

**Mecklenburg County
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting
April 29, 2014 – Minutes**

Members Present: Sarah Crowder, Laura McFern, Darrell Gregory, Pete Davis, Evelyn Mills, Jane Goble-Clark, Charles Bradley, Douglas Edwards, Lawrence Brinson, Tom Eberly, Bobby Cobb, Lola Massad, Antoine Ensley, Kimberly Best-Staton, Keith Cradle, Heather Taraska

Staff Present: Scott Stoker

Guests Present: Carlos Gladden-PYT, Glenn Smith-DASH, Adrian Scriven-Tresports, William Perkins-Tresports, George Wilkerson-GAP, Beryl Miller-GAP, Joshun DeChamps-PYT, Shavonda McClure-Tresports, Robert Reynolds-Tresports, Becky Smith – Barium Springs, Kristi Kennedy-Barium Springs, Jason Ainsley-Barium Springs, Fran Cook-CMPD, Cara Evans-Patterson-CMPD Diversion, Sergeant Celestine Ratliff-CMPD, Major John Diggs-CMPD, Julius Bishop-PYT, Teresa White-YDI/LIFT, Laurie Whitson-Cardinal Innovations, Gordon Keath-Project Challenge, Gregory Rankin-YDI/LIFT, Annola Little-Project Challenge

Members Absent: Susan McCarter, Mary Lisa Moore

The meeting was called to order at 4:42 p.m. by the Chair, Sarah Crowder. Quorum was established.

Approval of the Agenda for April 29, 2014: Darrell Gregory made the motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously by the Council.

Review and Approval of February 25, 2014 and March 25, 2014 Minutes: Bobby Cobb made a motion to approve the minutes and Pete Davis seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Council.

Announcements and Reminders

Attendance Requirements: Sarah Crowder reminded members that if appointed by the BOCC, the county policy requires that you attend 75% of the JCPC meetings from the time you are appointed to the end of that calendar year. If you are noted as absent on the minutes and do not contest them, then we are bound by the minutes. Committee meetings are counted towards the 75% of JCPC meetings. Committee chairs should keep track of attendance at the committee meetings and send RoCheryl Pratt notice of committee meetings and attendance records. It is acceptable to telephone in for committee meetings.

Upcoming Meetings: Sarah Crowder advised that we will have a meeting in May. The nominating committee will be providing a report at that time.

Funding Committee Report: Douglas Edwards spoke on behalf of the funding committee and advised that the committee's main responsibility was to focus on whether the applicants met the minimum requirements. DASH, LIFT, GAP, Tresports Collaboration, Project Challenge and the

Court Psychologist Program met the minimum requirements and presented questions for these programs that arose during the funding committee meeting. Positive Youth Transformation (PYT) did not meet the minimum requirements and had been notified about which requirements were not met. PYT did not provide the overdue tax forms or proof of 501 (c) (3) status among other requirements. Douglas made the motion to allow the organizations who met the minimum requirements present and the one organization who did not meet the requirements not be allowed to present. Judge Best-Staton seconded. The committee voted unanimously to allow only the programs who met the minimum requirements to present.

CMPD Diversion Program Presentation: Major Diggs gave a presentation for CMPD's Youthful Offender Diversion Program and provided handouts. Jane Goble-Clark asked if there are evidence-based materials used in the personal skill building classes. Major Diggs deferred to Fran Cook who advised that they are working with their referring agencies to ensure that they have effective and measurable practices. Sarah Crowder encouraged Youthful Offender Diversion Program to review Susan McCarter's email regarding what an evidence-based practice is. Thomas Eberly asked if the program will be willing to participate in an outcome evaluation if the JCPC were to engage with a local university. Major Diggs replied that they would be willing to. Antione Ensley stated that true diversion provides youth multiple opportunities to try different programs that maybe a better fit for them. Sergeant Ratliff advised that their program is a multifaceted program and they are able to recognize when a juvenile needs more than one program or needs to be referred to a different program.

YDI Program Presentation: Darryl Bego and staff presented. They also provided handouts. Darrell Gregory asked about the cost per child. Mr. Bego answered that it is \$2,440. Jane Goble-Clark stated that YDI has one of the highest cost per kid in a program and a large part of the budget goes to personnel and a smaller percentage goes to the program. Mr. Bego advised that YDI has a high volume of activity with the kids and that the program operates year round. Teresa White also added that \$32,000 of personnel funds is a part of the local cash match. Douglas Edwards asked if JCPC funds are being used to serve West Charlotte Credit Recovery students. Mr. Bego answered that none of those kids are served with JCPC funds. Sarah Crowder commented that the number of court referred youth served is about 26% which seems low. Judge Best-Staton explained that from her experience she would refer youth to the program but the court counselors would not send over the referral or the child would not show up. She added that it is a check and balance issue. On behalf of the funding committee, Douglas Edwards asked if transportation is provided to a certain geographical area. Mr. Rankin stated that YDI provides transportation for West Charlotte, West Mecklenburg, Harding University, Philip O. Berry, Vance, Myers Park, Turning Point Academy, and Garinger.

Tresports Interagency Collaborative Program Presentation: Shavonda McClure and staff presented. On behalf of the funding committee, Douglas Edwards asked if the two therapist (provided as in-kind) bill Medicaid for services, will transportation be limited to one geographic area, how will you be utilizing West Charlotte High School, and will a waiver be signed by participants. Tresports staff answered that Medicaid will be billed for services provided by the therapist, transportation will be provided county wide, they will be utilizing the classrooms, fields, and gyms at West Charlotte, and participants will be required to sign waivers. An additional question posed from the funding committee was about the program's track record.

They advised that with the mental health component combined they have been in operation for 13 years. Sarah Crowder asked for the names of the other agencies involved in the collaborative. They named J-14 Youth Club Clinic, Queen City Ballers, and Team Charlotte as part of the collaborative. Tom Eberly commented that the proposal from Tresports was the best submitted and also stated that he would like the Council to think about the evaluation component that was included in Tresports proposal being a requirement for other programs as well.

Court Psychologist Program Presentation: Dr. Becky Smith presented and provided a handout. Judge Best-Staton commented about the importance of the program. She advised that she had a case where another agency was supposed to perform an assessment within 30 days on a child that had threatened suicide but the agency's caseload was backed up. She explained that when this became known, she was able to contact the Court Psychologist Program and have Dr. Springs perform an evaluation and assessment immediately.

DASH Program Presentation: Glenn Smith presented and provided handouts. Darrell Gregory asked if there would be an issue with the SPEP standards since the requirement is 12 weeks but DASH only provides 10 weeks of service. Scott Stoker replied that as long as a program provides an evidenced based curriculum, the program would follow that curriculum because it has already been proven as research-based. Mr. Smith also added that the program's core curriculum is available in Spanish.

GAP Program Presentation: Beryl Miller and staff presented. On behalf of the funding committee, Douglas Edwards asked if they could expand upon their sustainability plan. Patsy Burkins advised that if the program loses JCPC funding, they do not know of any other funding source that would provide on long-term basis as JCPC has. She also stated that the organization's dream is to obtain a contract which would allow them to operate and remain sustainable. Darrell Gregory asked why the number of clients expected to be served decreased. Ms. Burkins explained that SPEP required a lower facilitator to student ratio, so the number of expected clients had to be decreased to meet the requirements.

Project Challenge Program Presentation: Annola Little and Gordon Keath presented. Douglas Edwards asked how the program plans to demonstrate a commitment to cultural awareness. Ms. Little advised that they have been looking into training for the staff. Mr. Keath added that their staff is also very diverse. Mr. Edwards also asked how they plan to divert gang involvement and for a further explanation of Project Challenge's sustainability plan. Mr. Keath answered that as the kids become involved in caring for their communities, their sphere of influence broadens. They also feel that they belong and have no need to participate in a gang. He further explained that it is the experiences that the kids gain through these activities to help them realize that they have other options. Mr. Keath explained that year they perform fundraisers each year and attempt to increase amounts raised every year. He also advised that Project Challenge has a small endowment but is primarily funded by the JCPC. Judge Best-Staton asked which evidence-based program is being utilized. Mr. Keath stated that their life skill's program was developed by a university which coincides with restitution. The life skills activity is provided at every community service occurrence. Heather Taraska asked how the program is able to request less money for this year. Mr. Keath indicated that they had not utilized all of the money provided in the past two years and since it was not used, it needs to go to another program.

JCPC Action on Funding Decisions: Bobby Cobb made a motion to fund all programs that met the minimum requirements at levels requested minus the difference of \$12,427. Judge Best-Staton seconded. Douglas Edwards asked that members consider the quality of RFP and monitoring results to influence the decisions. Judge Best-Staton agreed that it should be a factor but not until next year. She added that the SPEP requirements will take care of many program issues described in the monitoring report. Sarah Crowder explained that the monitoring reports also provides information on how the programs plan to address deficiencies this year. She suggested that concern should arise next year if the programs do not address the issues indicated in the monitoring report. Heather Taraska made a motion to split the \$12,427 and subtract the amount between Project Challenge and YDI/LIFT. Mr. Cobb accepted the amendment to his original motion. Sarah Crowder advised that Tresports must secure an agreement with CMS before they will be allowed to conduct their program on the campus of West Charlotte High School. Therefore, their funding is contingent upon a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Scott Stoker agreed that a letter must be provided before funding can be approved.

Council Action: Motion is to fund all programs except for PYT in the amount requested except for Project Challenge which was reduced by \$6,214 and YDI/LIFT which was reduced by \$6,213 in addition to the MOA for Tresports. Motion received 15 yeas and 1 nay. Motion approved.

Project Challenge	\$337,845
Youth Development Initiatives/LIFT	\$335,381
Tresport Interagency	\$214,330
GAP Program	\$190,008
Court Psychologist Program	\$125,193
DASH	\$95,680
Youthful Offender Diversion Program	\$73,683

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Minutes submitted by RoCheryl Pratt