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**JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL**

**February 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Kevin McIver, Alex Hurdle, Angela Nunn, Renee Hill, Laylon Williams, Seth Kandl, Abigail Holloway, Jonathan Wilson, Laura Toptine, Tamala McDowell, Monica Burnette

**Programs Present:** Cynia Black (POA), Yasmin Boone (PROUD), Arkeem Brooks (Project BUILD), Jeff Michalsky (Project BUILD), Gwendolyn Johnson (Teen Court), Raquel Dominquez (Elna B. Spaulding Conflict Resolution Center), Tiffany Swoope (GRACED, Inc.), Lucretia Alston (Youth Build)

**Guests:** Quanesha Archer (Public Health), Jenna Gaertner (Spectrum News), Karen Shaw (Alliance), Krystal Harris (CISS), Maggie Cveticanin (DSS), DeWarren Langley

**Staff:** Roshanna Parker, Katie Conyers, Viveca Deans, Eddie Crews

**Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Kevin McIver called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees, and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

**Request for Proposals and Information Session**

Eddie Crews informed attendees that the virtual Request for Proposals (RFP) Information Session was scheduled for Thursday, February 29 at 10:00 am. This session, which is mandatory for new applicants, covers state requirements, policies, and application instructions. Current awardees are welcome to attend. $71,000 of the total state allocation ($701,000) is available through this RFP, plus additional County funds. The session should last approximately one hour.

Mr. McIver shared that the Board of County Commissioners approved the use of County funds for grant awards to new programs and/or additional support for current JCPC programs. These funds were originally designated for the 15% local match and have been reallocated. Cynia Black requested clarification regarding when the funds would be available. Mr. McIver stated that funds would be available for the next fiscal year (starting July 1).

Mr. Crews shared a copy of the RFP with attendees, as well as the link to the event.

**Third Quarter Accounting**

Mr. Crews provided guidance on Third Quarter Accounting. Programs are expected to submit their reports, along with a General Ledger, through NC ALLIES. The deadline for reporting is March 21, 2024. These reports allow JCPC to track programs’ expenditures through the end of February and enables JCPC to transfer funds from programs that are underspending to other programs that may require additional support. Submitting the general ledger with the report is intended to simplify year-end final accounting. Mr. Crews has already met with the one new program to review Third Quarter Accounting requirements. All programs are welcome to contact Mr. Crews for assistance with their reporting.

**Resource Fair – Kevin McIver**

Mr. McIver started the discussion by highlighting ongoing issues in Durham County public schools (e.g., staff departures, low morale among teachers) and their impact on youth. The intended purpose of the Resource Fair is to bring together JCPC programs and other community organizations and spotlight low- or no-cost programs and support for youth – especially those available in the summer. This event could potentially increase JCPC program enrollments.

Mr. McIver charged the group with setting a location, date, and time for the event and suggested hosting the event in April or May to help families plan for the summer. Raquel Dominguez asked whether JCPC would form a planning committee for the event. Mr. McIver stressed that the full board should be involved in the planning rather than forming committees. He asked all members and programs to email event ideas to either himself, Roshanna Parker, or Viveca Deans. Ideas from these communications will be compiled by the Executive Committee.

Mr. McIver stressed that many youths in our community are struggling, and JCPC has an important role to play in supporting children during a difficult time. Vice Chair Abigail Holloway reiterated that the event should be scheduled for April or May (before the end of the school year) and requested input on event dates, locations and asked whether any board members wanted to volunteer to take on a leadership role.

Roshanna Parker asked whether the committee was envisioning a weekday or weekend event and what times of day were being considered. Ms. Parker reminded the committee that there may be some challenges for working parents, and identifying a timeframe may help to narrow down a location. Seth Kandl suggested that JCPC may want to partner with local schools that are hosting year-end activities and offer a resource fair at a school-based event that is already on the calendar. If JCPC could work with multiple schools, this would help ensure a broader audience and expand the reach of the Resource Fair. Mr. McIver agreed that this may be a good option for the resource fair. Mr. Kandl has connections to Burton and offered to help research which schools currently have year-end events scheduled. Other committee members may have similar connections to other schools.

Jonathan Wilson asked whether the Resource Fair was intended to target a specific age group. Ms. Holloway noted that younger children are getting involved in the justice system and stressed that it was important to offer programming focused on elementary school-aged children.

Arkeem Brooks asked whether the committee would consider a weekend event. Project BUILD recently participated in a Saturday morning event for HBCUs at the Emily K Center, which was very successful and well-attended. Mr. Brooks reminded attendees that the spring is often very busy during the week for both students and parents, and Mr. McIver agreed that a Saturday event seemed like a good option.

Ms. Holloway stated that she liked the idea of making the event fun. Mr. Crews shared that Warren County, which is much more rural, previously used JCPC admin funds to purchase food and supplies for a similar event. The Warren County JCPC also recruited sponsors and were able to distribute backpacks and school supplies to families, which helped attract people to the event. He encouraged board members to think about how to incentivize attendance with food, music, school supplies, etc.

Mr. McIver asked whether the Parks and Recreation Department might have the capacity to host an event. Alex Hurdle shared that Rec Centers could potentially host, and that they are all open from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm. Mr. McIver noted that ease of access and ample parking would be important for selecting a location. Tamala McDowell asked whether Central Park may be an option for the event because there is sufficient free parking available and is a big area. Mr. Hurdle responded that Central Park has its own operating team, and he could get that contact information for the committee. Mr. Wilson shared that parking can be a significant challenge on Saturdays and that some people may have to pay for parking. Ms. Parker asked whether Solite Park would be an option. Mr. Hurdle and others noted that Solite has very limited parking.

Mr. Wilson said that it would be a good idea to hold the event in a centrally located area, especially if the event offered something to draw people in like a DJ. He noted that JCPC members would have to be part of the event marketing effort – social media, passing out flyers, radio stations, etc. He noted that many people in the Durham Community are likely unfamiliar with JCPC programs, and it may be an opportunity to bring in other educational groups, City/County departments such as DSS, plus City Council, Board of County Commissioners, the Mayor, etc.

Krystal Harris mentioned that Durham County Stadium may be a good venue for the event. Mr. McIver agreed and shared that he attended an event featuring some JCPC programs at the Stadium. The venue has great parking. Mr. McIver said that the Stadium should be at the top of the list and that JCPC will need to contact the venue to secure a date.

Yasmin Boone suggested that JCPC plan their event for later in April (after April 13 due to the Women’s Empowerment event), and many families will be attending that conference. Ms. Boone is the Secretary of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice and volunteered to help connect with participating organizations.

Mr. McIver reiterated that the team should look at late April/early May for the event and tentatively plan to hold the event at Durham County Stadium. Ms. Black mentioned that early May might also be crowded due to college graduations.

Ms. Harris noted that JCPC should check with programs about their deadlines for applications and take that into consideration when planning the Resource Fair.

Mr. McIver said that the Executive Committee would discuss this further in March, and he would reach out to General Services about Durham County Stadium.

**Program Updates**

**Project BUILD**

* Current Number of Youth Enrolled: 67
* Number of New Referrals: 9
* Number of Successful Completions: 3
* Programmatic Changes: None
* Issues the Program is Facing: None
* Programmatic Achievements: 1 youth accepted to the BULLS Academy (Made in Durham), 3 youth connected with NC Works Next Gen, one youth working at Sam’s Club, 1 youth working at Cheesecake Factory.

**PROUD**

* Current Number of Youth Enrolled: 23
* Number of New Referrals: 13
* Number of Successful Completions: 12
* Programmatic Changes: None
* Issues the Program is Facing: Overall, PROUD has received 49 referrals for the year. 15 youth are already slated for April. PROUD is contracted to serve 55 youth this year. They will not turn away any youth. The program has 5 interns: 1 Master’s Level, 2 undergrads in Psychology, and 2 undergrads in Criminal Justice from NCCU. They have been particularly helpful with serving youth at Lakeview. PROUD currently serves 18 youth at Lakeview, where transportation issues and closures have affected service delivery.
* Programmatic Achievements: PROUD has done extensive training with the Department of Public Safety, including Changing the Narrative Financial Literacy (3 days) and Youth and Substance Abuse webinar. PROUD is also ramping up work readiness training for participants and potentially interns.

