

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THE 18TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2025

The Caddo Parish Juvenile Justice Committee met in legal session on the above date at 12:00 noon, in the Government Plaza Chambers, with the following members were present constituting a quorum: Commissioners Blake, Burrell, Cothran, Gage-Watts, Jones, Thomas, and J. Young (7). ABSENT: None (0).

Mr. Cothran gave the invocation, and Mr. J. Young led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no Agenda Additions, so the Committee moved onto Citizens Comments.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Jon Glover came before the Commission and gave the following comment:

Good afternoon members of the Juvenile Justice Committee. Jon Glover, 9100 Walker Road, Apartment 217, Shreveport, Louisiana, zip code is 71118. Your meeting was scheduled for 12 PM, and we did have a delay, but no explanation for why the delay. It is important for me, and I try to be punctual at everything that I intend to go to. So, if you start late, it means you may go over into another committee meeting, so punctuality is something that I treasure. When I looked at your agenda over the weekend, the four items that you're going to discuss or address, I did not have anything to go on that would help me be prepared to be able to speak to either or any of those items. Yes, I could talk about this issue of domestic violence prevention, definitely the protective order process, and maybe I don't know those processes, but I do know enough about domestic violence that those processes for protective order are essential. The Children and Youth Planning Board, I'm not familiar with that. And then you're going to speak to underage vape sales. I do recognize that for, maybe here lately, there have been a number of businesses that have been closed because they were violating the law, codes, whatever. At the end of the day, my intent and purpose for coming to meetings is to gain knowledge, indeed, and then to share that knowledge, because knowledge is power. And if we don't possess that power, the knowledge, then we can be lead anywhere, not knowing where we go. Thank you.

There being no one else to speak, so the Committee moved onto New Business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- *Discussion to determine how to reduce underage vape sales*

The Committee started discussing reducing underage vape sales due to overwhelming addiction among middle and high school students. He said that vapes are constantly being confiscated, so now, some schools are providing vape classes to prevent expulsions. Solutions are needed to reduce illegal sales.

Mr. Burrell talked about a similar discussion when he was part of the Legislature, but they dealt with synthetic marijuana.

Mrs. Blake said that there is a vape shop near A.C. Steere. She suggested considering zoning restrictions for vape shops near schools and churches, similar to liquor stores.

Mrs. Gage-Watts agreed that this is a serious issue. She also mentioned this being a great project for the Youth Council to raise awareness of the effects of smoking vapes. Mr. Cothran agreed and said that young people know how to talk to young people.

Ms. Kelli Todd, Executive Director of Volunteers for Youth Justice, mentioned that they did have 116 juveniles who were sent to them because they had vapes on them. 60% of those vapes had marijuana in their vapes and were purchased online.

Mrs. Gage-Watts suggested putting stricter penalties on the parents of the children who are vaping.

- *Discussion of solutions to increase public understanding of domestic violence prevention*

Mrs. Blake said that the Shreveport Police Department is working with the school system to make them aware of any domestic issues that child may be going through at home.

Mrs. Gage-Watts thanked Mr. Jones for bringing this item before the Committee. She said that this is a sensitive issue because she knew the victim that passed due to domestic violence.

Mr. Burrell said that many times, domestic violence is committed during an act of passion, and the perpetrator was not "given enough time to cool off". The bill that they worked on while he was at the legislature was mandatory jail time.

Ms. Todd also mentioned that Project Celebration is housed at the Harbor and provides wraparound services for families of domestic violence.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know if there is any education or programs being provided to the children who are growing up in violent homes. Mr. Randall said that several of the juveniles who are detained at the detention center is domestic battery from children on their parents. These children have to go through those types of programs as part of their probation.

Ms. Todd said that they have permission to go to five schools in Caddo Parish to provide year round programming for domestic violence. She also said that they do not have the capacity to be in every school. Mrs. Gage-Watts pointed out that DARE provides this type of programming. Mr. J. Young suggested working with the school board to educate children on preventing domestic violence.

- *Discussion and recommendations for action that would improve the protective order process*

Ms. Todd said that Juvenile Court is no longer handling protective orders, which takes more time for parents to receive those protective orders. Mr. Andrew Randall, Director of Juvenile Services, explained that they were not involved in the conversations of moving protective orders from Juvenile Court to District Court. He also mentioned that they do still hear child on child violence protective orders.

Mr. Cothran said that the community needs to be more aware of what exactly domestic violence is and what is needed for a person who needs help. He further explained that the key word is "prevention".

It was mentioned that the current protective order form is lengthy and complex, potentially deterring individuals who are in crisis. The Committee members agreed that the protective order processes need streamlining to be less intimidating and more accessible to victims.

Mr. Thomas agreed that the protective order document is lengthy and complex. He spoke on simplifying the process on an immediate basis.

Mr. J. Young wanted to know if there was anyone at the courthouse explaining the protective orders. Mrs. Bryant said that the Clerk of Court might have someone, but the Parish's employees at the courthouse is maintenance staff. Mr. J. Young suggested moving this process back to Juvenile Court.

It was **moved by Mrs. Gage-Watts**, seconded by Mr. Thomas, *to recommend to the full body a resolution to streamline the process for protective orders in Louisiana. Motion carried unanimously by all Committee members present.*

- *Children & Youth Planning Board update*

Mr. Jones said that there was not really an update for this topic. The board is still in the process of confirming its slate of members. Currently, they are waiting on the City Council to adopt their appointments. The Clerk of Commission, Mr. Everson, explained that there are four additional appointments that could be made by the Parish.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned  
1:04 p.m.



Michelle Nations  
Assistant Commission Clerk