



City of Jacksonville

MINUTES

Of

Jax Journey Oversight Committee

November 30, 2017

Ed Ball Building, Room 851

4:00 p.m.

Committee Meeting Attendees

W.C. Gentry, Chair
Debbie Verges, Project Director Jax Journey
Julie Davis, Office of General Counsel
Charlie Cofer, Public Defender
Lee Hutton, State Attorney's Office
Judge Suzanne Bass
Rory Diamond, Vice Chair
Tracy Tousey, Member
Scott Wiley, Member
Paula Wright, Member
Scott Wilson, Council Liaison
Michael Bruno,

Please see the sign-in sheet for a complete list of additional attendees

Proceedings

Chairman W.C. Gentry called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

Chair Gentry asked for the motion to approve the October 26, 2017 meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded. Chair Gentry called for the vote; there were no amendments or objections and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The following handouts were provided to all committee members:

- #1 Teen Programs Review Report
- #2 Juvenile Justice Intervention Programs Review Report
- #3 Ex-offender Programs Review Report
- #4 Special Projects Review Report
- #5 Workforce Development Programs Review Report
- #6 Contract Extension – Evening Reporting Center

Chairperson's Report

Chair W.C. Gentry thanked all the committee members for working on their respective subcommittees. He recently met with the Interim Executive Director of the Kids Hope Alliance, Mike Weinstein, and shared that all programs will continue until September 30, 2018. This decision was made to allow enough time for the new KHA board to review all of the programs. Chair Gentry reiterated from previous meetings that effective January 1, 2018, the Jax Journey Oversight Committee (JJOC) will not have any additional responsibilities. He has,

however, assured the Administration that the board is available to provide any necessary assistance during the transition.

Discussion Topics

Chair Gentry announced that JJOC member, April Green, was appointed to the JEA Board of Directors. She will not be able to attend the December Journey oversight meeting as she assumes her new duties.

New Business

Teen Programs Review – April Green, Member

April Green referenced Handout #1 to present the findings of the Teen Programs review. She commended the contract manager, Ms. Katoia Wilkins, for her exceptional work managing the teen contracts. Ten programs were reviewed: Jacksonville Zoological WILD Society, KIPP Impact Extended Learning Program, YMCA Teen Forward, PAL Teen Leadership, Girl Scouts of Gateway Council Get REAL! Mentoring, Groundwork Jacksonville Green Teen Youth Corps, Don't Miss a Beat Teen Program, Boys & Girls Clubs Teen Extended Hours Program, Fresh Ministries Fresh Futures, and Wayman Community Development Corporation Hoops for Hope. Each of the Teen programs were rated based on (1) the amount of the contract award that was expended, (2) unit of service goal met, and (3) participants served relative to goal. An overall aggregate score was determined and assigned to each program (1 – 5; 1 being the lowest and 5, the highest possible score).

Jacksonville Zoological WILD Society is comprised of a small group of teens (approximately 20). The participants learn and develop leadership skills and the program focuses on interpretation, public speaking, competency, wildlife immersion and nature connection. The program received an aggregate score of 5.

Kipp Impact Extended Learning Program added more learning time to the day than there is in the traditional school year (i.e. one additional hour each day and 2 additional weeks). The agency decided to pursue afterschool programming funds through JCC and not renew its contract, which ended 9/30/17. The program received an aggregate score of 5.

YMCA Teen Forward program helps teens and tweens focus on their futures by exposing them to new experiences and introducing them to career focused professionals. YMCA Teen Forward did a phenomenal job, even though challenged with transportation issues. The program received an aggregate score of 5.

PAL Teen Leadership program is designed to empower youth to make a meaningful impact on the community. The youth demonstrate ownership through leadership roles, exercising responsibility and decision-making. The program received an aggregate score of 5.

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council Get REAL! Mentoring program positively impacts girls,

schools and mentors, as well as the community by connecting caring community mentors and partners to the teen participants. The program received an aggregate score of 5.

Groundwork Jacksonville Green Teen Youth Corps program focuses on conservation, leadership and job readiness. The program participants live, attend school or worship along or in the Emerald Necklace neighborhoods. Keeping the same students engaged throughout the year proved to be a challenge once they had received all of their stipends. The program received an aggregate score of 4.

