



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Intervention & Rehabilitation Sub-Committee

MINUTES

OF

ADULT RE-ENTRY/JUVENILE

INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

WORKGROUPS

March 28, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Intervention & Rehabilitation

Sub-Committee

Adult Re-Entry/Juvenile Intervention Strategies Workgroups

March 28, 2008

1:00 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Intervention & Rehabilitation Sub-Committee, Adult Re-Entry/Juvenile Intervention Strategies Workgroups taken on Friday, March 28, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor, Room 851 - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Juvenile Intervention Strategies Workgroup

Bill Sulzbacher, Chair
Ron Autrey, Member
Angelia Turner, Member
Sherron Watson, Member

Adult Re-Entry Strategies Workgroup

Kevin Gay, Chair
Director Gordon Bass, Member
Michael Hallett, Member
Wyllie Hodges, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

Bill Sulzbacher, Chair
Kevin Gay, Chair
Director Gordon Bass, Member
Wyllie Hodges, Member
Sherron Watson, Member
Angelia Turner, Member

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

Ron Autrey, Member
Michael Hallett

STAFF:

Shawn Jeror

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stephanie Butler, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
Cathy Chadeayne, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

PROCEEDINGS

March 28, 2008

Intervention & Rehabilitation Sub-Committee

Adult Re-Entry/Juvenile Intervention Strategies Workgroups

1:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chairman Bill Sulzbacher called the meeting to order at approximately 1:06 p.m.

Purpose of Meeting.

Discuss the adult re-entry and juvenile intervention issues and strategies impacting the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey.

Chairman Gay began the meeting by opening discussion on the bulleted items contained in the Adult Re-Entry Sub-committee Report (handout). The first bullet addressed legislation proposed by City Council to remove barriers for hiring ex-offender to City of Jacksonville jobs. Director Bass requested a copy of the proposed legislation to review.

The second item discussed was re-entry programs.

Q. How are juveniles integrated into the portal process? We need to communicate with the Annie Casey Foundation to investigate way to limit juveniles in the system. Also, the Juvenile Assessment Center can be used as a portal for juveniles. One of their roles is to do a needs assessment on all juveniles that enter the center.

Q. Has anyone been able to come up with cost estimates on any of our possible recommendations? I believe it is our role to choose services and programs, provide estimated costs for the recommendations, and make projections out to 5 years.

Q. What kind of numbers are we looking at for juveniles returning to the community after incarceration? Right now we have not numbers.

Q. What is the quality of life for juveniles in the system? Currently they are provided with education, art therapy, counseling, and job training. One of the problems that some juveniles face upon release is that they have nowhere to go, nowhere to live. Upon release, they need to be assessed and needs addressed.

Q. Does the three-strikes rule apply to juveniles? Yes, if they are charges as an adult for their crime.

Director Bass spoke to the workgroups about his vision of how the portal would operate. State and local offenders being released from prison would be directly transported to the re-entry portal. Sherron Watson suggested that skills centers could be created from existing buildings currently not being used (i.e. old Pic-n-Save building on the corner of Lem Turner and Edgewood). Ex-offenders could work at these centers training others on skills they possess.

Q. How many businesses are willing to hire ex offenders? There are over 100 local businesses that are willing to hire ex-offenders as long as they have been assessed. It is important to determine each individual's employability.

William Sulzbacher brought up the point that mental health issues must be addressed. There needs to be a determination of what treatments currently exists and what additional services are needed. This issue should be addressed at the re-entry portal.

Q. How do the police deal with juveniles hanging out on the corners during daytime (school) hours? Currently JSO does truancy sweeps.

The Adult Re-Entry Strategies Workgroup stated that they were adjourning their meeting and allowing the Juvenile Intervention Strategies workgroup to continue on with their meeting. Prior to that, however, there was one individual who requested to speak before the group.

Public Comment.

Bill Strubbe spoke to the group about the barriers he has faced since being released from prison six weeks prior. He stated that he has experienced negativity in group counseling sessions, public harassment, and resistance to being accepted into apprentice programs.

Purpose of Meeting (cont.).

The Juvenile Interventions Workgroup attempted to call a representative with the Annie Casey Foundation to discuss their program and how key elements might be implemented with the Jacksonville Journey. Mr. Sulzbacher left a message for them to call him back.

Angelia Turner stated that she is working on her report to Mr. Sulzbacher on the tasks she was assigned to investigate.

William Sulzbacher asked the members to review the subcommittee recommendations detailed in the typewritten report (handout).

For Item #1 it was determined that the workgroup needed to make a determination of which programs should be recommended to the sub-committee and recommend that said programs should retain funding to continue with their efforts. They also want to obtain more information about small community groups that may need support who have an impact on their community. It is in the city's best interest to support small group efforts. William Sulzbacher stated that he would like to have Reverend Mark Griffin speak at a full sub-committee meeting.

The workgroup also agreed on the recommendation of increasing mentors in the community. It is important to partner with local businesses that could encourage their employees to participate in a mentoring program. Additionally, implement "work days" where mentors, parents or guardians bring their child to work so that the child can see what they do at work and may give that child a goal for their future.

Item #2 on the list of recommendations focused on emulating the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative that supports the Casey foundations vision. The workgroup also agreed on making a recommendation to adopt aspects of the "Alive at 25" program.

Item #3 addressed juvenile issues, which include mental health issues, juvenile re-entry programs, and educations. An ongoing evaluation process needs to be in place.

Adjournment. The meeting ended at 3:22 p.m.