

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

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

**June 20, 2019**

**10:30 am**

**Committee Room B**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Frank Denton

Clifton Anderson

Camille Burban

Linda Joseph-Excused

Ceil Pillsbury-Schellenberg

Vicki Waytowich-Excused

Donna Webb-Excused

Rob Mason- Subject Matter Expert

**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:** 10:43 am

Chair Frank Denton convened the meeting and the subcommittee members introduced themselves for the record. Lenny Wright, Jacksonville Re-entry Center (JREC), was in attendance to speak about their program. JREC’s mission is to reintegrate felony offenders, increase public safety and reduce recidivism. JREC provides holistic services to its clients, including career training and counseling, to assist them with the process of self-sufficiency. To be eligible for JREC services, ex-offenders must be Duval County residents, have been convicted of a felony as an adult in Duval County (sentenced to a minimum of a year and a day) and return to Duval County upon release.

JREC extends outreach services to those incarcerated in several state facilities and the Pre-trial Detention Facility prior to release. After release, JREC clients are assigned a case manager and may receive assistance with housing, substance abuse treatment, document needs and work readiness items. When asked performance measures for the program, Mr. Wright said that success is individualized based on each participant’s circumstances but that in his estimation one third of JREC clients are successfully reintegrated. When asked what might be needed to help the program function better, Mr. Wright said while funding is always a concern, both permanent and transitional housing are very hard to find particularly for sex offenders. Mr. Wright also mentioned the need for mentors, both prior to and after release to help resettle his clients back into society.

Mr. Denton reviewed the various assignments for each subcommittee member. Ms. Burban will research the 14 recommendations made in the JCCI report from 2001to see which have been implemented; Mr. Mason will look into what organizations are focusing on prison reform and what approaches are being used; Mr. Anderson and Mr. Mason will research the six strategies outlined in the 2018 report “Transforming Juvenile Justice Systems to Improve Public Safety and Youth Outcomes”; Mrs. Schellenberg will continue to work on the program inventory and contact some agencies regarding a database. Mr. Mason also said he would share a list of community resources with the subcommittee.

Public comment: One attendee spoke about the challenges associated with applying for grants and the need to have local residents work to solve the city’s problems.

With no further business, Mr. Denton adjourned the meeting. The next Re-entry and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee meeting will be July 18th at 10:30 am.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:48 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 6.24.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Re-entry and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 6.20.19