

CECP Chair/Community Engagement & Crime Prevention Subcommittee Meeting  
Friday, July 28 11:00  
Ed Ball 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

Members Present: Chair Lolita Smith; WC Gentry; Dr. Vicki Waytowich; Ellen Glasser; and Derrick Mitchell.

Subject Matter Experts Present: Debbie Verges (former Project Director for the Jacksonville Journey during Mayor Peyton's and Mayor Curry's Administration); Linzee Ott (State Attorney's Office)

Lolita called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM.

The initial charge of the committee was reviewed. The Committee members discussed the initial draft of the recommendations of this committee.

Dr. Waytowich discussed that JREC is vital, but the efforts must have a coordinated system of care that works with other programs and services. Recommendation #1 (Increase the current funding of JREC and funds to meet the full needs of ex-offenders) and #3 (consider funding a re-entry services offices or position) could be combined. Ellen discussed the need for a structural change so that all the efforts are not housed at the JSO.

Derrick discussed that evaluation of why people recidivate could be helpful to learn the causes. WC stated we need more data from JSO numbers being released and the recidivism rates.

Recommendation #2 discussed review the existing Jacksonville Area Discharge Enhancement (JADE). Members questioned they knew little about the program. They learned that it is currently not active, but JSO plans to reactivate it. The committee suggested that this should be studied once it is reactivated.

Ellen again discussed the Silos that exist and that an "Office of Violence Prevention" could be established. WC reminded everyone that when Jax Journey was functioning the "prism" of crime prevention was used to measure programs. Journey did function as an office of Violence Prevention.

Diana Johnson from the Public Defenders office explained in more detail the deterrence to many of the participants in the Juvenile Diversion program not being able to afford their restitution and therefore they can't be released from the program. If assistance with restitution could happen those individuals would have a case plan which would include additional community service. A discussion around expungement was discussed. There are 3 fees-\$75 to file the expungement, \$5 for a fingerprint card and \$53 Clerk Fee. When Jax Journey was functioning Fairs were held to help youth accomplish what was needed to begin the expungement process. The recommendation is to add money to assist with the fees and to bring the fairs back.

Truancy is another area that needs further investigation. In the past there have been Truancy Centers and cooperation with JSO. There is a direct tie to those not in school and low performance on reading test scores. Youth can't learn if they are not in school.

Committee members will send additional ideas to Debbie Verges, and they will be incorporated in the report that will be reviewed at the full committee meeting August 3.

Chair Smith asked for Public Comment:

1. Pastor Rankin-New Life Community Church-discussed that now that youth cannot collect donations on street corners it makes it difficult to raise enough money to play youth football.
2. David Kilcrease-Coordinator of the Mental Health Offender Program discussed the need for an increase in funding.
3. Jerrod Bell-Operation Save Our Sons-discussed the program he coordinates.
4. Michelle Stephens would like to see a copy of the recommendations once they become final.
5. Tim-discussed that young children ages 12-15 should not be working a job to pay off their restitution and if their parents can't afford it, they can't fulfill their obligations. Community service is a much better option.
6. Katoia Wilkins with the Kids Hope Alliance discussed an RFP for Emerging Providers that has just been released. The first year of funding is strictly for Capacity Building and how to navigate the "maze" of City government.
7. Dimitri Brewer with the Center for Children's Rights discussed the intersection of community partners and how we can better work together.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM