**Catawba County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**

**Minutes February 21, 2023**

**Present:** Ronn Abernathy, Maria Ballard, Mark Bumgarner**,** Ron Carson, Jennie Connor, Debra Dunn, Scott Hildebrand, Jennifer Mace, Eric Page, Angela Simmons, Brandi Tolbert.

**Excused:** Lt. Andy Kerley, Hon. Clifton Smith.

**Agencies attending:** Renee Lewis – Repay; Cathy Starnes – CRC; Kimberly Townsend– Kids at Work; Beth Ledbetter – Family Guidance Center; Tim Cook – Cognitive Connection.

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

The meeting was opened by Brandi at 11:30 am. She invited everyone to make introductions.

The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. Ronn made a motion to approve and Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Report from the State**: Megan distributed a monthly report for each funded program that included the number of clients admitted, served and terminated. She noted that Catawba programs had higher numbers than some other counties.

She noted that DPS is working with other agencies to develop a gun safety campaign to combat increased levels of gun violence. Scott and Eric both noted that HPD and the Sheriff give away gun locks to people in need.

Megan announced that an RFP had been issued for programs dealing with Level II clients. Third quarter accounting is coming up next month and the deadline is 3/24/2023. She urged all programs to ID funds not used so they can be returned to the State’s discretionary fund.

Megan reported that there continues to be a staffing crisis in juvenile detention and Youth Development Facilities. Court Counselors are being asked to volunteer to address these shortages. Brandi distributed a draft resolution for the Board of Commissioners to review. Ronn asked to include language specific to the Court Counselors in the draft. Brandi asked him to submit a paragraph in one week

**Report from Juvenile Justice**: Ronn thanked programs for the services they provide. He congratulated Chauncey Colter on her promotion to supervisor. He noted caseloads are manageable but Court Counselors are working with more difficult, higher-risk clients. His office is having trouble filling vacancies in the district. Jennifer asked Ronn why YDC referrals are rising even though regular caseloads are going down. Ronn responded this is primarily a function of the offense levels.

**Governance:** After continued discussion of the draft resolution, Brandi asked for a motion. Jennie made a motion to approve and Eric seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Brandi asked monitors to make their reports:

Cognitive Connection: Maria presented her impressions during his monitoring visit covering three components. She recommended continued funding without condition.

Repay: Deb asked Philip to read her notes and he reviewed the results of her visit to monitor the Just Girls, SAIS and assessments components. She recommended continued funding without condition.

CRC: Brandi discussed her monitoring visit to the conflict resolution, juvenile mediation and the restorative justice programs. She noted that the numbers of clients referred should be picking up. She reviewed changes made to staffing and recommended continued funding without condition.

FGC: Scott discussed his visit to the parent education and mentoring programs. He noted that staff complained of a lack of parental involvement as the reason for poor participation numbers. He recommended continued funding without condition.

Kids at Work: Jennie asked Philip to review the highlights of her visit to this culinary/interpersonal skills program. She recommended continued funding without condition.

Vocational Directions: Jennie performed a monitoring visit with program and again recommended continued funding without condition.

The monitoring reports were received and the Board agreed to vote on the reports as a whole coming as a recommendation from the Governance Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Brandi noted there had been a request to extend the application deadline for the FY23-24 funding period.

**Finance:** Jennifer reported Family Guidance did not file their application for funding timely and had requested an extension. Jennifer stated that she did not believe that the JCPC could allow an extension of program applications because it is required by state policy to run a legal advertisement for the requests for proposals, including a deadline by which applications must be received to be considered. She said she thought the original process would need to be followed first and that if there were funds remaining, they would be re-advertised and any program could apply. She then opened the matter up for discussion by the members. Mark spoke up to support Jennifer’s comments and presented specific reasons for her answer based on his experience with other grants. No Board member made a recommendation to allow the extension.

Jennifer announced the allocations committee will meet March 6 at noon at the Government Center.

Philip reported the administrative budget was on track.

CRC submitted a budget that described staffing changes and a recalculation of employment tax. Ronn made a motion to approve and Eric seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Outreach:** Ronn reported they are looking forward to participating in another “National Nite Out.” Cathy invited everyone to the next Teen Court session.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Toelkes