**Catawba County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**

**Minutes May 16, 2023**

**Present:** Ronn Abernathy, Maria Ballard, Mark Bumgarner**,** Jennie Connor, Debra Dunn, Scott Hildebrand, 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; 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 March meeting were reviewed. Jennifer announced the minutes were in error. The Board agreed to table vote on the March minutes until the next meeting.

**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 total aggregate numbers appear to be down, but in reality, she felt the programs are doing fairly well.

Megan reported the staffing crisis at juvenile detention facilities continues, and the Governor’s proposed budget does not include pay increases for staff. In contrast, HB 848 includes pay increases and compression pay. She explained this would create address the circumstance where new employees make more than older employees. Jennifer reported County Management did not present the resolution regarding this issue to the County Commissioners. She went on to explain that management did not think it was appropriate to ask the Board of Commissioner to take action related to pay decisions made by other elected officials.

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

There will be a luncheon addressing issues related to Restorative Justice on May 19, 2023. In August, Cathy will present a lecture on the subject. In this regard, Megan reported Montreat College is currently pursuing an evaluation of the Teen Court programs in NC.

**Report from Juvenile Justice**: Ronn noted they were anticipating the end of the school year, and there doesn’t seem to be any report of problems.

**Governance:** Brandi announced Paul Holden with Partners, and Heather Bain with Newton-Conover Schools had made application to join the Board. After introductions Lt. Kerley made a motion to accept their applications and Jennifer seconded. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Brandi called on each program to make sure they had submitted a current PEP Plan for inclusion with the Annual Report.

Election of Officers. By acclimation, the Board recommended the current officers preside during the coming year. Lt. Kerley made a motion to approve the slate of officers consisting of Brandi as Chair, Scott as Vice Chair, and Jennifer as Treasurer and Eric seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Finance:** Jennifer reported on applications received for the previously unallocated funds of $24,523. Alexa Tarlton presented an application for Young People of Integrity through the Family Guidance Center. After discussion, Ronn made a motion to approve and Jennie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FGC submitted a budget revision and Alexa presented why the revisions were necessary. Jennifer made a motion to approve the revision and Debra seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Outreach:** Ronn noted that the town of Longview held a National Nite Out event.

Before adjourning, Cathy announced training opportunities for volunteers to the Teen Court program

Brandi and Ronn suggested a meeting be set with the schools to present to School Justice Partnership program.

Brandi and Julie Walker are preparing a juvenile recovery court grant and recently completed a field trip to Charlotte in this regard.

Debra started an extended discussion of instances of juveniles sleeping at DSS without placement and asked for any ideas to address this gap.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Toelkes