**Catawba County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**

**Minutes September 21, 2021**

**Present:** Ronn Abernathy, Maria Ballard, Ron Carson, Jennie Connor, Tara Conrad, Debra Dunn, Scott Hildebrand, Jennifer Mace, Eric Page, Brandi Tolbert.

**Excused:** Angela Simmons.

**Agencies attending:** Renee Lewis – Repay; Chris White, Patti Ferree – CRC; Beth Ledbetter – Family Guidance Center; Josh Clay – Cognitive Connection; Robin Frazier– Kids at Work; Lindsey Morgan – FCT; Stephanie Acosta – Vocational Directions.

**Staff attending**: Megan Webster, Philip Toelkes.

The meeting was opened by Brandi at 11:35 am.

The minutes from the May meeting were reviewed. Jennifer made a motion to approve and Maria seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**Finance:** Jennifer announced the administrative budget was on track.

Jennifer announced that a budget revision had been received from Family Guidance Center. Beth Ledbetter explained the need for the requested revision was related to a transfer of monies from salaries to gift cards. After questions and Board discussion, Maria made a motion to approve the budget revision and Tara seconded his motion. After a roll call vote was held, the revision was approved unanimously.

**Governance:** A proposed meeting schedule for FY 21-22 was circulated and reviewed, Jennifer made a motion to approve and Ronn seconded the motion. After a roll call vote was held, the revision was approved unanimously.

Conflict of Interest forms were requested from all Board members. Brandi submitted her form and explained her conflict. She proposed to resolve the conflict by abstaining from all votes related to the Administrative program. Jennifer made a motion to approve and Maria seconded the motion. After a roll call vote was held, the revision was approved unanimously.

**Report from the State**: Megan circulated reports related to SPEP scores and client services summary for funded Catawba County programs. She explained each SPEP score, and reviewed the summary report related to the number of clients served, admitted and terminated for each program during the fiscal year.

In legislative news, a proposed budget is thought to be passed soon. The “Raise the Floor” Bill has been signed by the Governor and will go into effect December 1, 2021. Bills related to juveniles with mental health issues and raising the age a juvenile can drop out of school are in the House.

Megan announced that some JCPC Boards are establishing a committee to examine the effects of racial disparity in their communities.

The NCJSA Conference will be held at Atlantic Beach October 13 through 15, 2021. Megan closed by noting a pilot Teen Court program has been created which concentrates on motor vehicle offenses.

**Report from Juvenile Justice**: Ronn reported that the Juvenile Court Counselors Office has one vacancy and hopes they will be fully staffed by Christmas. He noted that with the start of school their numbers have remained relatively flat. However, he estimates this will be changing soon.

Regarding the pending legislation, Ronn pointed out that children aged 6-9 under the “Raise the Age” initiative in the legislature will still be eligible for services but Court Counselors will be performing consultations outside the Court setting.

Ronn announced they are performing COVID testing on DPS employees. Some programs are requiring vaccinations.

Program Reports.

FGC: Beth reported they had served 16 juveniles from referrals coming primarily from juvenile justice. They had agreed to serve 16 juveniles in FY 20-21 and 15 in FY 21-22.

CRC: Patti announced the juvenile mediation program had served two juveniles last year. Chris reported the Circles program had received 12 referrals. They are performing outreach activities with SROs, principals, counselors, and have created brochures to market the program. Chris is currently recruiting volunteers and detailed their activities since July.

Repay: Renee noted that the “Just Girls” program was new last year. They served two juveniles and have established a meeting place in Catawba County. SAIS served 12 last year and although their number increased in Catawba County last year, there were no problems to report.

FCT: Lindsey announced there have been no referrals received so far this year and they had estimated to serve four. She is the new Regional Director and Leslie Miller is the new Director and will monitor the grant. Last year they served 2 children and were performing virtual sessions and in-person services.

Cognitive Connection: Josh reported the assessment component received 110 referrals with 26 eligible under JCPC funding and they performed 23 assessments. Under the Mental Health component, they estimated to serve 25 and served 13. The Substance Abuse component estimated to serve 10 and they served six. They are currently meeting once per week in-person and now have access to mouth swabs (10 panel – not used for alcohol) for drug screens. Josh has scheduled monthly meetings with the Court Counselors.

Vocational Directions: Stephanie announced they have served 13 so far this year with three new clients scheduled for intake this week. They are performing community service at several different locations and are attempting to match student skills and interests. They currently partnering with a fire department, a car mechanic shop, an animal farm and a veterinarian. All students are masked and gloved and temperature checked.

Kids at Work: Robin reported they had served 17 last year. Currently they have a population of 11 juveniles with four pending admission. They are striving to keep the instruction in-person as much as possible.

**Outreach**: No report.

Renee announced there are now five new MCOs across the State and some of these are not covering all services previously covered by Medicaid.

Brandi announced the next meeting will be held October 19 and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Toelkes