

**JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL**

**April 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Kevin McIver, Alex Hurdle, Angela Nunn, Laylon Williams, Tamala McDowell, Renee Hill

**Members On-Line:** John Morris, Seth Kandl, L. A. Jones, Frederick Kearns, Dr. Melissa Watson, LiBria Stephens, Jonathan Wilson

**Programs Present:** Yasmin Boone (PROUD), Raquel Dominguez (Elna B. Spaulding Conflict Resolution Center), Arkeem Brooks (Project BUILD), Alvin Black (Durham Teen Court)

**Programs Present On-Line:** Cynia Black (POA), Tiffany Swoope (GRACED, Inc.), Lucretia Alston (Youth Build), Lisa Rowe (Triangle Literacy Council), Monica Daye (SUSO), Quillie Coath (PROUD)

**Guests Present On-Line:** Quanesha Archer (Public Health), Karen Shaw (Alliance), Dr. Gradesa Lockhart (DPS), Jessica Fludd

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

**Welcome & Introductions**

Chairperson Kevin McIver called the meeting to order at 4:08pm, welcomed attendees, and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

Kevin McIver announced a change in the order of the agenda, moving the Court Counselor Report and DPS Update before Program Presentations. Programs will then present allowing for questions, then the Closed Session will be held just for the voting members to discuss County Funding.

1. **Minutes Review**

Mr. McIver invited attendees to review the March 27th minutes, which were sent to attendees via email. Cynia Black requested that the minutes be amended to remove her name from ‘Members Present’ as she was not in attendance. Arkeem Brooks requested the minutes be amended by replacing his name with Randy Trice who was in attendance representing Project Build in his absence. Angela Nunn requested that the minutes be amended for Raven Walters to be noted as ‘Youth Home’ not ‘DJJ’. Motion to Approve the minutes was made. Motion was Seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

1. **Recognition of New Appointment**

Mr. McIver noted that the Board would like to recognize ACM Dwane Brinson from the County Manager’s Office as a new appointee. Mr. Brinson was not present.

1. **Approval of Recommendation for State Funding** – presented by Mr. Eddie Crews

Mr. Crews presented that we are currently in a two-year funding cycle. Approximately two (2) months ago an RFP was put out for bid for $71,000.00 consisting of the State allocation of the JCPC fund. Durham receives $701,000.00 on an annual basis which had been allocated to programs early in their second year, except for $71,000.00. GRACED, Inc. and Triangle Literacy were the two (2) programs that did not receive that second-year funding totaling $71,000.00. These two (2) programs submitted proposals which met all the requirements of the State to receive their second year of funding. Mr. McIver confirmed that the Executive Committee voted to approve their funding on the State allocation side to be the same as this current year and the vote is now being brought to the full Board. The Executive Committee voted to approve their funding as follows:

* GRACED was approved for $51,000.00 and
* Triangle Literacy was approved for $20,000.00.

Mr. McIver noted that this is the State allocation of funds totaling $71,000.00 and does not include anything from the county; the full $701,000.00 will be available for the next fiscal year.

All voting members were called to vote for the approval of State funds to be allocated to GRACED in the amount of $51,000.00 and to remain receiving this allocation in Fiscal Year 24-25. One (1) vote was abstained, and the Motion was approved.

All voting members were called to vote for the approval of State funds to be allocated to Triangle Literacy in the amount of $20,000.00 and to remain receiving this disbursement in Fiscal Year 24-25. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. McIver noted that the Board has approved all State funds for Fiscal Year 24-25.

1. **Chief Court Counselor Updates** – presented by Ms. Tamala McDowell

Ms. McDowell shared the March report as follows:

* 147 youth on supervision
* 18 juveniles received
* 136 complaints; 131 complaints approved
* 3 diversions
* 36 detention admissions
* 9 new admissions; 2 youths committed to YDC

Offense Types:

* 2 violent offences
* 125 Serious offences
* 9 minor offences

Demographic Data:

* 16 Black; 1 Hispanic; 1 Other
* 13 males; 5 females
* 11 aged 11-15; 7 aged 16+

A question was asked, what categories are the offenses falling into when the number reaches125?

Ms. McDowell replied that the categories are mostly breaking and entering, entry and loss of motor vehicles and larceny.

A question was asked about the cause of seeing 136 complaints to which Ms. McDowell replied that it

stems from a lot of the youth being charged with motor vehicle breaking and entering and multiple charges. Ms. McDowell further explained that some of these complaints may not have happened in the month of March, however, the charges are just being received in the month of March.

Mr. Crews noted that according to the numbers reported, the School Resource Officers are doing a good job to which Ms. McDowell agreed.

1. **DPS Update:** presented by Dr. Melissa Watson

Dr. Watson noted that this is her first official meeting as a representative for Durham Public Schools and indicated that her key take-aways from the meeting held right after Spring Break were:

1. Concerns regarding communication
2. Recognizing that ‘whole child’ means ‘whole community’ and
3. Some consideration must be given to have a sense of urgency regarding the quality of partnerships and their impact on the support available to intervene with scholars’ struggles with Durham Public Schools.

Dr. Watson noted as part of the effort to address these concerns, Project Build gave a presentation to the entire Department of Student Support Services which started that communication practice.

Dr. Watson recognized that there were barriers that the partnerships were experiencing in reaching out to leadership teams and school principals. To remove all barriers and strengthen these partnerships with Durham Schools, Dr. Watson extended an invitation to every member of the partnerships represented by JCPC to meet with the Department of Student Support Services by emailing her directly.

Dr. Lockhart noted that she had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Brooks and Dr. Lockhart and a colleague are going to work together to provide Mental Health First Aid Training to staff on May 16th. They are also going to participate in their very comprehensive gang training next week. The goal that we are trying to achieve is to increase mental health awareness and support in our community.

Dr. Watson noted that they are especially looking forward to potentially partnering with Speak Up Speak Out. A presentation was also done by Ms. Daye regarding all the resources that are available to that organization. Again, an open invitation was extended to everyone who is interested in getting deeply involved and engaged in the work, making connections, and ensuring that school leaders know and understand the resources that are available to them.

Mr. McIver noted that it is wonderful to hear that steps have been taken to build these partnerships and strengthen relationships, not only with JCPC, but other organizations as well to move our children out of the situations they find themselves in.

Mr. McIver moved Announcements before Program Presentations.

1. **Announcements:**

Arkeem Brooks announced that Project BUILD will have a National Gang Center Training at the Public Health Building on May7th, 8th and 9th from 8:30am to 5:30pm. They will conduct a session on the comprehensive Gang Model that has been followed since 2009 by Project BUILD to help the intervention team to sharpen their tools moving forward. This is a 3-day training.

Mr. McIver stated that the next agenda item will be the discussion of the $105,300.00 County Funding. Having gone a little over budget with the request for funding, Mr. McIver requested that every program that submitted a request, conduct a 5-minute presentation detailing the amount of funds they are requesting for and what these funds will be used for. Questions will follow.

1. **Program Presentations:**

**Elna B. Spaulding:** presented by Raquel Dominguez

Ms. Dominguez reported that there is a need for additional funds for different reasons:

1. To acquire more brochures and materials because the plan is to make more presentations to different programs to administrators, school resource officers, principals and at school staff meetings. The plan is also, to attend more community events to promote programs.
2. To enhance the Youth Mediation Program by renting space and providing snacks for the students.
3. To use for the Truancy and Youth Mediation Program, because there is a need to increase staff hours. The number of cases rose from seeing 6 cases in December to 80 cases now. We are including stricter follow-up due to the increasing complexity of the cases. She indicated they are meeting up to 3 times in total with the teens and the parents. Every meeting is at least an hour consisting of writing the action plans, contacting parents, putting together the mediation, and sending reminders. The initial calculation was for 3 hours, and it is now 8 hours.

A question was asked how much Ms. Dominguez was asking for, to which Ms. Dominguez replied $9,027.00.

A question was asked was there much of a demand for the Sentencing Circles, to which Ms. Dominguez replied that there was not.

**Project BUILD:** presented by Arkeen Brooks

Mr. Brooks reported that Project BUILD is requesting to continue some of the services that are already in place with current contracts with Stand up Speak Out and Favor Desserts. With SUSO, we use their Creative Youth Voices for Change Program which addresses trauma, academic struggles, which is done using poetry and art. This is the first time in 13 years that the kids were really engaged. Once this ended in November, they saw that the kids wanted to continue with this activity. Funds from the City were used to operate in January. The same situation occurred with Favor Desserts who taught kids the baking business, financial literacy and what it means to be an entrepreneur. They would like to continue with these endeavors. They ended their 10-year summer camp last year so that they could connect with these other camps in the community.

Project Build is requesting $11,000.00

A question was asked how many kids attended the baking program and is there a program schedule that is being followed, to which Mr. Brooks replied last Monday we had 12 – 15 kids and the schedule is Sundays and Mondays 5pm – 7pm.

**PROUD Program:** presented by Yasmin Boone

Ms. Boone reported that the program is asking for $23,194.00 and would like to be able to serve more youths with these funds. Currently they are contracted to serve 55 youths, and to date they have 72 referred and 59 served. In the past, they have always surpassed their numbers. These additional funds will assist with this increase in the numbers of youths served so that these services will remain at no cost to any child or parent that comes to us. They also acquired a van with some discretionary funds that were received, which assists with getting the children home. They added a translator for better communication with their Hispanic/Latino speaking families. It is their hope to increase this communication with the use of electronic devices for texting purposes with these resources. They would also like to improve their website and communication with their interns, and training materials.

Quillie Coath added that they are getting referrals for younger kids. Mr. Coath stated, “We usually service children from 13-17, however we are starting to get calls for children 12 years of age. If they are turning 13 within the next 4 or 5 months, I will take them into the program. When I take them into the program, they are kept separate from the regular groups. I have the staff doing more one-on-one sessions with those youths to get them ready for the program without putting them on a waiting list. This is done to keep these youths away from the bad influences of the older kids. Our female population is picking up as well – 18 will go into the new fiscal year. We start over every June when it comes to JCPC funding. There’s been a gap where kids have started this year but will not complete the program until next year. We have had up to 72 referrals this year (which are not all processed) which indicates that we will exceed our numbers.”

Mr. Coath clarified that with the addition of the 12-year-old children, there will be a need to increase staffing and employee hours.

**Durham Teen Court:** presented by Alvin Black

Mr. Black reported that with reference to IT, the requests are as follows:

* Newer computers: The current computers are operating on Windows 2007 and have files as old as 2001. The request is for $2,400.00 to replace 4 computers.
* Additional Contracted Support Services: There has been an increase in Juvenile Sexual Deviancy cases and the Program has been contracting therapists, who are currently being paid $1,500.00 - the requested amount.
* Assistance with obtaining health insurance for the participating, part-time employees in the amount of $3,000.00.
* The CPA that has been contracted for an audit has increased his fee - the requested amount is $1,500.00 for these services.

Mr. Black reported the total requested amount is $9,900.00.

A question was asked, what kind of credentials does the contracted mental health therapist have. Mr. Black responded that this is a licensed therapist.

A question was asked, how many youths are being served right now and what is the plan for increasing that number. Mr. Black replied that there are about 7 cases that are being managed currently and his focus point has been to network with the School Resource Officers who have a large capacity to address cases being diverted from the criminal justice system. Mr. Black reported that there have been about 37 cases in total in the pipeline since January.

**Epic:** presented by Monica Daye

Ms. Daye reported that the Epic is requesting an additional $8,290.00. Ms. Daye went on to state the following:

 “I would like you to understand the dynamics of the work and take into consideration where we are in the organization. I am the only full-time employee at Stand Up Speak Out. All our clinicians and therapists are contracted staff. There is no program director. We are providing free mental health services for our youth **and** adults. We are the only culturally specific organization here providing services for youth that have experienced sexual abuse and are witnesses to domestic violence which is what makes SUSO unique. We don’t have full-time staff because we don’t have the funding to keep people here because we don’t have incentives (perks) i.e., health insurance that other organizations have. With all staff being contracted and part-time, it is difficult to maintain SUSO’s unique services provided i.e., utilizing the art component that helps from a holistic standpoint. We’ve served 17 youths thus far this fiscal year and we have about 8 or 9 waiting. The capacity is kept consistently and purposefully low, based on current funding.”

Ms. Daye was asked if the $8,900.00 was just the bare minimum needed to which Ms. Daye replied yes,

that is bare minimum, which is not even going to scratch the surface, however this amount will allow for an increase in hours for the administrative assistant, case managers, and clinicians.

Ms. Daye was asked the question, how much was needed outside of the $8,900.00 requested. Ms. Daye replied that there needs to be another Lead besides herself since she is overseeing both the outreach component as well as direct care. Outside of the existing funding, if the program can receive $50,000.00 to bring in another lead person to help with the programming that is being provided now, it would help as partnerships continue to grow.

A question was asked if the additional funding would address the 8 juveniles waiting. Ms. Daye replied that it would allow the program to address them in a way where if they are unable to schedule with a clinician, they can be placed in a therapeutic group by contracting a Trauma-Informed Group Facilitator.

**Parenting of Adolescents:** presented by Cynia Black

Parenting of Adolescents is requesting funding for the following:

* Operational expenses, i.e. rent and utilities because space is shared with two other programs where in-house sessions are conducted with clients.
* Office supplies, i.e. pre and post assessments and urinalysis exams
* To continue to provide the MDFT Program to the youth of Durham at no cost to our families. This is a very expensive service that the JCPC is currently funding.
* Training in PSPECT which the program hopes to bring on as an additional JCPC provided service in fiscal year 25-26.

The request is for a total of $30,913.00.

**Triangle literacy:** presented by Lisa Rowe

Ms. Rowe initially presented background information and statistics on Bull City Youth Build wherein the program is seeking funding from other sources such as private donors, foundations, church groups and grocery stores to offset the cost of the increasing amount of participants in the program (which is what the funding will be used for). The program will have opportunities to provide GED Testing, meals, digital literacy workshops, job training opportunities in construction, and transportation.

Ms. Lucretia Alston reported that there are currently 21 kids,14 of which are 16 -18 years of age.

**GRACED:** presented by Tiffany Swoope

Ms. Swoope presented that the program’s FY 24-25 goals and objectives are growth and expansion to further develop the program which serves at-risk youths. To date, the program is servicing:

* 13 kids
* 2 referrals

The Program was recognized by Durham Health Department’s 2023 Community Health Assessment Partnership for a Healthy Durham. Funding is needed for paid support to assist with the coordination of the mentors and program volunteers. In addition, a Success Manager is needed to keep a tab on yearly goals, mentor relationships, and academic goals. The additional funding will also be used to expand the reach of the program and connect better with families in the community. Ms. Swoope would also like to employ a licensed therapist for quarterly mental health check-ins with the mentors. Also, continued access to a third-party transportation service which provides the children with exposure to outings, plays, performances, workshops, and maintenance of the STEM Program.

Ms. Swoope requested a total of $59,370.00.

Mr. McIver stated that moving forward into the next fiscal year, he would like the partnerships to start thinking about preparing to go the County and State Legislatures to get the funding for the youth programs that are lacking currently.

Mr. McIver dismissed the Programs (approximately 5:10pm). The voting members remained for a Closed Session.