



**City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey**

**Intervention and Rehabilitation – Juvenile Intervention Strategies Workgroup**

**MINUTES**

**OF**

**INTERVENTION & REHABILITATION**

**SUB-COMMITTEE – JUVENILE**

**INTERVENTION STRATEGIES**

**WORKGROUP**

**March 14, 2008**

**The Jacksonville Journey – Intervention & Rehabilitation**  
**Sub-Committee – Juvenile Intervention Strategies Workgroup**

**March 14, 2008**

**5:00 p.m.**

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Intervention & Rehabilitation Sub-Committee - Juvenile Intervention Strategies Workgroup, taken on Friday, March 14, 2008, Clanzel Brown Community Center - 4545 Moncrief Road, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Intervention & Rehabilitation Sub-Committee - Juvenile  
Intervention Strategies Workgroup

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

## APPEARANCES

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:**

WILLIAM SULZBACHER, Member  
SHERRON WATSON, Member

### **ABSENTEE MEMBERS:**

RON AUTREY, Member  
ANGELIA TURNER, Member

### **STAFF:**

KERRI STEWART  
LYNN RIX

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

YSRYL, Jacksonville Youth Works  
ANNE SULZBACHER  
STEFFANIE JONES, Beacon Academy  
BO BREWER, H.O.M.E. Inc.  
TYRONE SMITH, H.O.M.E. Inc.  
JA'TCUIN HOLMES, H.O.M.E. Inc.  
KEVIN BROWN, H.O.M.E. Inc.  
SHRONE PHILLIPS, H.O.M.E. Inc.  
SCOTT JOHNSON, WJXT Channel 4 News  
SHARON KIRKLAND, Jacksonville Journey  
DESHAUN WRIGHT  
TERRANCE PITTS  
LASHONA WRIGHT  
ANTHONY COOPER  
PASTOR DAN JONES, Christ Ministry of Changing Lives  
ANGELA F. WILLIAMS, F.O.S.C.I.  
JACOB BUSH, THORMINC Ministries  
CASSANDRA BUSH, THORMINC Ministries  
NATE TOLER, Citizens with Criminal Backgrounds  
W. EARL KITCHINGS, EKG Sports  
BEVERLY MCCLAIN, Families of Slain Children  
JENNIFER THOMAS  
ANN QUARLES, Christ Ministry of Changing Lives

## **PROCEEDINGS**

March 14, 2008

Intervention and Rehabilitation Sub-Committee - Juvenile

Intervention Strategies Workgroup 5:00 p.m.

**Call to Order and Comments.** Cassandra Bush of The House of Refuge Ministries, Inc. (THORMINC) opened the meeting at approximately 5:05 p.m.

**Purpose of Meeting.** To engage *The Jacksonville Journey* to hear from the community solutions, not finger-pointing. Ms. Bush stated "We're going to do it whether the money comes or not". Ms. Bush welcomed committee members and thanked everyone for their attendance. She reviewed housekeeping items.

Ms. Bush presented how her organization helps with re-entry. They provide:

1. Clothing.
2. Transitional housing.
3. Monies for first/last month rent and security deposit.
4. Education programs while incarcerated.

Ms. Bush then introduced Ms. Steffanie Jones, administrator and CEO of the Beacon Academy. Ms. Jones spoke briefly about her work with at-risk youths and adults who do not perform well in a traditional school setting. She currently has 10 students. She meets them when and where they are able. She tailors a learning program for each individual. She receives no outside funding.

She supports the program solely out of her pocket.

Ms. Bush then introduced Bo Brewer. Mr. Brewer is a former youth pastor and intercity missionary who ran an after school program for elementary-aged children. He stated that due to lack of funding and dependable volunteer help he was forced to abandon this work. Also, during this time his focus shifted from elementary children to older youth and young men. He currently mentors about 20 young men on a volunteer basis. His goal is to build character by teaching these youth, many without father figures, to be men. Their music is a picture of who they are and it focuses on materialism, sexuality, abuse towards women and violence. These attitudes need to be changed.

When he asked these young people "What would help you become a success in society?" The answers were:

1. A job, vocational training.
2. Education, motivation to succeed in school and college.
3. A father figure or mentor.
4. Opportunities to train and compete athletically.

Four (4) of these teenagers were at the meeting and members of the audience asked them several questions.

**Q. How do you deal with peer pressure?** *Stay to myself.*

**Q. What makes you a troublemaker?** *I don't know.*

**Q. What do you want to be?** *I don't know.*

**Q. What do you do for entertainment, besides the movies or hanging out on the street corner?** *Nothing.*

Q. **What do you want in your neighborhood?** *A teen center.*

Q. **How many have both parents at home?** *Two (2)*

Q. **How many know your fathers?** *Two (2)*

Q. **How many have parents with criminal backgrounds?** *Three (3)*

Ms. Bush then introduced Nate Toler with Citizens with Criminal Backgrounds. He calls this Generation XX because they have no examples. Ex-offenders attempting to re-enter the workforce need:

1. Education forums where stories can be portrayed in a non confrontational way.

2. Advocates with numbers and success stories.

3. Employers should be given a clear, concise guide as to how far they can go back when they do a criminal background check.

4. Completely eliminate the question of whether an applicant has a conviction.

Anthony Cooper, an audience member spoke up that he went to prison the first time at age 15. He is got out in 2006 and is currently 37 years old. He is unable to get a job. He has to wait 2 more years before he can apply at the Longshoremen's Hall. Walgreens, Publix, Burger King and McDonald's have all turned him down because of his record. He states the reason many become repeat offenders is because they cannot get jobs to support their families so they return to criminal activities. Upon further questioning he states that he was the first in his family to get into trouble. His parents were going through a divorce and he

began hanging out with an older crowd. When in school he was on the A-B honor roll.

Ysryl stated that he has experienced this as well. He had 9 convictions by the age of 24. He is now in his 40s and makes his living from a trucking business he started when he was unable to get a job.

Cassandra Bush then introduced Beverly McClain from Families of Slain Children. Ms. McClain spoke about the support group she started after her son was murdered 2 years ago. They provide support and assistance to grieving families including food; help with utilities, whatever is needed anytime of the day or night. Angela Williams is a member of the support group. She lost one child in 2003 and another in 2005. The group is planning an Easter egg hunt with games, food, et cetera, in Simonds-Johnson Park.

LaShona Wright, age 17, was asked to speak from a young lady's perspective. She would like a place to go for homework help and a job after school. Ms. McClain stated that they have a building on 21<sup>st</sup> and Myrtle that is being renovated for this purpose.

Next a spokeswoman from Community Re-Entry Staffing was introduced by Ms. Bush. Community Re-Entry Staffing was founded by an ex-offender because she was unable to find employment. She had been through the Ready4Work program and built on that experience. She

has placed 400 people in eight (8) months. She is privately funded.

A round table discussion followed touching on topics of turning criminal skills into marketable skills, i.e., the drug dealer has salesmanship and customer service skills. The question was raised as to why mothers with section 8 housing would risk losing it by allowing an ex-offender to move in without being on the lease. The catch-22 of section 8 housing was explained. The new employee cannot miss work for the first 90 days or they will lose their job. The section 8 housing is inspected monthly. Therefore, she must choose between losing her job and losing her section 8 status.

Once section 8 status has been lost they are willing to let someone move in who is not on the lease to help pay the rent that has increased from \$75.00 to over \$600.

It was suggested that school vocational programs could help non profits by renovating and cleaning up buildings that have been donated to them.

Ann Quarles of Christ Ministry of Changing Lives, states that they go door to door to reach parents and children. They have counselors and trainers who can work with them and show them that their lives can be changed.

Ysryl remarked that the black community has never come together to

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have a steering committee, finance committee, etc., like *The Jacksonville Journey*. This needs to be done weekly, not monthly or quarterly and everyone must work together to overcome trust issues with each other.

Bill Sulzbacher stated that this had been a very eye-opening experience and he believes that things have happened here tonight.

Kerri Stewart asked Cassandra Bush to coordinate information on all the programs that had been presented tonight.

Reverend Jacob Bush closed the meeting in prayer at 6:50 p.m.

**2. Public Comment**

**3. Action Items**

**4. Discussion Items**

None.

**Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.**