

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 13th DAY OF JULY, 2023

The Caddo Parish Juvenile Justice Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 12:08 p.m., in the Government Plaza First Floor Conference Room, with Mr. Jackson, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Cothran, Jackson, Jones, and Young (4). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Burrell, and Chavez (3).

The invocation was given by Mr. Cothran, and Mr. Young led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the Chair skipped the Adoption of Committee Rules.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comment by Jon Glover regarding public awareness of agenda items.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discuss Juvenile Space Emergency/Contingency Plan

Mr. Walker explained that the City Jail has an incomplete and non-functioning unit that would best be used for natural disaster holding and that it is not up to code for any regular use. Mr. Walker discussed violations of juvenile detention standards and the law requirements. Mr. Young and Mr. Walker reviewed issues with holding one juvenile in that City Jail unit. Mr. Walker discussed the issue of staffing and funding of the Police Department and the Juvenile Detention Center for holding juveniles at the City Jail. Mr. Young suggested holding one low risk juvenile in the City Jail. Mr. Walker, Mrs. Bryant and Mr. Russell discussed the alternatives of holding one juvenile to one staff and the high occurrence of juveniles through the Detention Center.

The Committee achieved a quorum.

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to adopt the Committee Rules.*
Motion carried.

Mr. Jackson discussed the functional issue of the Juvenile Court that affects the Parish, law enforcement and the local justice system and requested that an action plan be developed. Mr. Russell informed the Committee about the Detention Center's weekly meeting's risk assessment and the processes that manage the population at the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ). Mrs. Bryant, Mr. Walker and Mr. Russell explained how the Detention Center's weekly meetings and Judicial Administrator assisted with the process of managing the population of the Detention Center on weekends. Mr. Cothran suggested that the State be informed of the status of the Juvenile Detention Center, which Mr. Walker addressed. Mr. Walker discussed the State should place priority on secured care beds. Mr. Walker explained the placement of juveniles at the Caddo Correctional Center (CCC) is determined by their charges and that the Swanson Center for Youth at Monroe is under construction. Mr. Young inquired about the purpose of juveniles sleeping in patrol cars and how to prevent that reoccurrence, which Mr. Walker, Mrs. Bryant and Mr. Russell addressed. It was clarified that a judge would determine the placement of a juvenile.

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Jackson, *to recommend to the full body that the Juvenile Justice and Related Services Committee request Judges to delegate the 6th level of authority to choose who is released from overflow to the Director of Juvenile Services.*

Mr. Walker advised that the motion opens potential liability of the Parish for holding juveniles. Mr. Young clarified that the Juveniles Services would provide a list of juveniles recommended for release to Judges and staff. Mr. Jones discussed being attentive to juveniles that need it, which Mr. Walker explained the process of police department first referring juveniles to the misdemeanor referral center, then the juveniles' home, and lastly the juvenile detention center.

Mr. Cothran discussed safely detaining juveniles. Mrs. Bryant clarified the Parish staff's responsibility to determine the placement of juveniles. Attorney Bernstein discussed the legal ramifications of the motion and the immunity that a judge has. Mr. Young requested that a formalized process include judges agree to provide as much as possible in writing.

It was **moved by Mr. Cothran**, to suspend the rules. The Chair objected to the motion.

Mr. Cothran indicated that the Committee does not have the right people involved to decide on the matter and that it would be unfair to consider anything until the right people are at the table. Mr. Jones discussed avoiding liability.

Substitute motion by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Jones, *to task staff by the next*

Regular Session meeting to invite all the involved parties to develop a plan and make a recommendation to the Juvenile Justice and Related Services Committee.

Mr. Jackson recalled asking staff for a plan months ago. Mrs. Bryant reviewed the staff's recommendations of double bunking, the alternatives to double bunking juveniles and the need for staffing to control population intake. Mrs. Bryant explained that the staff could not provide a plan, but the Juvenile Judges must support it. The committee reviewed possible situations of a juvenile having to sleep in a patrol car.

Call for the question by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Jones. Married carried by acclamation.

Mr. Jackson's substitute motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: YEA: Commissioners Cothran, Jackson, Jones and Young (4). NAY: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Burrell, and Chavez (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- Update on Children and Youth Planning Board Appointments

The Clerk indicated that he had notified and invited all parties and that the parties requested a deadline or timeline to submit board appointments.

- Discuss Investigative Technical Assistance

Mr. Walker discussed providing support funding to assist the police with an investigative technical assistance program. Mrs. Bryant indicated that a budget amendment would be needed. Mr. Walker discussed monitoring gang activity and gun violence through social media with the police department, which Mrs. Bryant clarified that the Parish is only providing funding. Mr. Jones requested that staff report on captured benchmark data of the investigative technical assistance program.

It was **moved by Mr. Jones**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *to recommend to the full body to support an appropriation of \$50,000 budget amendment.*

Mr. Young requested that Staff retrieve data to support reimbursement of the appropriation through ARPA funds. Mr. Walker requested that the items be discussed in an executive session

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: YEA: Commissioners Cothran, Jackson, Jones and Young (4). NAY: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Burrell, and Chavez (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- Discussion Appropriations for Social Worker for Juvenile Drug Court and First Judicial District Drug and Human Trafficking Court

It was **moved by Mr. Jackson**, seconded by Mr. Cothran, *to recommend to the full body to appropriate \$50,000 from the opioid settlement fund for a social worker for Juvenile Drug Court and First Judicial Court.*

Mr. Jackson discussed the purpose of the appropriation. Mrs. Bryant advised that a funding request had not been provided to the Administration to be included in the budget. Mr. Walker discussed working with the Juvenile Drug Court to divide staff tasks. Mr. Prior addressed Mr. Jones' inquiry about repeat offenders inflating the number of cases. Mr. Prior discussed the Drug Court's processes. Mrs. Bryant advised that the Administration would present recommendations for the opioid settlement fund, which would include the motion's appropriation.

Motion carried, as shown by the following roll call votes: YEA: Commissioners Cothran, Jackson, Jones and Young (4). NAY: None (0). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, Burrell, and Chavez (3). ABSTAIN: None (0).

- Clarify Language Used in The Upcoming Millage and Other Related Details

Mrs. Bryant explained that the millage discusses criminal justice and public safety overall. The millage dollars are to focus on criminal justice and related services such as housing, and possibly construction. Mrs. Bryant indicated that the Parish could not be involved with an advocacy group for the millage, and that there was a registered independent group advocating for the millage. Mrs. Bryant advised that the millage would go into a criminal justice fund and discussed what it would be used for. The budget for the criminal justice fund would be introduced during the budget process. The Clerk clarified the millage.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

/s/ Linda J. Montgomery
Linda J. Montgomery
Administrative Specialist I