

Minutes of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
December 1, 2017
Holland & Knight, 50 N. Laura St., Jacksonville, Florida

Present

Chairman Buddy Schulz, the Honorable Suzanne Bass, Jim Clark, the Honorable Brian Davis, Pamela Davis, Kevin Gay, Sheriff Nat Glover, Dr. Jeffrey Goldhagen, Shelley Grant, Marcus Haile, Gretchen Hamm, Bill Hodges, Alan Louder, Michael Meyers, Lara Nezami, Deloris Patterson, the Honorable Jack Schemer, Nina Waters, Donna Webb

Youth Advisors to the JJAC Present

Billy Luper
Alan McCullough
Felton Morrell

Committee is called to order at 9:08 a.m.

Meeting

SAO Juvenile Director Laura Lothman Lambert welcomes the room, welcomes Lee High School EVAC students, and introduces two presenters: London Kite and T.K. Waters.

London Kite presents an overview of her involvement with gang prosecution in the State Attorney's Office. (See PowerPoint on website.) Topics discussed: What is a gang? What does Florida Statute say about gangs? What are risk factors and influences on youth who might join a gang? What is groupthink and how does it relate to gang involvement?

T.K. Waters presents to the committee about Group Violence Intervention. JSO has an internal investigation team, as well as partnerships with other area law enforcement agencies. The structure and characteristics of gangs and other groups are discussed.

Lee High School EVAC students and their teacher, Amy Donofrio, present to the committee about their class. (See PowerPoint presentation on website.) Presentation outlines the accomplishments of the class and its students. The EVAC class's suggestions include ways to better include youth in juvenile justice conversations, as well as

Committee Discussion

- EVAC student Billy Luper asks the presenters about gang patterns over the decades. He remarks that many older gang members have been father figures to younger men, who have grown up around gang involvement. He suggests that younger men need positive interaction with male adults, interaction that they do not often receive. One recommendation would be taking young men on college tours and exposing them to new types of opportunities.
- ASA Kite and Asst. Chief Waters both offer that in their experience, usually the more violent offenders have to hit rock bottom before being ready to want to change. Both remark that they don't want to put anyone in prison, but even if opportunities are offered, individuals must be motivated to take advantage of them.
- State Attorney Nelson addresses the EVAC students, and points out that the EVAC class is a form of groupthink, although positive. She asks what makes the groupthink in EVAC so successful and positive.
- The question is posed to each of the EVAC students how they became involved with the class. Many students arrived in the class differently, whether by word of mouth or through class registrations.
- Waters makes a suggestion to the EVAC teacher to look into both the FSCJ Year Up program and the City Year program.
- The future of EVAC is asked about. Will EVAC be offered after this graduating class leaves? Donofrio and [Davis] respond no, that the EVAC class is not a revolving door. There is no plan to have it continue ongoing after this current class of students graduates next year.
- State Attorney Nelson highlights that someone made the comment that EVAC is peer-led. What makes this model successful?
 - EVAC student Luper says that other students at school see that EVAC is different from programs they are used to, see the positive attention it's getting in the media, are curious, and want to be involved. Other students see them being inspired and want to be a part of it.

Public Comment

No public comment was registered.

Laura Lambert closes the meeting by thanking participants and announcing the date for the next meeting, on January 12.

Meeting is adjourned at 11:26 a.m.