

# North Carolina's Juvenile Reentry Reform Task Force

## MEETING MINUTES

### OPENING

The second meeting of North Carolina's Juvenile Reentry Reform Task Force was called to order at 9:30am on April 24, 2015 at 1201 Front St., Governor's Crime Commission First Floor Conference Room, Raleigh, NC 27603 by Billy Lassiter, Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile Justice.

### PRESENT

Catherine Anderson, Facility Services - Juvenile Justice, DACJJ  
Sonya Brown, Team Leader for the Justice Systems Team, DHHS  
Duane Cogdell, Transition Services Coordinator, DACJJ  
Debbie Dawes Crime, Violence, and Justice Research Program, Research Triangle Institute  
Katherine Edmiston, Assistant District Attorney, Wake County  
Tamara Flinchum, Senior Research and Policy Associate, Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission  
Antonio Gardner, Juvenile Counselor, Johari Family Services  
Felicia Gray-Watson, NCDPI Career and Technical Education Support Services Section Chief  
Dave Hardesty, Director of Juvenile Facilities, DACJJ  
Buddy Howell, Consultant  
Kim Howes, Assistant Juvenile Defender, Office of the Juvenile Offender  
Burt Jenkins, Healthy Schools, NCDPI  
Diana Kees, Communications Office, DPS  
Billy Lassiter, Deputy Commissioner for Juvenile Justice, DACJJ  
Orphaleta Lemon-Rouse, Court Counselor Supervisor, District 10, DACJJ  
James Lott, Director, Fayetteville Workforce Development Board  
Traci Marchand, Juvenile Court Services Administrator, DACJJ  
Judge Marcia Morey, Chief District Court Judge of the 14th Judicial District  
Candice Moore, DACJJ  
Mary Murray JCPC Chair, Henderson County  
Lisa Partin, Juvenile Community Programs, DACJJ  
Paulette Pearce, Court Services, DACJJ  
Ken Perry, Methodist Homes For Children  
Martin Pharr, Director of Juvenile Clinical Treatment Services, DACJJ  
Cindy Porterfield, Director of Juvenile Community Programs, DACJJ  
Mike Rieder, Director of Juvenile Court Services, DACJJ  
Diana Rodriguez, Governor's Office  
Ben Sanders, Vice President of Programs, Methodist Homes for Children  
Richard Semancik, Chief of Programs, Eckerd Youth Alternatives  
Joe Simms, Exceptional Children Division, DPI  
Julie Singer, Grant Project Manager, Juvenile Community Programs, DACJJ  
Jean Steinberg, Psychological Intervention and Implementation Specialist, DACJJ  
Nicole Sullivan, Director of Rehabilitative Programs and Services, DACJJ

Angela Taylor , Director of Social Work Services (Juvenile), DACJJ  
Teneisha Towe, Director, In-Home Services, Methodist Home for Children  
Eric Zogry, Office of the Juvenile Defender, Administrative Office of the Courts

## OPEN ISSUES

Mike Rieder gave a progress report from the Comprehensive Service Plan Subgroup. His comments centered on a review of the Service Plan Quick Reference Guide, and presentation of the draft of the subgroup's recommendations. These recommendations include designing and implementing staff development and deployment plans to support implementation of recommendations of the Service Plan subgroup, as well as the Reentry Task Force, implementing a comprehensive and dynamic service planning process that guides the delivery of services and documents accountability of stakeholders through the juvenile process, including reentry, increasing family engagement and involvement throughout the entire juvenile justice experience, increasing community engagement, both formal and informal systems, with the juvenile, family, and juvenile justice professionals to expand opportunities for development of the juvenile and the creation of a support system for sustainability of gains made, and decreasing the length of stay in YDCs for appropriate juveniles by creating alternatives in the community able to address identified domains, and maintain community safety. The subgroup identified short-, medium-, and long-term goals for each recommendation and will continue to meet to finalize its recommendations.

Mr. Rieder's presentation was followed by remarks from Cindy Porterfield, who updated the Task Force on the progress of the Family Involvement Subgroup. The subgroup drafted short-term goals to increase family involvement that include examining and identifying barriers to family engagement, examining strategies to gather feedback from families about their juvenile justice engagement experience along the service continuum, and determining the most effective strategies that can engage families of juvenile justice involved youth. The subgroup also identified the medium-term goals of developing a larger scale data collection effort to gather input from families, exploring the use of various technologies to increase family involvement, and identifying support services for reunification of youth and families, or for youth transitioning to independent living. Long-term goals drafted by the subgroup include establishing the use of various technologies to increase family involvement, and producing consumer feedback reporting to aid the juvenile justice system with enhancement of family engagement for all youth and families served along the continuum. Task Force members also noted the need to develop the means to engage non-English speaking families (e.g., using a telephone interpreting system), and the need to be aware of families' access to technology. Immediate next steps for the subgroup are to refine the data collection instruments the subgroup drafted in order to gather information from families that will help shape the subgroup's recommendations.

Dr. Martin Pharr presented on the work of the Workforce and Educational Opportunities Subgroup. Dr. Pharr discussed recent trends in educational and vocational programming for youth during and after YDC commitment. These include an increasing number of youth attaining a GED or high school diploma during commitment, the revitalization of vocational programming within YDCs (e.g., culinary arts, auto service, horticulture and aquaponic gardening, canine care), changes in procedures to include the consideration of educational and vocational progress when making discharge decisions, more attention to negotiating with local school

superintendents to transition youth to an appropriate school environment, using federal funds dedicated to juvenile justice-involved youth to prepare for work, and the use of transitional homes where youth, during their stay, can attain a GED or attend community college. The subgroup identified the goal of involving and engaging youth in workforce development. To achieve this goal, the subgroup noted the need to increase business partnerships. Dr. Pharr noted several strategies to engage the business community including sharing youths' success stories (i.e., social marketing), assessing what businesses are lacking in terms of workforce skills and training youth to acquire those skills (i.e., workforce development should align with training), placing a greater emphasis not only on academic needs but workforce preparedness, assisting youth to access jobs and/or training placements (e.g., internships), and developing a roadmap to ensure that strategies are implemented and impact is monitored. The subgroup will continue to meet to finalize its recommendations.

Dr. Julie Singer provided an update on the work of the Data Subgroup. This subgroup drafted short-, medium-, and long-term goals with respect to its recommendation to increase data quality and number of indicators tracked. Short-term goals include gathering data on YDC and community-based residential program experiences, determining from YDC and residential programs how they track outcomes of served juveniles, and developing implementation, monitoring, and evaluation plans. Medium-term goals include improving capacity of data systems to house information regarding YDC and residential program experiences, using existing and new staff to track outcomes of juveniles after discharge, and analyzing recidivism and other indicators of effectiveness. Long-term goals include sharing data products with internal and external stakeholders; seeking future funding to further improve data systems, and increasing the utilization of determined effective programs. Next steps for this subgroup include a review of each subgroup's recommendations to identify measures and data sources to track impact, and identify gaps in existing data in order to recommend critical data elements to be collected and/or added to NC-JOIN or NC ALLIES.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Orphaleta Lemon-Rouse, Court Counselor Supervisor in District 10, gave a presentation on court services and the community. Ms. Lemon-Rouse provided perspectives on servicing families with youths committed to a YDC. She noted the importance of engaging families in the process and making use of technology to connect families with their children during commitment, ensuring that families understand the process and participate in decision-making, working with families as soon as their child is committed and throughout commitment, and supporting parents so they are prepared for YDC discharge. Ms. Lemon-Rouse discussed specific areas of focus following YDC discharge including the need for wrap-around services that extend beyond juvenile justice jurisdiction, employment services and job placement services, education services, and additional transitional living capacity.

#### AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

At the next meeting, each subgroup will present their recommendations for reforming juvenile reentry.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm by Billy Lassiter. The next general meeting was planned for May 22, 2015 but was re-scheduled to May 29, 2015 at 3010 Hammond Business Place, Room 144, Raleigh, NC 27603.

Minutes submitted by: Julie Singer  
Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_