

**Mecklenburg County
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting
February 25, 2014 – Minutes**

Members Present: Kimberly Best-Staton, Charles Bradley, Lawrence Brinson, Stephanie Carter-Tyson, Bobby Cobb, Keith Cradle, Sarah Crowder, Pete Davis, Tom Eberly, Douglas Edwards, Antoine Ensley, Jane Goble-Clark, Darrell Gregory, Lola Massad, Mary Lisa Moore, Susan McCarter, Laura McFern, Evelyn Mills, Paul Risk, Heather Taraska

Staff Present: Scott Stoker

Guests Present: Dr. Mark Plescia, Director Mecklenburg County Health Department, Becky Smith – Barium Springs; Annola Little-Project Challenge, Cara Evans-Patterson-CMPD, Latonya McLaurin-FACET, Beryl Miller-GAP, Nina Beech-Health Department, Whitney Hendrix-DASH, Teresa White-LIFT, Darryl Bego-LIFT, Stephanie Jepson

Members Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by the Chair, Sarah Crowder. Quorum was established.

Approval of the Agenda for February 25, 2014: The agenda was amended, removing the report from Dr. Shelley Listwan. Pete Davis made the motion to approve the revised agenda, which was seconded by Darrell Gregory. The agenda was approved unanimously by the Council.

Review and Approval of November 19, 2013 Minutes: Judge Best-Staton moved that the November 19, 2013 minutes be approved as presented and Laura seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Council.

Welcome to New Members and JCPC New Hire: Sarah Crowder officially welcomed Charles Bradley, the Director of YFS and the designee of the DSS director, as a new council member. Charles is taking the seat vacated by Paul Risk, who has retired. RoCheryl Pratt was introduced as the new administrative assistant for Mecklenburg County JCPC.

Monitoring Committee Report: Jane Goble-Clark provided an update on the new Mecklenburg County JCPC monitoring tool. She advised that the programs should have the monitoring report completed by the end of the third quarter. She also requested feedback from the programs once the monitoring report is completed.

Risk and Needs Committee Report: Susan McCarter advised that the committee found two significant trends when evaluating data from the state: anecdotal data, community data. There were two significant trends found. First, the data showed an increase in the number of youth not functioning at or above grade level. The second trend showed an increase in reports of youth with severe or high level behavioral problems at school. The risk data, which was distributed to the Council by email, was aggregated by minorities and whites. The data indicated

disproportionate contact for minority youth. Susan pointed out that the RFP has included requirements for diversity training to ensure that the programs are able to address race-focused issues which require race-focused solutions. A checklist will also be included along with the RFP on JCPC's website.

Report from YDI: Darryl Bego and staff presented a report on YDI. They identified Rose Pathways to Mentoring as their evidenced based program. He advised that this model allows them to recognize the individual needs of the clients through a risk assessment completed by the parents. YDI staff advised that 86% of their students have never served out of school or in school suspension. They also advised that their students have recovered 88% of credits needed to graduate from high school and 93% have completed the North Carolina Graduation Project on time. Mr. Bego stated that biggest challenge is having more adjudicated youth participate in the program. YDI believes that the introduction of the SPEP requirement will help resolve those challenges. Darrell Gregory asked why funding is needed if 86% of students have never served out of school or in school suspension. Mr. Bego answered that the 86% are the students who have traditionally been suspended, so this is seen as a huge gain. Darrell Gregory responded by stating that if YDI's population is complimented by adjudicated youth, that number from adjudicated youth must be a small number to get a number as high as 86%. Mr. Bego replied that the students who come from Project LIFT Academy are students who typically skip school or are in danger of failing and have missed 30-40 days while in traditional school at West Charlotte. He also explained that the students from West Charlotte enroll in YDI no longer skip school, have improved attendance, and have a decline in suspension. Sarah Crowder suggested that Mr. Bego send out an email that may help clear up any confusion regarding the statistics provided in the presentation.

Approval of Funding Timeline: Sarah Crowder reviewed the dates for the revised funding timeline: the RFP will be posted by March 3rd, a mandatory pre-bid meeting with applicants on March 14th, funding proposals due at 4pm on April 3rd, presentations, dinner, and voting on April 22nd. A meeting will also be held on April 29th if the council is not able to vote on April 22. Bobby Cobb moved to approve the timeline and Stephanie Carter-Tyson seconded. The funding timeline was then adopted by unanimous vote.

Approval of RFP: The RFP was reworded to encourage new, returning and varied programs to apply. The protective factors category in the third box of the RFP was reworded as "protective and preventative" factors. Judge Best-Staton moved to accept the friendly amendments to RFP and Susan seconded. Bobby Cobb suggested that Tom Eberly contact Mecklenburg County's Public Information Department to help publicize the RFP. Tom advised that RoCheryl Pratt would contact the department for assistance.

Report from FACET: Latonya McLaurin and staff reported on FACET. They identified the STEP (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting) program as the evidence-based program they are utilizing. Ms. McLaurin advised that STEP is a psycho-educational program and they would eventually like to incorporate a curriculum into the program. She also mentioned that challenges for the program include new staff. They are determined to rebuild relationships and trust with DPS and other state workers to combat those challenges.

YDI Budget Revision: Teresa White from Project Challenge advised that YDI is requesting that \$48,000 of the \$103,000 in local cash be used as in-kind for the use of the property at the school. She advised that \$55,000 would remain as local cash. Scott Stoker explained that they are taking \$48,000 in local cash and removing it to go towards the in-kind property that CMS has given them. Mr. Stoker added that in-kind can include physical property. Jane motioned to accept the budget revision and Judge Best-Staton seconded.

Report from Project Challenge: Annola Little, district supervisor, presented on behalf of Project Challenge. She advised that 100% of their youth are referred by court counselors. Ms. Little advised that the main challenge is that youth have other programs to complete, therefore, volunteer hours are not started until referred youth have completed the other programs. Judge Best-Staton asked Scott Stoker if, Project Challenge is automatically funded, will there be exceptions made. Mr. Stoker replied that research has shown that community services hours has an effect on the rate of recidivism.

Updates and Announcements: Judge Best-Staton announced that the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee has set public awareness goals which include neighborhood outreach in the Reid Park and Hidden Valley communities.

Judge Best-Staton moved to adjourn, Bobby Cobb seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by RoCheryl Pratt