



# City of Jacksonville

MINUTES

Of

Jax Journey Oversight Committee

July 19, 2017

Ed Ball Building, Room 851

4:00 p.m.

## **Committee Meeting Attendees**

W.C. Gentry, Chair  
Debbie Verges, Project Director Jax Journey  
Judge Suzanne Bass, Judiciary  
Julie Davis, Office of General Counsel  
Lee Hutton, State Attorney Office  
Charlie Cofer, Public Defender  
Tracy Tousey, Member  
Terrence Harvey, Member  
Andrea Sharpe, Member  
Ricky Bedoya, Member  
April Green, Member  
Scott Wiley, Member  
Scott Wilson, Council Liaison  
Michael Bruno, JSO

*Please see the sign-in sheet for a complete list of additional attendees*

### **Proceedings**

Chairman W.C. Gentry called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

### **Minutes**

Chair Gentry asked for the motion to approve the June 12, 2017 meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded. Chair Gentry called for the vote; there were no amendments or objections and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The following handouts were provided to all committee members:

- #1 NLP Logix Presentation (PowerPoint printout)
- #2 Mayor's Proposed FY 2017-2018 JCC/Jax Journey budget
- #3 Rec N' Roll June 2017 program report

### **Chairperson's Report**

Chair Gentry reported that he met with the Mayor regarding the planned reorganization of Jax Journey and the Jacksonville Children's Commission (JCC). During the meeting, he was able to confirm that the mayor's proposed JCC/Jax Journey 2017-18 budget appropriates operation and programming funds for the first six months of the fiscal year. Other changes in funding will occur following the reorganization. He further stated that the Mayor expressed appreciation for the board's data-driven approach to facilitating Jax Journey projects and its expectation of high accountability for performance and delivery

of services. Chair Gentry emphasized to the Mayor the importance of continuing programs through Jax Journey; particularly, new projects like the Summer SAIL/After School three-year network.

Following Chair Gentry's greeting and introduction of Jax Journey's new Council Liaison, Councilmember Scott Wilson, he shared a brief PowerPoint presentation highlighting his summer camp site visits. Chair Gentry was especially impressed with the level of cooperation displayed by the children and the caliber of literacy and science instruction. Daily summer camp attendance is high and the agencies are on target with meeting enrollment goals for the upcoming Afterschool component. At the beginning of the year, i-Ready assessments will be administered to all Duval County public school students. It is anticipated that the children who participated in the Summer SAIL camps will not experience a loss or the loss will be less in literacy gains achieved over the school year. The data should be available by October 2017 to establish the baseline needed to assess the strategies and results of the first camp. Chair Gentry invited board members, Terrence Harvey and April Green, to comment on their experiences while visiting the camps/teen programs. Both were pleasantly surprised by how well-behaved, engaged and excited the children were. In preparation for the Afterschool component and next summer, Chair Gentry would like to secure leveled readers for the children. Judge Suzanne Bass suggested contacting the Friends of the Library for donations.

## **Discussion Topics**

### ***Subcommittee Updates and Program Review - Chair W.C. Gentry***

#### **Special Projects:**

Special Projects Subcommittee Chair, Tracy Tousey, reported that she is in the process of coordinating program site visits and that there is only one special project program that demonstrates challenges in meeting deliverables. Chair Gentry asked her to meet with the program directors within the week, if possible.

#### **Teen Programs:**

Teen Programs Subcommittee Chair, Terrence Harvey, and other members of the subcommittee (April Green and Andrea Sharpe) met with Katoia Wilkins, JCC Contract Manager, to gain better insight into the monthly reports and services the teen programs deliver. In July, he, as well as fellow Teen Program Subcommittee member April Green, visited programs located at Wayman Chapel, Don't Miss A Beat, and the YMCA. April Green apprised that the programs are extremely structured and organized. Additionally, they were able to verify that the majority of participants being served were children who live in the respective neighborhoods located within the Journey footprint.

#### **Juvenile Justice Intervention Programs:**

Judge Suzanne Bass provided the report for the Juvenile Justice Intervention programs. Most are on track and the Evening Reporting Center, which currently has 12 male youth participants, is demonstrating great headway in program implementation. The Evening

Reporting Center has the capacity to serve 15 youth at a time for 21 days. Judge Bass affirmed that the eligibility requirements should be re-evaluated to expand services to more youth. Chair Gentry asked Judge Bass to draft a brief memorandum containing her suggested changes and forward it to Debbie Verges, Jax Journey Project Director. Vicki Burke, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice employee and meeting attendant, was permitted to speak on behalf of the Evening Reporting Center.

**Ex-Offender Employment Programs:**

Ex-Offender Employment Subcommittee Chair, Ricky Bedoya, conveyed the successful progress of Operation New Hope and Prisoners of Christ in meeting deliverables. Conversely, Clara White Mission will not meet performance objectives. He hopes to visit Prisoners of Christ within the next two to three weeks to tour the facility and learn more about the processes being utilized to assist participants with employment placement.

**Workforce Development Education & Employment (age 16-24):**

Scott Wilson, Workforce Development Subcommittee Chair, is scheduling meetings with the Workforce Development agency program directors. He noted that the Northeast Florida Community Action Agency (NEFLCAA) is performing extremely well and West Jax Restoration is meeting its deliverables. FSCJ will not meet its deliverables. Moreover, Goodwill Industries will not meet deliverables and will not seek to be refunded.

Chair Gentry asked Debbie Verges to calculate the total dollar figure Jax Journey has saved the City of Jacksonville by repurposing funds from underperforming programs.

**Old Business**

***NLP Logix Presentation - Katie Bakewell & Karly Jacobsen***

Katie Bakewell, Lead Statistician NLP Logix, provided handout #1 for her PowerPoint presentation on program updates. NLP Logix has received the Census Tract data for the period of 2005 through the first quarter of 2017. Data Sharing Agreement #2 between the City of Jacksonville and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has been fully executed. The Duval County Public Schools Data Sharing Agreement is still in progress.

In reviewing Family Foundations 1000 in 1000, participant eligibility criteria and the criteria for successful completion were reevaluated. NLP Logix was able to clarify that for successful completion, 8 of the 10 possible pivotal assets must be acquired and the family household income must show an increase of 15% or be two times the federal poverty level. Of the 231 families who initially enrolled in the 1000 in 1000 program, one has success completed, 184 are currently enrolled, 36 were exited for non-attendance, two opted out of the program, six families relocated outside of Duval County and 2 participants the program has not determined their status as of this report. The available data spans over three and a half years and shows that 32% of the families increased their assets; 55% improved their score; and 38% experienced a change in income (with an average income change of \$9,407.00).

Karly Jacobsen provided an update on the Juvenile Justice programs, noting that juvenile felony charges in Duval County have increased each year since 2014. A census tract analysis revealed pockets of crime by zip code wherein juvenile arrests were most prevalent. Tracts within the Westside and Arlington areas show a steady rise in juvenile arrests. Youth gun possession charges have doubled since 2013 and 47% of youth charged with carrying a weapon were solely based on possession rather than usage. NLP Logix will collaborate with the Florida Department of Children & Families to conduct further analysis that will definitively pinpoint the locations of crimes committed by youth in foster care who are charged under pick-up orders. They will also incorporate other neighborhood indicators in future research, such as unemployment and education. Data derived from that analysis will identify neighborhood-level risks, which the Safe and Thriving Communities grant teams can utilize for programming recommendations.

***Safe & Thriving Communities Grant Update - Rory Diamond***

In the absence of board member Rory Diamond, an update on the Safe & Thriving Communities Grant was tabled until the September 2017 meeting.

**New Business**

***Jax Journey FY 2017-2018 Proposed Budget - Chair W.C. Gentry & Debbie Verges, Jax Journey Project Director***

Chair Gentry referenced handout #2, the Mayor's proposed FY 2017-18 budget for JCC/Jax Journey. CM Scott Wilson confirmed that the City budget will be approved by City Council on the last Tuesday or Wednesday of September 2017. Debbie Verges, Project Director, informed the board that the JCC/Jax Journey FY 2017-18 budget will go before Council's Finance Committee for approval on August 24, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (estimated time). Chair Gentry asked that all members of the board attend the Council Budget Hearing in lieu of an August 2017 oversight committee meeting.

***Rec N' Roll - Chair W.C. Gentry***

Members were advised to read through handout #3, the June 2017 Rec N' Roll program report, that was submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

**General Public Comments:**

No public comments made.

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

***The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed***