



MEMORANDUM

TO: Jacksonville City Council

FROM: Debbie Verges

DATE: October 1, 2009

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

During the month of September we continued to move forward in implementing the *Jacksonville Journey* program. The progress includes (1) The oversight committee held its monthly meeting (2) The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at UNF is offering a policy class that is studying the *Jacksonville Journey* (3) Contracts for the 2009-2010 fiscal year are moving forward (4) Out of School Suspension Centers update and progress (5) Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation select Jacksonville to compete for a \$250,000 planning grant.

Additional detail on the progress is below. Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or would like to visit a program.

*Jacksonville Journey Oversight Committee*-The JJOC met on September 17 with all 9 members present. For year two of the *Journey*, committee members have been given subject matter assignments and that member will take a detailed look at the programs they have been assigned to review.

*UNF Graduate Policy Class*-Dr. Hallett's graduate policy class is moving forward in their review of the *Jacksonville Journey* programs. Students have been divided into four groups and they will begin their intense review of those programs. Their report will be presented, Tuesday, December 15. The JJOC has moved their December meeting to UNF to hear the presentation.

*Contracts for the 2009-2010 fiscal year*-Contracts for all funded programs are being executed in accordance with the renewal options for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Programs will continue to operate without interruption as we move into the second year.

*Out of School Suspension Centers*-As the school year began, changes were made to the Out of School Suspension Centers. Students suspended 1 and 2 days are now included in the program. Transportation on school buses is now an option unless a student was suspended from riding the bus. The program is being adapted to become mandatory, since some parents were choosing for their children to "not" participate in the program.

Additionally, the truancy centers are now co-located at all Out of School Suspension Centers. The DCSB has been informed that the program must be at 80% of projections by the end of November.

*Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*-The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through the National League of Cities has invited Jacksonville as one of 8 cities to compete for a \$250,000 planning grant. The grant, if awarded would allow Jacksonville to create a strategic plan to double the number of low income students to enroll and complete the post secondary process. From those selected to receive the planning grant 5 cities will be selected to receive \$1,000,000 a year for 3 years. During the recent site visit those in attendance were impressed with the Jacksonville Journey process and its citizen involvement and then the subsequent funding of the Jacksonville Commitment as one of the programs. The application is a joint process with the City of Jacksonville and Florida State College at Jacksonville.

*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.*