



## JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

### **March 26, 2025: Meeting Minutes - Ammended**

**Members Present:** Kevin McIver, Jonathan Wilson, Alex Hurdle, Eric Johnson - Manager of Special Populations, Alliance Health (Director of MCO proxy) (Proxy for Laylon Williams), Renee Hill, Matthew Riersen (Court Counsel Proxy), Beverly 'BJ' Council, Angela Nunn

**Members Online:** Abigail Holloway, John Morris, Sgt. Adam Boudreault, Duane Brinson, Quanesha Archer, Stephen Valentine, Seth Kandl, LiBria Stephens, Dr. Melissa Watson, Dorothy Hardin, Maggie Clapp, Monica Burnette, DeWarren Langley

**Programs Present:** Arkeem Brooks (Project BUILD), Raquel Dominguez (Conflict Resolution Center)

**Programs Online:** Yasmine Boone (PROUD Program), Quille Coath (PROUD Program), Lisa Rowe (Triangle Literacy), Kathryn Pettaway (SUSO), Monica Daye (EPIC), Lucretia Alston (Bull City Youth Build), Alvin Black (Teen Court & Restitution Program), Cynia Black (POA), Tiffany Swoope (GRACED Inc)

**Guests Online:** Raven Walters (RYSE-Diversion Coordinator), Jennifer McRant (RYSE Program Manager), Zakilya Taylor (RYSE), Santos Flores

**Staff Present:** Walter 'Eddie' Crews, Janice Williams

**Staff Online:** Roshanna Parker

**Excused Absences:** Nicole Grant, Laylon Williams, Ramya Krishner

#### **I. Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Kevin McIver called the meeting to order at 4:05pm, welcomed everyone and asked the in-house attendees to introduce themselves. Online attendees roll call was conducted by JCPC Coordinator.

A quorum was established.

Chair McIver recognized and welcomed the two (2) newly appointed members to the Board:

1. Beverly 'BJ' Council – Member of Business
2. DeWarren Langley – United Way Representative/other Non-Profit

#### **II. February 2025 Minutes Approval**

No corrections were noted. A motion to approve the February 26, 2025 minutes was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

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

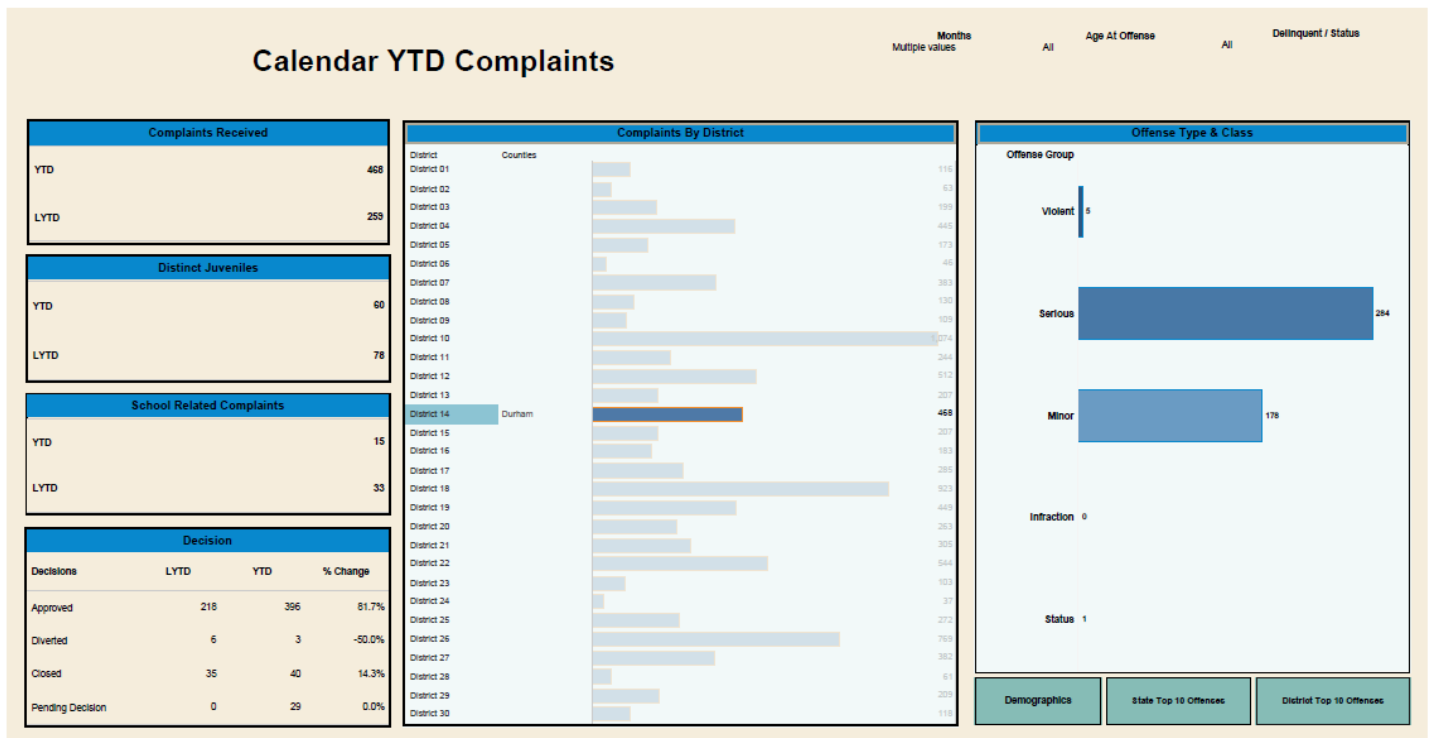
##### **a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Program Reports**

Mr. Crews stated that all Programs submitted their reports on time with the exception of one (1).

##### **b. Discretionary Funds**

Mr. Crews reminded everyone that April 3<sup>rd</sup> is the deadline for programs to apply for these funds. Mr. Crews restated that 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, assist with serving those extra youths. The total amount of Discretionary Funds available is approximately \$700,000 statewide that are available to ~ 600 JCPCs.

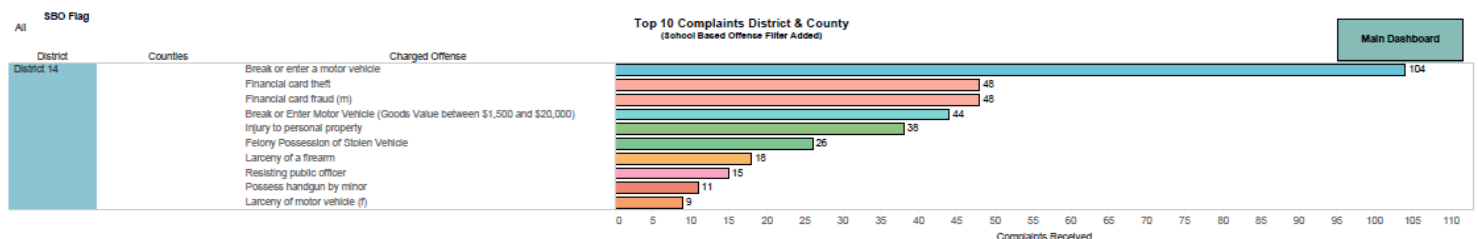
#### IV. Chief Court Counselor Update: Matthew Rierson (Chief Court Counsel Proxy)



Mr. Rierson reported:

- YTD complaints received = 468, which is an increase of 70 complaints in March (February had 398 YTD complaints). The 70 complaints in March comprised of 16 juvenile offenders.
- YTD Distinct Juveniles = 60, which is an increase of 16 Distinct Juveniles in March (February had 44 YTD Distinct Juveniles)
- YTD School Related Complaints = 15, which is an increase of 9 School Related Complaints in March (February had 6 School Related Complaints)
- YTD Minor Offenses = 178, which is an increase of 25 (February had 153 Minor Offenses)
- YTD Serious Offenses = 284 which is an increase of 41 in March (February had 243 Serious Offenses)

Mr. Rierson proceeded to report on the statistics contained in the Top 10 Complaints report below for Durham County.



Mr. Crews stated that he spoke with his management team, who are close to allowing the use of the previously presented court report.

Chair McIver shared that Durham County has one of the lowest numbers of school complaints in the state due to School Resource Officers preferring to refer juveniles to various programs as opposed to filing complaints.

**V. DPS Update:** presented by Dr. Melissa Watson, Director of Student Alternatives and Supports  
Dr. Watson reported on Dr. Anthony Lewis', DPS Superintendent, 100-Day Entry Plan which focuses on five (5) key goals:

1. Building relationships with the Board of Education which focuses on transparency and collaborative ties with other county organizations and the Department of Public Schools (DPS).
2. Enhancing institutional programming which addresses academic and social emotional needs. This is a clear focus and a priority for the DPS Superintendent as it relates to accessing opportunity gaps in the lower performing schools. This area is indicative of what the Durham JCPC Programs have been and are continuing to provide.
3. Improving organizational efficiency by providing robust support and services to schools, students, families, and the school community.
4. Identifying and analyzing critical issues to remove barriers and seize opportunities for accelerating student performance.
5. Engaging stakeholders by ensuring all voices are heard to build trust, understand the district comprehensively, and reignite excitement for the district's mission, vision, and strategic plan.

Dr. Watson emphasized that these goals provide for the expansion of partnerships in each of these areas. In particular, the alternatives to Suspension Programs by working with school safety personnel to address the disproportionalities in suspensions. One of the ways this is accomplished is through the partnerships with many of the organizations represented within the Durham JCPC Board. Dr. Watson also encouraged the board to access Dr. Lewis' entry plan via the DPS website for further insight.

**VI. March 2025 Program Updates:**

**Project Build:** *presented by Mr. Arkeem Brooks*

Current number of enrolled students: 86

Number of new referrals: 13 (Not yet accepted) + 3 from DPS since date of report 3/24/25

Number of successful completions: 5

Programmatic changes: None

Programmatic issues: None

Programmatic achievements:

- 1 youth got connected to Vocational Rehab
  - 5 youth attended the NBA Charlotte Hornets game with MBK (My Brothers Keeper).
- ❖ Mr. Brooks also reported that he received three (3) new referrals since the date of the report – 3.24.25.
  - ❖ There is a new Outreach Worker starting March 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - ❖ Three (3) Prevention Outreach Worker positions will be posted to accommodate the new age-range group of juveniles, aged 10-13 in addition to the 14–18-year-olds currently being served

**Durham PROUD:** *presented by Ms. Yasmine Boone*

Current number of enrolled youths: 14

Number of new referrals: 7

Number of successful completions: 16 successful completions to date

Programmatic changes: None

Programmatic issues: None

Programmatic achievements: We recently presented a training on vaping to the school counselors in Durham Public Schools. Our DEAC program is still seeing an increase in referrals with students using

various illegal substances. Our current Lakeview group will wrap up this week and we are preparing for a new round after spring break.

- ❖ Ms. Boone also reported that the Program has served 62 youth in this past year.
- ❖ Mr. Quille Coath reported that they are seeing an increase in the use of crystal meth and is partnering with Project Build and other organizations to implement trainings regarding this issue.
- ❖ Mr. DeWarren Langley stated that the increasing use of illegal substances by juveniles presents an opportunity for JCPC Board members to forward these concerns to Durham's policy makers.

