



CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

MINUTES OF *Safe and Thriving Communities “Support of Youth” Meeting*

*Jacksonville Children’s Commission, 1095 A.
Phillip Randolph Blvd, 2nd floor Board Room
July 12, 2017 at 1:00PM*

ATTENDEES:

Vicki Waytowich, System of Care
Katoia Wilkins, JCC
Linda Dykes, Career Source
Vicki Burke, DJJ

Linzee Ott, SAO
Terri Jones, DCPS
Dana Platas, Daniel

Minutes:

Vicki Waytowich called the meeting to order at 1:10pm. Vicki provided the group with a summary of the working group's efforts and meetings to date. An overview of the meeting agenda was given to group. Vicki provided a recap of the last meeting for the group and went over the handouts. She discussed the working group objectives, the goal of the group and the action items recommended by the group. Recommended action items discussed were the resource fair, website for community to access information and the Universal Intake Platform. The goal of the resource fair is to increase the utilization of services. Vicki explained how the working group's recommendations will play a key role in the overall strategic plan.

The group discussed the goals and objectives. It was suggested that goals one and two be combined due to similarities and overlap. The logistics of the resource fair recommended were mentioned and the way in which it will be implemented. Linda noted that there are various resource fairs already taking place in the community. She suggested that perhaps it would be helpful to have a collective calendar of all of the resource related events. Linzee and Vicki brought up the fact that the resource fairs target different audiences. The collective calendar could be useful in recognizing which events apply to which programs/individuals. Dana shared that Volusia County has a Health and Human Services Summit each year and it is well attended. She expressed the importance of taking the services to the community. Vicki Burke addressed accessing resources as a challenge for youth and families. It is recommended that clarification be provided when presenting resources regarding who is eligible for services being presented. It is also important for it to be communicated to the community providers that they should be participating in the resource fairs. The importance of listening to the needs of the communities and addressing the root cause of the problem instead of treating symptoms was expressed.

Technology advances were discussed. The new JTA app was also discussed amongst the group and how it can be utilized to increase access to resources. The benefits and challenges of the advancement of technology were discussed. There are some families who having an online only resource tool would negatively impact. Some families do not have access to technology or do not have knowledge on how to gain access. The challenge of keeping resources updated online and

recommendations on how to do this were discussed. The group recommends having a systemic way to update resources to ensure things are accurate. Linzee spoke about the possibility of having a resource link on the city's homepage. This would be a good place to have information for the family who is searching for information prior to having any agency involvement. Promoting these resources would impact their ability to reach the community. A marketing campaign would be needed to get the word out for the places to go to find resources such as the Universal Intake Platform previously discussed. Additionally, the Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Board should be utilized as a resource for aligning juvenile justice programs.

The importance and need for youth to have after school activities, employment opportunities and mentors was discussed. The youth need education on what opportunities are available to them in their communities and how to access them. The group recommends that the resources be accessible to youth and that the youth be educated on how to utilize what is available. Linzee shared that programs are available that are under-utilized due to lack of knowledge by the community on their existence or services. Evaluating the availability of services and the hours they are offered would be worthwhile. There is a need for programs for youth to be offered into the evening hours as well as provide exposure to new places. Resources being provided at schools were discussed. Full service schools and the positive impact they can make was mentioned. The group discussed the importance of having resources at DCPS to address the student's needs.

The group also discussed partnering with the faith based community. The work of working group three was discussed. Open Table was discussed and how it could positively impact the communities of which it serves. Open Table is a wraparound approach located in a faith based organization. Open Table requires training and there is a fee to participate. It was mentioned that a pilot of Open Table may be a great start to implement this into Jacksonville. Open Table information will be sent to the working group for their review. Challenges and requirements of implementing Open Table were discussed.

The group will meet again, as needed.