**Catawba County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council**

**Minutes October 17, 2023**

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

**Excused:** Mark Bumgarner, Hon. Clifton Smith

**Agencies attending:** Renee Lewis – Repay; Cathy Starnes – CRC; Kimberly Townsend– Kids at Work; Alexa Talton – 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 August 2023 meeting were reviewed and corrections made. Maria made a motion to accept, and Deb seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Report from the State**: Megan reported the State budget has passed with salary increases for Court Counselors. She reported the staffing crisis was ongoing.

Megan reported on a new program in Greensboro named Hearth Transitional Living. It offers independent living arrangements for youth aged 18-21 years.

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

**Report from Juvenile Justice**: Ronn noted an initial meeting for the RFK grant was held October 18, 2023. The RFK grant will sponsor a review of every event surrounding juvenile referrals from start to finish and he invited all interested parties to attend.

Brandi announced Catawba County has received funding for a juvenile recovery court. They will use County YASI data during the planning process.

**Governance:** Brandi asked Board members to confirm monitoring assignments for the coming year:  
Aspire – KAW and VD – Jennie Conner;

CRC – Brandi Tolbert;

Repay – Debra Dunn;

Cog. Connection – Maria Ballard;

FGC – Eric Page

Brandi called on each program to give a report of their activities in the first quarter of this year:

Repay: Renee reported the Just Girls component had served five girls this year. SAIS evaluation served two new clients and treatment had three so far. The psychological services component has had two new clients.

Aspire: Chef Kimberly announced Kids at Work had served 22 youth so far this year and has held two classes at the Corner Table in Newton. She reported the program took students to the park and catered a wedding. Vocational Directions has served 29 clients this year, completing 72 hours of community service in September and couped $250 restitution.

Family Guidance Center: Alexa reported they served 5 clients this quarter and described some of the transitional issues they are facing.

Cognitive Connection: Tim reported they had 13 clients in group right now, with 23 student holdovers. They are experiencing low referral rates presently and he discussed his perception of this issue. They conducted 23 assessments and are looking forward to working with the Catawba County juvenile drug court.

Conflict Resolution: Cathy announced they are currently serving nine in mediation; four clients in CRE classes, and ten clients in the teen court program.

Brandi reported the School Justice Partnership initiative is underway and has had contact with all the school systems in the County.

Brandi reported there were two new Board member applications and invited comment of letters and resumes received from Chauncey Coulter and L. Kyle Smith. After review, Ronn made a motion to accept both applications and Jennie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Finance:** Jennifer distributed a draft finance schedule and answered questions from the Board. There were no budget revisions submitted for review. There was nothing to report regarding the administrative budget.

**Outreach:** Brandi announced the data review would take place Thursday, November 9 at 1:00 pm in the 2nd floor meeting room of the Catawba County Government Center.

Ronn noted at the last National Nite Out in Conover, he distributed 150 gun locks and two safes.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Toelkes