

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Re-entry and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee Meeting Minutes-Amended**

**April 4, 2019**

**10:30 am**

**Conference Room A**

**Fourth Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Frank Denton

Clifton Anderson

Camille Burban

Linda Joseph

Ceil Pillsbury-Schellenberg

Vicki Waytowich

Donna Webb

Rob Mason- Subject Matter Expert-**Excused**

**Topic:** Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction – Re-entry and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee

**Attendance:** Colleen Hampsey- Council Research; Crystal Shemwell - Legislative Services

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 10:32 am

Chair Frank Denton convened the meeting and the subcommittee members introduced themselves for the record. The “Make a Difference Leadership” class was in attendance to observe the meeting. Mr. Denton announced that Jeff Golden removed himself from the Task Force and Camille Burban offered to assume Mr. Golden’s research topic. Mr. Denton provided an update on the legislation establishing the Task Force as a permanent body which was discussed in the Task Force Chairs meeting.

The group talked about the proposed vision and mission statements. Vision: *Incarcerated people and juveniles in the justice system will re-enter their community with the best (or fair) opportunities for building successful lives.* There was some disagreement about the use of the word ‘incarcerated’, as corrections is mainly state controlled and there is little local government authority as to prison programs. Chairperson Griffin said that while that may be true, it is important to know what former prisoners have in their ‘tool kit’ after release and the Task Force and City Council could influence prison policy through advocacy. Proposed Mission Statement: *Building on previous studies, the re-entry and juvenile justice subcommittee will evaluate past implementation, examine the issues around, barriers to and opportunities for successful re-entry and make appropriate recommendations.*

Linda Joseph presented her research on recidivism calculations and re-entry barriers (housing, substance abuse, financial constraints, and employment). Ms. Joseph also talked about helping older recently released persons get ‘Ready for life’ outside of prison. Clifton Anderson spoke about service provider silos as it pertains to information sharing and the coordination of services to avoid duplication. Mr. Anderson also mentioned that diversion program fees act as a barrier to some juvenile offenders.

Donna Webb talked about diversion programs and juvenile residential programs of varying lengths. Ms. Webb described the community re-entry team, which is comprised of roughly 12 providers who meet monthly to prepare for juvenile offenders when they are released. Ms. Webb was asked about the impact of having juvenile offenders with felony records in regular school classrooms after they released. Ms. Webb noted that these juveniles had served their terms and that they should not be punished or ostracized for the rest of their lives. Another impediment to juvenile re-entry is the effect of the public listing of juvenile felony charges by the media which arises later when applying for jobs. Juvenile criminal records also show up in a level 2 background screening. The expungement of criminal records is a costly option but it’s limited and still is seen in a level 2 screening. Ms. Webb also spoke about how relatable mentors who may hold influence with juvenile offenders are excluded due to their own criminal records. This policy may possibly be waived in order to obtain City contracts.

Vicki Waytowich spoke about juvenile justice statistics, using some of the data provided by Rob Mason. The youth population (ages 10-17) for Duval County is 91, 628. Civil Citations (i.e., no arrest) have increased 60% in Duval County over a five year period (the state rate is 40%). School arrests have decreased 69% in Duval County over a five year period (the state rate is 28%). In 2017-18, 1,235 youths were arrested in Duval County (1.3% of the youth). The most serious offenders are sent to either residential commitments or prosecuted as adults. For 2017-18, 196 children were committed and 35 were transferred to adult court, totaling 231 children. These children comprise just .0025% of the youth population and have decreased 37% over a five year period. The four most common juvenile offenses for arrest are Burglary, Aggravated Assault/Battery, Non-law Violations of Probation, and misdemeanor Assault/Battery. The highest volume zip codes for juvenile arrests are 32209 and 32210.

Ms. Waytowich talked about the disproportionality of race in the criminal justice system, in that black youth make up 39% of the Duval youth population, but they are over represented in the juvenile justice system and comprise75% of the arrests, 69% of diversion, 76% of probation, 83% of residential commitments, and 80% of the transfers to adult court. Ms. Waytowich advocated for mental health assessments for all juveniles involved with the criminal justice system almost 100% have one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), and half have 4 or more. The group discussed how to find a balance between risk and protective factors for juveniles living through trauma and an awareness campaign around the ACE assessment.

Camille Burban reported that she is still waiting on Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee report to be released. Frank Denton spoke about Children’s Service Councils, like the Miami Children’s Trust which reported a 17% ROI last year and brought more than $100 million in revenue. It was requested that Council Research find out more about how the Children’s Trust allocates funds, particularly for at-risk youth. It was also suggested that the Jacksonville Re-Entry Center (JREC) director should come to an upcoming meeting to discuss programming. Ceil Schellenberg spoke about the JSO application of the recently passed Marsy’s law and how it limits transparency and public access to crime data.

Public comment- Mr. Nooney commented on the new ADA kayak launch in Hannah Park. The next subcommittee meeting will be on April 25, 2019 at 10:30 am. With no further business, Chairman Denton adjourned the meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:40 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 4.10.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Re-entry and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 4.4.19