



Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

December 17, 2014 Minutes

Members Present: Angela Nunn, Allan Lang, Jennifer Rogers, Elizabeth Shearer, Brenda Howerton, DeWarren K. Langley, Tasha, Jones, Anita Daniels, Herman Scotts, Jeffrey C. Forde, Arnold Dennis, Drew Cummings, Nicole Jimerson, Michael Becketts, Fungai Bennett, Stephanie L. Williams

Members Excused Absent: Judge Patricia D. Evans, Gayle Harris,

Members Absent: Umar Muhammad, Faye Paige, Tisha Jones, Ronald Thomas, Sr., Robert Gaddy, Javonte Carter

Staff Present: Jim Stuit, Celia Jefferson

Guest: Danielle Dolinski, Pam Gray, Laura Wagenknecht, Nicole Moore

Welcome

Angela Nunn, chair opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Angela asked everyone to review the minutes for any additions or modifications. **Motion:** that the minutes be accepted as presented. **Action:** Seconded and Approved.

Questions for the School Board/Superintendent

DeWarren announced that Heidi Carter, Chairwoman of the Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Bert L'Homme of Durham Public Schools had accepted our invitation to attend the our meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 4:00PM to discuss the suspension policy and its impact on juvenile delinquency in Durham County.

He explained that in preparation for the meeting, a list of questions from our members and program service providers will be provided to Chairwoman Carter and Superintendent L'Homme in advance. The list of questions will be provided no later than Monday, February 2, 2015. Chairwoman Carter and Superintendent L'Homme were offered the option of providing a written response to the questions to be disseminated to the membership and program service providers.

DeWarren asked members to email questions for discussion no later than Friday, January 16, 2015 to both him and Angela. He noted that the Council would discuss the questions at the next meeting to determine the final list to be submitted to Chairwoman Carter and Superintendent L'Homme.

Gang Reduction Strategy meeting update

DeWarren reported that the Gang Reduction Strategy Steering Committee met on December 10, 2014. He noted that Michelle Young reported that Project BUILD served 85 clients between October 1 and November 30, 2014, and currently has 71 active participants. Upcoming Project BUILD activities include Winter Camp, Triangle Land Conservancy Partnership and D-Work Employment Academy. The Adopt a Kid for Christmas effort is underway, with 51 youth (and siblings) adopted to date. DeWarren said he would email a copy of the report to the members. He reported that Jim Stuit, Gang Reduction Manager, gave a presentation entitled “Progress in 2014/Persistent Challenges for 2015” which noted that areas examined for progress and challenges were Community, Law Enforcement, Schools and Service Provision. The presentation emphasized that much of the progress attained to date can be attributed to revision, development and implementation of policies and procedures by policy makers on the Steering Committee.

DeWarren highlighted that Larry Smith of the Durham Police Department reported on the rash of shootings that occurred in late November. Captain Smith noted that although one victim and one suspect are gang-involved, it does not appear that these shootings are related to gang activity. The DPD report included the number of validated gang members arrested since the previous meeting (44) and the year-to-date number of validated gang members arrested (369). Reports distributed listed the offenses leading to arrests. Tom Bonfield requested that future reports distinguish between violent crime and other crime.

DeWarren reported that Ann Oshel of Alliance Behavior Healthcare delivered a presentation on “BECOMING Durham; Update and Evaluation”. The presentation included an overview of project goals, Youth Advisory Council updates, and an evaluation overview. He noted that the report is not in its final format and he would request a copy for dissemination to the membership once the final report was available.

DeWarren highlighted that Brian Jones of the Durham County Sheriff’s Office (DCSO) provided information on the DCSO educational initiatives in the detention center. A GED pilot program began in September for 16-24 year-old youth who are not enrolled in school. Inmates with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be serviced according to the needs identified in the IEP. Finally, Durham Public Schools (DPS) will provide two full-time teachers and DCSO will provide computers, Internet access and curriculum for educational services to any inmate who is enrolled in DPS. There are challenges associated with all these programs, one being that the average stay at the jail is 16 days. The goal of the programs is to “connect, plant a seed and follow-up”.

Lastly, DeWarren reported that Superintendent Bert L’Homme announced DPS initiatives include a truancy center, instruction in the detention center, direct mental health services to six schools and staff training on suspension issues.

Presentations:

Rebound, alternatives for Youth – Juvenile Structured Day – partial day Pam Gray, Director reported that the Rebound program provides intensive services to Durham County middle and high school youth on short-term suspension (a maximum of 10 days) from school by focusing on their strengths and resilience so that they may develop the skills, supports, and strategies needed

to reconnect with their schools, communities, and families and achieve their goals. Rebound provides an all-day, comprehensive program of activities for youth on suspension.

Parenting of Adolescents

The Parenting of Adolescents program (POA) provides home based family counseling utilizing Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) through a sixteen to twenty four week, 2 to 3 times per week contact with parents and adolescents. MDFT is an evidence based family intervention developed primarily for African American and Latino court involved and at-risk youth. POA serves Durham County families with juveniles between the ages of 6 and 17 who are court involved or at risk for court involvement.

Announcements

DeWarren noted that the My Brother's Keeper Initiative will hold a Youth Summit on Saturday, January 24, 2015 from 9:45AM until 1:00PM at the Durham Convention Center, 301 West Morgan Street, Durham, NC 27701. Youth ages 11 to 21 are invited. He explained that the goal of the Summit is to begin a productive conversation on issues important to the lives Durham's young men of color to develop a targeted, multifaceted and collaborative strategy with a focus on educational attainment, court involvement, job training & placement and health. DeWarren noted that building on current efforts and strengths, the Initiative will perform policy reviews, share relevant data and craft recommendations for action, and begin to build new structures that can result in effective change for this population.

Meeting adjourned at 6pm.