



MEMORANDUM

TO: Jacksonville City Council

FROM: Debbie Verges

DATE: April 1, 2009

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

During the month of March we continued to make strides in implementing the *Jacksonville Journey* program. The progress includes (1) The Oversight Committee met with all 9 members present and there were two sub-committee meetings, Justice Administration and Metrics & Measurements (2) Jacksonville Commitment contract has been finalized (3) Out of School Suspension contract was signed (4) Juvenile Crime Prevention/Intervention program is fully operational (5) The Ex-Offender programs are fully operational (6) Community Center RFP was re-released (7) A map has been created and is located on the website and a hard copy has been included with this report.

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 all 9 members present for its March meeting. The Metrics and Measurements sub-committee and the Justice Administration sub-committee held meetings. The Metrics and Measurements sub-committee reviewed monthly reports from each funded program and asked 3 agencies (Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Family Foundations and the Juvenile Assessment Center) to give presentations at their monthly meeting. The JAC sub-committee discussed the criminal justice links that are available and they have been posted on the *Journey* website located on the *coj.net* website. The committee also recommended changes to the website to make it easier for those accessing the site. Dr. Michael Hallett has agreed to include the development of a more indepth website on behalf of the Journey initiative.

*Jacksonville Commitment*-The Jacksonville Commitment contract has been finalized and the College partners (UNF, JU, FCCJ and Edward Waters College) are in the process of signing the agreement.

*Out of School Suspension Centers*-The contract was signed for the Out of School Suspension Centers and preparation of the facilities for operation of the program is in progress. The program will begin 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).

*Juvenile Crime Prevention/Intervention Program*-The Juvenile Crime Prevention/Intervention program is fully operational. There were 41 referrals and 26 cases opened in the month of March.

*Ex-Offender Contracts*-All contracts were executed and programs are operational. The Clara White Mission is offering training in culinary arts and janitorial. The Jacksonville Area Legal Aid is helping ex-offenders with their legal problems that prevent an individual from gaining employment. They currently have 28 active cases. Operation New Hope and First Coast Worksource are finalizing the Ready4Work partnership and hiring the staff to increase their capacity for training and employment.

*Community Centers*-The Community Center RFP's were released March 13 for the 5 remaining closed Community Centers (Beachwood, Joe James, Lillian Saunders, Sunny Acres and Westbrook). The bidder's conferences were held. The deadline for submission is April 15.

*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 24 hours of each meeting. A map has been created illustrating specific Journey program locations. A hard copy is attached to this report for reference.