



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Positive Youth Development Sub-Committee

MINUTES

OF

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SUB-COMMITTEE

January 9, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Positive Youth Development

Sub-Committee

January 9, 2008

8:00 a.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Positive Youth Development Sub-Committee taken on Wednesday, January 9, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 8:05 a.m.

Positive Youth Development Committee

Audrey McKibbin Moran, Chair

Joseph Bastian, Member

Betty Burney, Member

James Crooks, Member

Ellis Curry, Member

Bobby Deal, Member

Eddie Diamond, Member

Carolyn Floyd, Member

Maryam Ghyabi, Member

Warren Grymes, Member

Chris Hazelip, Member

Timmy Johnson, Member

Mary Langowski, Member

Bill Mason, Member

Rashean Mathis, Member

Edgar Mathis, Member

Mac McGehee, Member

Shelton Tarver, Member

Claudette Williams, Member

Wyman Winbush, Member

Chris Wood, Member

George Young, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

AUDREY MCKIBBIN MORAN, Chair
JAMES CROOKS, Member
ELLIS CURRY, Member
BOBBY DEAL, Member
EDDIE DIAMOND, Member
CAROLYN FLOYD, Member
MARYAM GHYABI, Member
WARREN GRYMES, Member
CHRIS HAZELIP, Member
TIMMY JOHNSON, Member
EDGAR MATHIS, Member
SHELTON TARVER, Member
CLAUDETTE WILLIAMS, Member
WYMAN WINBUSH, Member
GEORGE YOUNG, Member

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

JOSEPH BASTIAN, Member
BETTY BURNEY, Member
MARY LANGOWSKI, Member
BILL MASON, Member
RASHEAN MATHIS, Member
MAC MCGEHEE, Member
CHRIS WOOD, Member

STAFF:

ROSLYN PHILLIPS
LINDA LANIER
KRISTEN KEY BEACH
STEPHANIE BARNETT
RACHELLE M. SUNDY

OTHERS PRESENT:

Doug Murr, Character First
Judy Saylor, Take Stock in Children/CIS
Lawanda Ravoria, FCC
Lynn Sherman, Baptist Health
Mike Weinstein, TSIC
Elexia Coleman-Moss, Empowerment Resources Inc.

PROCEEDINGS

January 9, 2008

Positive Youth Development Sub-Committee

8:00 a.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chair Moran called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m.

Purpose of Meeting. Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step - Positive Youth Development Sub-Committee.

Chair Moran welcomed the group and thanked them for their willingness to be in attendance, and she asked those who were not in attendance for the last meeting to introduce themselves:

Bobby Deal: Executive Director of the Police Athletic League

Warren Grymes: CEO of Big Brothers/Big Sisters and incoming Chair for Mentoring Jacksonville.

Maryam Ghyabi: President of Ghyabi and Associates; Chair of Floridians for Better Transportation.

Carolyn Floyd: Recently retired from the Juvenile Justice System.

Today's topic will be mentoring and volunteerism. Chair Moran then read the charge from the Mayor: "He has asked this group to work, coordinate advertising campaigns, and public service announcements encouraging community involvement and volunteerism; work to make volunteering and mentoring easy by linking to and participating with websites that list opportunities and contact information; look at, assist and fund organizations like Big Brothers/Big Sisters and other mentoring programs in our community - look at

what their funding streams look like; look at their accomplishments". In December's meeting, the group consensus was that on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month the committee would meet and address the four areas the Mayor asked us to review. One charge will be addressed on the second Wednesday of each month and the discussion of an Action Plan will be handled on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Chair Moran noted that there would be Subject Matter Experts involved in the process to speak at the committee meetings and address fundamental areas of the Mayor's charge pertinent to this committee's activities. She noted that today there are three Subject Matter Experts joining the group and asked them to speak for 10-12 minutes and leave about 10 minutes for questions. This will leave the group time at the end for discussion. The first speaker - Mr. Warren Grymes - CEO of Big Brothers/Big Sisters was introduced and asked to step to the podium to begin his presentation.

Subject Matter Expert Presentations

Mr. Warren Grymes, CEO, Big Brothers/Big Sisters:

Mr. Grymes asked the committee to think about some numbers, 45,000 children in Duval County alone who would benefit from having a carding adult in their lives. This number comes from an analysis that was done by Big Brothers/Big Sisters and it also takes into consideration things like; free/reduced lunch participants; poverty level; drop out rates, etc.; under the age of 18. He noted statistics from the Big Brothers Big Sisters in School program - 97.3% of students in the program improved or maintained their

academic performance (just one hour per week); 82.25% improved or maintained school attendance; 93.45% improved in their behavior and 94.95% were promoted to the next grade level. That was out of 12,000 children surveyed; grades were taken from their school districts.

Mr. Grymes then moved on to the topic of NE Florida Mentoring and Mentor Jacksonville; which are great partner programs here in the community. A question came from a member of the committee, asking; How do I or what do I (or people in the community) need to do to become involved? Mr. Grymes notes there is an enrollment process; an application is completed and there is a database of children that you would be matched up with. The first two weeks include a training process. Another question was posed; Does the application process include a background check? The answer is, yes; all adults over the age of 18 are checked through the DMV; local JSO; FDLE and the FBI. You don't need a psychology degree, you only need to have the capability to be a friend. Other questions are noted below:

Q. How many mentors do you currently have now? Currently there are approximately 3,500 informal - in his program, there are currently 1,200 mentors.

Q. What strategies are you doing to recruit mentors? We have one person who specifically goes out into the community and recruits mentors. Currently, there is a partnership with WTLV on mentoring through the station's anchor Ms. Joy Purdy. Arby's has a program that features Big and Little. MAD DADS is also involved in several mentoring programs in the community.

Q. With the backlog of children waiting - how long does a child stay in your program? Normally, they are in from kindergarten through high school. The goal is to help the child graduate from high school. The typical length for a child to stay in the program is 28 months. The main reason for a child to leave the program is relocation to another county or state. If a child moves, we try and pair them up with someone in their new location.

Q. Are you developing youth with educational or psychological problems (learning disabilities)? They have partnered with United Way Full Service Schools. If children need eyeglasses, we refer them to the full service program and help is obtained for them. We try to take a holistic approach and overlay all services available to the child and parent.

Q. Have you looked into mentoring via the Internet? No, not at this time. We encourage school-based programs due to the potential for problems when dealing with the unknowns of the Internet.

Q. What do you need to get to 45,000 Mentors? We need to create a passion in this community - equal to the Super Bowl or TPC, and drive that toward mentoring. We have a very giving community.

Chair Moran thanked Mr. Grymes for his presentation and then asked Mr. Mike Weinstein - CEO of Take Stock to speak about his program.

Mike Weinstein, CEO, Take Stock in Children:

Mr. Weinstein thanked Chair Moran and began to discuss the particulars of Take Stock. This is a statewide program which covers all 67 Florida counties. They typically spend \$20 million

per year buying scholarships. They bring in 7-8th graders in the free lunch program and assign a mentor. The program is designed to stay away from activities that aren't educational - such as mall trips; movies, etc. The program is totally education-oriented, based fully on the four-year scholarships that are given to the child. The child must work a minimum of six years to obtain a grant. The child will strive to keep something you give them - it gives the child hope. This program ties to break the cycle of poverty and hopelessness. There is a student advocate - for every 100 students. The advocate monitors grades; attendance, etc. They aren't tutors or social worker. If problems arise, it is their responsibility to notify proper staff and help provide applicable services. Mr. Weinstein noted that in the presentation, you will note there are opportunities for businesses or community leaders to become involved in this program. Jacksonville currently has 500 students in this program. St. Petersburg has 2,500 students in their program, and the community is heavily involved in supporting it. If you are a new business coming into the community, the St. Petersburg Mayor is at your door speaking about this program. That is what it is going to take here in Jacksonville, community involvement. Mr. Weinstein then asked for questions from the group:

Q. What happens in the hour you have the student? It depends upon the relationship with the mentor and how it grows. One of the first questions he asks his student is "How are your grades?" "What was your last test score?" The student signs a contract at the beginning of this process and agrees to give permission to the

mentor to obtain report grades.

Q. Student advocates - how are they assigned? The program is designed to assign 100 students per advocate. The advocate visits with their children 1-2 times per semester. They review report grades; they are employed by the community and the schools.

Q. Identify the application/selection process. How are students identified? The student must be reduced/free lunch eligible; the student receives a flier in the sixth grade and the formal application in the sixth or seventh grade year.

Q. Pinellas County is a great model - they get it, their local education foundation, is it committed? Yes - it is awesome - it's their top priority - taking care of their kids.

Q. One hour per week doesn't seem like much time. You are not limited to how much time you can spend with the student, but you are limited to what activities are involved. Your time must be spent in educational format - that is the expectation.

Q. Do you have programs for children who are tailored to trade schools? The scholarship can be utilized to attend any post-secondary education program.

Q. As part of the screening process, is there an element of academic progress to part of this program? The more at risk, the more attractive the child is to us in this program. There is, however, an expectation that the child will be able to perform academically.

Q. We're concerned about all kids, what happens to the kids you turn away? All children are assigned case managers and those people are assigned to look at other programs the child may be

eligible for. We're winning in the one-on-one process, but we're losing the bigger battle.

Q. In Jacksonville, how much does the tuition cost per year? \$4-5 million.

Chair Moran thanked Mr. Weinstein for his presentation and asked Ms. Lynn Sherman from Tipping the Scales, Baptist Health, to come to the podium.

Ms. Lynn Sherman, Director, Tipping the Scales, Baptist Health:

Ms. Sherman thanked Chair Moran and addressed what Tipping the Scales actually does. This is an Adolescent Advocacy Mentoring program. They began as a partnership with the Bridge of North East Florida. They felt that the elementary children were being covered, but the middle-school children were being left behind. There are three components: 1) Mentoring - students are transported to the hospital (there are three participating hospitals in Jacksonville - Baptist; Shands or St. Vincents) to meet their mentor. They spend approximately 1 ½ hours and develop career guidance. 2) Job Skills Training - beginning in February of each year, the student starts their program. When they complete their program, they are eligible for work in their area of interest during the summer at one of the area hospitals. The average length of mentoring relationship is 3 ½ years. No student is turned away. There are no grade point average requirements, students must participate in the Bridge and be in the ninth grade.

Mentors are trained at the Kessler Mentoring program. Each

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student is case managed, must meet with the principal, teachers and parents are partners in this program. Their goal is to help children discover their skills/talents and help them gain employment - they are followed for one year after high school. The Bridge is a full-service organization for families. Tipping the Scales program partners with the Bridge and endeavors to take care of the whole child.

Q. Do you have any information about success rates of students entering college? Yes, about 75% go on to a secondary education, 25% choose to work.

Q. Is there a contract or agreement? Yes, both with the child and its parents.

Q. How many children do you currently have in the program? Currently 45 students, there are more in the summer. They can hire 62 in the summer with additional funding.

Q. What is the annual cost to run this program? Approximately \$150,000.

Q. During the summer, is it the program that pays salaries? Actually, it is the hospital - they provide a grant to pay salaries.

Q. Are there plans to grow? Our goal is to double the number of students we currently are working with. We want to be careful not to disrupt the integrity of the program.

Q. Who performs case management? Tipping the Scales Program

Q. Is this a program that can be replicated in other companies? Absolutely - we're looking into partnering with Wachovia and JEA.

Chair Moran thanked Ms. Sherman for her presentation, and asked the group to move in to about 10-12 minutes of general discussion. Mr. Hazelip asked what is most needed, is it funding; interest? If we are going to affect change, we need to find out how to spark interest. Ms. Williams notes that if you look at literature, there are certain common-threads, commitment, etc. But the question remains, how do we get the community involved? Some discussion ensued about the need to first accept that there is a problem, address the problem and evaluate education and probably funding. It was noted that part of the situation involves the time constraint - there is not enough time for engaging in mentoring - it should be made easier by utilizing the Internet, safely. Chair Moran thanked everyone for their time and asked members of the audience if they would like to address the committee in public comments. There was a comment from Elexia Coleman-Moss from Empowerment Resources, Inc. Chair Moran dismissed the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

2. Action Items

Staff was charged with having someone from Pinellas County at the next meeting to discuss their mentoring program and success.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.