



DURHAM COUNTY JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes - March 25, 2015

Members Present: Javonte Carver, DeWarren K. Langley, Angela Nunn, Nicole Jimerson, Jennifer Rogers, Tasha Jones, Ameshi Cooper, Anita A. Daniels, Gayle B. Harris, Drew Cummings, Umar Muhammad, Jeff Forde, Ronald Thomas, Sr., Stephanie Williams, Allan Lang, Arnold Dennis

Members Excused: Brenda Howerton, Gayle Harris, Elizabeth Shears, Danielle Dolinski

Member Absent: Robert Gaddy, Herman Scott

Guest: B. Angeloe Burch Sr, Stephanie Greene, Tonya Griffis, Cpl. Frederick Kearns, Durham PD

Staff: Jim Stuit, Gudrun Parmer, Celia Jefferson

Welcome and introductions

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

Approval of Minutes

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

JCPC Administrative Funds to fund Youth Work Summer Internships

DeWarren noted that the Council approved administrative funds to provide stipends for court involved youth to obtain internships through the Durham YouthWork Internship Program. Angela thanked members for their support and explained that the intent of the internships is to divert court-involved youth from further adjudications.

Tasha reported that she and her staff had been in contact with James Dickens in the Office of Economic & Workforce Development to connect the youth with employment. She noted that she and her staff had identified the youth who would participate and the applications had been submitted. Tasha thanked the members for their support and noted the positive and rewarding experience the youth had last year participating in the program.

Update from the Gang Reduction Steering Committee

DeWarren Langley, Vice Chair serves as the representative to the Gang Reduction Steering Committee and provided an update from the February 11, 2015 meeting.

Dr. James (Buddy) Howell. Dr. Howell is the Senior Research Associate for the National Gang Center, and is a nationally recognized and well-published expert on gang research. Dr. Howell

was the co-author (along with Deborah Wiesel) of Durham's 2007 Comprehensive Gang Assessment.

He reported that Dr. Howell delivered a presentation entitled "Risk Factors for Gang Joining: How to Address These in the Comprehensive Gang Model". He began his presentation by recognizing Durham for its gang reduction efforts through adherence to the Comprehensive Gang Model developed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Provision (OJJDP).

DeWarren noted that Dr. Howell provided information on risk factors for gang joining, and how these risk factors operate developmentally. He discussed best practices for building a prevention, intervention and suppression continuum to address these risk factors, with the end result being a reduction in gang violence. Finally, he suggested using the OJJDP Strategic Planning Tool in improving service selection and matching.

DeWarren highlighted that County Commissioner Chairman Michael Page gave an update on Durham's My Brother's Keeper (MBK) initiative. President Obama created this initiative in February 2014 with a challenge for communities to "help young people of color stay on track by providing the support they need to think more broadly about their future". Durham has answered this challenge by creating a community MBK initiative that began in earnest with a Community Summit on November 13, 2014. As a result of the summit, four subcommittees were formed; education, job training/development, court involvement and health.

A well-attended Youth Summit was held on January 24, 2015 with special speakers and break-out groups. Mr. Page indicated that chairpersons have been assigned to the four subcommittees, with the work on-going and future reports on the effort to the community. Durham was honored to host a Community MBK Roundtable with United States Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez as the special speaker prior to the start of the Gang Reduction Steering Committee meeting.

JCPC Official Monitoring Reports Presented by JCPC

DeWarren thanked the team leads and team members for their hard work in completing the monitoring visits.

Angela reported that the PROUD Program serves youth ages 13-17 and focus to increase the awareness and sensitivity of the youth in specified life learning skills. During the sixteen week term, the program works with youth that are delinquent or involved in gangs, needing pro-social skills and exhibiting serious behavior problems in school and functioning below grade level. She noted that the program has a strong relationship with the court counselors and serves the youth very well.

Nicole reported that El Futuro provides mental health and substance abuse treatment services for at-risk Latinos ages 7-17 in Durham County in order to decrease clinical symptoms, improve academic performance, increase life skills, and increase family functioning and decrease high-risk and delinquency behaviors. The El Futuro team is extremely excited about expanded their

services to include an open-access clinic. Most referrals are received from DJJ and parents, however, the relationship between the clinic and the schools could be strengthened in order to secure another viable referral source. She noted good communication between the service provider and court counselors.

Jeffrey reported that the Juvenile Justice Project is designed to deter youth, ages 6-18 from the criminal justice system by utilizing restorative models to address juvenile offenders, including victim-offender mediation, conflict coaching and basic mediation to divert youth from court-involvement yet hold them accountable for their actions. The Project also administers in-school truancy court. He noted that the Project anticipates the discontinuation of funds from the United Way and expressed concern about the quarterly reports required by JCPC which requests information provided in NC Allies.

Umar reported that Teen Court & Restitution is an alternative court for youth who commit first time misdemeanor offenses. Youth admitted to the Court are defended, prosecuted and judged by their peers and hold youth accountable for their actions. The Restitution Program provides community service opportunities for adjudicated/diverted youth to repay the victims of their crimes. He noted that the numbers of youth served was slightly lower than last year at the time of the monitoring visit and communication with the court counselors is strong.

Gayle reported Parenting of Adolescents provides 12-36 weeks of home-based family counseling for at-risk and court involved youth, ages 6-17, and their families utilizing Multidimensional Family Therapy. Together, the program works on developing healthy parent-child/family relationships, improve family management skills, problem-solving and understanding adolescent development and behavior. The programs goal is to strengthen families and reduce the likelihood of an adolescent's involvement in the court system. Services are offered in English & Spanish. She noted that the Program uses the evidenced-based multidimensional family therapy model which has evidenced a decrease in aggression and violence, an increase in school attendance and participation, an increase in pro-social activity and involvement and a decrease in juvenile adjudications and complaints.

DeWarren reported that Rebound provides a needed structured environment for students on short term suspension to assist with conflict resolution and academic progression. Rebound must develop and maintain stronger relationships with high school administrators and secure additional funding to support the work of the organization. He explained that Rebound must secure financial resources other than those provided through the funding process of the Durham County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council to sustain the program. In addition, Rebound must develop and maintain stronger relationships with high school administrators to improve referrals.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Announcements

DeWarren announced that he would share the details of the Youth Summit for the Durham YouthWork Internship Program once the date is determined. He noted that the event has been reschedule a number of times due to inclement weather.