



Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

May 27, 2015

Members Present: Angela Nunn, Danielle Dolinski, Umar Muhammad, Brenda Howerton, Gayle B. Harris, Elizabeth Sheares, Anita A. Daniels, Tasha Jones Butts, DeWarren K. Langley, Allan Lang, Arnold Dennis, Ameshia Cooper, Drew Cummings, Herman Scott, Judge Marcia Morey, Stephanie Williams

Members Excused Absent: Ronald Thomas Sr., Robert Gaddy, Javonte Carter, Jeffrey Forde, Nicole Jimerson, Jennifer Rogers

Members Absent: Faye Paige

Staff Present: Jim Stuit, Celia Jefferson

Guest: Eddie Crews, Frederick A. Kearns, Stephanie L. Green, Andre Hinton

Welcome

DeWarren, Vice Chair opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

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

Old Business

Update on Durham YouthWorks Internship Program Placement

Tasha reported that the court-involved youth had been identified and completed applications. She explained that the Office of Economic & Workforce Development was placing the youth in internships. Tasha thanked the Council for allocating the funds to allow the youth to have the opportunity to work for the summer. Arnold expressed his support for the partnership and noted the role the internship opportunities have on reducing recidivism by providing court-involved youth with career exposure.

New Business

Feedback on FY 2014-2015 Monitoring Visits

The Monitoring Committee is responsible for evaluating program performance by making informal and formal on-site monitoring visits to programs and completing Monitoring Reports for compliance with Program Agreements, examining records documenting sound fiscal and program implementation and client tracking information using the NC ALLIES client tracking

data system to ensure an accurate account of services provided and reviewing information related to program evaluation, methods to maintain service fidelity and program improvements efforts and strategies.

DeWarren thanked members for their work on the official monitoring reports and solicited input on how to improve the process.

Gayle recommended establishing monitoring teams early in the fiscal year.

Allan inquired as to whether the Council would conduct both informal and formal monitoring visits in the coming fiscal year.

Angela recommended informal and formal monitoring visits for new programs and formal monitoring visits for programs previously funded.

Feedback on FY 2015-2016 Funding Process

DeWarren commended Drew for an efficient funding process and solicited input on how to improve the process for next year.

There was no feedback.

Update on Gang Reduction Steering Committee

DeWarren noted that the Gang Reduction Steering Committee meet on April 8, 2015 and opinioned that it was a very informative meeting.

DeWarren reported that Jim Stuit provided background information on validated gang members returning to Durham from North Carolina prisons. For the years 2012 to 2014 an average of 67 have returned per year. The average age is 26.5, and of those released in 2012, 79% picked up new charges within two years. Because of the high recidivism rate for this group, the Steering Committee is interested in how the transition back to Durham can be done successfully.

A panel discussion entitled “Re-Entry Challenges and Solutions for Validated Gang Members Returning to Durham” was held. Panelists were Brian Wiley, Kenny Lunsford III and Umar Muhammad. All panelists were born in Durham and attended public schools in Durham. In addition, all panelists spend time in the North Carolina prison system and returned to Durham with the STG (validated gang member) designation.

The panelists were asked 12 prepared questions. These included questions on early life, school, circumstances surrounding gang involvement and challenges they faced upon release from prison. There were also queries on the availability and benefit of services in Durham, and suggestions regarding Steering Committee efforts.

In response to follow-up questions from the Steering Committee, the panelists gave much credit to the Spirit House for accepting them as they were and for providing assistance in many areas. They also indicated that more resources and preparation needs to be in place prior to release from

prison. Employment opportunities are also critical, and panelists requested that Duke, as a major Durham employer, consider “banning the box” on employment applications.

When asked by Tom Bonfield about the City’s Re-entry employment program, panelists implied that there were “too many trainings without the promise of a job”. They also mentioned that the cost for these trainings is prohibitive for many.

Nominating Committee

DeWarren solicited volunteers for the Nominating Committee. He noted that he would ask Jennifer to chair the committee to present a slate of officers at the next meeting. Umar agreed to assist.

2015 Karen K. Thompson Outstanding Service Award

DeWarren explained that the Karen K. Thompson Outstanding Service Award is given annually to a member who has provided outstanding service to the Council. He noted that he would send an e-mail soliciting nominations.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

The Council agreed not to have a meeting in July.

Meeting Adjourn