



JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

April 22, 2026, JCPC Full Board Meeting Minutes

Members' Present: Kevin McIver, B.J. Council, Jonathan Wilson, Alex Hurdle, Nicole Grant, Renee Hill

Members On-line: Linda (L.A.) Cuttler, Frederick Kearns, John Morris, LiBria Stephens, Melissa Watson, Jennifer McRant, Ramya Krishna, Tiffany Swoope

Programs Present: Raquel Dominguez (CRC)

Programs On-line: Quille Coath (PROUD Program), Arkeem Brooks (Project BUILD), Yasmine Boone (PROUD Program), Madison Hill (Exchange Family),

Guests Present: Dr. Wanda Boone, Together for Resilient Youth (T.R.Y.), Jamie Spadafora, Talkspace

Guests On-line: Ebony Reid, (CRC), Jennifer McRant (Youth Home Program Manager), Gabriella Stajic (Talkspace)

Staff Present: Walter 'Eddie' Crews, Roshanna Humphrey, Viveca Deans, Robin Health

Excused Absences:

Absences: Quanesha Archer, Dwane Brinson, Monica Burnette, Maggie Clapp, Abigail Holloway, Rodney Jenkins, Clayton Jones, Lary Watkins, Laylon Williams

I. Welcome & Introductions: Chair Kevin McIver

Chair McIver called the meeting to order at 4:14 PM, welcomed and informed everyone that a few were going to be tabled until the May meeting due to 2 presentations

Onsite attendees introduced themselves; then roll calls with on-line attendees.

II. March 25, 2026 Minutes review/approval

Chair McIver informed everyone that minutes will be tabled until the May meeting due to everyone not receiving them in time to review.

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

a. Top 10 Complaints YTD Report: reflects data collected from April 1st through April 22, 2026

The number of complaints was actually low. There were 17 complaints so far this month. Last year in the same time frame there were 19. Year-to-date distinct juveniles were 7. Last year to date there were 11. He stated the concerning part is the types of complaints. This could be one juvenile it appears has several sex offenses on the types of complaints for April that fall in that violent category.

b. Calendar YTD Complaints:

Mr. Crews stated he did not think this was a consistent pattern. He thinks this is just some isolated incidents that took place. He was unsure if it was one juvenile or two juveniles, but it was obvious there was a first-degree statutory sexual offense. There were four of those complaints. There was an indecent Liberties with children under the age of 16. We do not always see these. He noted this is an isolated incident and not a trend.

Remember, one juvenile can be responsible for multiple complaints so one juvenile could be responsible for a lot of the offenses.

c. Continued State Updates

We are in the second year of funding and wrapping things up. The county plan will be completed by Justice Services to be submitted to the commissioners, currently the state sees no changes so we will continue forward with the second year. Durham JCPC is scheduled to receive the same amount of \$701,000 as last fiscal year. In the event we get additional dollars from the state they will try to advocate for more JCPC dollars.

It was said that the \$101,000 that is received from Durham will depend on the BOCC approval of the funds in the upcoming budget.

Mr. Crews also emphasized that programs would go through the same approval process for the upcoming year, also encouraged them to submit their 2026-2027 agreement. All documents must be up to date, and the non-profit information is notarized. If there are new contracts, they must be uploaded. All JCPC board information and roster certification should have minor updates if needed before submitting.

There was also a question that youth charged with a violent crime A through E, they may be charged in a separate type of filing that will place them under an adult name and not a juvenile petition. Also noting that with the new law being in place that is the reason this month numbers are low. Also, with the new law and the state juvenile numbers dropping will this impact legislation when giving out funding.

IV. DPS Update: Dr. Melissa Watson

Dr. Watson encouraged everyone to watch the DPD board meeting on 4/24/2026 due to several conversations concerning attendance. There will be a special component of that presentation on attendance. The information given may be very helpful for our follow-up meetings if there's a critical component that she may be able to share for those who weren't able to watch the meeting, but the meetings are recorded, so if you cannot watch you can also watch the recording.

Multi-tiered studies report:

This tracks truancy is a progress monitoring tool that is actually part of the state and every school district in North Carolina and across the nation uses the multi-tiered systems of support. This program is in our department of Student Support Services, that assists with academics, behavior, and attendance that will also be addressed tomorrow's presentation. The meeting agenda and website were placed in the meeting chat.

This multi-tiered it tracks attendance, what happens is that once the scholars reach a certain number of absences it is elevated to my team for chronic absenteeism or truancy. That is when our team works with CRC to address family and scholar concerns around truancy. Truancy is tracked school by school. Once we identify students they are connected with CRC. The school information is tracked by the state, and it is published on the DPS website once the report has been reviewed and approved. This information will be shared at the May meeting. Per Ms. Dominguez of CRC their referrals have increased 120% in a positive direction.

V. Community Presentation: Dr. Wanda Boone, Together for Resilient Youth (T.R.Y.)

Dr. Boone gave a brief introduction of herself and begin the presentation of Together for Resilient Youth. They have been in their current space for over 20 years. In that time, they had young people start with them at age 14, and now they're in their 30s and are working with the program now. They look at the whole of the youth, where they live, the parents, the environments and how the environment impacts that youth. They have started a program to work with youth re-entry and working on an adult re-entry program. They look at the adverse childhood experiences and how they continue those in their adulthood without knowledge. Helping them to understand their traumas can drive their adult actions by including the parents in this process and recognizing like experiences. We look at adverse childhood experiences, and other adverse experiences that can be in the community or in the family that disrupt behaviors. Also, poverty, violence, poor housing, no grocery stores, no banks, sometimes no

sidewalks, but they are expected to thrive. There are cultural experiences that have to do with genocide, slavery, colonization, and that actually impacts the growth mentality.

They look at what is called a Socio-Ecological model by drilling down from what's happening in the neighborhood and talk about how trauma takes root. They don't just take a young person and say, okay, this is what you need to do. We don't just take a family and say, this is what you need to do. They take time to understand what risks exist in the surroundings of that family so that we can address all of those things. They have a 94% family goal attainment, and this is just a part of the hundreds of programs they have been a part of.

(Together for Resilient Youth (T.R.Y.) Presentation Attached)

VI. Community Presentation: Jamie Spadafora and Gabriella Stajic, Talkspace

Gabriella gave introductions on behalf of Talkspace for 5 years. Talkspace is a virtual mental health platform. Talkspace is to add flexibility and where is not meant to replace existing services. This presentation is to clarify how youth can access care, and how we want to continue collaborating in a way that strengthens what is all already being done in the community and your current processes. So, just starting with the broader context, because I think it informs why this partnership exists in the first place. Nearly half of high school students report persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness. Half of mental health conditions begin by the age of 14, and when we look at justice-involved youth, we know that these numbers are even more significant due to trauma exposure, instability, and other additional increased risk factors. At the same time, we're dealing with systematic access to challenges. Along with waiting lists to get access to care, provider shortages in some rural counties, transportation barriers, and, of course, stigma especially for young men. The gap we're trying to close isn't around awareness, it's around accessibility and engagement and how do we create that lower barrier to entry points into mental health support for those individuals without lowering clinical standards. Talkspace was designed to reduce friction in access and care through the DHHS partnership, eligible youth in North Carolina can access licensed therapy through live video sessions, self-guided programs, and moderated peer communities at no cost. All this can be done from the youth's phone. They can message their therapist when something happens in the spur of the moment, not days later. Talkspace supports youth ages 13 to 17, all residing in North Carolina. Parental consent is not required for outpatient mental health services for you 13 and older so the legal framework removes the barriers to care. Talkspace works especially well for youth that are experiencing anxiety, depression and stress. We are not a crisis stabilization service. It's not designed to manage immediate danger such as active suicidal intent requiring emergency intervention or acute psychiatric conditions that may require hospitalization or intensive services. Our clinicians are trained in risk assessment and mandated reporting, but we operate within outpatient boundaries. Our therapy is meant to provide one-to-one licensed clinical care. Talkspace Go is more of a structured, self-guided skills program. Communities offer moderated peer support. Youth are matched with a licensed provider, licensed to practice in the state of North Carolina. They can message their provider at any time day or night and the providers respond within 24 hours. Included is one live video session per month and additional sessions can be scheduled depending on the needs of that individual. TalkspaceGo or Talkspace Self-Guided, is a two-week structured program that focuses on skill building. This can be particularly helpful for young people who are not ready to jump into therapy. It's not open social media, it's structured, anonymous, and supervised. With proper consent, clinicians can coordinate with caregivers and other providers to provide that information to them if a youth is already involved in therapeutic care. All communication is tracked and within all HIPAA and compliance.

VII. Program Updates: March Monthly Reports were tabled until May 27, 2026, Full Board Meeting.

VIII. Chair Update:

New Durham JCPC email: durhamjcpc@dconc.gov . Please send all correspondence to this email going forward. Election of officers will be held at the in-person June 24, 2026, meeting. Please send in your nominees before the May 27, 2026, meeting.

IX. Other Business/Announcements:

Recognition was given to GRACED for the program that they organized and the JCPC programs and members that were in attendance.

X. Adjournment:

Chair Kevin McIver motioned to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded.

Documents Attached:

1. Dr. Boone – T.R.Y. Presentation
2. Talkspace Presentation

State Presentation

3. Top 10 Complaints YTD Report
4. Calendar YTD Complaints: