

Wake County  
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

August 12, 2020

RE: Haven House Services Grant Proposal  
Intensive Intervention Services DPS RFP  
FY 2020-2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the Haven House Services' Gang Reduction and Intervention Team (G.R.I.T.) project proposal for the "Intensive Intervention Project" Request for Proposal for Judicial District 10. In my role as the Wake County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Chair, we have identified the need for services to address gang related delinquency particularly with the Raise the Age youth population. This target population is in need of intensive intervention services providing Juvenile Court Judges with an alternative to YDC commitments and detention usage in Wake County. Interventions delivered through G.R.I.T. will be comprehensive in nature, and grounded in recognized evidence based practices for gang involved youth. G.R.I.T will provide a combination of intensive individual services for youth (counseling, skill building, case management, mediation and crisis response) and for parents (family counseling and support groups). In addition, G.R.I.T. will partner with local law enforcement departments to facilitate recreational activities with program youth, with the intended purpose of building positive relationships between the two.

These services are unique and will fill an important need in Wake County (District 10). With the addition of G.R.I.T. programming in the County's continuum of services, fewer Raise the Age youth will be placed in detention for extensive periods of time, and fewer will be committed to YDC placements. Youth exiting from YDC placements back to the community will also be met with a strong safety net of services as they transition back to their families.

Haven House Services is recognized in this community as a strong collaborator and one that provides the youth of Wake County with innovative programming that yields highly successful outcomes. I have worked closely with Haven House over the years through JCPC, the Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health partnership (JJBH), and Juvenile Assessment Team (JAT). The Gang Reduction and Intervention Team fills a significant need in Wake County's service continuum. We plan to coordinate with Haven House Services to invite them to formally present their most recent proposal to provide Level II programming services.

I encourage the Department of Public Safety to consider Haven House Services' project proposal so that Wake County can benefit from the availability of intensive, specialized services

for our gang involved youth and their families. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Johnson  
Chair, Wake County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council  
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