



JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

February 26, 2025: Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Kevin McIver, Jonathan Wilson, Alex Hurdle, Layton Williams, Renee Hill, Matthew Rierson (Court Counsel Proxy)

Members On-line: John Morris, Sgt. Adam Boudreault, Seth Kandl, Ramya Krishna, LiBria Stephens, Dr. Melissa Watson, Dorothy Hardin, Maggie Clapp, Monica Burnette, DeWarren Langley

Programs Present: Arkeem Brooks (Project BUILD), Raquel Dominguez (Youth Mediation)

Programs On-line: Yasmine Boone (PROUD Program), Quille Coath (PROUD Program), Lucretia Alston (Bull City Youth Build), Alvin Black (Teen Court & Restitution Program), Tiffany Swoope (GRACED Inc), Mitchell Archer (GRACED).

Guests Present: Raven Walters (RYSE-Diversion Coordinator), Dr. Jonathan Livingston (NCCU Psychology)

Guests On-Line: Jennifer McRant (RYSE Program Manager), Dr. Gradesa Lockhart (Director of Stop the Violence-DPS), Chase Taylor, Santos Flores

Staff Present: Walter 'Eddie' Crews, Roshanna Parker, Janice Williams

Excused Absences: Abigail Holloway, Angela Nunn, Stephen Valentine, Nicole Grant, Cynia Black, Monica Daye

I. **Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Kevin McIver called the meeting to order at 4:05pm, welcomed everyone and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves, starting with in-house attendees followed by those on-line.
A quorum was present.

II. **January 2025 Minutes Approval**

No corrections were noted. A motion to approve the January 22, 2025 minutes was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

III. **Consultant Update:** Walter 'Eddie' Crews, Central Area Consultant

a. **3rd Quarter Program Reports**

Mr. Crews stated that the State requires all funded JCPC Programs to submit 3rd Quarter Accounting Reports in NC Allies, which tracks all expenditures through February 28th, 2025. This is to ensure that all JCPC programs are on track to fully spending their funds. If they are not, the JCPC policy does allow for funds to be transferred from one program to another. The goal is not to refund monies back to the State. The reports should reflect that programs are at a 66% expenditure rate by the end of February.

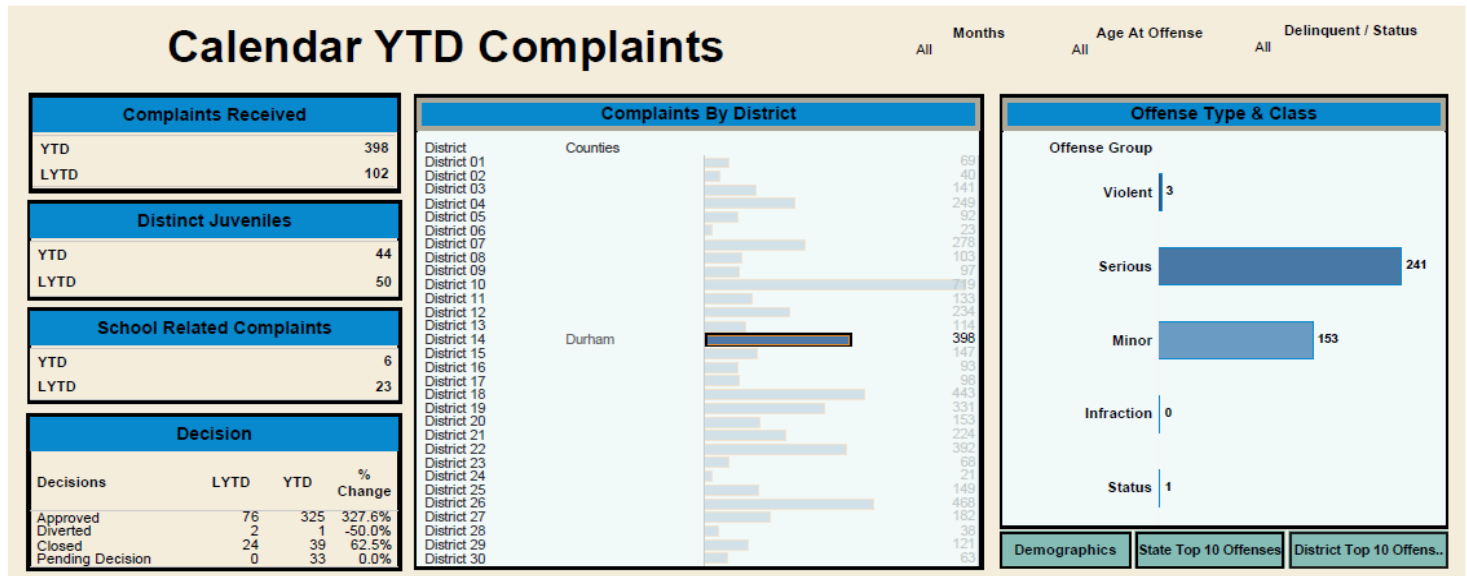
b. **Discretionary Funds**

Some programs across North Carolina have to refund unused monies to the state once the final accounting process is completed. These unused funds are pooled together as Discretionary Funds, which programs throughout the entire state of North Carolina will have access to this year. These funds are designed to assist with one-time needs such as the purchase of vehicles, help with training costs and, if serving over capacity, assists with serving those extra youths. Applications must be submitted through NC Allies to be considered for and receive funds (if the program is selected by the state).

Mr. Crews reminded everyone that the window for RFP application submissions closes this Friday, February 28th at 5:00pm and urged all programs to submit and complete their applications. **Applications will be inadmissible if they are submitted after 5pm on the 28th or if the application is incomplete.**

Chair McIver reiterated that the goal is not to have to return funds already received. Due to the number of expenditures that Durham County/City has, the amount of future funding is variable.

IV. **Chief Court Counselor Update:** Matthew Rierson (Chief Court Counsel Proxy)



Mr. Rierson stated that he and Chief Court Counselor Nicole Grant are working on creating a new spreadsheet incorporating the data in the above report. Essentially, it would contain the same data as the spreadsheet previously received with the exception of the demographic information (which is the concern for breach of confidentiality).

Mr. Crews stated that the above report contains statistics from January 1st, 2025, through February 25th, 2025. The number of complaints from January 22nd, 2025, to February 25th, 2025, is actually 371{398 – 27(the # of complaints reported in January’s report)=371}. The bulk of these offenses are ‘serious offenses’, i.e. breaking and entering into motor vehicles (as denoted in the Offense Type & Class column). There were 44 juveniles charged with the corresponding 371 serious offenses.

Mr. Wilson commented that the high number is indicative of how petitions are filed, and there was a great deal of older breaking and entering cases that have just recently been brought to light.

Mr. Rierson stated that the stoppage of the dissemination of the reports previously received is statewide. Chair McIver stressed the importance of keeping up with these statistics as it directly impacts the decision-making process of the county when determining funding distributions.

Mr. Langley stated that CBS 17 recently reported on the rise of juvenile complaints in Durham. Mr. Langley asked how often the Board comments and/or replies to these reports. Mr. Crews replied that these reports are referred to the Communications Director in Raleigh and Billy Lassiter, Secretary, works with the local media and participates in interviews.

V. **DPS Update:** Chair McIver moved this item to later on in the meeting.

VI. **Monitoring Report:**

➤ **Epic Monitoring Team:** Jonathan Wilson, Team Lead; Alex Hurdle; Tayla Jones, JCC Liaison

Mr. Wilson reported that E.P.I.C. stands for Empowering People and Inspiring Communities and helps at-risk juveniles who suffer from various forms of traumas and their sponsor is Speak Out. Stand Up and Speak Out provides individual and group therapy sessions to help youths deal with their trauma issues.

- In total, there were 12 juveniles that the program is serving
 - Referrals come from The Department of Social Services, Project Build and their recent partnership with Durham Public Schools

Mr. Wilson stated that he found this to be a needed program.

The monitoring team's recommendation is to continue funding this program.

VII. **Community Program Presentation:** presented by Lanea Foster and Dr. Jonathan Livingston – Southeast Community Resource

Chair McIver introduced Ms. Lanea Foster who works a great deal with gathering data for many different companies and also works with one of the JCPC Programs.

Ms. Lanea Foster thanked Chair McIver for the introduction and introduced Dr. Jonathan Livingston, Chair and Professor of the Department of Psychology at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and stated their key team members also include Mr. Alonzo Jaynes, Former Police Chief of Kinston, Law Enforcement Advisor.

Ms. Foster presented that EQRX is a platform for transforming juvenile justice from data chaos to strategic action. All data collected from JCPC's, courts and schools are pooled together to create a community snapshot of how youths move and are moved through the juvenile justice system. This is done so that law enforcement, schools and JCPC's can look at the data and come up with strategies together to address the circumstances the data displays. Their goal is to foster an EQRX JCPC partnership with Durham. Ms. Foster went on to present that Southeast Community Resources:

- has 15+ years of experience in improving outcomes in justice, education, and health with multi-agency collaborations across NC
- has proven success in reducing racial disparities (42% reduction in youth charges) in Kinston
- concluded that organizations are given data points but have no direction as to what to do with this data
- realized that the youth that were at-risk were not getting into the programs that the JCPC's across NC were offering and there are missed opportunities for intervention
- identified that youth of color have limited access to healthcare and mental health services; there is a great deal of educational disruption and strained community-police relationships because of this lack of access
- utilizes an AI-powered platform that transforms data chaos into coordinated insights for evidence-based decision making

NCCU is assisting in creating a training program to help law enforcement and community leaders have a better understanding of what issues they are addressing where youth are involved. Dr. Livingston stated that a lot of criminal behaviors amongst youth are directly related to lack of resources.

- the implementation process for JCPC's consists of first, conducting a data analysis and assessment. Next, the collaborative design phase is where community partners are involved with deciding what information is actually useful and what improvements can be made. Lastly, there is the training and deployment phase where actual footwork is done in the community
- discovered that early intervention provides cost benefits to communities at large by reducing detention and court costs, and long-term decreases in recidivism

Dr. Livingston stated that 64% of the children that have been treated have early childhood adverse experiences.

Ms. Foster stated that she would like to use/study the Durham JCPC as a pilot site to see/test if the automated system that is in place can assist in understanding collected data better. Ms. Foster would like JCPC members to volunteer to sign up for a focus group and testing (information provided in the presentation)

As having worked with the Southeast Community Resource, Chair McIver asked Ms. Tiffany Swoope to share her experience to lend a better understanding for the collective board members. Ms. Swoope stated that she has been working with Southeast for over a year. The ability to track data and to make data driven decisions provides the opportunity to reallocate cost savings to sustainable programs and maximize more resources that can be invested in youths.

Chair McIver encouraged the programs to work with Southeast Community Resource in light of the fact that data is vital to determine the communities that truly need funding and pinpoint exactly what their needs are. Utilizing this collective, collaborative data will assist in directing funds to the appropriate programs that are accomplishing the goal of reducing recidivism.

Ms. Dorothy Harding and Mr. DeWarren Langley expressed their gratitude to Ms. Lanea Foster and Dr. Livingston for the much-needed services they provide. Mr. Langley emphasized to the board that this data should be utilized to push for policy, strategy and funding for essential programs and resources.

Chair McIver recalled Item V. on the agenda: DPS Update: presented by Dr. Gradesa Lockhart

Dr. Lockhart reported that DPS is working hard to utilize their resources to interact with and support the JCPC Programs. In particular, Dr. Lockhart and Ms. Raquel Dominguez are engaged in a project at Riverside and Southern High Schools to incorporate Conflict Resolution Resources. Dr. Lockhart stated that all community issues are not gang related but due to poor involvement with the social and emotional competency of students. Elevating this partnership consisted of:

1. Dr. Lockhart working with the schools in identifying what core issues needed improvement
2. Engaging Ms. Dominguez in providing her program's Conflict Resolution expertise in navigating the work and having dialogue with principal(s) in satiating the needs of the students and families
3. Working with the schools' staff to ensure the recommended steps are being executed during the process of resolution

Dr. Lockhart went on to report that DPS is beginning to revisit the policies on discipline and are now having principals and administrators trained in areas such as 'Peaceful Schools'. The three (3) areas highlighted as a focus are: fighting, non-compliance and attendance.

Dr. Lockhart is finishing up the last round of Teen Mental Health First Aid in Riverside and Southern High Schools where approximately 10% of the ninth graders are trained in these skills. Students can then put this training on their resumes for future employment opportunities.

In conclusion, Dr. Lockhart reiterated that Dr. Watson and herself are open to suggestions by way of providing assistance to the JCPC programs.

A question was asked 'What role does Parks and Recreation and the Boys and Girls Club play in reducing the number of justice-involved juveniles?' Dr. Lockhart responded by stating that she will look into the aspect of extracurricular activities as it pertains to the reduction of disciplinary issues. Mr. Alex Hurdle then itemized the services/activities provided by Parks and Recreation; for further information Mr. Hurdle can be contacted via email at alexander.hurdle@durhamnc.gov.

VIII. February 2025 Program Updates: Programs did not present – reports were submitted

Project Build: *(submitted by Mr. Arkeem Brooks)*

Current number of enrolled students: 93

Number of new referrals: 2

Number of successful completions: 1

Programmatic changes: None

Programmatic issues: None

Programmatic achievements:

- 2 youth got connected to educational services (Lowes Grove Middle School and BCYB)
- 12 youth completed applications for the NC Youth Works Summer jobs.

Durham PROUD: *(submitted by Ms. Yasmine Boone)*

Current number of enrolled youths: 16

Number of new referrals: 5

Number of successful completions: 13 successful completions to date

Programmatic changes: None

Programmatic issues: None

Programmatic achievements: We have busy with all three programs of PROUD. We are looking to collaborate with Durham Public Schools for their community engagement event later in April. We also have seen an increase in our DEAC and MDP programs. We did finish our first group at Lakeview and are halfway into our current group at the school.

Parenting of Adolescents: *(submitted by Ms. Cynia Black)*

Current number of enrolled students: 11 Students (7 MDFT cases, 4 TFCBT case).

Number of new referrals: 1 referral was received in February

Number of successful completions: 1 in February

Programmatic changes: N/A

Programmatic issues:

The Program Manager is currently working with acting ED to increase FTEs.

Programmatic achievements:

- POA has achieved success with the recruitment plan and currently has approximately 22 cases on waitlist with 11 being for MDFT/TFCBT.
- POA completed recertification in MDFT during the month of February.
- POA has a DJJ presentation scheduled for March 28th.

GRACED Inc.: *(submitted by Ms. Tiffany Swoope)*

Current number of enrolled students: 16

Number of new referrals: 0

Number of successful completions:

Programmatic changes: N/A

Programmatic issues: Our 3rd party transportation rates have increased by 60%. Also, we are looking to establish a second location to expand our program.

Programmatic achievements:

- a) In collaboration with Durham Parks and Recreation, ten (10) of our youth utilized the computer lab and applied for Durham YouthWorks summer internship program. As of 2/21/25, five (5) teens have

been invited to the next level. This is a huge accomplishment considering only one teen applied last year.

- b) Supported one of our youths by connecting her with a local organization for FAFSA Application. Her mentor is also supporting her with options and opportunities for late enrollees interested in the upcoming fall.
- c) Aligned one of our youths with an opportunity to compete for a seat on a youth advisory board. She was selected and is actively involved with the planning for the upcoming mental health symposium geared towards teen girls, "She's That Girl." This is a great leadership experience that will also work well for her college resume as she is college bound in 2 years.
- d) Coordinated a mentor group outing to Palace Pointe. Our youth and mentors enjoyed a fun filled night of skating, arcade and a community dinner where they were able to practice their etiquette skills.

Teen Court & Restitution: *(submitted by Ms. Gwendolyn Johnson)*

Teen Court:

Current number of enrolled students: 19
Number of new referrals: 5
Number of successful completions: 0
Programmatic changes: 0
Programmatic issues: 0
Programmatic achievements: n/a

Durham County Restitution Program:

Current number of enrolled students: 10
Number of new referrals: 3
Number of successful completions: 1
Programmatic changes: none
Programmatic issues: none
Programmatic achievements: n/a

EPIC: *(submitted by Ms. Natalie Van Genderen)*

Agency: StandUp SpeakOut NC-EPIC

Youth in Services: 4
Open Referrals: 9 open referrals (new clients waiting to be scheduled for intake or waiting for paperwork)
Active JCPC Clients: 4
JCPC Referrals this month: 0 0 youth referred this month (February)
Terminations: 0 0 terminated
Closed Referrals: 2 2 referrals closed
Waitlisted Clients: 1 1 currently on the waitlist due to scheduling coordination or missed intakes sessions
Groups: 0
Outreach Group: 1 We are hosting Creating Youth Voices with Project Build

In February, 0 new referrals were received, 2 youth were admitted to the program, for a total of 4 active youth clients in services. 2 referrals were closed, and there were 0 terminations

Youth Build: *(submitted by Ms. Lucretia Alston)*

Current number of enrolled students: 13 students
Number of new referrals: 10 new referrals
Number of successful completions: 0 at this time

Programmatic changes:

2 staff members have just returned this month, so we are back to our regularly scheduled program. Implemented new ID rule. Students have 60 days of entering the program to obtain proper identification to be able to test.

Programmatic issues:

Students' attendance rate remains an issue. Students aren't phased by stipend incentive but have stated that they would show up daily if transportation was provided.

Programmatic achievements:

We are in the process of partnering with the poof teen center to set up things for students.

- work experience with local companies
- haircuts monthly to build self confidence

We are also going to take advantage of the workforce innovation trainings that is being provided. Students that we were about to suspend from the program due to not having ID's have now taken the steps to retrieve ID's. (Shoutout to project build outreach workers for the extra assistance pushing students in the right direction).

Elna B. Spaulding Conflict Resolution Center: *(submitted by Ms. Raquel Dominguez)*

Current number of enrolled students: 60

Number of new referrals: 18

Number of successful completions: We have not completed any cases yet.

Programmatic changes: No changes

Programmatic issues: CRC is still looking for a part-time program coordinator.

Programmatic achievements:

1. We are actively building partnerships with other organizations that work with youth.
2. On February 12, 2025, CRC presented to the Durham Public Schools' Student Alternatives and Support team.
3. Of the 60 referrals (57 families) we've received, we've successfully contacted 50 parents.
4. We are continuing to schedule and provide follow-up sessions.

IX. Chair Update:

No updates at this time

X. Other Business/Announcements:

- Mr. Langley announced that the Boys of Color Power Academy function will take place at the Minnie Fort Brown staff Development Center this Saturday from 8.30 until 1:30.
- Ms. Dominguez announced that this summer is going to be the second year for the Girls' Summer Program which will take place the last week of June; a flyer is forthcoming with the information; there is no cost
- Ms. Raven Walters announced that the Rise Assessment Center is now open and accepting referrals
- Chair McIver emphasized that this board should be productive in providing services so that the community is aware of the work this JCPC is actually doing
- Chair McIver reminded everyone that the RFPs are due February 28th at 5:00pm

XI. Adjournment:

Chair McIver adjourned the meeting at 5:40pm