



CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

MINUTES OF *Safe and Thriving Communities* *“Youth, Family & Community* *Engagement and Responsibility* *Meeting”*

*Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida
555 West 25th Street, Jacksonville, FL 32206*

ATTENDEES:

Terrence Harvey, Jax Journey
Angela Tompkins, Safe & Thriving
Brooke Melian, Safe & Thriving
Rev. Alonzo Jefferson, Mt. Calvary
Katie Bakewell, NLP Logix
Larry West, Jr., FSSNF
Javetta Fleury, CareerSource NE FL

Damian Cook, Safe & Thriving
Erika Brown, Safe and Thriving
Godfrey Story, OACF
Vicki Burke, DJJ
Chantel Miles, PACE
Karly Jacobson, NLP Logix

Terrence Harvey called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

MINUTES:

Terrence Harvey welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Jackie Green presented information the Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Children and Families and Department of Juvenile Justice which is collaboration focused on cross-over population of youth. The focus of the joint venture is working to increasing the success of the children. On Friday, July 7th, there will be a rollout and kickoff of the protocol. Clay County is also involved since it is a circuit initiative. Family Support Services, Case maintenance organizations will be at the table for the panel on this date, along with representatives from the community based care agencies in Clay County. Probation officers, Chief and Assistant Chief, CMO's, DCF, Substance Abuse and Mental Health representatives and DJJ will be panelists. They will provide an overview to the audience of what the protocol will look like and how it will operate. Later there will be a public rollout of the collaboration.

Damian Cook discussed conversations, coaching and training faith based partners on using data to help develop and enhance programming they already have. There exists the ability to provide data to the pastors (to empower them to take over incremental differences they can make) about unemployment, household makeup and income identifiers (among other identifiers) within a 15-minute walking distance from a particular address. All of this information is designed to help the Faith Based Organizations do what they already do in a better and more targeted manner.

Vickie Burke added that we are suggesting a lot for the faith based organizations to begin to do and wondered if there would be some kind of training. We are currently only working on the tool and will later provide the training to utilize the systems being developed. In this way, they would have a big picture idea of how everything will work and how their participation will make a difference. As the tools are developed, it is the hope of the team that the pastors and faith-based organizations in the target areas will embrace the numbers as well as be willing to participate with the programs being developed and conclude how they can make a difference in the overall safety of our city and reduction of youth crime numbers.

Katie Blakewell of NLP Logix presented information on data as presented to the Oversight Committee which identifies the trend in crimes and the comparison and contrast of overall data compared to youth data. The data will enable the faith based organizations to focus on what is happening in their immediate neighborhood (drop-out rates, truancy rates, income levels, employment statistics, juvenile

arrests, overall arrests). Detailed information and discussion presented related to increase in weapons possession compared to crime with a weapon. A copy of the presentation can be provided to anyone interested in receiving it.

Following was a discussion on the definition of “weapon.” There is a need to ensure that youth are not being overcharged and those officers and involved adults identify whether the weapon was a gun or a knife or any other weapon and investigate the reasons the youth had possession of the same. The issue is one of possible overcharging a youth and affecting the life impact that results. For purpose of the data presented in this meeting, the data specifically relates to guns.

The attached handouts were reviewed by Angela Tompkins and information was presented to the group regarding the starting point, progress and intended conclusions.

Javetta Fleury of Career Source (TANF) spoke about the lack of employability skills for parents of many of the children we are speaking of. How can families be impacted as they apply for assistance to gain employment and begin to help themselves and their families? How can faith-based partners be a significant partner on the welfare to families’ side, keeping mind that many are not GED ready? (The requirement to participate in FSCJ GED program, an individual must test on at least a 6th grade level and many of those being served are not ready)

Larry West provided information regarding the criminal background of individuals that may keep them from being employable. He spoke on the idea of co-locating services in order to benefit the families that this group speaks of helping.

Finally, as we move forward to create the model in this planning and research phase to present to the JaxJourney the idea of co-locating services and creating a model hub, what is needed in the paradigm? Everyone in the group is asked to think of and provide a response to us to the following questions:

- What services are needed to do the things we speak of regarding the population we speak of; GED services, employment skills training, counseling services?
- How do we empower churches and faith-based organizations to know that they have families in trouble in their community?
- How do faith-based organizations identify what services to bring in to the families in their communities in order to be more effective and efficient?
- How do we help a faith-based organization become a resource center hub for families within their communities?
- How does the co-location of services happen?
- What specific services can each agency provide to the churches, pastors and faith-based organizations in order to help the families in need in their communities?
- What resources exist in the communities not being discussed that need to exist in the communities we discuss?

Meeting Adjourned by Terrence Harvey at 5:25 p.m.

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