

## MINUTES

### CIRCUIT 8 BOARD MEETING

January 12, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by Jim Pearce.

Chair Jim Pearce and Sheriff Bobby McCallum welcomed the attendees and thanked them for coming. Sgt. Max Long was credited with preparing the tasty meal being served. Jim Pearce thanked Eugene Morris from the DJJ Tallahassee Office of Detention for being present and for attending the last 5 or 6 meetings.

Sergeant Max Long provided the invocation and blessing of the meal.

Each member introduced themselves and announced the County they represent.

#### **Nomination Committee Report (Eugene Dukes):**

The board unanimously moved to approve the committee's recommendations for the following positions: Rebeca Shinholser for Vice Chair; Cindy Blankenship for Secretary; Kristina Zachry for membership as a Community Partner.

#### **Circuit 8 Chief's Report (Chief Diane Pearson):**

Prevention Funding- State legislature has authorized CABs to review and recommend proposals for the Invest in Children Grant. A total of \$1M in funding will be awarded to various community service providers. Contracts would start in June 2016. To apply, proposals need to be submitted to the CAB Evaluation subcommittee that will review the proposals and submit their recommendations to the DJJ Prevention Office. Eugene Dukes, Cindy Blankenship, Rebecca Shinholser, Danielle Eisenmenger, Diane Pearson, and Kristina Zachry volunteered to chair the Evaluation Subcommittee.

Circuit Report- Data for referrals, diversion programs, commitments, and prevention show numbers that have remained static at 8-10% for the last 5 years, but the numbers are going down. Diane Pearson commended the circuit for doing a great job with implementing Civil Citations and application of Trauma Informed Care as alternatives to arrest. She attributes the reduction in the numbers of youth going into the penal system to these innovative approaches.

Legislative Update- The legislative session begins on 1/12/16 to last 60 days. Some of the topics to be discussed include: a rate increase for JPOs, funding for repairs and renovations of DJJ facilities, staff to youth ratios in residential programs, increase in funding for prevention services, bills related to Civil Citation giving officers discretion in issuing warnings, county and DJJ cost-sharing for detention facilities, public access to juvenile records, and mental health services in the criminal justice system. Jim Pearce thanked Diane Pearson for the report.

**Civil Citation (Theda Roberts):**

DJJ Civil Citation Coordinator, Theda Roberts spoke to the board about the Civil Citation initiative. Use of Civil Citation is required in every county and every youth entering the juvenile justice system needs to be assessed for eligibility. The data compiled since implementation of the program shows a decline in rates of arrests and recidivism. Additionally, the program is the only one of its kind that has had a positive impact on reducing the number of black youth entering the penal system. Theda Roberts encouraged the board to visit the DJJ website where data regarding the initiative is posted. She encouraged law enforcement to promote civil citation as an alternative to arresting youth and sending them to diversion programs that could potentially worsen the problems that lead to recidivism.

**Announcements:**

Cindy Blankenship had some positive news regarding truancy in Baker County. In the span of a year, from October 2014 through October 2015, the SARB Board (School Attendance Review Board) has impacted the number of truancy cases on the docket reducing them from 85 to 13.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 P.M.