**Catawba County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**

**Minutes August 15, 2023**

**Present:** Ronn Abernathy, Heather Bain, Maria Ballard, Mark Bumgarner, Chauncey Colter**,** Jennie Connor, Debra Dunn, Scott Hildebrand, Paul Holden, Lt. Andy Kerley, Jennifer Mace, Eric Page, Angela Simmons, Hon. Clifton Smith, Brandi Tolbert.

**Excused:** Rev. Ron Carson

**Agencies attending:** Renee Lewis – Repay; Cathy Starnes – CRC; Kimberly Townsend– Kids at Work; Alexa Talton – Family Guidance Center; Tim Cook – Cognitive Connection; Melinda Kirkpatrick -Shining Hope Farms.

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

The meeting was opened by Brandi at 11:35 am. She invited everyone to make introductions.

Melinda Kirkpatrick from Shining Hope Farms made a presentation about their program and the services they provide. She answered questions from the Board.

The minutes from the March 2023 meeting were reviewed. Jennifer made a motion to accept and Mark seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes were reviewed from the May 2023 meeting were reviewed. With corrections, Scott made a motion to accept and Jennifer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Report from the State**: Megan distributed a monthly admission/termination report for programs funded in Catawba County. During review, she noted the number of carryover clients versus the number admitted. She noted that the numbers indicated a good start to the year.

Megan reported the State budget has not yet passed. She reported the staffing crisis was ongoing. Ronn announced his staff was covering vacant positions at the Dillon YDC.

Megan presented information related to the NCSAFE campaign, which aims to secure all firearms effectively. She continues to distribute interactive materials to market the initiative.

She encouraged programs to submit budget revisions as they come up and to complete the risk/needs assessment on all participants.

Magan announced the Fall NCJSA Conference would be held October 4 though 6 in Greensboro and gave a link to all for room booking.

**Report from Juvenile Justice**: Ronn noted there were six vacancies in District 25. They are preparing for the start of the school year and have scheduled a meeting with Catawba County SROs on Wednesday. RFK grant was awarded to District 25 – one of three juvenile Court Counselors offices in the United States. The initial meeting under this project is scheduled for August 30, 2023. The RFK grant will sponsor a review of every event surrounding juvenile referrals from start to finish.

**Governance:** Conflict forms were distributed to all Board members who were encouraged to complete ASAP. Brandi reported her conflict regarding the secretary and Repay, where she is board member.

Brandi called on each program to give a report of their activities in FY 22-23:

Conflict Resolution: Cathys announced they admitted 23 in the mediation program ad 11 in CRE classes last year. Teen Court had 65 participants, and Cathy described current operations and challenges.

Cognitive Connection: Tim reported the number of referrals was down year over year. They completed 68 assessments and worked with 70 participants in a group or individual therapy. Their year for the counseling component was productive and Tim described some of the successes under the programs.

Repay: Rene reported the Just Girls component is meeting at the United Way and have had some difficulty getting girls into treatment. They served 11 girls last year. SAIS served four, mainly because for the risk levels found in evaluation – a large number of participants needed PRTS or group homes. The psychological assessments component is starting well this year.

Aspire: Chef Kimberly announced Kids at Work had served 28 clients and will continue operations at the Catawba Cooperative Extension building. They are conducting life skills lessons, which include topics such as shopping, bills and creating healthy meals. Megan announced there was a critical incident recently in Catawba County. She did not reveal any details at this time as the investigation is ongoing. One a final report is prepared, she will forward to the County manager and Chair.

Family Guidance Center: Alexa reported they served 20 clients last year, mostly from St. Stephens HS. 15 were terminated unsuccessfully for not participating. They have five clients continuing at this time. Alexa has not yet signed a contract for this year, and Brandi explained some of the background behind this challenge. Alexa could not report on the future of the mentoring program as they are still investigating options on how to proceed.

Brandi distributed a draft meeting schedule for review. Mark made a motion to accept and Maria seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Brandi invited all Board members to participate in monitoring programs this year.

**Finance:** Jennifer reported CRC had submitted a budget revision and Cathy presented why the revisions were necessary. Mark made a motion to approve the revision and Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously. There was nothing to report regarding the administrative budget.

**Outreach:** Ronn volunteered to explore ways to distribute the gun locks for the SAFE program.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Toelkes