

Public Safety Transition Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, July 25 10:00 AM  
Kids Hope Alliance Multipurpose Room

Members Present: WC Gentry; Lolita Smith; Connie Hall; Vicki Waytowich; Paula Renfro; Frank Denton; Rachael Tutwiler Fortune; Ellen Glasser

Guest Speakers:

- Chief Ellis Burns – JSO, Special Events Division
- Chief Warren Calloway - JSO Programs & Transitional Services Division
- Director Darryl Joseph – COJ, Parks & Recreation Department
- Director Linzee Ott – SAO, Community Impact

Subject Matter Experts Present: Michael Munz (former Chair of the Jacksonville Children's Commission and CEO of the Dalton Agency); Dr. Saralyn Glass (CEO of the Kids Hope Alliance and an expert in birth to 18).

Liaisons Present: Rita Mairs, Office of General Counsel

Chairman WC Gentry called the meeting to order at 10:03. The chairman explained the committee is tasked with addressing the following areas:

- Crime prevention
- Juvenile detention
- Long-term community awareness literacy (Children, Adults, Non-English)

The Department of Education released recent data for third grade reading which assesses reading proficiency scoring levels 1 through 5. This year Duval County dropped 2 percentage points for third grade readers. It is the lowest performing of the seven urban districts.

Duval County has a 3rd grade reading proficiency average of 46%. The overall average for Title 1 schools is down to 31%. For example:

- Annie Morgan Elementary School, 56% of children scored at level 1
- GRASP Academy (Charter School), 8% of children were proficient readers. However, 81% scored at level 1.
- Arlington Elementary School, 24% of children were proficient and 76% were not, and 38% scored at level 1
- Northshore Elementary School, 23% children were proficient and 53% scored a level 1
- San Jose Elementary School, 24% were proficient and 54% scored a level 1

Scoring level 1 for reading proficiency means children would need intensive remediation to read effectively. Unfortunately, the numbers above are not unique, they go back decades with similar patterns.

The chairman stated subcommittees are meeting within sunshine laws. Today is the second full committee meeting. The three subcommittees have met at least eight to ten times in the past three weeks. Everyone's time and commitment are really appreciated.

Chairman Gentry reported the Jacksonville Journey Revisited committee focused on the following key intersections in the institutional reading system that can be impacted:

- VPK
- Public and Charter Schools
- Preparing to read before 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- After School
- Summer Camps

Subcommittee Chair Lotita Smith reported the Community Engagement and Crime Prevention Subcommittee focused on the following areas:

- Diversion for Juveniles
- Reentry
- Mental Health
- 16 to 24 Out of School and Unemployed
- Community Engagement
- Ways to collaborate with City government, partners, and the community

The subcommittee also learned the following:

- Diversion is working with a 95% success rate
- Majority of children need mental health intervention/prevention
- Focus is needed on adult and youth mental health
- 16 to 24 need resources
- Reentry is successful but help is needed for funding, staffing, and misdemeanors

Lolita explained based on the data a recommendation will be made.

Chairman Gentry stated an interim draft report will be made to the City today. A final report is due August 5<sup>th</sup>. The full committee will decide what the recommendations will be before the final report is submitted.

Subcommittee Chair Connie Hall reported the subcommittee have had meetings, conversations, and data review focusing on the following areas:

- Citywide Literacy Campaign
- Early Learning
- Proficient Reading by 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Connie Hall explained if there is going to be improvement, the following need to happen:

- DCPS must embrace the recommendations
- Help with Recruitment and Retention of qualified teachers
- Strengthening partnerships with the City, Chamber of Commerce, CPACs, and Neighborhood representatives
- Training that looks different from existing training to produce significant success
- Address political changes, along with having roundtable discussions

- Empower neighborhood ambassadors to help get work accomplished and sustained for ownership and continuance
- Measure progress
- Celebrate Milestones

Michael Munz reported main points taken away from JSO townhall meeting were the following:

- JSO has realigned call system for equal distribution to manage a 10-day call period which allows an opportunity to connect with the community
- Technology and Communications (user friendly JSO website with videos, communication, one message coming, QR codes)
- Overall realignment of districts and zones creating equity across the county

### **Guest Speakers:**

Chief Ellis Burns (JSO – Programs & Transitional Services Division) explained program partners in the community help population transition from jail back into the community. A national model is used to conduct the work called TJC (Transition through Jail back into the Community). The focus is narrowed to programs that can help with the population. Currently, the Duval County Jail population is 2, 670 including 39 juveniles (9 out of county). Duval County assists smaller counties with juveniles' due to capacity limitations. Charges are serious for juveniles when included in county jail.

At this point, most juveniles will not go directly back into the community. They will leave the county jail and go to a state facility. Once time is served (or six months remaining), they will transition back into Duval County via the Reentry Center. The following services are provided to prepare for reentry:

- Identification cards
- Jobs
- Training
- Bus tokens/passes

For reentry and mentally ill, there are a few programs offered such as the Sulzbacher Center and Mental Health Offender program aimed at reentry and mentally ill. The Sheriff's office also partners with community providers and Operation New Hope to fill the gaps.

Linzee Ott (SAO - Director of Community Impact) explained the system of care for juvenile diversion has been successful. The youth receive individualized help and resources. It is suggested that an adult system of care be provided for reentry. JREC and JSO are doing a great job which may be something good to look at to house in one system with one entity.

Regarding violent crime, Night in and Crime Gun Intelligence Center are a combination of technology and information sharing regarding approaching violent criminals repeat offenders. Shot spotter has also been very helpful in building public

trust and better data. Cure Violence is successful and does work if the model is followed. We are starting to hear stories about live interchanges on the ground. Focus has been on aggressive prosecution of gun crimes using some of the most experienced expert prosecutors from the Target Prosecution Unit regarding violent crime and gangs, as well as following national best practices, partnerships with federal and local agencies in Northeast Florida. There have also been great collaborations with City, state, and federal partners.

Recommendations from Linzee Ott:

- Comprehensive strategy to involve community engagement, rehabilitation, and initiatives designed to prevent violence, and evidence-based strategies
- Office of Violence Prevention model (handouts were provided)
- Cure Violence
- The Littles (preventing next generation of kids from interacting with gun violence)
- Mentorship

Daryl Joseph (Director – Parks, Recreation and Community Services) provided a list of programs and activities as recommendations. Handouts were provided.

Chairman Gentry stated the next full committee meetings will be August 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 24<sup>th</sup>. Lolita will meet with subcommittee July 28<sup>th</sup>.

Three public comment cards were completed:

1. Dorothy Gillette
2. Tyrone Merchant
3. Kimberly Miller

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.