



Durham County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council  
August 27 Minutes 2014

**Committee Members Present:** Angela Nunn, DeWarren Langley, Arnold Dennis, Umar Muhammad, Drew Cummings, Herman Scott, Nicole Jimerson, Michael Becketts, Anita Daniels, Jeffrey Forde, Robert Gaddy, Gayle Harris, Brenda Howerton, Tasha Jones, Allan Lang, Georgette O'Mary, Jennifer Rogers, Michelle H. Smith, Ronald Thomas, Sr., Stephanie Williams

**Committee Members Absent:** Nicole Jimerson, Judge Patricia D. Evans, Faye Paige, Fungai Muzorewa-Bennett

**Guests:** Cindy Porterfield

**Staff:** Gudrun Parmer, Celia Jefferson, Jim Stuit

**Welcome and Introductions**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

August Minutes were presented for approval. **Motion:** Minutes should be approved as presented **Action:** Seconded and Approved.

**Karen K. Thompson**

Angela informed the council that Karen died peacefully on August 21, 2014 and that she will truly be missed. Karen has been a part of this council since the late 90's. She has been an advocate for Durham County juveniles and was very passionate about the JCPC. Angela mentioned that a memorial service has not yet been determined. As soon as we get the date, time and place Celia will email information out to the council. Angela noted that she was glad that the council has a special award in her name that we will honor on an annual basis. The executive committee will begin talking about it and make plans on how to make it a big event that can be a focal point for public awareness about JCPC, maybe a fund raiser for one of our funded program providers. Angela also informed the council that Gudrun lost her father and offered condolences to her. She asked the council to keep Gudrun and her family in prayer. It was suggested that a resolution should be written in honor of Karen and read at the BOCC meeting on September 8, 2014. A framed picture of Karen could be displayed at the BOCC meeting.

**Division of Juvenile Justice Updates**

Cindy, DJJ Area Consultant presented an update on what has been going on with DJJ. She noted that part of their strategic plan is reduction in state facilities. In 2016 CA Dillon will close. Dobbs, one of the five older facilities is also scheduled to close. They will continue to repurpose these facilities for other targeted populations or send out a RFP at the State Level II to provide contracted services for specific targeted populations. Cindy noted that the state has taken communities program funds and redesigned to use

for Level II youth. These youth have penetrated the juvenile justice system and are more at risk to enter into the juvenile justice system. They have designed programs across the state under these various contracts. Some contracts deliver Functional Family Therapy; some are being designed to provide crisis beds. They are also designing RFP's to address post release youth coming out of facilities. Cindy commented that the population has fallen over the last 14 years since she has been working with DJJ to a 70% reduction of 1,400 youth in our facilities. Now our population covers between 250 and 300, so we know that those kids are in the community. Another topic that comes up in their discussion is what we are going to tell people in the community about recidivism, and how are we going to structure our reports about recidivism. Legislatures wants to know what our recidivism rates are and we have given it to them. In the last two annual reports, they focused on those targeted populations in specific level II programs and looked at their recidivism rate. The state has publish some information on their website about diversion programs and they are seeing that kids that are low risk are faring well based on the risk/needs tool the department is using. They are also faring well with or without contracts and court services are making decision based on this instrument and with there low risk re-offending, they have low recidivism rates. The tool is helping the state make good and comfortable decisions based on the validity of the tool. They have taken that tool and cross walked it over into community programs. They want to look at kids in services and their risk for re-offending. The same questions are being asked to youth that come to their program. If they come from juvenile court, they will get a risk score form them and if they come directly from another referral source the program is providing that risk instrument. Cindy noted that the risk score is a predictor for recidivism and that the department has adopted a SPEP tool to embrace some type of evaluation tool to help programs to compare and place themselves closer to evidence base programming. This all comes from the Meta Analysis studies. Cindy stated that as they continue to evaluate the programs, they should be able to run a SPEP score in January and this will let them know the risk level of kids going into the programs. Recidivism data is not meaningful unless there is some comparison against something. How do we need to compare recidivism? Cindy gave an example of running recidivism data on all the restitution programs in the state and compares it to Durham County restitution program to see their recidivism rate. She commented that this might be meaningful data when we run a SPEP score for a restitution program, then we enhance that program and bring that SPEP score up and what we expect is that the recidivism rate will drop.

