

**JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL**

**May 22, 2024: Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Abigail Holloway, LiBria Stephens, Angela Nunn, Renee Hill, Tamala McDowell, Ahmed Ali

**Members On-line:** Kevin McIver, Alex Hurdle, Seth Kandl, Dr. Melissa Watson, Monica Burnette, Dwane Brinson

**Programs Present:** Arkeem Brooks (Project Build), Raquel Dominguez (Elna B. Spaulding Conflict Resolution Center

**Programs On-line:** Quillie Coath (PROUD), Cynia Black (POA), Tiffany Swoope (GRACED, Inc.), Yasmin Boone (PROUD)

**Guests Present:** Krystal Harris (CISS), Raven Walters (Youth Diversion Coordinator) Quanesha Archer (Public Health), Karen Shaw (Alliance), Raven Walters (DJJ),

**Guests On-line:** Dr. Gradesa Lockhart, DeWarren Langley, YMFHA

**Staff Present:** Robin Heath, Viveca Deans, Janice Williams

**Staff On-line:** Eddie Crews

**Excused Absences:** Lisa Rowe (TLC), Gwendolyn Johnson (Durham Teen Court)

**Welcome & Introductions**

Vice Chair Abigail Holloway called the meeting to order at 4:10pm. Vice Chair Holloway welcomed attendees and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves, starting with in-house attendees followed by on-line attendees.

**Minutes Review**

Ms. Holloway stated that the April 2024 minutes will be reviewed for approval at the June 26th Board Meeting.

**State Update:** presented by Mr. Eddie Crews

Mr. Crews stated that as the fiscal year is ending, he has been working with Roshana, Viveca and Janice to finalize the County Plan which shows the State that the JCPC Council has done their due diligence to receive the State Funds. Programs have been given notice of their new County Awards which are being incorporated into their Program Agreements. Mr. Crews requested those Programs who have not submitted their agreements for FY 24-25 to please do so. Mr. Crews noted that we are still waiting for the budget from Raleigh and are still looking for additional funds for gun violence prevention. Hopefully, funds will be received by August so that they can be distributed to the new and existing programs. Mr. Crews’ supervisor, Mr. Lance Britt, reached out to him about possibly using Durham for a pilot gun violence prevention program. While there is a similar program in Fayetteville which consists of a video, Durham is looking to add additional facets to the program by developing a 16-week program and asking for participants in the Durham Community to join in this effort. This funding would be in addition to the existing JCPC Funds. Mr. Crews will provide the Board with updates going forward.

Ms. Holloway commented that Ms. LiBria Stephens, Mr. Kevin McIver and herself has had a conversation regarding gun violence and offered support for this endeavor in any way possible.

**Chief Court Counselor Update:**  presented by Tamala McDowell, Chief Court Counselor

Ms. McDowell shared the April/May report as follows:

* Juveniles on supervision: 166
* Juveniles received: 37
* Complaints: 58
	+ Approved: 25
* Diversions: 5
* Detention Admissions: 28
	+ New admissions: 8
* Committed to YDC: 1

Offense Types:

* Violent Offenses: 5 A-E
* Serious offenses: 23
* Minor Offenses: 30

Demographic Data:

* 33 Black; 3 white; 1 other
* 24 males; 13 females
* 15 youths aged 11-15: 22 youths aged 16+

A question was asked whether the staffing of the office has improved or stayed the same to which Ms. McDowell replied that the staffing has improved. The office has hired four (4) new staff members since November and are in basic training to become certified.

A question was asked if any those hired were males of color to which Ms. McDowell replied yes, one (1).

A question was asked to explain the difference between complaints received and complaints approved. Ms. McDowell explained that of the 58 complaints received, only 25 were approved, which means that some complaints may have been closed and some were diverted. Complaints that are closed are not included in the total count.

**DPS Update:** presented by Dr. Melissa Watson, School Superintendent

Dr. Watson reported that there has been positive movement in collaborating with the partnerships. As a result of this, the Conflict Resolution Center’s visit enabled DPS to modify the M.O.U so that the focus could be more proactive by expanding the opportunities for schools to access information on other courses of action as an alternative to suspension.

Dr. Lockhart reported on the work with Project Build and reported that approximately 7 – 8 Durham staff members from Student Support Services participated in the 3-day, comprehensive Gang Training, which was a very helpful and insightful experience. One of the highlights was sharing a Re-entry Plan with a DPS colleague who had no knowledge of the fact that there was a Re-entry Plan for students when they leave certain facilities. It was also discovered that communication lines need to be reaffirmed as to who issues notifications about students who are **or** are not gang affiliated to ensure no one is being missed.

Dr. Lockhart also participated in a gang intervention team meeting where she was able to provide insight from a school’s perspective. Lastly, youth mental health, first aid training was provided to Project BUILD’s team, which presented another opportunity to build partnerships on behalf of students in DPS.

Dr. Watson reiterated that the priorities of DPS moving forward will be the whole child, the whole community and expanding opportunities for collaboration.

**Program Updates**

**PROUD:** presented by Ms. Yasmine Boone

* Current Number of Youth Enrolled: 20
* Number of New Referrals: 8
* Number of Successful Completions: 26
* Programmatic changes: None.

The 5 interns that we had over the Spring semester all graduated from NCCU, with 2 attending grad school, one attending law school, one returning home to enter the work field, and the last one graduated from graduate school and returned home to work.

* Programmatic issues: We are well over our number, with 72 youth referred to the program since the beginning of the year. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, we are contracted to serve 55 youth. We are anticipating more referrals as we get towards the end of the fiscal year and with school ending soon. We also are still seeing an increase in requests for services for younger youth and an increase of students who are vaping in school. Our services will remain at no cost to our youth and the families that we serve.
* Programmatic achievements: PROUD is anticipating a few of our youth who will be graduating this school year, and we plan to be in attendance for them. We are preparing to take on one or two interns for the summer. We have been fortunate to be able to upgrade and purchase new technology that allows us to better serve our Hispanic and Spanish-speaking population. We maintain our staff development training and are celebrating one of our interns-turned-facilitator, as she has been actively recruited by the Department of Public Safety in Adult Probation.

Mr. Quille Coath reiterated the there is an increased number of calls for the younger population, youth 10, 11, and 12 years of age. With the increased use of vaping, Mr. Coath is collaborating with the Freedom Schools and other programs to prepare activities for the summer to engage this younger population.

**Project BUILD:** presented by Arkeem Brooks

* Current Number of Youth Enrolled: 70
* Number of New Referrals: 6
* Wait List: 4
* Programmatic Changes: None

The Program is fully staffed with seven (7) great outreach workers. The 3-day, comprehensive gang training took place in May where the discussion was about updating the gang model and how the community be better served. Unfortunately, the program lost a 17-year-old participant that was killed in April.

Mr. DeWarren Langley shared an article that was just released stating that 5 juveniles had been charged in a string of break-ins and thefts by the Durham police.

A question was asked if 70 was the cap for the program. Mr. Brooks replied no, as far as JCPC, the number of youths that were to be served was 105. It was asked if 70 was considered to be a high volume. Mr. Brooks replied, yes, it is high for this program.

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

* Current number of enrolled students:11 students
	+ Staff are attempting to open 6 additional referrals.
* Number of new referrals:0potential JCPC referrals
* Number of successful completions:2 cases closed successfully within the past month
* Programmatic changes:N/A
* Programmatic issues:2 staff vacancies
* Programmatic achievements**:** Attended the comprehensive gang training with Project BUILD

**Youth Build:** written report submitted

* Current number of enrolled students: 13
* Number of new referrals: 1
* Number of successful completions: None at this time .
* Programmatic changes: Some partnerships have pulled back due to their lack of funding. We were prepared to begin with them next week and unfortunately, they are unable to move forward as planned. However, we are still trying to partner with them for student volunteer experience. We are also trying to partner with the POOF center to provide transportation at an affordable amount.

* Programmatic issues: Staff is having to provide transportation for participants. Due to lack of funding, we are no longer able provide UBER’s for students, which was our form of prior transportation. Students still express concern about how they will continue to get to class if staff is not available to bring them. Staff are going over and beyond due to the fear that students will not be able to attend class.
* Programmatic achievements: Students have begun financial literacy seminars last month through Coastal Credit Union as well as PNC. Coastal credit union will be a 4 one day per week workshop where students will learn and become financial literate. Whereas PNC will be 1—2 times a month for one hour until all 8 courses are complete.

In addition, a work experience partnership is in the works with F7 Developers who will be working on the Fayette Place project on Fayetteville Street in Durham with DHA. Program Manager, Lucretia Alston, and 2 students attended an Open House at the Hayti Heritage Center recently to learn more about the project and meet other partners.

Finally, we have been able to secure summer meals for 6 weeks thought the Summer Meal Program!

On behalf of Youth Build, Mr. Brooks reported that approximately 9 or 10 Youth Build participants attended an event with My Brother’s Keeper.

**Graced:** presented by Tiffany Swoope

* Current number of youths enrolled: 13
* Number of new referrals: 5
	+ 1 was declined due to safety concerns for potential inter-gang conflicts from McDougal Terrace being introduced to the Cornwallis Community. Four (4) are parent referrals that are pending applications being returned.
* Number of Successful completions: 0
* Programmatic changes: Integrating step requirements for more parental engagement to contribute to youths' success. Met with parents through both virtual and in-person options to discuss youth growth and program updates.
* Programmatic Issues: None new.
* Programmatic Achievements:
	+ In collaboration with Durham Parks and Rec, a STEM coding mentoring program has been introduced at the rec center. Six of our youth have been fully committed to this place-based career exploration opportunity in addition to our programming.
	+ In May, there were a total of 26 potential touch points offered to our youth through collaborative efforts on a place-based basis including: GRACED, Inc's mentoring and leadership programs, in addition to a coding and multiple dance mentoring programs offered at the rec center through collaborative partnerships, which many of our youth took advantage of.
	+ In May, our youth were taken on 4 total outings.  Highlights included: a formal etiquette dinner outing to Carrabas, which allowed our youth to put their newly learned social competencies on display while being supported by mentors and community leaders; and an all-girls outing to William Peace University for a mental health symposium hosted for teenage girls, which was coordinated and facilitated by a licensed youth therapist.
	+ A place-based mental health wellness activity facilitated by a licensed youth therapist in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month.
	+ 2 youth applied to Durham Office of Youth Services Youth Ambassador opportunity.  This is very exciting considering we had a youth male serve in this capacity last year, which was a trajectory altering experience for him in the most positive of ways.
	+ Recruited a total of 13 potential new mentors for our program, which are undergoing the screening process.
	+ Executive Director attended the spring NCJSA training in Greensboro.

A question was asked if the young man that couldn’t be recruited into this program was referred to any other programs. Ms. Swoope replied that she spoke with the case worker and made a recommendation to place him with Project BUILD since they specialize in handling gang affiliated youths.

**Elna B. Spaulding Conflict Resolution Center:** presented by Ms. Raquel Dominguez

Current number of enrolled students:

Number of new referrals: 20 for Truancy Mediation and 1 for Youth Mediation

Number of successful completions:

Programmatic changes: No Changes

Programmatic issues:

Programmatic achievements:

* We have received a total of 94 referrals for Truancy Mediation from October 2023 to date.
* We have received 17 referrals for Youth Mediation to date.
* We are incorporating a summer program (Girl PowHer) to enhance our youth and truancy mediation program – to date 7 referrals.
* We continue participating in community events to raise awareness about the services provided by our organization:
1. On April 27, we participated in the community event Bull City Madness organized by Durham Cares.
2. On May 4, we participated at the community event Youth Summit 2024 sponsored by Hayti Reborn Justice Movement and the Bull City Bulldogs Athletic Association at the Holton Center.
* We presented at different meetings to discuss our youth program:
1. On May 8, I presented at the staff meeting of **Juvenile Court Counselors**.
2. On May 9, I presented at the monthly **School Social Workers** meeting.
3. On May 20, I will be presenting at the monthly **DPS Student Support Services Team** **Meeting**.

A question was asked if the involvement of DPS has had a positive effect on the school attendance with the children that are served. Ms. Dominguez replied that cases are received at the end of the school year; the mental health issues must improve first before the attendance can be improved.

A question was asked how many times do you reach out to the parents and how are the parents being reached. Ms. Dominguez replied that if the phone number is not working for the parents, then the school social worker and/or case manager is contacted.

A question was asked when a student reaches 90 – 120 days of absences, what is the next plan – is it to retain the student in their current grade and if so, what is the drop out rate at that point. Dr. Watson replied that she will present an official report on those numbers at the next meeting and there is significant push to retain these students.

Ms. Dominguez noted that for the children who have a high number of unexcused absences, the Program has received positive responses from the parents and family members expressing why their children are not attending school. The Program is then able to address those issues.

**Teen Court:**

Representative not present; report not submitted

**EPIC:**

Representative not present; report noy submitted

**Announcements and Adjournment**

Ms. Dominguez announced that there is a summer program for girls from June 24th – June 28th for girls aged 11-14 at no cost. Contact Ms. Dominguez for further information and enrollment.

Mr. Langley announced that there are camp options available that he will share at the next meeting.

Vice Chair Holloway adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.