

JCPC Allocation Committee Meeting October 14, 2020

PRESENT: Stan Clarkson, Shontell Robinson, Fleming El-Amin, Keith Brown, Tia Warren, Anthony LoGiudice, Nerissa Crawford

OTHERS: Kimberly Busse, Rich Smith (DPS), Kayle Steele (Project X), Kelly Easton (Action for Equity), Lynn Rhodes (Just Us), Nathan Ross Freeman, Valerie Glass (Eversley Village), Suzie McCawley

Welcome

Chairman Clarkson welcomes everyone.

Review of Applications, Eligibility, Process

Stan – We received 3 proposals for the \$49,877 remaining JCPC funds and the additional \$100,000 county dollars. Any questions? Rich, anything to add before beginning with the proposal presentations?

RFP Presentations

Just Us – Lynn Rhodes to present. Requesting \$2,880. Current Program: Just Us has served gang affiliated/associated youth for over 6 years. Over 18 years in the Summer Intensive sessions, Authoring Action directors and staff have witnessed the benefits of yoga and mindfulness training, have determined need to integrate into the Just Us program. Authoring Action will contract with Breathing Access to provide yoga, mindfulness training sessions each week. Suzie with Breathing Access –work with schools and others in town. Lynn – for first 8 weeks of the program at this point. Nathan Ross Freeman – kids entering the program at 4pm, a transitional time of day, yoga will offer assistance during this time of day. Be very helpful for program.

Stan - Questions? Rich – You notice an impact from yoga during summer intensive? Unfortunately did not do yoga this summer, think it would have made a tremendous difference. Nathan – the virtual aspect could be good for the kids. Commissioner El Amin – Is the only ask \$2880 at this point. Yes, will cover 24 sessions. Keith Brown – 24 sessions get you through summer? No only this spring, 16 sessions first 8 week (2 per day), 1/day 8 weeks. Meet 4-6:30 Mondays and Wednesdays. Not sure if will be back in school, but have capabilities to do virtual or small group in person. Stan – Other program using yoga? Yes, one in NY as gang prevention and intervention, no one using in Winston Salem. Rich – One in CA and NY doing mindfulness, urban institute doing research now. Lynn – we were an original program idea, now have published work on intensive creative writing.

Rich – Our meetings fall under the open meeting laws, and Lynn and Nathan voluntarily left the meeting, but no one is required to do so.

Project X – Kayla Steele to present. Representing Youth Collaborative Project X. Requesting \$149,877. Project X is an integrative program providing services to youth ages 14-20 (18-21 for juvenile justice involved youth only) at high-risk of gang involvement. After conducting assessment, youth receive services to improve problem behaviors through coaching from their outreach coordinator. Participants also work toward educational and employment goals as well as involvement in pro-social activities within their community. Services provided will target individual needs. Collaborative Youth group has experience and strong ties to community. OJJDT Comprehensive Gang Model, CBT 2.0 Interpersonal skills classes. Transportation is provided. Street outreach team develops individual goals. Also provide support to youth's family. Estimating to serve 32 youth during 1st year. Should stay in program for 180-365 days, use incentives to participate.

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Stan – Questions? Explain the difference in pay between outreach coordinators. Degrees and experience. Have specific people in mind for positions, can hire when funding is secured. Stan – anticipating 3 outreach coordinators? Yes. Any particular ratio for youth served and coordinators? 8 per person.

Commissioner El Amin – What is OJJDT? Gang model from Department of Justice. El Amin- Had this program been implemented anywhere else to see if successful? Not here, but yes in Durham, other communities and states. El Amin – What location will you operate from? Winston Salem, do not have office space yet, want to be centrally located.

Keith Brown – Age range of program is 14-20, probably have more 14-15 yr olds: Will the vocational training be the same for everyone? No, very specific to individual.

Stan – Many are uninterested; How will project deal with program resistance? The comprehensive gang model addresses this a few ways. Incentives, model with street level involvement may help them see program members as assets.

El Amin – to work with families, do you plan to work with DSS or any others? Yes, may be as simple as referring to programs, but want to work closely with them.

Stan – Tell me more about participant transportation options, other than maintaining fleet. Can work to provide bus passes, use personal vehicles, reimburse for gas, location is important to be in communities working in.

Shontell – Collaborations with DSS – have you reached out to them? No but have a future staff member that has a long standing relationship with DSS; feel good about partnership.

El Amin – Vocational training: have you reached out to career center or community college? My experience will allow me to facilitate classes, but have begun to develop relationships with Forsyth Tech and Wake Forest. Stan – Can you elaborate on those relationships? They have agreed to partner, send students to tutor, staff as mentors, college visits/tours. Specific names escape me.

El Amin – So, I'm a gang member, what can you offer me? We offer you safe community, doesn't want anything from you except for you to participate, help you and your family get access to resources, provide incentives, help finish high school GED, connecting to colleges/university, providing options to thrive. Young people know if you're fake, know if you are serious about showing up and helping them.

Shontell – Any street workers part of the communities you working in? Future staff have backgrounds that align with those in community. Is powerful when see someone from the community.

El Amin – Why accept a 70% success rate for program? Kayla – want to provide element of grace, understand potential roadblocks. El Amin – Concern is important to set high goals and encourage completion. Kayla, can re-evaluate that number. Rich – clarification, that 70% is a cumulative success rate, not for the individual. We caution programs to be conservative with their success rate estimates, but sounds like project may be willing to adjust.

Stan – projecting to serve 30 kids, FY21, about 31 weeks to serve that number, how scalable is the program? Could you scale back with less cost? Yes, we could scale back the number of staff members but because street outreach workers go out in pairs may be difficult, but could be done. Stan – want to

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deliver best bang for buck, want to be good stewards of money, very appreciative of County dollars. How turnkey of an operation are you? Ready to go, been building relationships, other staff members certified in November, begin enrolling students in Jan 2021.

Rich – What org trains the gang specialists? NCGIA (NC Gang Investigators Association). Rich – is standard training across state.

Keith – participants would meet with you 1 time/week, would they meet other resources too? Kayla – not necessarily, not one size fits all, depends on youth. Keith – want to be careful not to overload kids, sound intensive. Kayla – is, but doable, but is reason try to be in community as much as possible, work with youth and family.

El Amin – Have you looked at market to see prospects for office space at your budgeted \$600/month? Kayla- nothing specific, but have seen a few spaces would work.

Eversley Village – Valerie Glass to present. Requesting \$49,262. New Program: Eversley Village provides interpersonal life skills curriculum focused on developing pro-social behaviors, empathy, resistance against bullying, and interrupting violence for middle school boys. This curriculum is combined with a paid work-service component that provides an introductory experience to a structured work environment. This project will also provide resources to initiate the development of Cure Violence in our community. 2 components – Eversley Village and Cure Violence- Cvg.org Will work with Cure violence for site visit and assessment. Want to focus on two of 4 CV components – Change behavior of the highest potential transmitters (highest risk for gang involvement), and change community norms (encourage nonviolent responses). Other two components would be later, require more training. Eversley Village - a collaboration with Action 4 equity, TURN, Lit city, Triad restorative justice. Work with same group of kids, Eversley and turn does Saturday Work session. 10 kids in rolling hills community, middle schoolers, in contact/involved in gangs. Conversations with police department/schools say middle school best time to effect change. Sat program 9am-noon, work experience, cleaning neighborhood/park, etc. They will be paid, received training on beginning level. Team building. Noon-2pm lunch, social skills development with anti-violence curriculum. Feb – June for total of 16 weeks at Delta Fine Arts Center. Confirmed with WSPD that area needs gang intervention.

Stan – Questions? Cost summaries - \$10,000 cure violence (CV) assessment: critical? Valerie – is the flat fee from CV builds framework if want to use approach. Stan- can use approach without the assessment? Not really the CV approach, can do the Eversley Village (EV). Will need to hear from CV as the foundation for their future program, one of the most effective out there. Trying to lay groundwork for more comprehensive approach. EV uses the CV ideas in a small microcosm. Working with CV would give access to expertise and training and to a future bigger program. EV is like a pilot project. Kelly Easton – Executive Director of Action 4 Equity – We are a grassroots policy organization. Have working relationships with people working in the community we can leverage.

El Amin – EV will be implemented in rolling hills area – Why do we need Cure violence to come in? Valerie- If we want to do an evidence based program with fidelity, this is building block/framework. They provide technical assistance for much bigger strategy, help with analysis, their experience helpful – Greensboro, Durham, Charlotte doing this, opportunities to network. El Amin – Any data from NC on this

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model? Valerie – Greensboro and Charlotte brand new, not sure about Durham. El Amin – Budget proposal identifies 4 people to impact 10 young males? Yes, assistants come in on Saturdays, but getting support from TURN and other orgs throughout the week. Looking to hire people in community? Yes.

Rich – Cure violence link sent to committee members. Targets 16-20 yr olds. 10,000 just for assessment. Talk more about curriculum on Saturdays after lunch? Valerie- Sure, from One circle foundation, 10 week program boys 11-14 brothers as allies, gender roles, self-expression, commination, etc. Lit City a local org for youth and mentoring, customized curriculum culturally relevant. Rich – how determine interests? Talking with kids, one circle doe have a pre and post assessments we can use. El Amin- How measure success of program? Tracking participation rates, self-assessments, JCPC tracking to see about involvement with Justice system. Will target 6th grade boys, 5-7 grades if needed.

RFP Discussions

Stan – Have liked all programs, would like to do it all with the money we have. Shontell – only reservation in project X has no infrastructure in place, but great program. Stan- looks like have done legwork, but hope they are turnkey, and wonder can be scalable. Shontell – love the program concept, concerned about sustainability. Keith Brown – concerned about the age limit and vocational training may be duplicate service in area. Can reduce number served? Address Latino community? El Amin – didn't see any relationship with police, concerning. Leary about sustainability of program. Would like more info, want something to meet the need of community now. Stan – like the community outreach component. Shontell agree, like people embedded in community, street worker aspect. Stan – Project x brings deliverables, and some risk. Rich – understand concerns with brand new nonprofit, but will hire seasoned staff. The first year we have ever had application for gang service. Behavioral intervention service make it JCPC fundable. Eversley using small service area of need. Project X based on Durham program. Eversley cost per child is high partly because of assessment. Will be a global perspective, expensive but a community effort. Rich – my thoughts are that Eversley sees younger middle school kids, Project x targets older youth, could be a two tiered approach. Shontell – Kayla, if we cut budget by 1/3, could project X function? Kayla, could make happen. Would have fewer staff members. Shontell – have hard time fund the purchase of vehicles for 6 month program. El Amin – County just funded gang assessment, having second thoughts about funding new assessment. Rich – possibly postpone gang assessment in Eversley Village to make sure not duplicating. Could give more time to follow up with neighboring counties about CV. Rich – goal is to streamline process.

Motion to fund Just Us program at full amount of \$2880 by Stan. All in favor.

Motion to fund Project X- JCPC \$10,615 County \$97,120 for a Total amount of \$107,735 by Shontell. All in favor.

Motion to fund Eversley Village Program, without gang assessment component, at an amount of \$39,262. El-Amin Second. All in favor.

Motion to Adjourn – Stan. Second – Fleming El Amin.