SANGAMON COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COUNCIL MEETING
January 27, 2016

Chairman John Milhiser called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. Copies of minutes from the December 3, 2015 meeting were distributed to those present.

Chairman Milhiser asked for a motion to approve the minutes of December 3, 2016. Mike Torchia made a motion to approve which was seconded by Dan Mounce. Motion approved.

New Business

Mike Torchia shared with those present the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017 Juvenile Justice Council Funding Solicitation that has been received. There are two parts - one for funding council operations and another for programming/system improvement issues. The council operations portion does not require match funds but the programming part requires a 10% match of local funds. Mike asked for ideas or suggestions from those present. The ideas expressed included doing another educational forum type event and creating an evening program for youths that might include homework/tutoring, recreation, perhaps a cognitive-behavioral piece and providing an evening meal. Discussion was held on the population that might be served and possible sites where this could occur which included the possibility of using a District 186 school building. Chairman Milhiser said that at community events he has been at the lack of things for kids to do frequently is expressed so this may held to meet some of the need in the community. Council members agreed that we should proceed with applying for the funds. Proposals are due to the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission (IJJC) by February 19. Mike Torchia said he would proceed with completing the grant application.

Shirene Thomas gave a report of her activities (which is attached to these minutes).

Shirene Thomas discussed the Data Committee plan. The plan includes creating a survey for attendees of the educational forum. Shirene will work to develop the survey. Mike Torchia reported that the committee is hoping to gather data on the educational forum (number invited, number that attended, what was thought to be helpful, what wasn't included but should be, etc.) and the desire to follow the student attendees attendance quarterly at school, if the mentoring services are utilized, etc. and report that back to the Council.

Chairman Milhiser discussed the "Do Not Shoot" concept (although the program here in Springfield may be called something else). He has a meeting at the Mayor's office next week.

HB 2567 (Public Act 99-254) about youths under 13 years of age being admitted to detention which became effective January 1, 2016. A meeting was held with Court Services staff, States' Attorney staff and law enforcement about the requirement to contact local service providers (YSB) and them declining to accept youths aged 10, 11 and 12 before they can be admitted to secure detention. Contrary to prior communication about this having to be done for all youths of these ages, the opinion of the States' Attorney and local judges is that this does not apply to warrants. Dan Mounce asked that this be sent out in writing to all involved. Mike Torchia will ensure that this occurs.

Old Business

The first forum (focused on Truancy) is scheduled to occur on February 25 at Lanphier High School. About 50 chronic truants (defined by the school district as students who have 9 or more unexcused absences) and their parents will be invited. During the school day (@11:30 a.m. to @1:00 p.m.) the students invited will gather and a speaker from Peoria Carl Cannon will speak and lunch will be provided. In the evening (@5:30 p.m. to @8:00 p.m.) parents and students will gather in the commons at Lanphier. Principal Artie Doss will speak and there will be a mentor panel presentation and students will choose/be assigned a mentor. Booths with information will be available about mental health services, military recruiters, job services, Springfield Police Department, etc. Chairman Milhiser and the committee are working on arrangements for the meals and prizes for the attendees. The survey cards/ forms will be gathered and will be used to draw for the prizes. A name for the event was decided on: Positive Attendance With Support or PAWS (this fits well for Lanphier High School whose mascot is a lion).

The topic for the next forum (tentatively scheduled to occur in April) is after school activities.

Other Business

Carlos Norris discussed a recent federal solicitation for grants that he received and encouraged council members to look in to these possible funding sources. Several council members encouraged the Urban League to apply for some of these grant funds. Mike Torchia stated that some of the grants require a unit of local government be the funded agency who can then sub out to other local providers. If this is the case with some of these grants, contact Mike to see what can be done.

Chairman Milhiser asked for public comment. There was none.

The next meeting of the Council will be March 30, 2016 beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the same location.

Chairman Milhiser asked for a motion to adjourn. Mike Torchia motioned which was seconded by Shirene Thomas. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.