



# CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

## MINUTES OF *Safe and Thriving Communities “Support of Youth” Meeting*

*Jacksonville Children’s Commission  
1095 A. Phillip Randolph Blvd, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Board Room  
May 8, 2017  
11:30am-1:30pm*

### **ATTENDEES:**

Damian Cook, Safe & Thriving  
Angela Whittinghill, AMIKIDS  
Steve Bauez, Gateway  
Katoia Wilkins, JCC  
Linzee Ott, SAO  
Lynda Dyke, Career Source  
Renee McQueen, PACE  
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 (Absent)  
Ruben Bryant, JSO

### **Minutes:**

Vicki Waytowich called the meeting to order. Time was given for everyone at the meeting to introduce themselves to the group. Vicki provided a recap of the previous working group meeting. The purpose, goals, and objectives of the working group were restated and explained. The structure of the working group and direction were discussed. The example of “definition of youth” was given and used as a model for the structure of the discussions the group will have moving forward. The current focus of the group is to assess current functioning, identify barriers to success, and identify data needed to assess issues.

The group discussed and identified several barriers to youth accessing community resources, as needed. The communication, availability of knowledge of resources, and location of resource information were identified as barriers. A universal intake system was discussed as being a need and as a possibility for the future. The system would allow communication between agencies, while maintaining confidentiality. Confidentiality created barriers was identified as a potential barrier. A family will have to go through an assessment at an initial point of contact with an agency and then have to repeat the process at any additional agency intake moving forward. In discussion, it was suggested that the JAC and agencies communicate appropriate information to prevent the families from having to repeat a process numerous times.

The youth transitioning into the adult system, education, vocational training, transportation to services, updating agency information, identifying youth that need resources, youth mental health screening processes, substance abuse, parent engagement, and confidentiality created barriers were all discussed amongst the group. Data will be gathered to analyze the barriers and validate problems identified. A barrier noted by several group members was education and knowledge of how to access resources. The youth need to be able to see a clear path and have access to aligned services to set and reach goals. Mentoring programs, role models, and education on how youth can gain exposure to different career paths are key components to success. The youth need to gain exposure to different types of career options, set goals, and be able to identify a clear path to achieve the goal set. DCPS offers aftercare services, through transition specialists, after detainment to transition back into the DCPS education system. The youth do receive education while detained and have alternative educational options once released.

An additional barrier identified was the youth's environment. Detained youth have expressed a desire to obtain employment to group members. The youth have downtime throughout their day. This time could be filled with employment or adolescent activities. The downtime has been identified as a factor in youth becoming DJJ involved. A group member shared that detained youth have also expressed a desire to have mentors and positive role models. Another group member shared that youth have expressed a desire for safe places to go and activities for adolescents after school and during the summer. Parental involvement has been identified as a component of youth success. The youth who participate in diversion programs will be terminated if the parent/guardian does not also complete their responsibility portion of the program. The youth have difficulty making it to appointments without parental involvement and as a result may not receive services they have been identified as needing. Low levels of parental involvement could be caused by a variety of factors such as lack of transportation, parent/guardian work schedule, etc.

Data will be collected regarding barriers identified and discussed. Recidivism rates will be reviewed. The data will be discussed at the next working group meeting. A family needs assessment tool was discussed in order to support the family as a

whole. NLP Logix will be a partner in analyzing data and getting a comprehensive view of risk factors for youth.

Vicki Waytowich thanked the group for attending 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.*