Tasha added as related to the risk/needs assessment as well as what the Legislature wants us to do in figuring out recidivism, all the programs went through specialized risk/needs assessment training so they are using the same tool as the juvenile court counselor are using and all of the court services across the state. Stephanie Green, court counselor is one of the designated trainers. Cindy noted that staff is being retrained to utilize the assessment tool. Umar Muhammad asked about the reasons programs are being tracked. Cindy response was they are tracking how well the programs are doing their programming that will affect recidivism and all programs are specific to the program type. Cindy stated that the programs are learning new things, and it is important that we give them all the technical assistant we can. Umar asked what our tasks are for this fiscal year. Cindy noted that Durham task is to meet the unique needs of the youth we serve.

### **New Members Orientation**

Cindy informed the council that the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998 was established for the first time in the State of NC. A JCPC was established in each county for comprehensive planning of services to targeted populations of youth as mandated by NC General Statutes. In 2012 the Department Juvenile Justice merged with the Department of Corrections and the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety to become the Department of Public Safety. Community Programs are now located in the Department of Public Safety in the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice Community Programs section. The Legislative Intent purpose, powers and duties, certification can be found in the presentation handout that was distributed.

She noted that the pre-requisite for a county to receive its allocation, the county BOCC appoints the JCPC. Each local JCPC is made up of 26 members, all of who are legislated positions to the council and the members serve two years. The makeup of the council can be found in the handout. At the beginning of each fiscal year, subcommittees are established to assist with the overall responsibilities of the council. Detail information about our subcommittees is listed in the handout. Our JCPC Funding Process: Request for Proposal, proposals reviewed by JCPC, JCPC approve recommendations for BOCC and they will act on recommendations. Locally approved Program Agreements are submitted to the DJJ Area Office and the area office completes review of locally approved Program Agreements and makes recommendations to the State DJJ Office. A detailed list of JCPC on-going duties are in the handout. DJJ strategic plan and JCPC operation policies can be found on DJJ website – [www.ncdps.gov](http://www.ncdps.gov).

Tasha was asked to explain the difference between adjudication and undisciplined youth. She noted that undisciplined juveniles are juveniles that have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, ungovernable, not following the rules of the home, truant from school and found in places that are inappropriate for youth. They can be found undisciplined at 17 in the juvenile system. This is the only time they can charge or adjudicate a juvenile that is 16 and older. As far as a delinquent, they are actually committing a criminal offense, anything we can do a juvenile can be charged with as well. Juveniles cannot be charged as an adult ages 6-15 and once they turn 16 they are charged as an adult. A status offender is someone not delinquent. Arnold asked if there has been a recent counting of the percentages of undisciplined kids compared to the delinquent kids. Cindy commented that usually the undisciplined ones are under protective supervision and those numbers are very low. Tasha noted that this past year, they really encourage parents, and law enforcement to take advantage of our community resources, JCPC programs to help assist as well as mental health services. Tasha stated that the numbers for undisciplined youth in Durham County has been very low for the past year. Arnold asked if they have a way of tracking undisciplined kids that are not in the system. Tasha responded that the state do not have a standardized way of tracking those youth and they consider them as consultations. They are not in our system, but we know this child is truant, not following the rules. We have developed an in-house tracking system. Every month the court counselors have to do a consultation, because a parent may come in informing them that their child is not going to school and coming in late. This is considered an undisciplined

juvenile. They may meet with them for thirty minutes to an hour, even do a follow up appointment. At the end of the month Tasha staff reports to her how many consultations, how much time and the reasons and they still can do referrals at this time. They take up a lot of time with walk ins. Allan Lang stated that there are many children that are outside the reporting system who don't attend class regularly, skips days of school, particular high school is a source of record for absentees from individual classes and absence from school for a full day. This is another way to track. At this point, Cindy continued on with her presentation. She noted that Durham County do not give a 30% match to all the JCPC programs. The cash match would give the council more funds to allocate.

