

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

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

**April 25, 2019**

**10:30 am**

**Committee Room B**

**First 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

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

**Attendance:** Colleen Hampsey- Council Research; Carol Owens - Legislative Services

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 10:33 am

Chair Frank Denton convened the meeting and the subcommittee members introduced themselves for the record. The group reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting and approved them with two amendments (1) to reflect that Camille is taking over Mr. Golden’s assignment and (2) change the language in the mission statement. There was a discussion about the final subcommittee report and each member’s assigned task. Mr. Denton said that the members should complete their assignments and then as a group they will decide upon recommendations for the Task Force.

Mrs. Schellenberg spoke about her research on re-entry programs, specifically JREC, Operation New Hope and Prisoners of Christ. Approximately 100 individuals receive services from JREC each month, such as workforce training, help obtaining identification documents, and GED preparation. Operation New Hope provides support, case management, life-coaching, job training and job placement assistance for people with a history of involvement with the criminal justice system.  Operation New Hope’s Ready4Work program has recidivism rate of only 14%, less than half of the State of Florida rate. Prisoners of Christ services include housing, clothing, life skills training, substance abuse counseling, and job searches. These organizations share several challenges, particularly consistent funding, housing supply (especially for sex offenders) and staffing shortages. Mrs. Schellenberg will continue to work on an inventory of other re-entry programs in the city.

Linda Joseph is still working on her research but took a moment to clarify aspects of the recently passed First Step Act and the three components of criminal justice reform (sentencing, prison activities and re-entry). The First Step Act will permit the release a lot of individuals who will need assistance acclimating to the world outside of prison.

There was a discussion about the population of youth who finish middle school but never begin 9th grade (approximately 300-400 kids) and are not counted in the dropout rate. The subcommittee may recommend targeting these students for services and /or workforce training programs that do not require diplomas. Ms. Burban talked about current relevant Florida legislation and training opportunities inside of prisons (see handouts).

Mr. Mason presented his research on juvenile delinquency. According to Mr. Mason and FLDJJ data, 1235 children were arrested in 2017-18, and 66 percent of the arrests were for felonies. Of those juvenile arrested, 77 percent were male, 75 percent were black and a third were from one of three zip codes (32208, 32209, 32210). Of those arrested, there were 231 ‘serious offenders’ of which 196 were sent to residential facilities and 35 were transferred to adult courts. Of the serious offenders, 90 percent were male, 83 percent were black and 36 percent came from one of the three zip codes listed above. Ms. Waytowich said she is still working on her research about best practices and ACEs. Mr. Anderson talked about information silos between agencies and the need for more coordination of services.

Preston Harris, Task Force member, offered public comment. Mr. Harris said that regular coordinated meetings between service providers would help eliminate silos and he also emphasized the need for positive psychology to counteract trauma among juvenile justice involved youth. With no further business, Mr. Denton adjourned the meeting. The next Re-entry and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee meeting has yet to be scheduled.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:36 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 4.26.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Re-entry and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 4.25.19