

City of Jacksonville

1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street



Meeting Minutes Subcommittee on Data and Research

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

2:30 PM

Conference Room A 4th Floor, City Hall

Safety and Crime Reduction Commission

Mark Griffin, Chair
Sam Newby, Vice Chair
Matt Carlucci
Camille Burban
Josh Cockrell
Larry Cook
Richard Danford
Frank Denton
Tom Geismar
Brandon Griggs
William (W.C.) Gentry
Ellen Glasser
Shelley Grant
Constance Hall
Linda Joseph
Ronnie King
Timothy Sloan
Vicki Waytowich
Shamika Baker Wright

Crystal Shemwell, Legislative Services Supervisor
Carol Owens, City Council Staff
Colleen Hampsey, Research Assistant

Safety and Crime Reduction Subcommittee on Data and Research

Ronnie King- Chair
Timothy Sloan
Camille Burban
Frank Denton
Linda Joseph- Excused
Shelley Grant

Staff: Carol Owens; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

Meeting convened: 2:32 pm

Meeting adjourned: 4:01 pm

I. Welcome

Subcommittee Chair Ronnie King welcomed the group and called for introductions.

II. Subcommittee Minutes

The minutes from the December 3, 2019 subcommittee meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

III. Information Requests Update

Mr. King requested that Mr. Denton and Ms. Waytowich share the discussion from the sub-subcommittee meeting which had occurred earlier in the day. The purpose of the sub-subcommittee meeting was to discuss risk factors, protective factors, basic criminological theory for juveniles and the use of evidence based programs. The sub-subcommittee discussed the formation of a panel of experts to weigh in on Jacksonville specific data related to juveniles, such as representatives from DCF, DCPS, SAO, and the Public Defender's office. This panel could produce a white paper or presentation to explain the local juvenile offender data to the full commission. It was agreed that Commissioners Grant and Waytowich would present background on risk and protective factors and basic criminological theory to the full commission at an upcoming meeting. The sub-subcommittee also talked about the work being done by the University of North Florida regarding a gap analysis of juvenile services to identify both needs and capacity. Mr. King suggested that someone from UNF attend a future meeting to discuss their findings. If/when the panel of experts convenes, the subcommittee members would prefer a Q and A session rather than a formal public relations oriented presentation.

IV. Data Points Update

Mr. King distributed a handout with his suggested data points to potentially collect from those who perpetrate violent crimes, in order to assess pathways to prevent criminal behavior. The group is unsure at this point how the data will be collected, but if possible they would like to know about: basic demographics (age, gender, race), residential history (frequency of moves, zip code), history of previous criminal charges, intervention history if any (mentoring, diversion, after school programs), education (GPA, graduation, attendance, suspensions, literacy), and employment. When asked for what the data will be used, Mr. King noted that the usage of the data will become more apparent after it is gathered and analyzed for trends or deficiencies. Mr. King reminded the group to set aside assumptions about the root causes of crime until the data can paint a clearer picture. It was mentioned that attorney client privilege, confidentiality and a lack of data sharing between agencies may be obstacles in the collection process. As such, any data would be de-identified to protect privacy. The members agreed that social history should be included, particularly family stability/dysfunction and mental health.

Mr. Sloan spoke about the public school system, how they do and don't identify students in need, how they communicate with parents, the frustrations with the IEP process and the pipeline from school to prison. Additionally, although the commission is studying primarily violent offenses, Mr. Sloan said that lower level crimes often occur first and should be considered in any plan of prevention or intervention.

The members talked about mental health and the effects of trauma. While not all who suffer from mental illness commit crimes, the vast majority of juveniles who enter the criminal justice system have (treated or untreated) mental health issues. Furthermore, trauma impacts behavior and can lead to mental health and substance use disorders, school failure, increased risk taking, and delinquency behavior. Frequent or infrequent encounters with death or imminent threat of death, physical harm, and/or the incarceration of a parent can cause an immediate reaction of profound fear that can persist in the form of PTSD. The group talked about the availability of mental health counselors and social workers in schools, and whether they are being utilized as needed.

Ms. Waytowich spoke about the funding recommendations made in the Task Force report last year and cautioned against rushing into funding recommendations at this juncture. For example, there was an emphasis in that report to massively scale out mentoring programs without a full understanding of how many kids actually need such services or what the agency capacity is to deliver such services effectively. Ms. Waytowich also said that resiliency and protective factors should be included in the data collection.

Ms. Burban reminded the group of the subcommittee's purpose, which is to create a list of questions for the crime portrait database. There was some discussion about what kinds of data that will be unavailable, the time constraints associated with

gathering such data and who will manage and analyze it. The group agreed that they should find out what data is currently being collected by other agencies, specifically JSO and possibly the Public Defender. Before the next subcommittee meeting, council staff will reach out to the other commission members for their input or additions to the desired data points.

The members also talked about the future of the full commission subcommittees and whether the same ones should continue or if new ones are now necessary. This will be brought up at the next full commission meeting.

V. Public Comments

There were no attendees interested in providing public comment.

VI. Wrap-up/Adjournment

The next Data and Research Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled for Thursday February 20, 2020 at 8:30 am.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
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Posted 1.17.20 5:00 pm