

MINUTES
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
Clark County
Department of Juvenile Justice Services
Director's office conference room
Telephonic Conference: (857) 357-0254 Access Code 943-495
December 7th, 2022, at 9am

- I. Call to Order - 9:00am**
- II. Introductions**
- III. Public Comments - NA**
- III. Approval of 9/7/22 CAC minutes - Approved**
- IV. Approval of Agenda - Approved**
- V. Receive the Director's Report on the Activities of the Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS)**
 - a. Budget/Personnel**
 - i.** Five cadets graduated the JPO Academy December 1st. There were six cadets at the start. They will begin their DJJS careers in Detention.
 - ii.** There are 36 JPO vacancies currently. Seven Probation Officers were promoted to Supervisors recently so there will be movement.
 - iii.** Dean Steiner, our Probation Manager, is retiring after 30 years of service!
 - iv.** We are continuing to build our budget, compile our supplemental position requests, and IT needs. Division Managers are writing justifications for their requests.
 - v.** Funding from the CDBG grant was approved for a 6th Harbor location! It will be located at the Sunrise Community Center on Christy Lane and Carey Ave. There is a no timeline for completion as of yet.
 - vi.** Our Detention population is the highest it has been in 10 years! There are 25 youth pending placement with the State and 20 more youth that belong to the State. That is 40% of our pop that is out of our control.
 - vii.** Our Healthcare dept. is expanding services in Detention due to recent behaviors and many youth being on suicide watch.
 - b. Legislation**
 - i.** Mike Whelihan is working with the State to update Community Service laws. They are outdated and not consistent with consequences.
 - ii.** The County is currently paying \$2.5 million a year for parole functions. For that reason, DJJS would like to stop paying the State and take over the function.
 - c. Juvenile Justice Probation Reform**
 - i.** The Case Token Economy Program in Detention is going great! It is a reward program for youth. Within 3 months, room time has decreased by 70%!
 - ii.** **SMRC Update** – The second home is now complete! Rites of Passage (ROP) and JPO Supervisor Lupo-Masden did a great job ensuring the home is trauma-

informed. They are staffing youth to be placed and they should move in within a week!

- a. The other home is close to opening however, there is a hold up with the address. Because it is different than the other house, the RFP needs to be sent out again. We still have not decided if this house will place girls, boys, or co-ed. There is also talk about making it a shelter home as well. Each home will have 12 beds.

d. Juvenile Justice Programming

- i. Juvenile Probation Officers have been staffed at the three CCSD Academic Centers throughout town to ensure we are providing excellent service within our most vulnerable schools with youth that are most likely to escalate into juvenile justice or are already adjudicated into our care and custody.
- ii. SMYC Football team made it to playoffs again! Though they had a great season, they did not win the championship game.
- iii. The first youth from Nye was placed at SMYC.
- iv. We had another youth successfully pass the Hi-Set last month.
- v. Working with DFS/Child Haven to address the needs of children that are having issues on their campus. This includes CH management and their designees' staffing cases with Detention management and incorporating an 8-12 hour "Cooling Off" period, if needed.
- vi. Wait times for youth that have been committed to DCFS placements (RTC, Correctional) continue to be an issue, especially for the female youth. DCFS has capped their population/available beds, which contributes to the issue. We have also had an increase of youth committed to SMYC and are awaiting beds to open at SMYC.

e. The Harbor Update

- i. Jessica Sasso is the new Harbor Manager. She came from Boys Town, has extensive background in grant writing, strong relationship with CCSD, and many other tributes that align with DJJS goals.
- ii. We are provided more Harbor Overview Trainings to law enforcement officers. In addition, we are exploring a collaboration with the Metropolitan Police Department to ensure youth in need of mentoring services receive that valuable support.
- iii. The Harbor continues to provide tours to a variety of community agencies to establish partnerships and increase our reach. Jurisdictions across the country have visited The Harbor to learn from our model as they are in the planning and implementation stages in their communities.
- iv. We are getting ready to launch two pilot programs: Harbor Crisis Response Services which is a grant funded collaboration with the Eighth Judicial District Court and Harbor Mobile and Rural Services funded through ARPA dollars.

f. Truancy Prevention and Outreach Program Update

- i. The MOU with CCSD is complete. TPOP will regain access to IC ensuring youth educational records can be accessed timely to allow accurate and informed information when assisting youth and families.
- ii. TPOP continues to form relationships with schools within Clark County and creating innovative ways to address the individual challenges of each school and their student population.
- iii. TPOP is working with graduate students from UNLV to develop a mentoring program for school age youth. Practice and policies are being developed based on the curriculum developed by SPARK mentoring. This program is designed to assist

students to understand and begin to rely upon their own inner guidance system and provide transformative life-long skills.

- iv. There was a flood in our TPOP building the day after Thanksgiving causing major damage. Staff have been relocated to other sites including other buildings in the same Graystone complex. Mr. Martin is attempting to buy the entire building not only for our staff but for community partners to be near the clients we are serving.

VI. Discuss and change CAC Strategic Goals as follows – Jack discussed many initiatives that fall under strategic goals; Finalization of Growth Focused Case Management (GFCM), CQI expansion, RFK team assisting with probation reform, push on family engagement, WRAP use instead of restraint chairs, etc.

- a. **Increase programming to improve client outcomes, using evidence-based practices and measuring performance**
- b. **Reduce disproportionate minority contact through the use of targeted strategies and programs**
- c. **Post juvenile justice services**
- d. **Improve facilities to provide increased security and increased rehabilitative and vocational opportunities**

VII. Informational Items

- a. **Identify emerging issues to be addressed by the Committee at future meetings**
 - i. Board member Dave Doyle brought to the Committee's attention that there was a looming crisis in Specialized Foster Care, which could adversely affect both Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare youth residing in therapeutic placements. Mr. Doyle stated that the Family Focused Treatment Association (FFTA) which is a national advocacy agency representing therapeutic foster care, notified the State/DCFS, as well as the Governor's office and Clark County management on, or around July 2022, that Specialized Foster Care Agencies would likely not be able to place new youth effective January 1, 2023, due to a lack of funding coupled with increased costs.
 - ii. Mr. Doyle explained that Specialized Foster Care (SFC) was funded through a room and board rate coupled with a Medicaid service rate; and that the Medicaid service rate had recently fallen from \$56.48 to \$44.16 representing a \$12.32 daily rate reduction. Mr. Doyle further remarked with unprecedented inflation, increasing labor wage requirements for quality staff, and operational expenses significantly increasing, a rate increase was critical on or before January 1st, 2023. Mr. Doyle stated that FFTA requested the daily room and board for both DFS and DJJS be uniform and increased to \$135 until the Legislative session concluded, or Medicaid service dollars increased
 - iii. Mr. Doyle thanked Assistant Director, Eboni Washington for her support and advocacy from DJJS, as well thanked DFS, Clark County Management and Dr. Pitlock from DCFS; however, cautioned the group that no solution had been established as of yet and thus the looming crisis unfortunately remained.
 - iv. It was reported that the SFC agencies recently testified at the most recent Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting and planned on testifying again at the subsequent BCC meeting on 12/20/22 to further raise awareness that a solution had yet to be solidified, but, that ongoing efforts were being made.
- b. **Other information that may be of interest to the Committee and the public**
- c. **Announcements - Next meeting is January 4th, 2023, at 9 a.m., location to be determined.**

VIII. Public Comments

IX. Adjournment – 10:05 am