Don't Miss a Beat Teen Program offers teens artistic training in instrumental music, visual art, choral & vocal training, photography and musical theater. A unique component of the program is that it engages individuals in leadership positions from the community, such as executives from CSX, the City and JEA. The program expended 54% of its funding, which was attributed to the timing of its start date. It is anticipated that the program will spend the entire 2017-18 FY funding award. The program received an aggregate score of 3.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida Extended Hours program provides a positive and safe environment for youth age 13-18. Youth are able to attend the program after school hours (9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10-11 pm Fridays, and Saturday hours). They participate in fun activities, receive assistance with lessons, and have a hot meal for dinner. Transportation was a barrier for the program as well as keeping the teens involved outside of large special events. The program received an aggregate score of 3.

Fresh Ministries Fresh Futures is a year round educational enrichment and summer employment program that serves teens age 13-18. Students learn financial literacy, college readiness, and job readiness. They also participate in service learning and leadership development activities and receive a six week paid internship. The program received an aggregate score of 2, which was attributed to the timing of its start date and project implementation.

Wayman Community Development Corporation Hoops for Hope focuses on teen leadership development, character building, educational achievement and personal growth. Youth participants also participate in basketball activities to learn good sportsmanship and teamwork. The agency did not have a clear understanding of the unit of service requirement, but has since clarified the expectations and will adjust future responses to RFPs. The program received an aggregate score of 2.

Chair Gentry asked for a motion to approve the Teen Programs report with amendments to correct typographical errors. A motion was made and seconded and the report was approved unanimously.

Juvenile Justice Intervention Programs Review – Rory Diamond, Vice Chair

Referencing Handout #2, Rory Diamond presented the Juvenile Justice Intervention Programs report. Four programs were evaluated by the Juvenile Justice Intervention subcommittee: Daniel Juvenile Justice Intervention, Twin Oaks-Aftercare, UF College of Medicine -Turning Point: Rethinking Violence, and St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church Evening Reporting Center.

Each of the Juvenile Justice Intervention programs were rated based on (1) the amount of the contract award that was expended, (2) unit of service goal met, and (3) participants served relative to goal. An overall aggregate score was determined and assigned to each program (1 – 5; 1 being the lowest and 5, the highest possible score).

Daniel Juvenile Justice Intervention program offers comprehensive case management, counseling, life skills instruction and academic support to at-risk youth with prior experience in the juvenile justice system. The RFP requirement that participants have prior juvenile justice involvement has reduced the available pool of juveniles. The program received an aggregate score of 3.

Twin Oaks-Aftercare works with teenagers (age 16-18) who have been released from high or maximum Department of Juvenile Justice facilities. The youth receive education services, employability skills training and job placement services. The program received an aggregate score of 5.

UF College of Medicine - Turning Point: Rethinking Violence is a six week program for violent first-time youth offenders. Program participants receive assistance dealing with trauma and participate in victim impact panel discussions. The program began 2/1/2017 and will continue through 12/31/2017. An aggregate score could not be assigned because there is insufficient evidence of outcomes at this time.

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church – Evening Reporting Center has been highly successful since its inception. The program provides an alternative housing option for males (age 13-18) who have been sentenced to a secure detention facility, but are not considered a threat to themselves or the community. For 21 days (Monday through Friday, 3-8 pm and 3 hours on Saturday) the youth receive anger management training, job readiness skills, financial education, case management and recreation. The initial reports are excellent for those youth that have been referred. The program did not receive an aggregate score because it has not been in operation long enough to fully evaluate.

Chair Gentry asked for a motion to approve the Juvenile Justice Intervention Programs report. A motion was made and seconded and the report was approved unanimously.

Ex-offender Programs Review – Debbie Verges, Jax Journey Project Director

Debbie Verges referenced Handout #3 to give the Ex-offender Programs report. Three programs were evaluated: Prisoners of Christ, Operation New Hope, and Clara White Mission. Each of the Ex-offender programs were rated based on (1) the amount of the contract award that was expended, and (2) number of employment placements. An overall aggregate score was determined and assigned to each program (1 – 5; 1 being the lowest and 5, the highest possible

score).

Over 25 months, Prisoners of Christ served 355 clients, of which 240 were violent offenders and 70, sex offenders. Two-hundred and twenty-two program participants were placed in employment. The program has grown due to word of mouth and received an aggregate score of 5.

Operation New Hope offers its participants stipends, housing, medical cards and transportation assistance while they complete career training for employment placement. Participants are individuals who are recently released from Duval County Jail. Operation New Hope struggles to get employment verification paycheck copies from participants who become employed and have assigned a staff person to request, track and follow up on employment verifications. The program received an aggregate score of 4.

The Clara White Mission ex-offender program did not perform as anticipated. The RFP requirement that eligible participants have a proxy score of 5 or higher and be recently released from incarceration was a challenge. The program received an aggregate score of 1.

Chair Gentry asked for a motion to approve the Ex-offender Programs report. A motion was made and seconded and the report was approved unanimously.

Special Projects Review – Tracy Tousey, Member

Referencing Handout #4, Tracy Tousey delivered the Special Projects report. Three programs were reviewed: LISC, Early Learning Coalition-Child Care Enhancement, and Family Foundations – 1000 in 1000. Each program was rated on criteria directly related to proposed project outcomes.

LISC collaborates with community based programs to revitalize neighborhoods. For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, funds were moved from Journey and appropriated to LISC through the City of Jacksonville's Neighborhoods Department budget. The program received an aggregate score of 5.

The Early Learning Coalition – Child Care Enhancement program provides scholarship vouchers to parents whose children attend a Guiding Star Duval County child care center. Additionally, the program offers family engagement training at two HUD sites for parents whose children are not attending a child care center. The program received an aggregate score of 5.

Family Foundations – 1000 in 1000 received an aggregate score of 2. The program was created

to move 1,000 families out of poverty within 1,000 days by helping them build 10 pivotal assets proven to increase the probability of attaining self-sufficiency. The program can be better assessed over a longer period and did not align well with the performance model applied to most contracts.

Chair Gentry asked for a motion to approve the Special Projects report. A motion was made and seconded and the report was approved unanimously.

Workforce Development Programs Review – Scott Wiley, Member

Scott Wiley referenced Handout #5 to present the Workforce Development Programs report. Four programs were evaluated: Northeast Florida Community Action Agency, West Jacksonville Restoration Center, Florida State College at Jacksonville, and Goodwill Industries of Northeast Florida. The Workforce Development programs were rated based on (1) the amount of the contract award that was expended, and (2) number of employment placements and/or number completed training. An overall aggregate score was determined and assigned to each program (1 – 5; 1 being the lowest and 5, the highest possible score).

Northeast Florida Community Action Agency connects eligible young adults to education and training needed to secure employment and become self-sufficient. The program significantly exceeded performance goals in each area and received an aggregate score of 5.

West Jacksonville Restoration Center is an occupational training program wherein participants shadow television and radio broadcast production staff, and then complete an internship. The program exceeded all performance objectives and received an aggregate score of 5.

Florida State College at Jacksonville partnered with Year Up and Fresh Ministries to provide education, certification and employment opportunities for youth (age 16-24). Four hundred-seventeen youth completed training and education for careers in various disciplines; which included business, early childhood education, environmental science, healthcare hospitality, information technology, and manufacturing. The college did not expend 37% of the contract award which was moved to other projects and there were only 6 employment placements. The program received an aggregate score of 3.

Goodwill Industries of Northeast Florida utilized its Job Junction Career Center to help people find jobs and develop employment skills. The program struggled to meet its training and employment goal and received an aggregate score of 1.

Chair Gentry asked for a motion to approve the Workforce Development Programs report. A motion was made and seconded and the report was approved unanimously.

Chair Gentry stated that the board will make a formal report on the programs that have been successful and recommend that they be continued under the administration of the Kids Hope Alliance (KHA). Further discussion on the recommendations will take place during the December 2018 meeting. Chair Gentry asked members to email Debbie Verges to express which programs they believe should be continued through KHA. The report for Ex-offender programs will be sent to Finance & Administration and the report for Special Project, LISC, will be sent to the Neighborhoods department.

Evening Reporting Center Contract Extension – Debbie Verges, Jax Journey Project Director

An action item was presented to the board to extend the Evening Reporting Center contract beyond 12/31/2017 to 5/31/2018, and add language explaining the participant referral process. No additional funds are needed. The language to be included is as follows:

Who: Males ages 13-18

What: As an alternative to secure detention, the ERC provides intensive supervision for up to 15 male youth. Community agencies and staff will provide services to youth such as homework help, counseling, life skills programming, exercise, healthy relationships, and meals. The ERC will also provide youth with transportation to court.

When: Monday-Friday 3:00-8:00 PM and three hours on Saturday. Youth will participate for a period up to 21 days or until he returns to court.

How (the referral process): Youth who have scored for secure detention on the DRAI assessment can be court ordered to participate in the ERC. Youth with firearm or sexually based charges are not eligible for the program. The Department of Juvenile Justice/ERC program manager will vet all youth who the court has deemed should be referred for final approval.

Why: The goal of the program is to prevent qualifying youth from being placed in secure detention.

Chair Gentry asked for a motion to approve the no cost extension of the Evening Reporting Center's contract and include additional language clarifying the participant referral process. A motion was made and seconded and the report was approved unanimously.

General Public Comments:

No public comments made.

Meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed