



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Intervention and Rehabilitation

MINUTES

OF

INTERVENTION & REHABILITATION

SUB-COMMITTEE

January 28, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Intervention & Rehabilitation

Sub-Committee

January 28, 2008

2:30 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Intervention & Rehabilitation Sub-Committee taken on Monday, January 28, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Intervention & Rehabilitation Sub-Committee

John Coxwell, Chair
Ron Autrey, Member
Bob Baldwin, Member
Gordon Bass, Jr., Member
Karen Bowling, Member
Lad Daniels, Member
Latroy Daniels, Member
Ron Foster, Jr., Member
Reginald Gaffney, Member
Kevin Gay, Member
Michael Hallett, Member
Elder Harris, Member
Wyllie Hodges, Member
Joseph Hutchinson, Member
Cal Jackson, Member
Sharon Kirkland, Member
Ray Reid, Member
David Stevens, Member
William Sulzbacher, Member
Angelia Turner, Member
Sherron Watson, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

JOHN COXWELL, Chair
LAD DANIELS, Member
LATROY DANIELS, Member
ANGELIA TURNER, Member
KEVIN GAY, Member
MICHAEL HALLETT, Member
GORDON BASS, Member
REGINALD GAFFNEY, Member
BOB BALDWIN, Member
KAREN BOWLING, Member
BILL SULZBACHER, Member
DAVID STEVENS, Member
WYLLIE HODGES, Member
CAL JACKSON, Member

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

RON AUTREY, Member
RON FOSTER, Member
ELDER HARRIS, Member
JOSEPH HUTCHINSON, Member
SHARON KIRKLAND, Member
RAYMOND REID, Member
SHERRON WATSON, Member

PROFESSIONAL STAFF:

Steve Rohan, Office of General Counsel
Peggy Sidman, Office of General Counsel

STAFF:

KERRI STEWART
GINNY WALTHOUR
STEPHANIE BARNETT
SHAWN JEROR

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gary Powers, Gateway Community Center
Doug Murr, Character First

PROCEEDINGS

January 28, 2008

Intervention and Rehabilitation Sub-Committee

2:30 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chairman Coxwell called the meeting to order at approximately 2:33 p.m.

Purpose of Meeting. Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step - Intervention and Rehabilitation Sub-Committee.

Chairman Coxwell presented motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Motion was approved and carried.

Chairman Coxwell then introduced Steve Rohan and Peggy Sidman from the Office of General Counsel to present the Rules of Order. Handout provided.

Following the discussion on the Rules of order, Chairman Coxwell introduced Kerri Stewart to give an overview of Steering Committee meeting and housekeeping items.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation by Dr. Michael Hallett, committee member and professor at the Department of Criminal Justice of the University of North Florida, entitled "New Paradigm: a Prosperity Agenda for Fighting Jacksonville Violence".

A handout of the presentation was given to committee members and meeting attendees. The presentation stressed the importance of providing jobs, transportation, and shelter for criminal offenders recently released from detention facilities back into the Jacksonville community. After this presentation, Chairman Coxwell added his comments to stress his agreement for the need to provide

transportation services for newly released offenders to get to and from work. He also stated the need for a screening process to assist in placing individuals in jobs where they have a skill set.

There were no questions for Dr. Hallett at the conclusion of his presentation.

Chairman Coxwell proceeded to introduce the next presenter, Chief Gordon Bass, Jr. with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. Chief Bass's presentation was entitled "Inmate Re-Entry Issues at the County Levels". A handout of his presentation was provided to the committee members and meeting attendees. The focus of his presentation was how to successfully integrate ex-offenders back into the community to become productive citizens and reduce recidivism. At the conclusion of his presentation, Chief Bass introduced Cathy Chadeagne with the Jacksonville Re-entry Center. Ms. Chadeagne spoke about the center facility and current programs in place for recently released offenders to Duval County. She stated that job placement, housing, and other services are essential for successful re-entry. Following her discussion, the floor was opened to questions:

Q. What do you tell these people regarding the availability of housing service? We have put together a list of providers, not only for housing, but for health care and employment. One problem is funding for these programs. Many providers provide services from funds out of their own pockets in order to help people in the community.

Q. Of the 2,025 ex-offenders that you have seen, can you be a little more specific in regards to job placement? We do not offer

jobs. We are a referral resource - a portal - to connect the client with an employer.

Committee member Hallett motioned for the committee to tour the JREC facility and the Juvenile Assessment Center to become exposed to the processes in place. Motion approved and carried.

Q. How closely are you working with WorkSource and entering the offenders into the database for job searches? We do work closely with WorkSource.

Q. Of all sources providing housing, how many units do you have available? Probably about 200 beds - very, very deficient.

Q. Are you assisting ex-offenders who are being released into Duval County from the Federal System? Not Federal - State and Local.

Q. What jobs are not available to ex-offenders based on laws or state regulations? There are barriers to certain licensures depending on their offense. One exception is cosmetology.

Q. It has become very apparent that mental health for these individuals is very important. It appears that there are not enough facilities to address that issue. Could you address this? Many of our clients are also clients of Quest or one of the mental health facilities that are in the same area as we are. Again, housing is key to that, because if you have a mental illness and are homeless and without your medication, the chance of recidivism is very likely.

Q. Is your program available only to recently released offenders or can anyone with a criminal background seek help? Yes, absolutely they can come to us, if they have a criminal history.

Q. Is there a mandate that recently released offenders receive your services? There is a requirement at the state level of 100 hours of transition.

Q. What percentage of ex-offenders actually goes through the program? I have no idea how to answer that.

Committee member Reginald Gaffney expressed comments praising the work that JREC does for the community.

Chairman Coxwell thanked the speaker. He followed by introducing the next presenter, committee member Kevin Gay, founder of Operation New Hope. His presentation was entitled "The Role of Re-Entry in Crime Prevention". Handouts of his presentation and program were provided to committee members and meeting attendees.

The focus on his presentation was the re-entry program provided by his organization. There were no questions for Mr. Gay at the conclusion of his presentation.

Chairman Coxwell thanked all of the meeting's presenters.

Kerri Stewart reminded everyone of the summit scheduled for Friday, February 1st from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Main Library welcoming Rev. Eugene Rivers III to Jacksonville for discussions and interactive sessions focusing on continuing efforts to reduce crime in neighborhoods across the city.

2. Public Comment

Chairman Coxwell opened the floor to public comment. The first attendee to speak was a citizen, who was an ex-offender, concerned about the publicity of the meetings and the community being aware of when the meetings were being held to allow members

of the community to contribute their efforts to assist in reducing crime in the city. Accompanying her was a young man who voiced his concerns with bringing attention to the young men in the city burdened with providing for their family in the absence of a father figure.

Following those individuals, a man approached the podium and addressed concerns with the pressures of youth from broken families. He suggested that these youth need mentoring and guidance from positive role models.

The next speaker from the public was Pastor Darnell Jones with New Directions Ministry. He stated that many of his questions regarding rehabilitation had been answered by the meeting's presentations and offered his help with the rehabilitation process.

The final speaker, Elizabeth Henderson, who lives in the Springfield area; and is concerned with profiling in her neighborhood.

Chairman Coxwell then adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.

3. Action Items

Schedule a tour of the Jacksonville Re-Entry Center and the Juvenile Assessment Center.

3. Discussion Items

None.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.