

Sanford Krasnoff New Orleans Criminal Justice Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 27th, 2022

1:00-3:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order (1:05)

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Stevens who thanked the members for their attendance.

II. Roll Call (1:07)

Derwyn Bunton	Orleans Parish Public Defender	Present
LaKeasha Cooley	Office of Juvenile Justice	Absent
Hon. Ranord Darensburg	Juvenile Court	Designee Present (Hon. Clint Smith)
Hon. Paul Sens	Municipal and Traffic Court	Designee Present (Lenee Crowley)
Shaun Ferguson	NOPD	Present
Leslie Harris	City Council	Designee Present
Jennifer Greer	Probation and Parole	Designee Present (Toby Lamy)
Marlin Gusman	Sheriff's Office	Designee Present (Anne McKinley)
Hon. Robin Pittman	Criminal District Court	Designee Present (Hon. Tracey Flemmings-Davallier)
Doneisha Turner	City Attorney	Absent
Dwight McKenna	Coroner	Designee Present (Brian Laperyolerie)
Gilbert Montano	Chief Administrator	Designee Present (Shelbi Flynn)
Helena Moreno	City Council	Absent
Arthur Morrell	Clerk of Criminal District Court	Absent
Oliver Thomas	City Council	Absent
Tenisha Stevens	Mayor's Office	Present
Jason Williams	District Attorney	Present
Emily Wolff	Office of Youth and Families	Present
Thelma French	Total Community Action	Present
Melanie Talia	Police and Justice Foundation	Present
Troy Rhodes	Community Representative	Present
Nicole Jolly	Community Representative	Absent
Margaret Washington	Community Representative	Present
Ernest Johnson	Community Representative	Absent
Rochelle Dunham	Community Representative	Present

III. Consideration & Approval of the Minutes for February 23rd (1:12)

Commissioner Stevens asked the members if there were any corrections to the minutes from the February meeting of the Council. Seeing there were none a motion was sought to adopt the minutes. So moved by District Attorney Williams and seconded by Superintendent Shaun Ferguson. The motion was adopted by voice vote.

IV. Welcome of New Members and Leadership Selection Process (1:17)

Commissioner Stevens welcomed and briefly introduced the new citizen representatives to the council at large.

Adrienne Tobler led the Council through the leadership selection process. The elected Co-Vice Chair and two steering committee members were to be elected following the second form of election in Robert's Rule of Order with sequential nominations and elections.

Melanie Talia was nominated to the position of Co-Vice Chair by Thelma French without opposition and elected by voice vote. Thelma French moved to defer the election of the steering committee members to the June meeting, seconded by District Attorney Williams and adopted by voice vote.

V. Presentation of Youth Masterplan (1:28)

Karen Evans of the New Orleans Children and Youth Planning Board briefed the Council on the New Orleans Youth Master Plan. The Plan establishes standards and mechanisms for collective action and metrics for outcomes to improve the conditions of the youth of New Orleans across all developmental stages from birth to 24 years of age.

Central to the work of the Plan and its stakeholders is the transformation of the predominant "Youth Narrative" which currently centers the behavioral health problems of a small minority of adolescents and young adults (15-24), with negative consequences both for youth self-esteem/self-conception and for relations between youth and older people. A central objective of the plan is thus to promote more positive relationships among youth and between young people and older adults to improve behavioral health outcomes.

The Plan provides a ten-year multisector blueprint developed collaboratively with youth and parents that identifies immediate, middle-term and long term tasks and objectives (Now, Next and Longview in the language of the Plan itself). The plan takes a data-informed approach that will progressively scaffold as initial efforts elicit new data pointing forward to new strategic approaches.

The Master Plan is divided into the following : Safety & Justice, Economic Stability, Space & Place, Youth Voice, Agency & Identity, Health & Well-being and Learning.

The implementation of the plan is the undertaking of three key partners (New Orleans Children and Youth Planning Board, New Orleans Youth Alliance, Office of Youth and Families) and numerous other stakeholders.

The Council Members received the presentation of the plan positively and a motion was made by Ms. French and seconded by Derwyn Bunton to place a vote on adoption of the Youth Masterplan on the agenda of the next council meeting.

VI. LEAD presentation (2:20)

Representatives from the local and national Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program briefed the council on the history of the program and its blueprint for expansion in New Orleans.

LEAD provides an alternative to arrest for law enforcement personnel in cases where underlying mental health behaviors are at play. LEAD connects individuals to intensive case-management resources. The LEAD program is transitioning from arrest diversion to a broader harm reduction approach. To this end a community referral mechanism has been implemented in several jurisdictions.

In New Orleans LEAD continues to operate in the eighth district with social contract referrals and is on track to reactivate arrest diversions and to expand implementation into the first, sixth and seventh districts. LEAD eligible charges are also set to expand to include drug offenses and some state charges. Other avenues for broadening LEAD's impact are being explored with the local policy coordinating group.

VII. Recognition of Sheriff Gusman (2:35)

Commissioner Stevens thanked Sheriff Gusman for his service to the justice system and to the City. Appreciations were added by Derwyn Bunton, Thelma French, Jason Williams, Clint Smith, Shaun Ferguson and other council members.

VIII. Musicians Clinic VOCA presentation (2:40)

Zach Danner presented the Musicians Clinic's application for VOCA funding. The Clinic treats 2600 culture bearers annually, a chronically underserved population. In the last two years mental health referrals have increased significantly and the Clinic's referral network increased to fifteen providers. The Clinic has enrolled twelve client in the first quarter of this year in mental health interventions.

DA Williams and Chief Ferguson moved and seconded to allocate the full \$50K requested by the Clinic. The motion passed with 15 Yes and one abstention as follows:

Yes: Derwyn Bunton, Shaun Ferguson, Thelma French, Anne McKinley, Allison Poort, Hon. Clint Smith, Rochelle Dunham, Hon. Tracey Fleming-Davillier, Shelbi Flynn, Brian Lapeyrolierie, Margaret Washington, Jason Williams, Emily Wolff, Menalie Talia, Lenee Crowley.

IX. Member Updates (2:50)

Emily Wolff notified the council of the formation of a Truancy and School Attendance working group.

X. Adjournment (2:55)

Commissioner Stevens sought a motion to adjourn. So moved by Derwyn Bunton and seconded by Margaret Washington and approved unanimously.