

Great Game of Huddle Notes

July 17, 2018

Bill Prince, Family Court Administrator and Chief Juvenile Officer of the 31st Judicial Circuit, started the Huddle off. He briefly discussed the part that the Juvenile Office was working towards is in becoming a trauma informed office. They recognize the fact that many of the youth and their families that come to the Juvenile office for services have been victims of some type of trauma (physical, sexual, substance or domestic violence) or have simply been raised in a home where that type of activity has taken place.

In order to effectively address the needs of those families we need to recognize and address those types of trauma issues. It is important that we have the trauma informed courts and practices that can deal with diversity, victim restitution and accountability. We also recognized that there is vicarious trauma, the idea that employees of the office who work with this type of population also may have trauma issues from dealing with the trauma of others. It is critical that these issues are addressed as well.

Bill introduced Jamie Raab, Director of Community Based Services for the Juvenile Office. Jamie spoke about the Diversionary services, this is working with families and youth on their first and second referral to the Juvenile Office. These offenses are either status offenses, like truancy, running away, beyond parental control or low level misdemeanors. Diversion officers focus on working with the family system to figure out what services they currently have, what services they need and how they can be helped. This is an effort to keep them from formal processing through our Juvenile Information System. Other services happening in the GCYA building include HAP (Homework Assistance Program), anger management, a C-Star group from Burrell for prevention of substance abuse, gender responsive programming and a Hi-set class (GED). The percentage of students that drop out of school that are in contact with law enforcement is over 25%.

Jamie introduced Jenee Peryer from Teens in Transition (TNT). TNT is a specialized docket that works with youth aged 16-20 living in the general vicinity of Greene County. The youth must be under the jurisdiction of the court through a child abuse/neglect or re-entry case. The goal of TNT is to improve the outcomes of older youth exiting the foster care system. TNT focuses on creating community connections, achieving accountability for youth and team members and providing youth a platform for having a stronger voice in their cases. TNT provides opportunities for youth to make healthier peer connections and strengthen the relationships with their support team members. TNT holds staffing quarterly throughout the year facilitated by Judge Hosmer. The staffing provide a positive environment that encourages youth to lead conversations about their individual needs. TNT also provides social interactions for the youth this has included Silver Dollar City, dinner at Black Sheep, an escape room, movies at Alamo Draffhouse and soon the back to school BBQ (August 1st). TNT focuses on the individual goals of the youth while on their path to independence and how team members can help them obtain those goals. Through community partnerships, TNT hopes that youth who exit care are aware of available services and how to access them.