

SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2025, at 11:00 am

*York County Family Courthouse
1555 West Main Street, Rock Hill, SC 29732*

Members Present: Chairman John Holler, Jerry Allred, Roderick Pam, Antiwan Tate, Dionne Carroll, Blake Taylor, David Guyton, Robert Reid, Kathryn Moorehead (via Webex),

Staff Members Present: Jerode Oliver, Colt Eden, Brittany Cain (via Webex), Jess Leneave (via Webex, recorder)

Guests: Angela Flowers (Proxy for Eden Hendrick), Whitney Payne (16th Circuit Solicitor's Office), Stacey Coleman (16th Circuit Public Defender's Office), Jeff Lynch (Columbia Urban League)

I. Welcome by the Chair: Chairman John Holler welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of Minutes: Chairman Holler asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from February 28, 2025. A motion was made to change the DSS Deputy Director of Child Welfare from Dillon Mark to Dawn Barton under Other Agency Updates. Another motion was made to approve the name change. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

III. Agency Updates

a. OHSJP Update: Solicitation for the Title 2 Formula grants has closed and the OHSJP received ten applications, totaling \$939,919. The GJJAC grant sub-committee will be holding a meeting on June 5th to review the new grants management system and will finalize recommendations at the beginning of July.

SC recently underwent their 2025 Compliance Monitoring Audit and is currently awaiting the final report. In the meantime, the OHSJP has filed an appeal regarding the 2024 audit's determination of being out of compliance for DSO and 11B requirements. Brittany Caine further explained the 11B Requirement stating that juveniles charged as adults and housed in adult facilities must have an interest of justice hearing. Juveniles held in a separated unit at the juvenile detention center, away from other minors do not require hearings.

The CJJ National Conference is set to be held May 27th to June 1st in Washington D.C. Jerode Oliver, Antiwan Tate and Angela Flowers will be attending along with two youth pending scholarship approval.

b. SCDJJ: Angela Flowers discussed the prevention efforts that DJJ is implementing, such as Jump Shots for Justice. Despite facing challenges with short staffing, DJJ has managed to secure additionally funding for salary increases. Additionally, they are actively looking for more volunteers to support their community services program.

c. Other Agency Updates: No updates

- IV. Old Business:** Regarding council membership, Chairman Holler and Jerode Oliver reached out to individuals who have been inactive. One member asked to be removed from the committee. A letter was sent to Governor McMaster requesting these removals, as well as new appointments for members who have been appointed to new positions and roles.
- V. New Business:** Chairman Holler stated that there is still a need for three system-involved youth and two youth members who wish to improve the juvenile justice system. Jerode will be emailing the youth brochure to the council to provide more information to any youth who are interested in becoming members.
- VI. Subcommittee Reports:**
- a. R/ED-DSO:** Jerry Allred, the subcommittee chair, recently met in April and established some sub-committee goals. Key goals included addressing family issues after a juvenile has been booked such as seeking resources from faith-based groups; evaluating successful training programs to determine what can be replicated for other counties and agencies to model; involving other state agencies to address dually-involved youth; and providing training opportunities for service providers.
 - b. Government Relations:** Blake Taylor, the subcommittee chair, stated they recently met. Legislation and laws are a concern for the committee, and they would like to present recommendations to lawmakers in the next legislative session.
- VII. Meeting Adjourn:** Chair Holler requested updates from the Columbia Urban League. Jeff Lynch discussed the Savings Our Sons (SOS) program, funded by the OHSJP, which aims to reduce youth adjudication in the juvenile justice system. SOS is designed to improve communication skills, decrease negative behaviors at school and in the community, demonstrate positive life skills, and teach conflict management skills. Currently, 33 juveniles are being mentored and only one juvenile has reoffended since the start of the program.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on August 8, 2025 at the Epworth Children's Home.