



JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

February 25, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: DeWarren K. Langley, Angela Nunn, Tisha Jones, Jennifer Rogers, Faye Paige, Umar Muhammad, Marcia Morey, Nicole Jimerson, Fungai Bennett, Javonte Carver, Drew Cummings, Herman Scott, Jeff Forde, Elizabeth Shears, Danielle Dolinski, Ronald Thomas, Sr., Anita Daniels, Tasha P. Jones, Stephanie Williams, Robert Gaddy, Allan Lang, Arnold Dennis

Members Excused: Brenda Howerton, Gayle Harris

Guests: Dr. Bert L'Homme, Superintendent of Durham Public Schools, Heidi Carter, Chairwoman of the Board of Education, Stephanie Green, Jason Jones, Michelle Young, Pam Gray, Natalie Beyer, David Crispbell

Staff: Jim Stuit, 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: that the minutes be accepted as presented. Action: Seconded and Approved

JCPC Budget

DeWarren thanked the membership for previous support of allocating the administrative funds to provide stipends for court-involved youth to have internships through the Durham YouthWork Internship Program.

Arnold noted that employment reduces recidivism.

Drew shared the positive experiences of the youth who participated in the program last year.

Umar encouraged the membership to examine additional means for the Council to provide employment opportunity for court-involved youth. He also recommended utilizing resources to provide training opportunity for court-involved youth.

DeWarren recommended allocating the administrative funds to provide internships for court involved youth.

Angela stated her support and noted the value of youth having constructive opportunity to decrease the chances of delinquency.

Tasha thanked the membership for the previous support for the initiative and shared the role her staff played in identifying the youth participants.

Motion to allocate administrative funds to provide stipends for court involved youth in the Durham YouthWork Internship Program and to write a letter requesting additional funding support to the City Council and Board of County Commissioners; Action: Seconded and approved.

Risk/Needs Assessment Report & Approval of Request for Proposal

Angela stated that Cindy Porterfield would not be available to present the Risk/Needs Assessment data, however, encouraged members to review the data provided which would guide the Request for Proposal.

Motion that the Request for Proposal be approved as presented. Action: Seconded and approved.

Discussion on Durham Public Schools' suspension Policy

DeWarren introduced Superintendent L'Homme and Chairwoman Carter and thank them for attending the meeting to response to questions regarding the suspension policy and JCPC's concern about the impact of suspensions on juvenile delinquency in Durham County.

Dr. L'Homme thank the Council for the opportunity and emphasizes his commitment to lowering the suspension rate and improving the graduation rate of Durham Public Schools. He reported that DPS had assembled a task force to review the student code of conduct which will bring forth recommendations to the Board of Education, ensuring suspended students do not fail behind academically, training for teachers and administrators to remove the subjective approach to suspensions, engaging students impacted by suspensions to improve the administration of discipline in DPS, reforming Lakeview Alternative School and working with community stakeholders to continue to improve DPS. He also

highlighted the Future Forward Center which serves as a direct response to addressing students disconnecting from school as evidenced by chronic absences. Lastly, he reported that suspension data would be provided regularly to the Board of Education which would be public information.

Javonte shared his personal experience with attending Lakeview Alternative school and expressed his concern about students not receiving academic assignments from their base school. Dr. L'Homme extended an invitation for Javonte to participate in the Student Advisory Group and to meet with him personally about his experience.

Lastly, Dr. L'Homme also noted the funding challenges of DPS in light of decisions made by the NC General Assembly. Superintendent L'Homme stated that DPS is making tangible investments to reduce the barriers to academic success such as truancy reduction.

DeWarren again express appreciation to Dr. L'Homme and Chairwoman Carter for attending the meeting.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Meeting adjourned