Mr. Wilson requested clarification on the number of enrollments, and Ms. Boone explained that their 16-week life skills program had received 49 referrals to date and that PROUD administers other programs, such as Misdemeanor Diversion Program (MDP) and Drug Education and Counseling (DEAC). Ms. Boone also noted that she expects the program will serve more than the estimated 55 youth listed in their application. Mr. McIver asked if this was causing strain on staff. Ms. Boone noted that while this is the most youth they have seen, they are covered; having interns helps ensure that they have adequate coverage.

**EPIC**

EPIC did not provide an update.

**Parenting Of Adolescents**

* Current Number of Youth Enrolled: 14
  + POA provides comprehensive mental health services, and many services are between 12-24 weeks; many students are with POA for 3-6 months.
* Number of New Referrals: 3 for the month
  + New referrals came on the same day; there has been an influx of new referrals, so this is straining capacity; 2-3 months’ wait time.
* Number of Successful Completions: 4
* Programmatic Changes: POA filled its Executive Director position.
* Issues the Program is Facing: Strained capacity due to influx of referrals.
* Programmatic Achievements: POA attended NCCU Social Work Conference on February 20. The program is hoping to bring in 2 new interns: 1 from NCCU and 1 from UNC. POA hopes that this will help reduce wait times for services. POA is entering 5 of their collaborative work with UNC School of Social Work for their Substance Use Prevention Program. Services are provided to Central Park, Lowe’s Grove Middle School, and Durham Nativity School.

**Elna B. Spaulding Conflict Resolution Center**

* Current Number of Youth Enrolled: 59
  + By comparison, in December, the program only had 6 cases; staff had met with each of these students approximately 15 times.
* Number of New Referrals:
  + 16 for truancy mediation
  + 12 for youth mediation
* Number of Successful Completions: Will be closing 6 cases soon
* Programmatic Changes: The program has removed Peacemaking Circles and is adding a weeklong summer program to teach youth conflict resolution tools and self-awareness.
* Issues the Program is Facing: N/A
* Programmatic Achievements: The program refers participants to other supportive services, such as therapy.

Mr. Brooks highlighted the support that Project BUILD youth received through the Conflict Resolution Center. Mr. McIver requested additional information about referral sources. For truancy mediation, the majority came from Durham Public Schools.

**Teen Court**

Teen Court did not provide an update.

**Graced**

* Current Number of Youth Enrolled: 14 (includes 2 students completing this week)
* Number of New Referrals: 1
* Number of Successful Completions: 2 students completing this week
* Programmatic Changes: GRACED launched its signature high-fidelity small group tutoring program with an academic foundation specialist. It is hosted at Weaver Street Recreation Cetner and is currently open to members of its mentoring program due to funding limitations. There are 3 committed participants, and the program received an additional inquiry. This is essential due to challenges within the school system.
* Issues the Program is Facing: Program is currently at capacity, so without additional support (volunteers, funding, etc.), the program will not be able to admit additional youth.
* Programmatic Achievements: GRACED hosted its first Valentine’s Day dance for members of the mentoring program, which was very successful. This was an effort to inspire participating youth to stay connected to the program and other positive outlets, and it prompted more interested from youth in the community. GRACED attended a Mentor Match program at NCCU and met with many college students to generate interest in the programs.

Mr. McIver asked whether additional funds would enable the program to hire staff to serve more youth. Tiffany Swoope agreed that this would be a possible use of funds and would help keep students engaged in the program.

**Youth Build**

* Current Number of Youth Enrolled: 6
  + Due to change in location, some have elected not to return
* Number of New Referrals:
  + 3 have completed their paperwork to begin the program, will start March 4
  + 5 are scheduled to pick up paperwork and begin in March
* Number of Successful Completions: 0
* Programmatic Changes: Program hired a new instructor, which will offer more stability and structure for students in the program.
* Issues the Program is Facing: The biggest issue is getting students to show up for the program. Staff continue to contact students to remind them and provide transportation, but numbers continue to be low. The program hopes that the new instructor can help address this issue.
* Programmatic Achievements: 2 students passed the first part of their GED, and the program is waiting for parental consent for another student. Youth Build has new partnerships with Wolf Speed and PNC.

Mr. McIver thanked the programs for their efforts, noting that many programs were already close to meeting their targets.

**Chief Court Counselor Updates**

Tamala McDowell shared the January report.

* 153 youth on supervision for the month of January
* 67 complaints received; 31 complaints approved
* 0 diversions
* 47 detention admissions; 12 new admissions in January
* 0 committed to YDC
* 1 YDC release

Offense Types:

* 11 violent offenses
* 17 serious offenses
* 38 minor offenses
* 1 status offense

Demographic Data:

* 22 Black; 6 Hispanic; 1 white; 1 other
* 23 males; 7 females
* 14 youth aged 11-15: 16 youth aged 16+

**DPS Update**

None.

**Chair Update**

Mr. McIver reiterated the importance of the Resource Fair due to the challenges students and families are facing within the school system.

He reminded attendees that the County funds would be available as of July 1, 2024. Availability of funds will depend on what is awarded during the RFP process.

**Announcements and Adjournment**

DeWarren Langley asked for clarification regarding the County funds awarded in 2023. Mr. McIver shared that due to the timeline, JCPC programs most likely would not have been able to expend their county funds by the end of the fiscal year and would have to return the funds. Mr. Langley responded that he thought this would be a recurring allotment in future budgets. Ms. Parker informed attendees that the County has paused budget increases for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Langley shared that the Youth Council of the Durham Workforce Development Board has developed its strategic plan, and one focus area is collaborations. He intends to be in contact with JCPC to discuss potential collaborations further. In addition, the NC WORKS Next Gen program serves youth 17-24 with at least two barriers to employment; this program may be a fit for many JCPC program participants who need to build job skills. Mr. Langley also shared summer opportunities for students, which he will also send via email:

* NC Glaxo Smith-Kline Foundation Summer Immersion Experience in Biotech at NCCU
  + Focus: Drug Discovery, Financial Literacy, Biotechnology, Entrepreneurship
  + 2 sessions: 6/16 – 6/28 & 7/14 – 7/26
  + Deadline: 4/1
  + $1,000 stipend for participants
  + Rising 11th and 12th graders
* Young Diplomats Program at Hampton University
  + $1,000 participation cost
  + Deadline: 4/1
  + Focus: Public Policy
  + Residential
  + Rising 10th – 12th graders
* Black College Institute at Virginia Tech
  + Residential
  + 3 Sessions: 6/16 – 6/20; 6/23 – 6/27; 6/30 – 7/3
  + Opportunity for hands-on training, African American cultural experiences, college prep
* Project Uplift and Uplift+ at UNC-CH
  + Uplift
    - High school seniors
    - 1 day
    - 3 sessions: 6/1, 6/8, & 6/22
    - Application closes 3/15
  + Uplift+
    - Two-week summer academic enrichment and college readiness program
    - 6/7 – 6/30
    - Application closes 3/15
* Transportation Program NC A&T State University
  + Applications due in April
  + 2 letters of recommendation
  + Rising 10th and 11th graders
* Early Access Accelerator at NCSSM
  + 5th and 6th graders
  + Cost: $350
  + Open until filled
  + Bring own lunch
* Duke University Neuroscience Experience Program
  + Applications due 3/1
  + Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors at least 15 years of age by 6/10
  + Commuting distance of West Campus
  + 2 letters of recommendation
  + 8 weeks, M-F, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
* Emerging Scholars Program at NC State
  + Applications due 4/1
  + 6/16 – 6/22
  + Precollege program for rising juniors and seniors
  + Cost: $20

Two slots are available for the Gentlemen of Excellence program.

Mr. Hurdle shared that Summer Camp with the Department of Parks and Recreation registration starts 3/18 for youth and teens. Ms. Dominguez will share the registration for the summer program next week. Ms. Black will be sending out information about POA’s upcoming community event.

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.