



City of Jacksonville

MINUTES

Of

Jax Journey Oversight Committee

October 26, 2017

Ed Ball Building, Room 851

4:00 p.m.

Committee Meeting

Attendees

W.C. Gentry, Chair
Debbie Verges, Project Director Jax Journey
Judge Suzanne Bass, Judiciary
Julie Davis, Office of General Counsel
Charlie Cofer, Public Defender
Laura Lothman Lambert, State Attorney's Office
Ricky Bedoya, Member
April Green, Member (Call-In)
Andrea Sharpe, Member

Please see the sign-in sheet for a complete list of additional attendees

Proceedings

Chairman W.C. Gentry called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

Minutes

Chair Gentry asked for the motion to approve the September 28, 2017 meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded. Chair Gentry called for the vote; there were no amendments or objections and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The following handouts were provided to all committee members:

- #1 KHA Legislation Ordinance 2017-563-E
- #2 NLP Logix, LLC PowerPoint Presentation
- #3 Journey Funded Programs FY 2017-18 Budget Snapshot

Chairperson's Report

Chair W.C. Gentry deferred his report to move directly into the KHA Legislation discussion.

Discussion Topics

KHA Legislation – Chair W.C. Gentry

Chair W.C. Gentry reported that there has been a great deal of activity in City Council regarding the Kids Hope Alliance legislation, which overwhelmingly passed into law on Tuesday, September 19, 2017. He referenced handout #1, Ordinance 2017-563-E, and explained that the Kids Hope Alliance (KHA) will assume responsibility for the

children's programs formerly under the auspices of Jax Journey and the Jacksonville Children's Commission. Programs that do not involve children have been shifted to appropriately aligned City departmental budgets, or did not have their contracts renewed. The legislation will offer services in the categories of early learning, juvenile intervention, afterschool/summer camp programs, and pre-teen/teen programming. An additional children's programming area that was not introduced in the original KHA legislation, but will now be offered, is social and emotional behavioral services. All programming will be administered by KHA effective January 1, 2018, unless the new entity's board decides to defer the start date. The transition will be swift and the Mayor is in the process of selecting an Interim Executive Director of KHA. Chair Gentry further explained that the Interim Executive Director will hold his appointment for six months, after which time, the board will appoint a new permanent Executive Director. Within the next few weeks, the Mayor will also appoint the KHA board members.

Public Defender Charlie Cofer asked whether programs that support ex-offenders will receive funding in the new fiscal year through another budget. Debbie Verges, Jax Journey Project Director, confirmed that ex-offender programs, Operation New Hope and Prisoners of Christ, were allocated the same amount of funding in the 2017-18 FY within the Finance & Administration Department's budget. The former Clara White Mission ex-offender program was not granted a new contract for the 2017-18 FY due to contract performance (i.e. low participant employment placement results).

Judge Suzanne Bass inquired as to whether the juvenile intervention program, Evening Reporting Center, will continue to operate. Journey Director, Debbie Verges, assured her that the program has been funded for the 2017-18 FY and referenced handout #3 to highlight other former Journey programs for which funding was appropriated. Julie Davis, Office of General Council, added that the Kids Hope Alliance board will assess programs and determine which will be funded beyond established contract termination dates. Chair Gentry expressed confidence that if existing programs have performed well, there is a high probability that the new board will consider them. He further asserted that the focus of juvenile justice intervention has been raised to a high priority through the Journey project and continues to be a growing investment in the community.

Chair Gentry stated that the new entity, Kids Hope Alliance, is prohibited from providing services internally and will not be in the business of creating a new agency within itself that competes with outside providers. KHA's role will be to assess, monitor and evaluate service providers. He expressed that the involvement of several entities in Journey's activities, such as JSO, DCPS, the Public Defender's Office, the State Attorney's Office, and the Department of Juvenile Justice has been successful and

it is his hope that the new KHA board will adopt the same model.

Subcommittee Recommendations for November Meeting – Chair W.C. Gentry

In an effort to provide the new KHA board with valuable information that can be utilized in programming deliberations, Chair Gentry asked each subcommittee to meet and analyze applicable program reports. He would specifically like each subcommittee to produce a written report that evaluates program performance and then make program rating recommendations. The reports should include a clear rating system and comments explaining program effectiveness or ineffectiveness. Ricky Bedoya suggested a number rating system and committee members agreed. The program reviews and other program data that has been gathered by NLP Logix will be delivered to the KHA board. The subcommittee reports will be on the agenda of the November 2017 meeting, which will take place November 30 (rather than November 16), 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Chair Gentry would also like to discuss the final summer camp data analysis during the November 30 meeting.

Old Business

NLP Logix Presentation – Dr. Karly Jacobson, Senior Data Analyst, NLP Logix

Dr. Karly Jacobson, Senior Data Analyst NLP Logix, LLC, provided handout #2 for her PowerPoint presentation on the analysis of teen programs. The MOU between the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the City of Jacksonville was fully executed; however delays have prevented the delivery of data from DJJ to analyze teen, juvenile justice intervention and mentoring programs. The i-Ready and Achieve 3000 data sets from DCPS are also pending. The teen data that was evaluated is for the period of July 2016 through July 2017. Overall, NLP Logix was able to match 858 teens to the DCPS data and conducted evaluations for the period of July 2017 through June 2017. Through the analysis, program ineligible youth (under the age of 13) were identified. The provider was notified to take corrective actions.

Inclusive of all teen participants, 60.5% are female and 70% are eligible for free or reduced lunch. During the 2015-16 academic year, teen participants averaged 6 school absences; and 8.2 absences in the 2016-17 academic year. Forty-two percent of the teens maintained or improved attendance and experienced approximately one less absence than non-program participants in a comparative group. Throughout the 2016-17 academic year, teen participants averaged .8 minor referrals, .5 intermediate referrals and .04 major referrals. Forty-nine percent of the teen participants did not receive a referral and 29% experienced a decrease or maintained.

NLP Logix recommends that the unit of service measurement be set at 1 hour to facilitate dosage analysis. Additionally, more male-focused teen programs should be

considered to impact the current gender imbalance in teen programs. Future evaluations will incorporate DJJ data to analyze juvenile justice involvement for teens.

Safe & Thriving Communities Grant Update – Debbie Verges, Journey Project Director
Jax Journey Project Director, Debbie Verges, notified the committee that the staff of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention will arrive October 30 to further review the proposed strategic plan. An update report will be provided to the committee during the December 2017 meeting.

New Business

***2017-18 Contracts Transitioning to Kids Hope Alliance –
Included in KHA Legislation Discussion***

General Public Comments:

No public comments made.

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed