



POLK COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

DEFLECTION AND DIVERSION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 3, 2025

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Polk County Behavioral Health & Disability Services (River Place)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kimberly Graham (County Attorney), Rachel Adams (BHDS), Darnell Loatman (FOCUSS), Stephanie Swartz (Des Moines PD), Joy Ihle (Polk County Youth Services), Eric Kool (Polk County Youth Services) Jerry Evans (CJCC), Patrick Johnson (Bridges).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kameron Middlebrooks (Reform Alliance), Joseph Johnson (Change Course), Stacie Nessa (Des Moines Public Schools), John Hawkins (Juvenile Court Services), Jay Hansen (Polk County), Greg Stallman (Altoona PD).

GUESTS: Tim Johnson (Juvenile Justice Planning Coordinator, Iowa HHS).

ACTIVITY:

1. Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Graham.
2. Minutes from the January 6, 2005, meeting was unanimously approved.

PREVENTION/INTERVENTION DISCUSSION:

3. Samantha Groark, Executive Director of the Central Iowa Building and Trades Council, presented on employment opportunities for youth and opportunities for post high school career opportunities. Highlights from her presentation included:
 - The Central Iowa Building & Construction Trades Council is made up of 16 unions representing more than 15,000 highly skilled workers who perform building and construction work across Central Iowa.
 - They are connected with organizations like The United Way of Central Iowa and Forest Avenue Outreach to provide training center visits, hands-on experience with tools and materials, and quality pre-apprenticeship programming to create pathways to building trades registered apprenticeship programs.
 - The Central Iowa Building & Construction Trades work closely with dozens of schools to provide or supplement qualified training and curricula in the skilled trades. They proudly endorse and promote the North America's Building Trades Unions' industry-recognized and DOL-approved Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3), which is a 120-hour proven program to help individuals become "apprenticeship ready" by equipping them with the hard skills and soft skills needed to succeed.

- Women in the skilled trades are essential to their workforce, and they're proud to support women breaking new ground in construction careers. From apprenticeships to leadership roles, Central Iowa Building & Construction Trades offers resources, training, and a strong community to help women excel and thrive. Whether they're interested in carpentry, electrical work, welding, or another trade, Central Iowa Building & Construction Trades ensure their career is built to last.
- Registered apprenticeship programs combine on-the-job training with related classroom instruction for a period of three to five years.
- Registered Apprenticeship programs include a written contract between the apprentice and the employer or apprenticeship program sponsor, approved by and registered with the U.S. Department of Labor. This agreement specifies the total length of training, number of school hours (related technical instruction) and an outline of the skills of the trade to be learned and the wages the apprentice will receive.
- Apprentices earn-while-they-learn, receiving excellent wages along with healthcare and retirement benefits. In all but just a couple trade unions, the cumulative wages and benefits exceeded \$100k per year.
- In most all of the trades, students must be 18 years or older, and have a high school diploma or equivalency to be eligible for the apprenticeship programs. The labor union is one of the exceptions.
- The Forest Avenue Project (FAP) is a summer-long Apprenticeship Readiness Program. Much like a true registered apprenticeship, there is a blend of classroom and jobsite.
- FAP tour Local Union Apprenticeship training centers, experiencing hands-on introductions to each skilled trade, while meeting experts and apprentices. Students visit jobsites, hear from guest industry speakers, and explore the career opportunities for everyone in the building trades.
- FAP participants, through MC3, receive OSHA 10, First Aid / CPR training and graduate with an industry-recognized credential and certificate.
- FAP students earn-while-they-learn. Presently, they earn \$15/hr. for up to 30 hours of training each week. Capacity for the FAP is presently 200 students.

Closing

4. The subcommittee meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. Next scheduled meeting will be March 3, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at River Place. Conference Room #3.