Racial Equity Committee:

Sharif reported the committee plans to meet Sept. 24 and will talk about the racial equity training just completed. Also begin to look for ways to identify and collect qualitative data and develop a process to collect data from real live people to learn from their experiences with the juvenile justice system in Wake county. The goal is to come up with mitigation strategies in advance and to work to ensure racial equity.

DPS Updates:

Denise Briggs introduced Toshina Wiggins as the new DPS liaison for Wake county JCPC. Denise will move into another position but will still be available to Toshina as she takes over. Lance Britt will also serve as a support to Toshina. Toshina introduced herself to the group and is excited to work with Wake JCPC. Toshina is not new to the role of JCPC liaison. She has a background in juvenile justice, court services and a brief stint with adults in Re-entry.

Denise reached out to providers about a new program agreement required if services are not delivered as described in their current program agreement i.e., virtual services instead of face to face due to COVID. There is an exception process around in-kind refund. No budget revision is required, and changes can be handled through DocuSign. Contact Denise directly if there are questions.

Lynne Fleetwood recently sent an email about DPS contracts that fund other services in program catchment areas. It includes a catchment area map. This is valuable info for JCPC providers to have.

Denise will direct program providers to report measurable objectives for FY 20-21 at the next JCPC meeting. This will need to be added to the agenda.

Legislative Updates:

- SB 207- passed Aug. 30, 2021 raises the Minimum age from six years old to ten years old effective December 1, 2021 (there are some exceptions for violent offenses).
- HB 615-All juveniles with suspected mental health issues will be required to have a comprehensive clinical assessment within 45 days of disposition. Severe disturbances would warrant the establishment of a care review team.
- HB 621- Raises the high school dropout age from 16 to 18, this passed the House but not yet the Senate.
- Reentry Resilience Transition Support program awards \$500,000 in non-reoccurring funds for juvenile justice to expand wrap around services to youth transitioning from YDC to the community.

DPS is encouraging JCPC's to consider adding a committee to review RED- Racial Ethnic Disparities data. Wake JCPC is ahead of the curve with our Racial Disparity committee. Toshina can reach out to the RED coordinator at DPS to request Wake county data.

Denise reminded providers the new assessment tool rolls out in January 2022. A full risk assessment will be required.

Denise and Toshina are working on SPEP scores that will roll out in the next month. Program providers will need to work on program enhancement plans that must be presented to JCPC for a vote.

The Fall NCJSA Conference is in Carolina Beach Oct. 13-15. This is an in-person event.

Risk and Needs data are being pulled out by county.

Detention numbers are up and DPS Community Programs is working with Court Services to come up with possible interventions to get youth out of detention and other options to decrease the number of youths in detention.

Donald Pinchback- no updates but has a few links to the Bill raising juvenile age that he can send to Tammy for distribution to members.

Program Updates:

Charlenzo Belcher reported on trends: more Raise the Age kids have jobs now. The program staff have been creative in seeing youth in groups or holding meetings outside. More parents prefer non-face to face interactions. LEO's say gang activity is increasing- especially initiation behaviors.

Wendy from Haven House- we are settled in our new space in the second ring. Accepting referrals for all programs. Most services are in-person but virtual is available.

Announcements:

None

The next JCPC meeting will be held from 12:00 – 2:00 on Oct. 21, via WebEx.

Meeting adjourned.