CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

MINUTES OF
Safe and Thriving Communities "Support of Youth" Meeting

Jacksonville Children's Commission, 1095 A. Phillip Randolph Blvd, 2nd floor Board Room April 20, 2017 at 9:00AM

ATTENDEES:

Damian Cook, Safe & Thriving
Angela Whittinghill, AMIKIDS
Candace Hodgkins, Gateway (Absent)
Katoia Wilkins, JCC (Absent)
Linzee Ott, SAO
Lynda Dykes, Career Source
Ruth Waters, JCC
Sebrina Walker, Bay Youth Services

Vicki Waytowich, System of Care
Rhonda Lattimore, JHA (Absent)
Vicki Burke, DJJ
Pam Davis, DCPS
Betsy Dobbins, PDO (Absent)
Dana Platas, Daniel
Donna Clayton, DJJ

MINUTES:

Damian Cook called the meeting to order. He introduced Vicki Waytowich as the chairperson for the support of youth working group. Damian introduced himself to the group and provided a detailed overview of the Safe and Thriving Communities Grant. The grant was awarded from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention from the Department of Justice. The grant is currently in the strategic planning phase. The work is focused on juvenile justice, but not exclusively youth who are justice involved. The work is a cooperative agreement including a focus on a wide range of youth needs and programs. All meeting attendees introduced themselves to the group. Damian provided a detailed explanation of the work of this particular group as well as the other three working groups and how they will work toward the common goal of providing information for the development of a Strategic Plan. The goal of the plan is to prevent youth from being justice involved and supporting youth who are justice involved to get back on track. The working groups are: (1) Arrest and Release, (2) Support of Youth, (3) Youth Family and Community Responsibility Engagement, and (4) Data, Evidence and outcomes. The Safe and Thriving Communities Grant continues the work of JaxJourney.

A focus of this working group, support for youth, will be challenges that exist regarding services available. Communication between services, up to date information, and awareness of programs offered are examples of things this group will address. This working group will evaluate what resources are available and identify areas that may have gaps. Technology will be utilized to address needs, serve youth, and communities. Damian Cook provided a detailed explanation regarding the use of data from JaxJourney's perspective and how it can be used to assist the work of this group. The end-goal of the working groups is the assimilation of a strategic plan that will be presented to the funders indicating what the facts are and what opportunities exist. The goal is that youth not become justice involved and if they have been that they never become justice involved again.

Linda Dyke stated that it is important to have a working definition of "youth". This is important because there are challenges for youth who turn eighteen. The youth fall into a gap where they are no longer eligible for certain services, but still have a need. Damian explained that the grant does not preclude the group from acknowledging the need of youth over age eighteen. The group discussions will focus on the goal of what is going to get a young person to become a happy, productive, contributing member of society. The age ranges and needs will be discussed

and acknowledged in this working group. Damian suggested that the group should address the barrier created by the definition of youth. The definition of youth should be discussed and communicated to the community.

Vicki Waytowich reviewed the expectations of the strategic plan that the group needs to present. The group is focused on all youth and their needs regarding resources. There are existing documents of community resources that have been created. The group will focus on how to keep resource information up to date and overcome the barrier of communication and knowledge of resources for the community. Technology will be kept in mind when discussing ways to overcome barriers to communication.

Donna Clayton shared that two years ago she created a resource guide by working with providers. The guide contains all community providers. The guide needs a little bit of updating, but is a good foundation. Donna has a monthly meeting where information is gathered and shared onto the resource guide. One challenge is keeping the resource guide current. Providers have begun working to extend services to reach youth over the age of eighteen. Vicki shared that there are several resource guides available that can be used as good foundations. Damian stated that identifying gaps in services and the causes will be a focus of the group.

Pam Davis shared that DCPS has improved messaging of services to parents. The school district uses school based staff to communicate information to students and families. She stated that families' accessing services and awareness of services continues to be a challenge. Pam shared that the district has programs for students that are age appropriate. Damian stated that information sharing and community collaboration will be beneficial to families and youth regarding resources and services available. A goal of the group is to propose a way to increase collaboration and communication to increase awareness of resources available.

Vicki Burke shared that the end goal is that all youth are productive, educated, and have the ability to obtain good employment. She discussed beginning with the barriers that prevent a youth from achieving the goal and address and ensure that those youth have the same access to resources that other youth. She shared there is a need to empower parents and expand the availability of resources to parents. Damian shared that the group should identify what exists and what opportunities exist. The data working group will identify data points that indicate barriers to success and indicators of success. NLP Logix will present at the next meeting. An outcome of this group's work should be acknowledging inconsistency of program availability and ways to overcome the issue.

Damian Cook gave an overview of Sunshine statute for the group. Damian also provided an overview of the Juvenile Justice Decision Making Tree.

The meeting concluded with Damian Cook addressing the group and asking that they invite anyone who would be interested in the group's work and would like to contribute. The next meeting will include a presentation from NLP Logix and sharing of information gathered from other cities regarding resource sharing A goal of the group is to propose a way to increase collaboration and communication to increase awareness of resources available. The group will meet in two weeks. A date for that meeting has not been set.

Vicki Waytowich thanked everyone for participated and the meeting was adjourned.

The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed.
The minutes for this meeting were audio-recorded.