



Office of Mayor-Elect Lenny Curry

Prevention, Intervention & At-Risk Youth Sub-Committee Meeting

June 10, 2015

Jacksonville University

Davis College of Business

Public Policy Institute

2800 University Blvd, Room 159

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Paul Perez, Prevention, Chair

The Honorable Dr. Johnny Gaffney, Co-Chair

Pastor Tom Messer, Member

Mr. Bill Spann, Member

Ms. Toni Crawford, Member

Ms. Leila Mousa, Member

Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Member

Mr. Scott Wiley, Member

The Honorable Carolyn Woods, Member

Mr. Mal Washington, Member

Mr. Pedro Cohen, Member

Mr. WC Gentry, Member

Ms. Misty Skipper, Member

Mr. Charles Griggs, Member

Ms. Tameka Holly, Member

Ms. Lawsikia Hodges, OGC Representative

Ms. Rena Coughlin, Co-Chair Transition Team

GUESTS:

Ms. Susie Wiles, Transition Team

Mr. John Snyder, COJ Grants

Mr. Joe Andrews, CTDC

Mr. Jon McGowan

Mr. Bill Hodges, JCC

Mr. Leon Baxton, CIS

Mr. Jon Heymann, JCC

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Mr. Jason Roth, United Way of NE Florida
Mr. Colin Murphy, JCC
Mr. Dave Roman, COJ Jacksonville Journey
Mr. Taurean Sinclair, COJ Jacksonville Journey
Mr. Jordan Elsbury
Ms. Jessica Laird
Ms. Kandi Begue
Ms. Marlene Russell
Ms. Wendy Jones Recorder

Chair Paul Perez called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. with a brief introduction of himself and asked if everyone in the room would do the same.

Ms. Lawsikia Hodges, representative from the Office of General Council (OGC) distributed a power point presentation regarding Sunshine Law and Public Records Law for the Committee. She then went over the highlights regarding the laws as they pertain to the Committee. She will be in attendance at the meetings of the Committee in case there are questions; she can be reached at the phone numbers listed on the presentation.

Mr. Curtis Hart and Mr. Dave Roman were asked to give an overview of the work of the Jacksonville Journey. They presented handouts of the 2014 Annual Jacksonville Journey Oversight Committee Report and a 2014 Report on the Rec N Roll program by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services. The Jacksonville Journey was originally set up to target of Health Zone One (1) and many of the programs that were already in place. They were tasked with the oversight of the programs and to create measurements to see if they worked; this was a massive undertaking. They began with the oversight of 30 million in funding and are currently only overseeing just over 2 million. Many of the programs have been placed under the oversight of other areas such as the Jacksonville Children's Commission (JCC). To mention one of the successful programs: ATOSS is a very successful program for an alternative to out-of-class suspension. One goal should be to seek permanent funding solutions. Mr. Dave Roman said that to a certain extent Journey has just become a word since City Council has moved many of the programs that they were overseeing to other areas. Jacksonville Children's Commission is still fully funding Summer Camps, Team-up programs, and Early Learning. The Journey has found grants to help with programs. Afterschool recreation programs were ended because the bulk of the money was going toward JSO Officers and not the program. The pilot program, Rec N Roll was successfully deployed using active and retired Coaches in the parks during the summer last year to provide activities in parks. This project is being expanded this year as it was a success and 18 parks will be targeted this summer. The Gang Intervention program was not demonstrating success so it was no longer being funded.

Mr. WC Gentry was on the original Jacksonville Journey Oversight Committee and he stated that they first gathered the information to identify the needs in the City so that they could then look at the

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programs that would help with solutions for the needs. It would be good to look at those programs again and see which ones could be utilized in the current atmosphere such as program for gangs since there is rise in gang activity. It would be good if the Committee could come up with a best case scenario for funding. There has not been a comprehensive look at what the Journey is all about and what type of impact that it has had. Discussion was had regarding the boundary between the Children's Commission program ends and where everything else should be picked up; this is the place where needs are greatest. It had been discussed that Journey Committee be set up as a 501(c3) similar to the Library Board.

JSO would explain where the hotspots were in the early meetings. suggested bringing in JSO to help pinpoint hotspots in the City.

Mr. Dave Roman also stated that none of the agencies that programs were assigned to report to the Journey Committee so that they do not have current information. The Journey has expanded the Neighborhood Accountability Board to Mayport and is in the process of expanding to Arlington which is the next area with the biggest problem. Mr. Jon Heymann of the Jacksonville Children's Commission (JCC) states that they do have oversight of the programs that were assigned, but, there was a 14 percent cut in funding when the programs came to JCC. They have matrix on all of the programs.

Dr. Nikoli Vitti stated that this is an opportunity to take a look at what we are doing broadly across the City and more importantly how we can narrow the focus at high crime areas but drill down more to groups of children who are at risk based on truancy and crime involvement. We can do better at focusing our resources. Middle and High School kids need internships because the old recreational programs are not working as before.

It was pointed out that since the funding for the Journey was moved to other agencies the Journey Committee is only meeting quarterly and overseeing 2 million dollars. Of the original funding, 19 million was in capital improvements. Will this committee have the data about there the Journey was when it had the larger funding? The group would like to see the historical data. This information can be requested. It would be valuable in determining where the Children's Commission programming ends and where the gap is. There is no cost to the Journey because the people donated their time and the Mayor's office provided support.

It would be helpful to take a look at the original recommendations from the Journey task force. Committee needs to go beyond the original mission and see what needs to be focused on now. Possibly reach out to the League of Cities for programs such as this with longer track records.

Dr. Gaffney encourages the Committee to include the Council people when seeking support for the ideas and asks for their ideas and thoughts.

Chair reviewed the key objectives and took suggestions regarding ideas of information and persons the committee may want to see.

The Committee would like to hear from Children's Commission regarding programs, Susan Main regarding early literacy; review the original recommendations of the Journey Task Force and Neo-natal programs.

The Committee needs to look at what the City is funding, what is working, not working, where do we need to go now? Equal focus needs to be put on intervention and prevention.

The Committee needs an update on where the City is by getting an update from the School Board, JSO, Juvenile Justice, and the State's Attorney's Office for the Monday meeting. There is no one location that collects the data so multiple sources is needed to get the information. Start with the problems and then go from there because things have changed.

If Committee members would like to share information with other members, please send the information to Marlene Russell and she will forward it to rest of Committee.

Meeting was adjourned.