

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

**August 18, 2023 at 10:30 am**

***Epworth Children's Home***

**2900 Millwood Ave, Columbia, SC 29205**

**Members Present:** Chairman John Holler, Christopher Ross, Blake Taylor, Rev. Robert Reid, Michael Leach, Eden Hendrick, Judge David Guyton, Sara Goldsby, Oakley Dickson, Markesha Miller, Roderick Pam, Rachel Burns (Youth)

**Staff Members Present:** Jerode Oliver, Brittany Woods, Kayla Boston (recorder)

**Guests:** The Honorable Mayor Daniel Rickenmann, Trevon Fordham, Stephen Scoff

- I. Welcome by the Chair:** Chairman John Holler welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order. Rev. Robert Reid led in prayer.

Chairman Holler introduced Mayor Daniel Rickenmann to the Council. Mayor Rickenmann introduced Mr. Trevon Fordham, the new Director of Violence Prevention and gave a brief word to the Council on the importance of Juvenile Justice. The Mayor also praised the GJJAC for all of their hard work. Mr. Fordham gave a brief introduction.

- II. Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Holler asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the June 16, 2023 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 introduced Ms. Brittany Woods to the Council. Ms. Woods is the new Juvenile Justice Compliance Monitor at the OHSJP.
- b. **DJJ Update:** Director Eden Hendrick presented the update. SCDJJ has received \$5 million recurring dollars for evidence-based practices to administer FFT and MST across the state. This funding is one of the biggest investments that the Legislature has put towards mental health for justice involved youth. SCDJJ owns over 2,000 acres that consists of 156 buildings; the agency has received funds to make improvements to the campus. The detention center continues to be overcrowded with 30 people over capacity; this is due to raise the age and the Greenville Detention Center closure. The agency continues to work on alternatives to detention in Charleston and Aiken. Director Hendrick informed the Council that the Pines Day Center is now open.
- c. **Other Agency Updates:**

- i. **DSS:** Director Michael Leach presented the update. The agency asked for rate increases for child placing agencies and have put \$13 million into the rate increases as well as group homes. They have also increased foster parent rates due to inflation and the cost of raising a child. Currently there are 3,602 children in foster care, this is the lowest amount of children since 2015. The percentage of teens with significant emotional needs has skyrocketed; of the teens coming into DSS care, 85% have mental health diagnosis, 27% of those have suicidal ideations. The agency has seen a decrease in family preservation cases and an increase in medical and dental visits; 97% of children in foster care have had at least an initial well-visit.

#### d. **Committee Updates**

- i. **System Improvement:** Chairman Holler presented the update. Instead of revising the Three-Year Plan that is currently due, the System Improvement and the Executive committees voted to submit a new annual report and then begin working on a new Three Year Plan. The current Three-Year Plan will be submitted as written with a few editorial changes.

The Executive committee voted to have a retreat November 29-December 1, 2023 in Columbia. The first day of the retreat will be for training, and the last two days will be for writing the annual report and the new Three Year Plan that will be due next year.

Chairman Holler entertained a motion to have a retreat on November 29-December 1, 2023. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

Chairman Holler announced that Dr. Markesha Miller will now serve as the Vice-Chair of the Council.

- IV. **FY 2024 Grant Recommendations:** Chairman Holler entertained a motion to move into Executive Session. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Oliver explained that the Title II Formula Solicitation outlines the funding priorities established by the GJJAC, eligibility information, guidelines for the use of funds, financial requirements, as well as the application submission and review process. Applicants were provided with an application checklist as well as technical assistance during the application period. The FY 2023 allocation amount is estimated to be \$535,452 based on the FY 2022 award amount. Additionally, there is approximately \$521,269 in reverted funds available. The OHSJP received 20 applications before the solicitation closed in March 2023.

- a. **Project Continuations:** Mr. Oliver presented the continuation project recommendations; the Grants Committee would like to continue funding for the continuation projects.

**b. Applications Approved/Denied:** Chairman Holler entertained a motion to approve the Title II Formula Grant Recommendations with the following stipulations:

- Columbia Urban League: Recommend funding for this project with the special condition that the Subgrantee provides data of reoccurring youth in the program.
- South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice: Recommend funding for this project with the special condition that the successful partnerships and collaborations be identified and that the Council be provided with the data on what youth were successfully diverted under this project.
- Fifth Judicial Circuit: Recommend funding for this project with the special condition that the Subgrantee provide data for the youth that were diverted from the system.

The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

Chairman Holler entertained a motion to approve the remaining grant disapproval recommendations as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously

**V. Old Business:** None.

**VI. New Business:** None.

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