

Orange County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting
Friday, December 3, 2021 (12:00noon – 2:00pm)
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Proposed Minutes

Attendees: **Sharron Hinton, Amy Fowler, Amanda Farris, Tina Sykes, Gayane Chambless, Tami Pfeifer, Donna King, Carol McClelland, Charlos Banks, Hathaway Pendergrass, Crista Collazo, Val Hanson, Monica Veno, LaDanna Strong, Susan Worley, Joy Clark, Madison Bennett, Patricia Cardoso, Jamella Smith, Lateef Mitchell, Toshina Wiggins, Rebekah Rapoza** (*Members in bold)

Absent: Sherita Cobb, Megan Johnson, Greg Rouse, Bernard Miles, Blair Nell

Excused: Luke Dennis

Welcome

The meeting opened with a welcome from Chair, Sharron Hinton and introductions.

Minutes Review and Approval

The Council reviewed the minutes from October 2021. Amy Fowler motioned for minutes to be approved with corrections made to the spelling of Gayane and Lateef's names and was seconded by Carol McClelland. Motion carried unanimously.

The Council reviewed the minutes from November 5, 2021 special meeting. Amy Fowler motioned for minutes to be approved and was seconded by Amanda Farris. Motion carried unanimously.

Program Updates

Program providers were asked to include a review of their Program Enhancement Plan(s) during their updates. Toshina provided a brief explanation of Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) and PEP. The PEP is tied to the SPEP score and is based off program terminations from the previous fiscal year. If the program does not terminate at least 10 youth, an Advisory Score will be given. An Advisory Score means the sample size was not large enough to produce a reliable SPEP score. SPEP is a tool that the department uses to evaluate programs that receive JCPC funding to ensure program fidelity and to align programs with evidence based practices. It is not a tool to defund or weed out programs, but rather a tool to measure services and provide a blue print for continuous improvement. Some programs are considered structured and will not receive a SPEP score. In Orange County, those programs are Teen Court, Mediation/Conflict Resolution, and Wrenn House. These programs are considered structured because the youth are not in the program long enough to receive a therapeutic intervention. However, all programs have a quality of service score based on the area consultant's monitoring.

Dispute Settlement Center:

We served 3 youth through DJJ referrals: 3 males, all aged 14-15, 1 Asian, 1 African American and 1 White. We expect to receive another 4-5 referrals. Something that is going well with DJJ is the coordination of which referrals are appropriate, making sure they are impactful as a referral source. Looking at PEP, we have a pretty good score and are meeting most requirements or individual specifics. However, we have room for improvement in 3 different sections.

1. Staff training: we keep track of training but realized we're missing individualized training with training goals. Beginning January 1, personnel files will have staff goals and objectives for the year;
2. Effectiveness measurement: we are going to go through with program staff and make sure we have more clearly defined and specific measures for improving program performance; and

3. Employee evaluations: all staff yearly evaluations are done in June at the end of the fiscal year. We realized we did not have comprehensive employee evaluations, including questions involving specific JCPC program adherence. Francis will revise the evaluation process to make sure they include JCPC specific program questions.

Val introduced two new staff: Joy and Monica, new Restorative Practices Associate and Community Engagement Associate.

The Exchange Club:

PEP review: The first two scores are not really something they can control, but will continue to provide quality service thorough monitoring of compliance in supervision and making sure client charts are up to date. Will also be checking/monitoring NC Allies very frequently. Received an 8 out of 10 for Duration points. They are going to ensure clients understand expectations of finishing all weeks of classes. Some started and never finished, so we will ensure all clients know from the beginning that they need to attend and finish all weeks of classes. We will continue meeting at the church; due to Covid they were a bit hesitant but plans have been worked out. Families are still hesitant due to Covid, so we will be scheduling more virtual sessions. Contact hours is at 8 out of 10. Improvements will occur as operations can go back to normal now. Risk Tier received 2 out of 12. The rating must be accepted from JJ referral, but for non-JJ referrals, will interview both clients and referring sources about all risk factors present, traini program staff on capturing all risk factors present, and program supervisor will audit all risk assessments before finalizing them and putting the assessments in the file.

Volunteers for Youth:

Have served 22 kids in Community Service Program so far this year and 7 in Teen Court. Numbers are still low, but picking up a little bit. Biggest news is Steven Rodriquez, Teen Court Coordinator, has left but they are excited for Jamella Smith, previous Youth Service Coordinator, to be taking his place. Madison Bennet started Monday taking over for Jamella as Youth Service Coordinator. Both participated in Volunteers for Youth programing as kids, Jamella with Girls Group and Madison was with Immigrant Youth Forum for undocumented youth and their allies.

Focusing on Quality of Service PEP scores, both programs are fairly similar with 20 out of 20. We will continue to focus on strengthening training opportunities and also enhancing programs, especially during Covid times when we have to be adaptable and flexible. The Court House is closed to Teen Court again for the month of December but are hoping to reopen for January. So for now, will continue to do what they have been and focus on making it better.

Wrenn House:

Served 2 youth for total of 10 days, not too far from previous fiscal year. Wrenn House is a structure only program so no SPEP score assigned. We did however score a 20 out of 20 for Quality of Service. We are very clear on what is needed to reach those scores and will continue tight oversight of policies and documentation. Staffing is a challenge these days; hard time recruiting for open positions and currently coming up with different strategies for hiring. We are addressing vacancies by pulling staff from other programs and having staff help in all areas. We are keeping everyone as safe as possible by developing good protocol for mask wearing and social distancing. A few individuals have tested positive but we were able to minimize spread. Testing is performed at intake and unvaccinated staff must submit weekly testing. Continuing our ongoing efforts to improve outreach, Haven House has the ability for young people to connect through a platform with live texting or chat. This was quietly launched during Covid due to concerns of not being able to do a lot of in person. It is still rolling out and every child discharged is given this information so they may stay in contact if and whenever needed.

JCPC Business

Funding Committee:

The committee received two additional requests for unallocated funds and are recommending them to the council for approval. Dispute Settlement Center is requesting \$2,251.52 to attend a conference/training and Wrenn House is requesting \$12,551 for remodeling and to address salary increases.

Carol McClelland made a motion to accept Dispute Settlement Center request for \$2,251.52 and was seconded by Amanda Farris. Motion passed unanimously.

Carol McClelland made a motion to accept Wrenn House request for \$12,551 and was seconded by Gayane Chambless. Motion passed unanimously.

The remaining \$10,244.48 in unallocated funds will be returned to the state as there are no additional program needs for this fiscal year and the deadline to allocate funds is almost here.

Risk and Needs Committee: Gayane Chambless

The committee met and reviewed the risk and needs data for Orange County compared to previous years and the state average. This helped guide us when reviewing the RFP for next year. *Peer Relationships* were all higher than the state average when looking at regular association with delinquent peers. *Number of Referrals at Intake* data shows that youth coming into contact with JJ had significant more interaction; in the past it was typically the first interaction. Also, this has been increasing over the past few years, not just compared to the state average. *Academic Functioning* is also higher than the state average. The committee discussed students really struggling in school and possibly needing tutoring and mentoring. *Substance Use* is also causing concern with a significant jump over the last few years; those referred to treatment also higher than state average or the status quo in Orange County. *Abuse Neglect History* saw an increase compared to the state average and a decrease locally when looking at those who have support. However, looking at those with no support we see a significant increase of those victims compared to the state average. *Sexual Behaviors* needing to be assessed, status quo in Orange County and slightly higher than the state. *Mental Health Needs* of youth, especially in light of Covid, saw a significant increase and was higher than the state average.

Q: Are absolute numbers are also going up or just averages?

A: No one has the info on hand. Amy then points out if these numbers were going up then that would be more worrisome; questions if these absolute numbers actually went down then that would explain these increases. Gayane agrees and requests from Toshina if trend data and absolute numbers can be added to the spreadsheets before they are shared with the group. Toshina will look into it.

Domestic Violence is a concern, seeing a definite significant increase. Across the board, we are looking at, adequate family supervision skills; drawing attention to marginal as that is where we have seen the most significant increase. *Family Substance Abuse* is also increasing and when we look at the family drug use, looking at youth can also indicate substance misuse. This has significant concern when compared to the state. When we look at *Family Criminality* we are seeing an increase compared to the state average, bearing in mind other factors, older age populations (16-18) and also raw numbers compared to previous years.

The committee recommends adding *Tutoring and Academic Enhancement* to the list of program types; everything else remains consistent with prior years. A question about including Trauma Informed Care was raised and Gayane recollects this wording is included in the *Clinical Treatment Programs* or *Assessment Programs* sections of the JCPC Program types. Toshina informs this will fall under a clinical program type; discussion on whether it should be listed and where it would be included. Amanda reminds

the group that adding this would need to be for un/underinsured only as Medicaid resources do cover these services. On past RFPs, it was worded as “Assessment/Treatment Programs for the Un/Underinsured (Including Substance Abuse; Trauma Based Therapy)”. However, the county now offers assessment services to any youth in need regardless of insurance status. Council agrees that assessment services are available in the county and focuses the conversation on treatment programs instead. Discussion continues on wording and finally settle on “Individual and Group Counseling, and Substance Abuse Treatment (specifically un/underinsured and trauma-focused)”.

Carol McClelland made a motion to accept to approve the RFP as written with the addition of a program type worded “Individual and Group Counseling, and Substance Abuse Treatment (specifically un/underinsured and trauma-focused)” and was seconded by Amanda Farris. Motion passed unanimously.

Monitoring Committee:

At least three volunteers are needed from the Council to for this committee. All necessary documents and instructions will be provided to stay in compliance.

Q: How often do they meet?

A: Maybe twice a year, an initial meeting to divvy responsibilities, then each will meet with their assigned program(s) and submit a finalized monitoring report.

Volunteers: Judge Hathaway Pendergrass, Amy Fowler and Carol McClelland. Judge Pendergrass advises the three of them will meet to decide duties.

RED Committee:

After last meeting’s guest presentation on the county’s One Orange initiative, the Council voted to approve the creation of a *RED Committee*. Members are needed to join this committee.

Q: What was the Red Committee?

A: Racial and Ethnic Disparities subcommittee. Toshina states she has been in contact with the RED coordinator at the state level who can provide data for the group and who has been working closely with JCPCs and area consultants to prepare the information. Once she follows up with her she will provide us the information.

Q: Is this similar to a previous committee, the Disproportionate Minority Contact?

A: Yes.

Q: Is this for JCPC committee members only or can others participate as well?

A: It is a subcommittee that anyone can potentially volunteer to participate.

Val Hanson believes DSC would like to have rep; they will talk between them and advise. Other volunteers include: Crista Collazo, Donna King, and Amanda Farris.

JJ Data Update

October – 17 juveniles at intake; 30 delinquent complaints; 2 undisciplined complaint; 6 school based complaints; 21 complaints approved for court; 5 complaints diverted; 6 complaints closed; 2 juvenile placed in detention for 35 days; 0 days used at Wrenn House; and 0 YDC admissions.

November – 18 juveniles at intake; 23 delinquent complaints; 5 undisciplined complaint; 10 school based complaints; 9 complaints approved for court; 0 complaints diverted; 0 complaints closed; 3 juvenile placed in detention for 40 days; 0 days used at Wrenn House; and 0 YDC admissions.

The minimum age for juvenile court is now in effect and was raised from 6 to 10 (8-9 year olds who have A-G felonies can still be petitioned). We are not turning away any youth but are considering them vulnerable youth and will provide consultations and services for 6-9 months; there just won't be any delinquent complaints filed against them. We then have some new mental health pieces coming into play with court, so there are lots of changes but they are all good.

Consultant Update

The state budget was recently passed and there were some juvenile justice bills that passed, specifically the establishment of a separate division of Juvenile Justice within the Department of Public Safety. At the February meeting program providers should be prepared to report on their measurable objectives report for July through December. Please remember to review client tracking termination prior to running the report. Also, please review your budgets on a regular basis in case revisions are needed. Lastly, please make sure you are completing the full risk assessment document at intake. If the risk score is not entered in Allies it can greatly affect the SPEP score.

Announcements

Joy Clark will be RED Committee representative from DSC.

Gayane would like to invite everyone, if they have not received the invite from Health Director Quintana Stewart, to the "Lunch and Learn" with Healthy Carolinians of Orange County Community Conversation on Dec 8th, 12 noon to 1:30pm.

Sharron asked Toshina about feedback on lunches for virtual meetings. Toshina share that we can proceed with lunches however we choose. Sharron shares we will look into having a local restaurant provide boxed lunches. Request participants email Rebekah with any preferences.

Upcoming Meeting:
JCPC Meeting – February 4 @ 12pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting