

SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2024, at 10:30 am

Epworth Children's Home

2900 Millwood Ave, Columbia, SC 29205

Members Present: Chairman John Holler, Director Eden Hendrick, Rev. Robert Reid, Jerry Allred, Christopher Ross, Mayor Cornelius Huff, Roderick Pam, Rachel Burns (Youth), Antiwan Tate

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

Guests: Louise Johnson (SCDMH), Samantha Luck (SCCID), Steven Ferrufino (SCDSS), Lee Williams, Trey Benjamin (Greenville News), (WIS News), Jalen Tart (WIS News)

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 November 29, 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:** Ms. Traci Dove introduced herself to the Council as the new Justice Grant Programs Manager at the OHSJP.

Mr. Jerode Oliver briefly reviewed the Best Legal Practices for Status Offenders handout from the Children's Law Center. Mr. Oliver asked the Council to pass the document along to anyone that they know is working with youth.

Ms. Brittany Woods informed the Council that the state has been out of compliance with the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) for the last two reporting periods and that the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has sent the official 2023 determination letter and the state is still out of compliance. The state is in compliance with the Adult Jail and Lockup Removal, Sight and Sound Separation and Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED).

- b. **SCDJJ:** Director Eden Hendrick informed the Council that the focus for the agency's budget this year is to increase the salary of their community staff. The agency has classified counties into three tiers-big, medium and small-to reflect the size of each county. The agency also plans to reclassify Admins as lower level case workers to help attract more quality candidates for the positions. They will

also be asking for more money for psychologists and maintenance workers. The budget will include recurring funds for legal issues such as worker's compensation. DJJ is in the process of completing the Master Plan, which should be completed in March. The agency's application system is very outdated so they are requesting money for technology updates. Director Hendrick informed the Council that Project LEAP is still ongoing in the community. The biggest issue that they are dealing with is that the detention center continues to be very overcrowded and the Greenville Detention Center is still closed; the agency is also still understaffed.

c. Other Agency Updates:

- i. DMH:** Ms. Louise Johnson of SC Department of Mental Health informed the Council that families in need of services are not sure who to turn to due to the way that the system is fragmented. DMH is required by law to provide the least restrictive options available which is difficult because they do not have the services to work collaboratively with the families.

- IV. Old Business:** Chairman Holler informed the Council that the Annual Report is coming due and hopes that it will be completed by the end of February. Chairman Holler also shared that we are now in the last year of the Three-Year Plan and this is a good time to develop a new one.

Director Hendrick informed the Council that DJJ is asking for increased funding for teen after school sites that the agency works with. They work with over 40 after school sites and are only able to provide them with a minimal amount of money and would like to provide them with more.

V. New Business:

- a. Retreat Follow-up:** Mr. Oliver let the Council know that he is very appreciative of everyone's contributions and efforts at the GJJAC Retreat. The Council was able to centralize the focus of the Council's priorities which are community service programs geared towards the incarceration of status offenders and working with kids in the community. The two priorities that were added are the community based alternatives to incarceration and institutionalization as well as Community based programs and services.

Chairman Holler asked the Council if they would like to have a retreat this year and how many days are needed for it. Mr. Antiwan Tate asked that the youth be included in the retreat this year.

- b. Finalize Subcommittees:** At the retreat, the Council reconfigured the subcommittees by removing the Tribal Affairs subcommittee and combining the RED subcommittee with DSO. The Council reviewed the subcommittee assignments and determined a Chair is needed for the RED/DSO subcommittee. Rev. Robert Reid volunteered to serve on the RED/DSO subcommittee.

Chairman Holler asked for a motion to give Mr. Oliver and Chairman Holler the authority to appoint a Chair for the RED/DSO Subcommittee if there is not a volunteer for the position. The motion was made, properly seconded and carried unanimously.

Chairman Holler asked for a motion to adopt the subcommittee assignments with the addition of Rev. Reid to the RED/DSO subcommittee. The motion was made, properly seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Oliver informed the Council that there are vacancies open for GJJAC membership a law enforcement prosecutor, recreation/youth services, special education, education, and youth membership and would like recommendations for the positions.

The Council discussed compensating youth involved in the Council with more than the provided stipend and mileage as well as having a training class before they begin attending council meetings. Further discussion was held.

- c. **Approve GJJAC Meeting Dates:** A 2024 GJJAC meeting schedule was disseminated to the Council, Chairman Holler informed the Council that the July 19th meeting date may change and asked that if anyone has suggestions for meeting locations to let him know.

Chairman Holler asked for a motion to adopt the GJJAC Meeting Schedule. The motion was made, properly seconded and carried unanimously.

- d. **Annual Report:** No additional discussion was held.

VI. Adjourn: With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned.