



MEMORANDUM

TO: Jacksonville City Council

FROM: Debbie Verges

DATE: May 1, 2009

RE: Monthly Report on *Jacksonville Journey*-April 2009

During the month of April we continued to make strides in implementing the *Jacksonville Journey* program. The progress includes (1) The Oversight Committee held two meetings (2) Jacksonville Commitment contract has been executed (3) Out of School Suspension Centers opened April 13 (4) The Jacksonville Re-Entry Portal (JREC) opened in a new location April 13 (5) The Ex-Offender programs are fully operational (6) Community Center RFP was received (7) Normandy Community Center held its grand opening April 25.

Additional detail on the progress is below. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I am also available to schedule site visits to any of the program sites.

*Jacksonville Journey Oversight Committee*-The Oversight Committee had two meetings in April. The Metrics & Measurements meeting was attended by the entire committee and presentations were made by Team UP, Early Learning programs, Youth Crisis Center (crime prevention/intervention program), Ex-offender programs (Clara White Mission, Legal Aid, Operation New Hope and Worksource), and Out of School Suspension. The second meeting in April was a budget workshop. The JJOC discussed and made a recommendation regarding their 2009-2010 budget requests.

*Jacksonville Commitment*-The Jacksonville Commitment contract has been executed by the College partners (UNF, JU, FCCJ and Edward Waters College).

*Out of School Suspension Centers*-The program began Monday, April 13 (the day after Spring Break) with a Grand Opening Press Conference being held Wednesday, April 15 at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church (one of the five locations).

*Jacksonville Re-entry Portal (JREC)*-JREC moved to its new location on April 13. The new facility includes space for all functions of JREC as well as offices for the newly hired case managers.

*Ex-Offender Contracts*-Operation New Hope and First Coast Worksource have finalized the Ready4Work partnership and staff has been hired to fully execute their contracts.

*Community Centers*-Proposals were received for Lillian Saunders, Joe James and Sunny Acres. The proposals are being reviewed by the Parks staff. An RFP will be re-released for Beachwood and Westbrook.

*Normandy Community Center*-The Grand Opening of the Normandy Community Center was held, Saturday, April 25. Community Connections is the community partner that will operate the facility.

*All Information relative to the Journey programs is available on the website at - <http://www.coj.net/Mayor/Jacksonville+Journey/default.htm>. All JJOC meetings are being held in the Ed Ball Conference room. All meetings are broadcast live and recordings are available on the website within 48 hours of each meeting.*