

**JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL**

**March 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes (Amended)**

**Members Present:** Kevin McIver, Alex Hurdle, John Morris, Angela Nunn, Renee Hill, Laylon Williams, Seth Kandl, Abigail Holloway, Jonathan Wilson, Laura Toptine, Tamala McDowell, Monica Burnette, Ahmed Ali, John Morris, L.A. Jones

**Programs Present:**), Yasmin Boone (PROUD), Gwendolyn Johnson (Teen Court), Raquel Dominquez (Elna B. Spaulding Conflict Resolution Center), Tiffany Swoope (GRACED, Inc.), Lucretia Alston (Youth Build), Monica Daye (SUSO), Quillie Coath (PROUD)

**Guests:** Quanesha Archer (Public Health), Karen Shaw (Alliance), Krystal Harris (CISS), Maggie Cveticanin (DSS), DeWarren Langley, Raven Walters (Youth Home), PROUD Intern, Yah’ala Israel (Beyond the Barriers Outreach), Dwane Brinson (Assistant County Manager), Randy Price (Proud)

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

**Welcome & Introductions**

Vice Chair Abigail Holloway called the meeting to order at 4:13, welcomed attendees, and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

**Minutes Review**

Ms. Holloway invited attendees to review the February 28 minutes, which were sent to attendees via email. DeWarren Langley requested that the minutes be amended to include his name as a guest. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

**RFP Process/Schedule**

Eddie Crews noted that the RFP closed on Monday, March 18. Programs that met the eligibility criteria and met the requirements of the RFP will be contacted in the coming days. The Executive Committee met yesterday, and members will receive copies of the applications to review. Presentations will be scheduled for April 4, 2024, at 4:00 pm.

Mr. Crews reiterated that this RFP included the state JCPC funds that were unallocated for the upcoming fiscal year. Durham is in its second year of funding, so only $71,000 of the total allocation was out for bid. The majority of programs funded in 2023-2024 were already approved for the next year’s funding.

Ms. Holloway informed attendees that presentations would take place via Zoom. JCPC members will receive a link to participate in the event.

**Program Updates**

**Project BUILD**

* Current Number of Youth Enrolled: ~125
* Number of New Referrals: 10
* Number of Successful Completions:
* Programmatic Changes: Program has hired two new outreach workers, one of whom has already started. The other outreach worker is starting Monday, April 1. The program has also implemented a new referral process.
* Issues the Program is Facing: None.
* Programmatic Achievements: At least 34 youth responded to employment opportunities through YouthWorks. Eight youth attended the program’s Spring Break event. The program is trying to connect participating youth to an upcoming job fair at Durham Bulls Athletic Park. The program made 15 referrals to mental health services and 26 referrals to other community-based services.

Ms. Nunn asked whether the two new staff positions were hired due to increased funding or if they were filling existing vacancies. Project BUILD staff confirmed that these were existing vacancies being filled. Project BUILD staff provided an estimate of approximately 125 youth served. He also noted that with the two new outreach workers, the program could reach more youth. Tamala McDowell asked how many youths were on an outreach worker’s caseload. Project BUILD staff responded that caseloads are approximately 18-24 youth. Mr. McIver asked if the current caseload led to conflicts among youth in the same group and if more outreach workers were needed. Project BUILD staff stated that the outreach workers must know who is in their group and be familiar with their affiliations, as well as communicate with other outreach workers.

**PROUD**

* Current Number of Youth Enrolled: 24
* Number of New Referrals: 4 (53 for the year)
* Number of Successful Completions: 12 (14 will be completing in April; 15 have been identified to start in April)
* Programmatic Changes: None
* Issues the Program is Facing: PROUD is preparing for an influx of youth in the program with warmer weather. Juvenile Court numbers increase at this time of year.
* Programmatic Achievements: PROUD is working with its 5 interns, including Charity from the Psychology Department. Bringing on interns from the Psychology Department is new in the last two-three years. In March, PROUD focuses on preparing youth for Work Readiness sessions and County jobs. Eight youth in the program are applying; two youth were selected through the lottery. PROUD has received 12 youth to date from a local college in Diversion Program. PROUD is continuing with its training.

Angela Nunn asked if PROUD was seeing an increase in children ages 10-12 in the program. Ms. Boone confirmed this and shared that many of these youth coming from DSA, where PROUD has a strong working relationship with SROs; PROUD asks that if youth are not being charged that they be referred to the program. Many middle school youths have weapons. The youngest child currently in the program is 12 years old.

Ms. Nunn noted that this is an area that JCPC needs to address. JCPC similarly saw an uptick among younger children 5-6 years ago, but eventually, these numbers dropped.

**EPIC**

* Current Number of Youth Enrolled: 8 (17 over the course of the year); 2 on waitlist
* Number of New Referrals: 3 youth referred in the last week
* Number of Successful Completions: None
* Programmatic Changes: None
* Issues the Program is Facing: Youth in the program are not only experiencing behavioral issues, but many of them have witnessed domestic violence, which is having an impact on them in school and affecting their overall mental health. The program still has space for clients referred by Juvenile Courts and hopes to explore this avenue for referrals; most referrals currently come from DSS.

**Parenting of Adolescents**

Written report provided by Ms. Cynia Black.

**Elna B. Spaulding Conflict Resolution Center**

* Number of New Referrals:
	+ 10 for truancy mediation

**Teen Court**

* Current Number of Youth Enrolled: 36
* Number of New Referrals:
	+ 7 (Teen Court)
	+ 3 (Restitution)
* Number of Successful Completions:
	+ 0 (Teen Court)
	+ 6 (Restitution)
* Programmatic Changes: None
* Issues the Program is Facing: None
* Programmatic Achievements: Intern is working to get additional in-person placements. Virtual optional will continue to be available. Intern is also seeking grant funding.

**Graced**

* Current Number of Youth Enrolled: 12
* Number of New Referrals: 0
* Number of Successful Completions: 0
* Programmatic Changes: None
* 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. The program has trained one new mentor and will be at a networking event at St. Joseph’s with a community partner.
* Programmatic Achievements: GRACED launched a new tutoring program in January. One participant improved her reading comprehension skills and brought her grade from a C to an A. Program is also holding a focus group with youth, which is part of building a Durham Youth Mentoring Alliance in collaboration with Durham’s Office of Youth. Three youth applied for YouthWorks positions, and one had an interview this week. The program is launching a business interview etiquette series and a financial literacy series.

Mr. Langley asked Tiffany Swoope to provide more details on GRACED’s new strategic partnership. Ms. Swoope explained that Ms. Swoope is working with Youth Mentoring Collaboration, which received a grant through Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services. Through a two-year agreement with GRACED, Youth Mentoring Collaboration will provide support for up to 30 one-on-one mentor-mentee matches, as well as help with mentor recruitment. Ms. Swoope also emphasized how important it is for youth to get to get to know other young people in the community.

**YouthBuild**

* Current Number of Youth Enrolled: 9
* Number of New Referrals: 4
* Number of Successful Completions: 0
* Programmatic Changes: Program hopes to add a remote component to the program.
* Issues the Program is Facing: None
* Programmatic Achievements: YouthBuild hired a new instructor.

Ms. Holloway reminded all programs to email their monthly reports.

**Chief Court Counselor Updates**

Tamala McDowell shared the February report.

* 158 youth on supervision for the month of January
* 34 juveniles received
* 49 complaints; 19 complaints approved
* 0 diversions
* 40 detention admissions; 14 new admissions in February
* 0 committed to YDC

Offense Types:

* 3 violent offenses
* 17 serious offenses
* 29 minor offenses
* 0 status offense

Demographic Data:

* 26 Black; 2 Hispanic; 4 white; 2 other
* 17 males; 17 females
* 25 youth aged 11-15; 9 youth aged 16+

Ms. Nunn asked whether any of the minor offenses could be diverted to a diversion case. Ms. McDowell clarified that these offenses might have been committed in addition to felonies, and there was no way to break down this data at this time; there were no diversions in February.

Mr. Langley asked if youth were more receptive to any specific programs or whether there were any gaps in programmatic needs for the youth referred to court counselors. Ms. McDowell said this depends on each specific young person; all youth are assessed to ensure that they are being referred to the appropriate program for their needs. However, sometimes the young person may not respond to the program, even if it is an appropriate referral. Mr. Langley followed up to ask if any parents asked for additional support. Ms. McDowell responded that requests for parental support are infrequent, even though Court Counselors strive to support the whole family.

Mr. McIver inquired about recidivism among youth in the last year. Ms. McDowell does not have this data, but anecdotally, rates of recidivism are high. Many youths have previously cycled through or are currently on supervision. Ms. Holloway shared that when juveniles come in for their first charge and are assigned an attorney, they will return to that attorney for any subsequent charges until they turn 18, unless a conflict arises. Ms. Holloway estimated that approximately 8 out of 10 clients are youth she has had on her caseload before. Ms. McDowell explained that they do not use the Misdemeanor Diversion Program, and officers refer to that program. Ms. Holloway noted that there are some youths they expect to see cycle, but they do not return.

**DPS Update**

Ms. Parker received an email from Dr. Melissa Watson, Director of Student Alternatives and Support indicating that she will be the new DPS representative for JCPC. She did not attend the meeting due to DPS spring break but plans to attend the next meeting.

**Chair Update**

Mr. McIver highlighted that many youths are continuing to cycle through, and JCPC needs to find programs to help keep youth engaged. Mr. McIver is still trying to work on a resource fair in partnership with the Sheriff’s Office. He shared that the Executive Committee met with Tamika Gilmer from Project Safe Neighborhood, and he is hoping that JCPC can work alongside her and hold a joint resource fair.

**Announcements and Adjournment**

Ms. Parker announced she will be sending out invitations and copies of funding proposals on Thursday, March 28 to JCPC members. Program presentations will be held on April 4.

Ms. McDowell shared that Stand Up, Speak Out (EPIC Program) held its ribbon cutting at their new space, and she encouraged JCPC members to visit the new facility. Monica Daye asked members who would like to visit the facility to email her at mdaye@susonc.org to set up a tour (either as a group or individually). The facility is an intentionally designed wellness space with space for groups, including an art group. The organization is focused on youth’s mental health.

Dwane Brinson shared that he will be taking over as the voting member from the County Manager’s Office. The work fits better within his assigned portfolio of departments; this transition will be happening soon and may be official by the next JCPC meeting in April.

Mr. Langley reminded attendees that the County is initiating its budget process and encouraged members to consider requesting the same amount JCPC requested from the County in 2023, as there are significant unmet needs in the community. Mr. Langley also noted that the Rising Stars Summer Internship Program for DPS closes on March 29, and he will email this out again. This is open to DPS high school students, who can receive course credit along with a stipend. The Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation will be offering a Boys of Color Summer Career Academy and will share details at a later date. Mr. Langley provided an update on the YouthWorks program, noting that over 1,000 individuals applied; however, only half of these applicants attended one of the two required orientation sessions. Mr. Langley recommended that programs follow up with any students who applied to determine whether they attended one of the required sessions.

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm.