

# **SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**April 19, 2024, at 10:30 am**

*Inman City Hall*

*20 S. Main Street, Inman, SC 29349*

**Members Present:** Chairman John Holler, Christopher Ross, Mayor Cornelius Huff, Antiwan Tate, Dione Carroll, Blake Taylor, Amanda Whittle

**Staff Members Present:** Jerode Oliver, Traci Dove

**Guests:** Angela Flowers (DJJ), James Masey (Attorney General's Office)

- I. Welcome by the Chair:** Chairman John Holler welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order. Chairman Holler led in prayer and asked that everyone introduce themselves.
- II. Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Holler asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the January 19, 2024 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.
- III. Agency Updates**
  - a. **OHSJP Update:** Mr. Jerode Oliver informed the Council that the Ms. Brittany Woods, the Compliance Monitor is no longer with SCDPS, that position should be filled soon. The Bi-Annual Report is in the final review process and will be sent out to the Council for review. The FY2025 Title II Formula Solicitation has closed; there were 8 applications received, 4 continuations and 4 new grants. Mr. Oliver informed the Council that they will need to confirm the next meeting date and location. The Council decided that the next meeting will tentatively be on July 26<sup>th</sup>. The Grants Committee will need to meet prior to the next Council meeting to review the Formula grant applications; the committee will meet on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 11am at SCDPS.

Dr. Blake Taylor gave an update on the Status Offense bill that would have prevented status offenders from being detained and helped the state with compliance; the bill was not passed.
  - b. **SCDJJ:** DJJ is working to improve some of the capital projects which includes renovations to the secure facilities. There are a number of safety enhancements they are working on such as replacing the cell doors, converting the shower heads to prevent hangings, adding additional fencing and sound absorption panels to reduce noise. In an effort to reduce the entry of contraband, the agency is limiting vehicles behind the fence of the BRCC. The Juvenile Detention facility continues to be over capacity and they are averaging about 100 youth This year the agency

will have graduated their 1000<sup>th</sup> student from their education program. DJJ is working hard to resolve the issues at the agency, they continue to deal with staffing shortages but they are committed to improving the outcomes of the youth.

**c. Other Agency Updates:**

- i. **Department of Children's Advocacy:** Amanda Whittle provided an update about the work of the Department of Children's Advocacy related to juvenile justice. The DCA's Investigations Unit and Critical Investigations Unit continue to visit with youth and staff at the DJJ facilities, including the detention center, evaluation centers, and Broad River Road Complex. DCA leadership communicates with DJJ leadership regularly about youth concerns and recommendations.

**IV. Old Business:** None.

**V. New Business:** There will be a Council of SAGs meeting to vote for a new SAG Chairman, Mr. Oliver will send out the information to those that want to attend.

**VI. Community Updates:** Ms. Nancy Paschall presented, from HALTER Equine Assisted Services, a local nonprofit community-based program out of Spartanburg County. HALTER aims to improve the lives of children with challenges through equine-assisted services, education, and research.

**VII. Adjourn:** With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned.