



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Law Enforcement & Deterrence Sub-Committee

MINUTES

OF

ADULT RE-ENTRY STRATEGIES

WORKGROUP

February 13, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Law Enforcement & Deterrence

Sub-Committee

Adult Re-Entry Strategies Workgroup

February 13, 2008

2:00 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Law Enforcement & Deterrence Sub-Committee, Adult Re-Entry Strategies Workgroup taken on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor, Room 851 - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Adult Re-Entry Strategies Workgroup

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

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

KEVIN GAY, Chair

DIRECTOR GORDON BASS, Member

MICHAEL HALLETT, Member (via Conference Call)

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

WYLLIE HODGES, Member

STAFF:

Rachelle M. Sundy

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

PROCEEDINGS

February 13, 2008

Law Enforcement & Deterrence Sub-Committee

Adult Re-Entry Strategies Workgroup

2:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chairman Kevin Gay called the meeting to order at approximately 2:23 p.m.

1. Purpose of Meeting.

Discuss the challenges centered on adult re-entry strategies impacting the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey. Chairman Gay noted that this group has been tasked to make recommendations at the next full sub-committee meeting of Law Enforcement & Deterrence regarding re-entry strategies of convicts (both violent and non-violent). He noted that discussion needed to take place to determine who any recommendations should be presented. Dr. Hallett asked: Are votes already supposed to be cast? Is Mr. Coxwell (Chairman of the full sub-committee) supposed to pose funding propositions to the Steering Committee? Director Bass noted that there are three areas that the full sub-committee discussed as a recommendation to the Steering Committee:

- 1) Recommended Camp Birmingham (Jacksonville) be adopted
- 2) Recommended that the City create language to eliminate barriers for employers to hire convicted felons to city government positions
- 3) Create a layout for the portal of entry for the offenders - a "one-stop-shop" if you will, where assessment can take place to ensure the program is effective and maximizes utilization of all funding resources.

Dr. Hallett asked: Has a scope been defined for the portal - he understands it is a work in progress? Director Bass answered in the affirmative - he indicates it includes use of the Jacksonville Re-Entry Center, he notes that he believes there is a location already determined for the portal. He further notes that a crucial piece of this process is the partnership with Operation

New Hope - they perform a viable and functional service. Dr. Hallett asked Director Bass to elaborate on how that is crucial. Chairman Gay gave a brief recap of how Operation New Hope works. Dr. Hallett also asked: Are you going to track recidivism? He notes that tracking is a critical piece to this project - and he further notes that the Steering Committee will ask very specific questions around the tracking piece. Director Bass answered that the direction of the process is to be able to track and follow through with all participant to determine that the services provided were effective and successful. At this point, Chairman Gay asked the question of Dr. Hallett: What are your thoughts on mixing the population (of violent and non-violent offenders)? Do you believe they can co-mingle or co-exist? Dr. Hallett responded that it is very risky to mix the population due to the fact that there are very violent offenders and they may greatly impact or affect the non-violent offenders who are on the edge. He further notes that with a mix, you won't be able to determine positive outcomes in specific programs that are designed to target either the violent or non-violent population. Chairman Gay further clarified his question: Do you feel that sharing the facility and resources together is something that can be done to maximize use of dollars? Dr. Hallett responded - In terms of using facilities - yes, in terms of utilizing treatment program - the answer is it probably won't work. More violent offenders will need more heavy treatment. He notes that even in classroom settings, the more violent offenders can have a negative influence on those offenders who served time in county lock-up as opposed to more hardened time.

Discussion ensued regarding what a recommendation from this workgroup should look like, what is the full sub-committee seeking from this workgroup? It was determined that a budget should be attempted; a description of the services that will be provided; it is critical to know what type of offenders and what type of services they will need. Dr. Hallett asked if Director Bass had a flow-chart of the process for the portal (re-entry program). It

was determined that a flow-chart would be created for both types of criminals.

Director Bass noted that he must leave to attend another meeting; Chairman Gay adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:50 p.m.

2. Action Items

Director Bass - pull together a flow-chart of the re-entry program; a draft budget; and a description of services provided for both types of criminals

Chairman Gay - get with Kerri Stewart (Mayoral Support Staff) to determine what the recommendation should look like

Adjournment. The meeting ended at 2:50 p.m.