

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Education and Youth Development Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**May 29, 2019**

**4:00 pm**

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: W.C. Gentry

Betty Burney- Excused

Amy Donofrio

Constance Hall

Timothy Sloan

Ceil Pillsbury-Schellenberg

Warren Jones, DCPS Subject Matter Expert- Excused

Brandon Griggs, Youth Subject Matter Expert

Denise Marzullo -Excused

**Topic:** Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction –Education and Youth Development Subcommittee

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

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 4:06 pm

Chairperson Gentry convened the meeting and welcomed the group. This was the sixth meeting for the Education and Youth Development subcommittee. There was a brief discussion about the recent article in the Florida Times-Union, which stated that the reading scores for a large portion of DCPS third grade students are below proficiency. The members talked about the connection between reading scores and crime, and how the schools with the lowest scores exist in neighborhoods that also have high rates of infant and maternal mortality, unemployment and food deserts.

Cheryl Fountain, Executive Director, Florida Institute of Education at the University of North Florida, was in attendance to speak about the SAIL program, an after school and summer learning program that offers students from the opportunity to explore and strengthen their skills in reading, math, writing, science, and technology. This pilot program has been implemented in four DCPS elementary schools: Arlington Elementary, Normandy Village Elementary, Reynolds Lane Elementary, and Sallye Mathis Elementary. Dr. Fountain mentioned that high school graduation rates are impacted by 3rd grade reading proficiency, family poverty (and trauma) and neighborhood poverty. Children living in poverty can enter kindergarten 12-18 months behind their peers. Ms. Donofrio asked about the participant’s demographics, as it is possible that limited availability and selection bias make it so the highest performing students are benefiting from the program instead of those who need it more.

There was a discussion about achievement and opportunity gaps related to poverty and the summer learning loss experienced by many children while they are on summer break. The summer reading loss may be counteracted with high quality, literacy centered summer programs, as exhibited by results from the SAIL summer camp. It was also said that tuition vouchers, which subsidize high quality child care and early education, are one way to improve access to those who may not be able to otherwise afford it.

Dr. Fountain talked about the Perry Preschool project, which was carried out from 1962 to 1967 outside of Detroit and provided high-quality preschool education to three- and four-year-old African-American children living in poverty and assessed to be at high risk of school failure. This research study examined whether access to high-quality early childhood education could have a positive impact on preschool children and the communities where they live. The longitudinal study found that at age 40, the participants who experienced the preschool program: had fewer teenage pregnancies, were more likely to have graduated from high school, were more likely to hold a job and have higher earnings, committed fewer crimes, and owned their own home and car. The long term benefits of this early childhood program have been found to have intergenerational effects and mediate the impact of neighborhood poverty.

Public comment: One attendee spoke about implementing practical health education for middle and high school students as related to drug use. He noted that teaching abstinence is not realistic, and that promoting safety, including how to use drug analysis to test for purity, may be better for long-term outcomes and substance abuse.

With no further business, Chairperson Gentry thanked all who attended and adjourned the meeting. The next Education and Youth Development subcommittee meeting date has yet to be scheduled.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:06 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 6.4.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Education and Youth Development Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 5.29.19