### **NCCU Practicum Course**

DeWarren received an email from Savaun Perry, Director of student support services for the Department of Criminal Justice at NCCU seeking placement for one of her students with a criminal justice agency or office. A list of requirements and duties are listed in the letter that was distributed. DeWarren noted that he thinks this will be a great partnership for a lot of our program providers that needs additional support throughout the year and they can develop a job description and they can have a volunteer working with them every year. He noted that during our annual funding process, we could include in the RFP that we are doing this partnership and part of the application process will be them submitting some kind of job, volunteer intern description for the year. If and when they are funded, we could already have that in place and we will be able to work with the Department of Criminal Justice at NCCU to facilitate that partnership. That will also increase public awareness. Tasha asked that this information be circulated to our program providers. She shared that she uses a student from NCCU as an intern in her office every year. This will give students an opportunity to work directly with the program providers. Angela suggested that we give them the information and let the program provider handle it on their own.

### **JCPC Annual Plan**

DeWarren presented the JCPC 2014-2015 Annual Plan. He noted that one of JCPC ongoing duties are to develop an annual plan every fiscal year. Our funding priorities are based on the Risk & Needs Assessment of Durham County youth and resources. The following services are needed to reduce/prevent delinquency in Durham: restorative programs, structured activities programs, clinical treatment programs, and residential programs. Eight programs were funded this fiscal year. One of the programs was new. We do an informal monitoring visit in the fall and a formal official monitoring visit in the spring prior to our funding process. Some of our accomplishment in 2013-2014 include the following: we allocated \$536,666, partnered with the Durham Rescue Mission Youth Resource Fair 2013 Back to School Party; we received a presentation on the School-to-Prison Pipeline in Durham County, by Barbara Fedders of UNC; represented by members at the 2013 Fall Conference of the (NCJSA), *Discovering the Treasures Within*; represented by members at the Community Conversations on Alternatives to Suspensions hosted by the Durham Public School Board of Education; approved funds in the amount of \$8,225 from the Administrative Funds of JCPC to fund four at-risk youth of the appropriate age for employment through the Durham Youth works Internship Program which offers Durham youth ages 14-21 the opportunity to gain work experience and

develop skills while connecting with City and County jobs; presented Treasurer, Karen K. Thompson with the Outstanding Service Award in recognition for outstanding leadership service & advocacy to prevent and mitigate juvenile delinquency to enhance the lives of youth in Durham County. The Award is named in her honor and will be given annually to a member of JCPC.

### **JCPC Subcommittees**

DeWarren asked the council to sign up for one of the subcommittees. Angela, Arnold and Stephanie asked to serve on the Needs/Assessment & Strategic Plan. DeWarren commented that by default, everyone is on the monitoring team and if anyone have a preference to email him. Angela made a plea for someone to sphere head the public awareness subcommittee to get it up and running.

### **Program Providers Quarterly Reports**

Drew commented on the program quarterly report spread sheet that program provider will be asked to complete on a quarterly basis. He noted that the terminology has been changed. Now all Tasha office will need for the program providers to do quarterly is to write down their full name, date of birth, and date terminated for whatever reason. Tasha staff can come back a year later and without revealing privilege information and can fill in the two bottom pink lines of the spreadsheet. They will be giving aggregate information back to the JCPC and program providers. This year we will just be tracking terminations and next year we will be able to start looking at what's happening with kids in various programs. Another crucial part of this is the risk profile number. The kids our program provider works with have really different profiles, so they will have different expected recidivism rates. So you would expect different results from different programs based on what kind of program it is which is a SPEP score. Tasha stated that we can take out the name and date of birth of kids, because every kid have a NC Join # and her staff can use that #. Angela noted that we really need to start thinking about how we are going to use this information and how best it is going to be shared, because people will start requesting it.

### **Announcements**

Arnold stated that at the last meeting, Karen suggested that we have a meeting with our program providers in terms of what they have seen over the years and what they think will be helpful to enhance services to be more effective. He also shared that NCCU, College of Behavior and Social Science is disturbed about youth violence in our community and wants to know what can be done about it. They have a number of academic departments coming together tomorrow and talk about something we can do. They also have a focus group of young people taken from high school, and the college campus so they can express and articulate what they see as being some of the problems and how people feel about some of the problems and what they think should be done. At the focus group they will invite stakeholders, commissioners, and JCPC. You will not be asked to say anything, but listen to what the young people have to say. He will get the date out to the council through Celia. He also noted that we have been losing young people at a rate of one murder per month – young people killing young people.

Stephanie announced that the System of Care conference will be held on September 10-12. Please register.

Umar announced that he will be doing a youth track presentation at the System of Care conference on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned.