



## JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

**January 22, 2025: Meeting Minutes**

*ALL VIRTUAL MEETING*

**Members Present:**

**Members On-line:** Kevin McIver, Abigail Holloway, Angela Nunn, Monica Burnette, Nicole Grant, John Morris, Alex Hurdle, Ramya Krishna, Duane Brinson, Jonathan Wilson, LiBria Stephens, Dr. Melissa Watson, Dorothy Hardin, Layton Williams, Renee Hill

**Programs On-line:** Arkeem Brooks (Project BUILD), Raquel Dominguez (Youth Mediation), Cynia Black (POA), Yasmine Boone (PROUD Program), Quille Coath (PROUD Program), Reynaldo Reyes-Arroyo (Bull City Youth Build), Gwendolyn Johnson (Teen Court & Restitution Program), Tiffany Swoope (GRACED Inc).

**Guests On-Line:** Raven Walters (RYSE-Diversion Coordinator), Jennifer McRant (RYSE Program Manager), DeWarren Langley (Charles Hamilton Houston Foundation)

**Staff Online:** Walter 'Eddie' Crews, Robin Heath, Viveca Deans, Janice Williams

**Excused Absences:** Seth Kandl (Citizen), Lucretia Alston (Bull City Youth Build)

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Kevin McIver called the meeting to order at 4:05pm and welcomed everyone. This is an all-virtual meeting due to inclement weather. Chair McIver asked all in attendance to put their name in chat in lieu of verbal introductions. A quorum was present.

**II. November 2024 Minutes Approval**

No corrections were noted. A motion to approve the November 2024 minutes was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

**III. Juvenile Law Changes:** Abigail Holloway, Vice Chair and Nicole Grant, Chief Court Counselor

Ms. Nicole Grant stated that the HB834 Juvenile Law that took effect December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, declared that juveniles 16 and 17 years of age who commit an A-E Felony will now be charged as an adult but will still be placed in juvenile facilities. Dual jurisdiction can be applied where a 16 and 17-year-old is charged with both an A-E felony and a misdemeanor.

Ms. Abigail Holloway reported on the removal process from Adult Court back down to Juvenile Court via a Superior Court Judge's ruling if both the assigned District and Defense Attorneys agree. Ms. Holloway went on to report that another big change that occurred on December 1<sup>st</sup> was a change to the Capacity Statute which now includes age as part of a determination factor as to whether or not a juvenile has the mental capacity to proceed in court. The lack of guidance and funding are two major contributory factors which create a problem in stipulating how these new regulations will be implemented.

A question was asked, what constitutes an E-Felony and what was the reason for this change. Ms. Holloway responded by stating that the statutes are the same – A-E are considered violent felonies. A lot of reasoning given by

the legislature regarding the passing of HB834 was to save time because a lot of juvenile cases were eventually ending up in adult court.

#### IV. **Consultant Update:** Mr. Walter ‘Eddie’ Crews, Central Area Consultant

Mr. Crews began by thanking everyone who participated in the monitoring process.

Mr. Crews went on to state that the main purpose of the JCPC at this time of the year is to make sure that the Request for Proposals is advertised to the public and that bids are solicited by non-profits and governmental agencies. All currently funded programs, as well as other non-profits and government agencies, can start applying now as NC Allies is open to accepting applications. An informational zoom session is scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup> to guide new applicants through the application process. All programs are welcome to attend.

Mr. Crews proceeded to review the Request for Proposals and emphasized the need to submit ALL documents required as stipulated in the RFP:

- Private non-profits are also required to submit the following forms online or your application will be considered incomplete: **1) No Overdue Tax form (available at the above link), 2) Notarized DPS Conflict of Interest Statement (available at the above link), 3) the agencies Conflict of Interest Policy; and 4) Proof of 501(c) (3) status.**

It was confirmed that the RFP was posted on the JCPC website on January 10<sup>th</sup> and the news release was posted on the DCONC website on January 13<sup>th</sup> as well as an email blast to Durham County via the county’s Public Information Office.

