



City of Jacksonville

MINUTES

Of

Jax Journey Oversight Committee

September 28, 2017

Ed Ball Building, Room 851

4:00 p.m.

Committee Meeting Attendees

W.C. Gentry, Chair
Debbie Verges, Project Director Jax Journey
Judge Suzanne Bass, Judiciary
Sandra Stockwell, Office of General Counsel
Steven Siegel, State Attorney's Office
Lewis Buzzell, Public Defender
Rory Diamond, Vice-Chair
Terrence Harvey, Member
Andrea Sharpe, Member (Call-In)
Tracy Tousey, Member
Scott Wiley, Member
Paula Wright, Member
Michael Bruno, JSO

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

Proceedings

Chairman W.C. Gentry called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Minutes

Chair Gentry asked for the motion to approve the July 19, 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 Mayoral Press Release – September 28, 2017
- #2 SAIL Network Implementation Update
- #3 Jax Journey SAIL Summer Camp 2017 Booklet Update
- #4 NLP Logix Presentation (updated version to be distributed at a later date)
- #5 2017-2018 Early Learning Coalition Grant Proposals

Chairperson's Report

Chair W.C. Gentry referenced handout #1 and reported that the Kids Hope Alliance will be presented to the City Council next week. He shared that the proposed legislation contains programs that will have a great impact on public safety and improve the overall health and welfare of our community. Additionally, the new legislation will establish a policy that should create a more uniform and aligned approach to programming, and focus on four areas: early learning literacy/school readiness, juvenile justice intervention,

pre-teen and teen programs, and out-of-school programming. He noted that the aforementioned areas are the same as those addressed by Jax Journey over the years. Chair Gentry thanked the oversight committee members for the work they have done, and although uncertain of the definitive structure of the Kids Hope Alliance, hopes current members will be able to participate in it. Chair Gentry stated that there has been a positive response from the Mayor's Administration to continue the pilot programs Jax Journey started; affirming that they make a significant difference in early childhood literacy and improve the lives of those who are impoverished.

Discussion Topics

SAIL Network Update – Dr. Cheryl Fountain

Dr. Fountain referenced handouts #2 and #3 and emphasized that the goals of the Network Initiative are to (1) improve the reading proficiency of participating children, (2) utilize the “Big 5” Learning Success Skills and (3) effect positive change in partner neighborhoods. She further established that the program should be viewed as an investment in prevention rather than an immediate problem solving endeavor. Four partner sites (Sallye B. Mathis Elementary/First Coast YMCA, Arlington Elementary/Boys & Girls Clubs of NE Florida, Normandy Village/Communities in Schools, and Reynolds Lane Elementary/Wayman Community Development) and twelve partner agencies participated in the summer program. A daily, hour-long literacy block over the course of 34 days was the defining benchmark of the summer camps. The literacy blocks focused on building children's background knowledge and reinforcing the six prescribed reading strategies. The four partner sites have continued as the locations for the afterschool network.

FIE is collaborating with NLP Logix to complete a Year 1 exploratory evaluation. The purpose of the evaluation is to measure the change in campers' reading proficiency from spring 2017 to fall 2017. There will most likely be very little to no change during that timeframe, however, for those children who participate in summer 2017 through summer 2018 (summer camp and afterschool network), a notable change is anticipated. The evaluation will also include data collected by FIE to analyze key literacy components that were implemented in the program's design. Dr. Fountain stated that, overall, the literacy component was implemented successfully at all 12 summer camp sites over the seven weeks, and four field excursions were executed. Feedback from instructors, such as adding an additional 30 minutes to the Literacy Hour, will be considered for the summer 2018 camps. Chair Gentry interjected that there were some issues with providers implementing the afterschool network. Those issues were immediately handled to bring the contracts into compliance and fulfill the deliverables.

Old Business

NLP Logix Presentation - Katie Bakewell

Katie Bakewell, Lead Statistician NLP Logix, provided handout #4 for her PowerPoint

presentation on data collection and summer camp engagement updates. NLP Logix is working with the Department of Juvenile Justice to complete a second memorandum of understanding involving data that will be used to analyze teen, juvenile justice and mentoring programs. Data has also been requested from Duval County Public Schools to evaluate i-Ready fall assessments. Further, the Jacksonville Children's Commission sent NLP Logix necessary data to complete a full evaluation of the teen programs (i.e. attendance and referrals).

Three types of City summer camps were analyzed: four SAIL Network, eight Journey-funded, and 73 JCC-funded. Overall median child engagement (i.e. number of days each child attended) varied for each type of camp. Overall engagement for the SAIL Camps was 85% over 29 days; for Jax Journey funded, 83%; for JCC funded, 86%. NLP Logix will conduct another analysis to determine the comprehensive literacy losses for the children attending the SAIL Network Summer camps, as well as for those who attended 50% and for those who were highly engaged (80 – 90%).

Safe & Thriving Communities Grant Update - Rory Diamond

Rory Diamond conveyed that each subcommittee has completed its work for the Safe & Thriving Communities Grant. All of the planning phase requirements were submitted to the Department of Justice before the deadline. Funds can now be granted for additional planning and program implementation.

2017-2018 Budget – Chair W.C. Gentry & Debbie Verges, Jax Journey Project Director

There were no budget agenda items that required a vote. The current Jax Journey Oversight Committee will continue as a board through December 31, 2017 and certain programs' contracts have been extended by 6 or 8 months. Afterschool programs will continue through the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Funding for programs that are not child-focused have been shifted to other City budgets, or terminated September 30, 2017.

New Business

2017-18 Early Learning Coalition Grant Proposals – Denise Marzullo, President & CEO

Ms. Marzullo referenced handout #5 and explained that there are no fiscal variances to the 2017-18 ELC grant proposals from the prior year. Pertinent proposed program changes include: modified social-emotional service delivery, extending services to children who do not meet the cutoff score and are in need of social, emotional or behavioral therapy, and consistent Medicaid billing to maximize funding and increase the number of children served. Chair Gentry called for a motion to approve the proposed programmatic changes. A motion was made and seconded and the vote passed unanimously.

At 5:00 p.m., Chair Gentry excused himself and deferred leadership of the meeting to Vice-Chair, Rory Diamond. Following his departure, Ms. Marzullo further reported that the Child Enhancement Grant will now utilize the TSG assessment (Teaching Strategies

Gold) to better identify children's academic and developmental progress. Vice-Chair Diamond called for a motion to approve the Child Enhancement Grant proposal. A motion was made and seconded and the vote passed unanimously.

General Public Comments:

No public comments made.

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

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