**Catawba County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**

**Minutes March 21, 2023**

**Present:** Ronn Abernathy, Mark Bumgarner**,** Jennie Connor, Debra Dunn, Scott Hildebrand, Lt. Andy Kerley, Jennifer Mace, Eric Page, Angela Simmons, Brandi Tolbert.

**Excused:** Maria Ballard, Rev. Ron Carson, 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. Michelle Gibbs – CHA.

**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 February meeting were reviewed. Jennifer made a motion to approve and Eric seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Report from the State**: Megan announced that the Governor’s budget has been released. It includes a $2.5 million dollar increase for JCPC funding as well as specific language calling for programs addressing gun safety and violence prevention.

Third-quarter accounting in underway and soon to be competed. She urged programs to continue to complete the risk/needs instruments for clients upon admission.

Megan discussed a critical incident to which each Board member had been alerted. Since this concerns a client in the Kids at Work program, she invited Chef Kimberly to explain the circumstances surrounding the incident. Chef Kimberly reported that Kids at Work filed a report upon learning that a student had inappropriately touched another in Haywood County. She stated that Kids at Work had reviewed their policies and made revisions to make sure this does not happen again. Megan stated that it appears that the offending student shouldn’t have been referred to the program. Funding has been suspended in Haywood County until a Corrective Action plan is completed.

Chef Kimberly reported that as a result of their review, they found a student in Catawba who shouldn’t have been referred. Megan responded that no referrals should be made until the corrective action plan in implemented.

**Report from Juvenile Justice**: Ronn noted there was one vacancy in Catawba and that position vacancy has been advertised.

**Governance:** Brandi announced Michele Gibbs from Barium Springs was in attendance and had requested a letter of support for their application for an Intensive Intervention Services program. After Michele explained the program goals, Ronn voiced his support for the Board to endorse the application. Mark made a motion to send the letter of support and Jennifer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brandi announced that Heather Bain had asked to join the Board membership. After review of her resume, Eric made a motion to approve, and Ronn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Finance:** Jennifer reported the allocations committee met on March 6 and distributed recommendations for FY 23-24 funding. She noted that the committee designated $24,523 in unallocated funds and recommended a second RFP be released seeking a parenting skills and mentoring program. Mark responded with concerns that the proposed programs at Family Guidance Center might compete with other established programs and offered to set up a meeting to define FGC program activities. Brandi voiced support for a mentoring program in Catawba County.

After discussion, the Board voted by acclimation to advertise the unallocated funds now and ask applicants to submit by May 5, 2023. As a recommendation, the Board voted unanimously to accept the submitted recommendations, as well as to advertise the unallocated funds, with Brandi and Eric abstaining from the vote.

CRC submitted a budget revision that did not require Board action. Philip reported the administrative budget was on track.

**Outreach:** No report

The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Toelkes