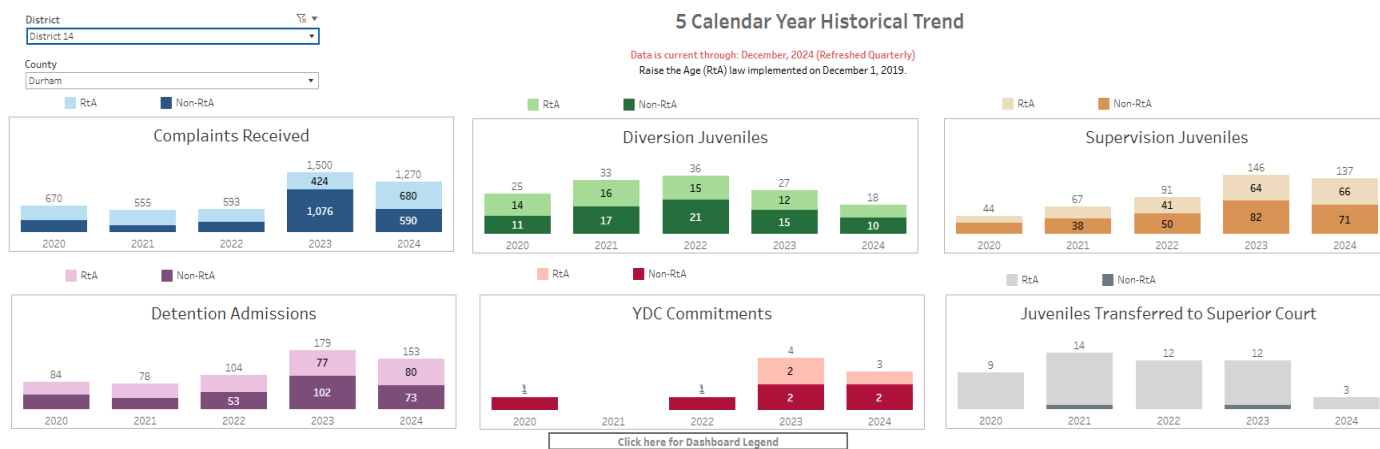
Mr. Crews informed the board of the Intensive Intervention Services RFP that was posted January 22, 2025. The funds from this program are targeted towards higher risk youth that are more court involved and all JCPC programs are invited to apply. **(Note:** email forwarded to all board members 1/27/25)

#### V. **Chief Court Counselor Update:** Nicole Grant, Chief Court Counselor

Ms. Nicole Grant reported that her office is not allowed to share the data in the format that has been previously presented to this board due to strict confidentiality mandates of juvenile information. Mr. Crews and Ms. Grant devised a report that can be shared which contains basically the same information.

A question was asked, what was the discrepancy with sharing the previous reports. Ms. Grant responded that the data points, i.e. race, types of offenses, gender and the age categories given, could potentially breach confidentiality.

Ms. Grant shared the 5 Calendar Year Historical Trend report from 2020 – 2024:



**VI. DPS Update:** Dr. Melissa Watson, Director of Student Alternatives and Support - DPS

Dr. Watson stated that she is looking forward to inviting the leaders that oversee the annual processes of accepting donations and bringing on volunteers to the next board meeting. This discussion will in part address growing concerns regarding DPS budgetary issues.

Chair McIver raised a concern regarding attendance records during the limited transportation provided to students as a result of the need for more school bus drivers. A question was raised whether there is a decrease in student attendance compared to last school year due to this issue? Dr. Watson responded, stating that the schedule has returned to transportation being provided five (5) days per week. Ms. Ward-Satterfield is working on reconciling the attendance data to be presented in February's DPS Board Meeting which will then present more accurate data point reporting.

**VII. Monitoring Reports:**

- ***Elna B. Spaulding Monitoring Team:*** Laylon Williams, Team Lead; Frederick Kearns; Jazmyne White, JCC Liaison

Mr. Williams reported that in meeting with Ms. Raquel Dominguez as a team, the following information was identified:

- ✓ There are two (2) parts to the Elna B. Spaulding Program: The Youth Mediation Program and The In-School Truancy Mediation Program.
- ✓ The program is on track with meeting the goals stipulated in the Program Agreements for this year

Ms. Dominguez reported that one of the goals going forward is to develop a measuring tool (in addition to the existing case log), that would track the number of hours spent on every student referral and their evaluations.

The monitoring team's recommendation is to continue funding for these programs.

- ***Project BUILD Monitoring Team:*** John Morris, Team Lead; Alexis Cooper; Duane Brinson; Jalen Pettiford; JCC Liaison

Mr. Morris reported that the informal meeting was held on January 7<sup>th</sup> via video call where Mr. Brooks walked through the elements of the program which proved to be very insightful. On January 8<sup>th</sup>, an in-person meeting was held with Mr. Morris, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Pettiford and myself where the 6-month Measurable Objectives Report was reviewed.

- ✓ Mr. Pettiford's (Court Counselor) review and comments were positive.
- ✓ Supporting documentation was reviewed as well, i.e. case notes database provided by Mr. Brooks which were very detailed, accurate and impressive.
- ✓ The total number of youths to be served according to the program agreement was 100; Project BUILD exceeded that target goal by serving 127 youths to date.
- ✓ It was evident that the program is very well structured, all information was available, up to date, and there is a great deal of collaboration across the board. There were no weaknesses identified.

No follow-up is needed. The monitoring team's recommendation is to continue funding for this program.

- ***Teen Court/Restitution Monitoring Team:*** Seth Kandl, Team Lead; Monica Burnette; Kiara Toomer, JCC Liaison

Ms. Burnette reported that she met with the Teen Court and Teen Court Restitution staff members and the findings were as follows:

- ✓ The programs receive both justice-involved, and non-justice-involved referrals.

- ✓ There is a Teen Court session that occurs every other Thursday and they are on track with the goals and types of services that were presented to the Board.
- ✓ With respect to Teen Court Restitution, Juvenile Court Counselors monitor and give pertinent information to the Program regarding the individuals who are to participate in giving restitution to the victims of justice-involved individuals.
- ✓ Ms. Burnette looked at the auditing records/system and aligned the numbers with the goals from the previous year and these goals and needs are being met as well.

Ms. Johnson stated that their numbers have increased in the past few years and their goals are being met.

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

Ms. Harding posed a question regarding the RFP: Are monies being requested from outside non-profits to prevent at-risk youth from engaging in justice-involved behavior or is there a government funded program that can provide services i.e. recreational activities.

Mr. Hurdle responded that Durham Parks and Recreation provide services for youths aged 13 -18, Monday thru Friday from 3pm – 7pm at four (4) recreation centers throughout Durham. Mr. Hurdle invited Ms. Hardin to visit the Parks and Recreation website and/or email him to further discuss/address any further questions and/or concerns.

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

Mr. Wilson reported that a meeting is scheduled with Ms. Daye for Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> to finalize EPIC's Monitoring Report which will be presented in February's board meeting.

➤ **Parenting of Adolescents Monitoring Team:** LiBria Stephens, Team Lead; Kevin McIver; Houston Taft; Tafarrah Austin, JCC Liaison

Ms. Stephens reported that Ms. Cynia Black was able to present all the required documentation for review during their meeting.

- ✓ The referrals to the program fell a little short of the goals set. It was suggested that the program reach out to judiciary personnel to bring the program a little more recognition since their services are very intensive.
- ✓ There was also some turnover in some positions.
- ✓ Overall, the program is on track and doing a great job with providing their outlined services.
- ✓ Chair McIver also reported that the program's documentation was very much in order and although the referrals are a little light, the services provided are very intense and require parental compliance. This causes some difficulty in trying to serve the clients the program is wanting to serve and skew the number of participants.

Ms. Cynia Black stated that she is serving as Interim Director and was working with the current active Executive Director to draft letters to some of the members in the judiciary realm to gain support and meet the number goals.

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

➤ **PROUD Program Monitoring Team:** Angela Nunn, Team Lead; Joseph Oliveri, JCC Liaison

Ms. Nunn reported that she was able to meet with the JCC Liaison, Quille Coath and Yasmine Boone. Since the PROUD Program has been with the JCPC for some time, they were well equipped to provide all of the necessary documentation and numbers for this monitoring report.

- ✓ The program served 27 children this cycle with 15 new admissions; there are 14 youths that are ready to enter the program.

- ✓ The program is completing testing in each subject matter in order to monitor overall progress.
- ✓ The program is fully staffed.
- ✓ The concerns surrounding the program is the increased referrals involving vaping (and access to other substances) and school fighting.

Mr. Coath stated that more violence prevention was added to their curriculum due to the increase in gun violence. Also, more requests are being received from law enforcement for the DEAC Program. Since the monitoring assessment, more referrals have been received and on schedule to meet their goals.

Ms. Nunn recommends approval for funding for the next cycle.

- **Triangle Literacy Monitoring Team:** Renee Hill, Team Lead; Adam Boudreault; Dr. Melissa Watson; Reginald West, JCC Liaison

Ms. Hill reported that the entire team met with Lucretia Alston, Regina Basnight, and Lisa Rowe, which includes both Bull City Youth Build and Triangle Literacy Programs.

- ✓ There was a review of all the work done in assisting clients get their GED and assisting with the next steps i.e. how to interview and how to dress for the workplace. The programs are meeting all of their goals in these areas.
- ✓ The program is moving to a new location - 400 Crutchfield Street, Durham, NC 27704 where the expectation is that this will be a safer area and easily accessible by bus for youths and their parents/guardians.
- ✓ Ms. Hill further stated that if there was more money allotted to this program, the program would be able to increase the number of youths served.

Dr. Watson inquired as to whether the move has made a positive difference to which Mr. Reyes-Arroyo confirmed that the program has completed the move. However, the effects of moving have been difficult to gauge due to inclement weather and management being out of the office.

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

- **GRACED Monitoring Team:** Maggie Clapp, Team Lead; Abigail Holloway; Ariadna Lopez-Bravo, JCC Liaison

Ms. Holloway first thanked Ms. LiBria Stephens for her accompaniment on the site visit to GRACED since Maggie Clapp was unable to participate.

- ✓ GRACED is in their second year of funding from the JCPC and things are going extremely well.
- ✓ In reviewing the program agreement, 25 clients were to be served and thus far they have served 20 with only one (1) unsuccessful termination.
- ✓ In reviewing their current financials, the clients they are serving and how they are serving them, the program is very much on track with meeting their goals. Ms. Swoope's passion for what she does was quite evident. Ms. Holloway stated that she is looking forward to seeing what the future looks like for the program.

Ms. Swoope stated that this process was a great opportunity to learn how to continue to develop and create a sustainable program with longevity.

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

Mr. Langley commended Project BUILD, The PROUD Program and GRACED, Inc. Mr. Langley went on to urge this JCPC to be mindful of the work Ms. Swoope is doing in this area, especially due to the increased violence in the Cornwallis area.

**VIII. Chair Update:**

- Chair McIver thanked everyone for their participation in the monitoring process and thanked the programs for the extremely important work that they are doing in helping as many children and families as possible.

**IX. Other Business/Announcements:**

- Chair McIver reminded everyone that the RFPs are due February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm

**X. Adjournment:**

Chair McIver adjourned the meeting at 5:28pm