

SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2022 at 10:30 am

Epworth Children's Home

2900 Millwood Ave, Columbia, SC 29205

Members Present (In person): Chairman John Holler, Amanda Whittle, Jay Elliott, Dioné Carroll, Rev. Robert Reid, Roderick Pam, Kathryn Moorehead, Jerry Allred, Christopher Ross, Dr. Blake Taylor, Oakley Dickson, Sara Goldsby, Judge David Guyton, Mayor Cornelius Huff, Michael Leach, Eden Hendrick, Delores Robinson, Antiwan Tate

Staff Members Present: Aloysius Anderson, Joi Brunson, Amy Free, Amy Kingston, Melissa Vail, Jess Leneave, Kayla Boston (recorder)

Guests (In Person): Kayla Capps, Stephen Scoff, Jordan Thomas, Trevon Fordham, Stasia Bryant

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

Rev. Robert Reid asked for any prayer requests from the Council and led in prayer.

- II. Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Holler asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the August 12, 2022 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

III. Agency Updates

- a. **SCDJJ:** No update.
- b. **Other Agency Updates:** None.

IV. Committee Updates:

- a. **System Improvement:** Ms. Amanda Whittle was not able to attend the meeting, however, she sent an update on behalf of the System Improvement Committee: "The System Improvement subcommittee met on November 18, and there were approximately 12 people in attendance. All attendees were engaged in a robust discussion. Amanda Whittle summarized the meeting: "The GJJAC System Improvement Subcommittee has developed three primary focuses: Family engagement – Giving hope, encouragement, education and skills for families to be actively involved in therapy with their child including awareness about the effects of trauma on behavior; Community involvement – Connecting people who want to help to the needs and opportunities for service including informing potential grant applicants what types of services are needed in our state; and Resource Awareness – Providing resource information and connections, so Judges, law enforcement, families, agencies, and attorneys are aware of and have access to alternatives to detention, foster care or other out of home placement in times of crisis."

- b. **Emerging Leaders:** Mr. Antiwan Tate informed the Council that the committee is working with County DJJ affiliates to have youth be a part of the Emerging Leaders Committee.
- c. **Staff Update:** Mr. Aloysius Anderson provided the update. Seven Title II Formula awards were released in October, totaling approximately \$800,000. Some of the 2022-23 subgrantees were present at the meeting, they were advised that they are encouraged to be present, provide input and update the council on their projects during quarterly meetings.

The new Compliance Monitor, Jerode Oliver, was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. He has prepared a report on state compliance and will provide that report at the next System Improvement meeting or at the next Council Meeting. The Juvenile Justice Specialist position will be posted soon and interviews are projected to begin in January.

V. **FY 2021 and 2022 Grant Presentations/Reports**

- a. **Juvenile Court Project:** Ms. Kayla Capps presented a report of the Juvenile Court Project Grant. The goal of the project is to reduce the number of disparities through court observation to address issues of secure detention for status offenders. Throughout a three month period, 292 hearings with justice involved youth were observed in Aiken, Richland and York counties; four youth were observed with straight status offenses. It was found that youth with DSS involvement were more likely to be released to placement or detained as compared to being released to the community. No associations were found with children who received mental health services. Overall, more youth were ordered to complete community evaluations.
- b. **Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative:** Ms. Stasia Bryant explained that JDAI is a community driven program that looks for alternatives to detention statewide. The main concept of JDAI is community safety, as well as making sure that the youth show up to court. The program looks for alternative places to put youth until they are able to place them with their parents so that law enforcement can get back to their jobs.
- c. **USC/CLC – DSO Project:** Stephen Scoff explained that the DSO Project found that five counties were responsible for 50% of the incarcerations of status offenders – Dillon, Darlington, Greenville, Spartanburg and Lexington. The Children’s Law Center (CLC) created stakeholder coalitions in these communities to educate them about the harms of placing youth in DJJ. The CLC also created a stakeholder taskforce.

Chief Joseph Cooper, Chief of Police at the City of Lake City Police Department, gave a brief summary of their efforts to provide an infrastructure to support programs for youth within the city. He also talked about their Youth Intervention Program.

Mr. Jay Elliott proposed that the Council ask the Superintendent of Education, Ms. Ellen Weaver, to attend the GJJAC meetings.

Further discussion was held.

VI. Discussion

a. Old Business: None.

b. New Business:

- i. Planning Retreat Meeting:** Mr. Anderson suggested that the Executive Committee meet to discuss scheduling a planning retreat meeting or to plan a small committee meeting to decide on plans for the retreat.
- ii. Tribute: John Dewese:** Mr. Anderson informed the Council that Mr. John Dewese, who was on the GJJAC Committee for more than 20 years, has recently passed away. He served as the Chair elect for the CJJ Board of Editors and Strategic Planning Committee. Mr. Anderson proposed that the Executive Committee discuss a tribute to Judge Dewese and decide how the Council can honor him.

A motion was made to assign the Executive Committee the job of preparing a tribute to Judge John Dewese for purposes of presentation, not only to the Council, but to his family as well. The motion was properly seconded and carried unanimously.

- iii. SCIP Funding:** Mr. Anderson introduced the State Crisis Intervention Program Grant. This is not a juvenile or criminal justice focused grant program, it is a justice system grant that affects persons of all ages. The Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) provides funding for the creation and/or implementation of extreme risk protection order (ERPO) programs, state crisis intervention court proceedings, and related gun violence reduction programs/initiatives. SC's allocation over 5 years will be approximately \$2.3 million per year. The BJA has released the solicitation for 21 & 22. Applicants must form a diverse Crisis Intervention Advisory Board to establish funding priorities and inform and guide the state's related gun violence reduction programs/initiatives. The OHSJP is currently building a list of potential members and would like for the Council to assist with this process by providing names of those that they feel could provide expert input to this body. The board membership does not require gubernatorial appointment, but the list will be forwarded to the governor's office for review.

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