

City of Jacksonville

*1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street*



Subcommittee Summary

Friday, January 15, 2021

10:30 AM

Virtual Meeting

Safety and Crime Reduction Commission

Kids Hope Alliance (KHA) Subcommittee

Meeting Convened: 10:32 am Meeting Adjourned: 11:42 am

Attendance:

Subcommittee Chair: Timothy Sloan; Chairman Mark Griffin; Tom Geismar, Saralyn Grass; Shelley Grant; Mary Nash; Katoria Wilkins; Julie Davis; Dr. Nicoa Garrett; Rosemary Wesolowski; Nicole Hamm; Stanley scott

I. Call to Order – Subcommittee Chair Sloan

Subcommittee Chair Sloan convened the meeting and called for introductions.

II. Opening Remarks & Greetings

Subcommittee Chair Sloan greeted all and confirmed the purpose of the subcommittee meeting.

III. KHA Chair Report

Katoria Wilkins, Director of Juvenile Justice Prevention, KHA introduced herself and the KHA team in attendance: Dr. Saralyn Grass, Chief Programs Officer, KHA and Mary Nash, Director of Special Needs Programming. Each KHA member provided a brief synopsis of their duties and services they provide to our local youth.

IV. Full-Service School Support

The purpose or role of a Full-Service school was defined as:

A Full-Service School (Plus) Model is an on-site mental health service for behavioral health and counseling support. The goal is to enhance students' emotional, mental and behavioral well-being, and to help reduce academic barriers to increase success. Services may consist of clinical assessment, use of evaluation instruments, therapy, and classroom observations.

Subcommittee Chair Sloan stated there are six KHA subcommittee areas of discussion.

1. Assistance with current trauma response efforts
2. Full-service school support
3. Mentoring for teens transitioning out of live-in facilities
4. Career and college education for youth touched by juvenile justice system
5. Efficacy study of current mentoring programs
6. Peer-to-peer mentoring for teens

The subcommittee will discuss two areas today: Full-service school support and efficacy study of current mentoring programs.

Current staffing models for the Full-Service School (Plus) program was discussed. Currently there are 97 therapists that provide services for our local schools. KHA funds 64 of the therapists. KHA has a matrix that would put at least one therapist in each of the schools, but additional staff will be required. It was recognized that the addition of a behaviorist position to all of the schools would be most beneficial; especially in elementary schools.

There was some discussion to the limitations, stigma and lack of trust towards mental health services and providers. Another hurdle is the lack of consent, involvement and follow up from the parent/guardian remains a challenge. Additionally, race may be compounding the issue as African American children may have difficulty trusting or open-up to a white therapist.

The Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Model was briefly discussed. This model is geared towards caregivers and after school providers. KHA informed the meeting attendees they can learn more about the TBRI Model on the KHA website.

The subcommittee members discussed the process of making their recommendations and funds to KHA. Due to Covid-19 and how meetings are conducted, there was concern if they will be able to make their recommendations and use the funds in a timely manner. It was determined that some of the funds could be rolled over and they could proceed while staying in compliance with the Florida Sunshine Laws.

V. Efficacy Study of Current Mentoring Programs

The subcommittee address the concern that mentor groups were functioning as intended. There was some discussion if a new study needed to be conducted or if a brief survey would suffice to help identify the problem. It was determined that KHA had the ability to conduct a brief survey and has the contacts if they need to conduct a new study. A review of previous studies, especially those that had the familial component may provide insight.

VI. Public Comments – 3 Minutes Each

Mr. Stanley Scott applauded the KHA for doing a great job, but expressed concern about the board, funding issues, the local opioid crisis and providing treatment to the adults that are raising children.

Committee Chair Griffin expressed his concern of meeting a quorum during the pandemic; as the lack of a quorum will impact if they can make recommendations and vote as a commission. After some discussion, it appeared in the near future this commission would be able to have a quorum and move forward with their duties.

VII. Wrap-Up and Adjournment

With no further business, Subcommittee Chair Sloan adjourned the meeting.

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