

Minutes of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
April 6, 2018
Holland & Knight, 50 N. Laura St., Jacksonville, Florida

Present

Chairman Buddy Schulz, The Honorable Suzanne Bass, Jim Clark, the Honorable Brian Davis, Pamela Davis, Rory Diamond, Kevin Gay, Shelley Grant, Marcus Haile, Bill Hodges, Alan Louder, Michael Meyers, Lara Nezami, Assistant Chief Deloris Patterson, the Honorable Jack Schemer, Vicki Waytowich, Donna Webb

Committee is called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Meeting

SAO Juvenile Director Laura Lambert welcomes the room, calls the meeting to order, and thanks everyone for attending the last meeting. Lambert outlines the next few months' JJAC meetings, and offers a preview of the structure committee members can expect next.

Linda Joseph is Chief Operating Officer for Operation New Hope. She gives a presentation on ONH's experience with both their adult employment and life skills training program, as well as two pilot programs that attempted to establish a similar program for youth. (Refer to included PowerPoint file for specific information.) ONH has been recognized nationally for their adult life skills programs, but have very recently begun experimenting with successful program models that translate well for justice-involved youth.

A panel discussion is held regarding the employers' and employees' experience with life skills training. Remarks were offered by the following:

- Anthony Davis, Ready4Work client
- Jackie Grzebin, The Flame Broiler
- Tammy Hackley, DC Lee Enterprises
- Elizabeth Tafel, Ready4Work graduate
- Travone Thomas, Ready4Work client

Committee Discussion

- Questions for Linda Joseph about employment and life skills training:
 - The consensus of the discussion is there needs to be a greater focus on schools to establish core education, especially reading skills, early on.

- Several questions are posed about child and parent simultaneous programming. Members discuss parents being in the same or similar position as their child with respect to education and life skills, but the services are not working in conjunction if only one half or member of the family is receiving them. Suggestions are made for the provision of babysitters, food, and transportation aid as incentives to encourage parents to work alongside their child.
- Lara Nezami states that she has attended Parent Academy meetings hosted by DCPS, and attendance is almost nonexistent. She suggests offering these meetings at different locations or even virtually.
- Questions for the panel about employment and life skills training:
 - Judge Davis asks these employers why they are inclined to hire individuals with criminal records. Several employers respond that those hires are more inclined to work harder.
 - Employers report that the greatest challenge for their employees is transportation. Business location proximity to home and bus stops are the two largest hindrances.
 - Kevin Gay remarks that poverty is still a driving factor in people's behavior, even during the midst of employment training. ONH has found that providing a simple \$50 weekly stipend incentivizes clients to show up, participate, listen, and feel slightly more ease about their finances and attendance in class.
 - Jim Clark remarks that he has found three factors to have contributed to the initiative and involvement of the parents with whom he has interacted throughout the years: 1) incentives, 2) childcare, and 3) rewards or prizes.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Laura Lambert closes the meeting by thanking committee members, panelists, and visitors, and announces the date for the next meeting, on May 11.

Meeting is adjourned at 11:00 a.m.