**Teen Court & Restitution:** *presented by Mr. Alvin Black*

**Teen Court:**

Current number of enrolled students: 23

Number of new referrals: 4

Number of successful completions: 2

Programmatic changes: 0

Programmatic issues: 0

Programmatic achievements: in person community service placements have increased; continued collaboration with Duke University Black Prelaw Program for mentoring and volunteer program

**Restitution Program:**

Current number of enrolled students: 10

Number of new referrals: 0

Number of successful completions: 0

Programmatic changes: none

Programmatic issues: none

Programmatic achievements: n/a

**GRACED Inc.:** *presented by Ms. Tiffany Swoope*

Current number of enrolled students: 16

Number of new referrals: 3

Number of successful completions: 0

Programmatic changes: None

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

Programmatic achievements:

- a. One of our males, high school program participants has been nominated for Upward Bound at Hillside High School. This is a powerful success story in the making as he chose GRACED, Inc. over the gang life. His buy-in into his individualized service plan is paying off with major outcomes. He has been in our program for 2 years now. He is college bound and thriving as an athlete.
- b. Two (2) additional youth have been accepted into the Durham YouthWorks Summer Program. This is a total of nine (9) teens who have been invited to the next level. This is a huge accomplishment considering only one teen applied last year.
- c. We've developed two new small business owners within our program. One youth completed our 6-week Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy workshop held last fall at the recreation center. She finally moved past her fear and is proudly selling her stickers that were created from her personal art. Our community partner ArtPost Durham was very supportive in bringing this vision into fruition for our teenpreneur. The other teenpreneur was inspired by the testimony of my daughter's thriving business, which she started in high school. When youth are exposed to real, attainable ideas for

building economic momentum, it breaks the cycle of stagnation. They begin to see—and believe in—their own power and potential. We're so proud of them!

- d. Five (5) of our youth completed the most recent cohort of onsite coding facilitated by Digital Brilliance Hour in partnership with Durham Parks and Rec Center. During this cohort, two of our youth were repeat students. As a result, they have each been exposed to video game development and music production while utilizing practical work platforms such as Java Script in a placed-based setting. GRACED, Inc. is in conversation to bring more technology access to the youth to catalyze our efforts to provide financial momentum through a list of curated classes based on the teens' survey responses.
- e. Our UNC-Chapel Hill Capstone Intern has created a special college visit to UNC-Chapel Hill for our teens. We will meet with career counselors, financial aid, tour the campus and have dinner with an academic club and our onsite trip sponsors. This trip is expected to be exciting as the basketball outing to UNC in January ignited a great deal of curiosity in the teens.
- f. GRACED, Inc. was featured on a panel hosted by Youth Mentoring Collaborative this past Saturday which was centered around the impact of mentoring in combatting crime in the community. There was a great deal of engagement with the crowd as the focus group is gathering data to complete the youth mentoring strategic plan for the City of Durham in conjunction with the Office of Youth. This project will be presented on a national stage in Milwaukee, MN in May. One of our youth male project participants has contributed to this groundbreaking research project and his name will be recorded in history for his contributions. Lastly, he will be present in MN in May. He is college bound.

**Parenting of Adolescents:** *presented by Ms. Cynia Black*

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

Number of new referrals: 2 referrals were received in March

Number of successful completions: 0 in March

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 has a DJJ presentation scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

Current number of enrolled students: 65

Number of new referrals: 5

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

Programmatic changes: No changes

Programmatic issues: CRC is interviewing for a part-time youth program coordinator.

Programmatic achievements:

1. We continue building partnerships with agencies and organizations that work with youth, such as the new Chief Court Counselor Nicole, Bull City YouthBuild, KIPP Durham, and Southeast Resource Organization.
2. Continue to strengthen the relationship with Durham Public Schools.
3. On March 6, 2025, we participated in Parents Night at Northern High School.
4. In the past month, we conducted 18 sessions and developed action plans with the goal of improving attendance. We have worked with Durham Public Schools (DPS), social services, and parents to address issues such as family conflict, mental health, and housing instability.
  - ❖ Ms. Dominguez added that the summer program for girls will take place this year.

Chair McIver and Mr. Brooks thanked Ms. Dominguez for all of the work she does with the Truancy Program as it has positively impacted juveniles returning to school.

**Youth Build:** *presented by Ms. Lucretia Alston*

Current number of enrolled students: 22 students

Number of new referrals: 5 new referrals

Number of successful completions: 0 at this time

Programmatic changes: We are trying to partner with other organizations in the building. Not only for them to speak to our students about their business (Freedom house, Alano Club) but also for relationship building.

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.
- Parents not struggling to get testing documents notarized. This is not a part of our intake paperwork due to this struggle.
- Some students find it difficult to get along with others and respect staff members. We are seeing this from those who have been here longer than others and it seems to be a territorial issue. We are currently looking for staff development to receive classroom management training.

Programmatic achievements: Another student has obtained their ID and can now register to take components of his GED. We also have several students that are ready for multiple GED components. Some are under the age of 18 and we have to get parental consent forms signed and notarized. One student in particular has passed 3 of the 4 components of his practice test and is currently being scheduled to take his actual test at Durham Tech.

- ❖ Ms. Alston also reported that the Program is going to implement 'Enrollment Week' as opposed to letting students start randomly during the month to gain better control of the classrooms.
- ❖ **ACTION ITEM:** Dr. Watson offered her assistance with classroom management instructions and suggested Ms. Alston contact her via email to further discuss.

**EPIC:** *presented by Ms. Monica Daye*

**Agency: StandUp SpeakOut NC-EPIC**

Ms. Daye began by introducing Kathryn Pettaway, EPIC's new Clinical Director.

Youth in Services: 4

Open Referrals: ~5 open referrals (new clients waiting to be scheduled for intake or waiting for paperwork)

Active JCPC Clients: 0

JCPC Referrals this month: 0 youth referred this month

Terminations: 0 terminated

Closed Referrals: 2 referrals closed

Waitlisted Clients: a current waitlist exists

Groups: currently in the process of hiring staff to restart group sessions

Outreach Group: collaborating with Project Build to provide services for the youth served in their program

- ❖ Ms. Daye also reported that EPIC is partnering with other youth organizations and plans on starting a youth podcast this summer

Chair McIver thanked all programs for their presentations and especially for their collaborative efforts with each other.

- ❖ **ACTION ITEM:** Mr. Langley suggested that the Monthly Program Template include a line item for recommendations based on the trends that the programs are seeing with juveniles they are serving. This would result in developing plans of action for programs to further serve JCPC funded youths.

**VII. Chair Update:**

- a. Chair McIver stated that presentations were conducted on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. The major focus is to disburse the \$701,101 JCPC available funds to programs that are most needed to benefit the community. Chair McIver then opened the floor for volunteers to participate in the **in-person** JCPC Funding Meeting scheduled for Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 1pm – 5pm at JSD. The volunteers are:
  - i. Alex Hurdle
  - ii. DeWarren Langley
  - iii. Renee Hill
  - iv. Seth Kandl (possible)

**Chair McIver requested everyone to complete and submit the JCPC Funding Recommendations Grid by 5pm on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

- b. The Community Presentation for April has been canceled due to April's Board meeting being dedicated to Funding discussions where final decisions will be made regarding the disbursement of the \$701,101 for the next two (2) fiscal years by **all** voting board members.
- c. A Slate of Officers will be presented at the May 2025 full board meeting. Voting board members can either nominate themselves or someone else to hold the following positions for FY '25 – '26:
  - i. Chair
  - ii. Vice Chair
  - iii. Secretary
  - iv. Treasurer
  - v. Parliamentarian
- d. Please contact Chair McIver or the JCPC Coordinator with all nominations.

**VIII. Other Business/Announcements:**

- Mr. Langley announced that:
  - There is a grant opportunity from the Southern Vision Alliance which is a project that's being led by young people between the ages of 13 to 25. The qualifications are that the organizations must be a 501c3 and non-partisan. (Mr. Langley will forward an email)
  - There are a number of summer opportunities for youths. (Mr. Langley will forward an email)
  - The city has received a presentation from the Department of Parks & Recreation, itemizing summer activities for the youth.
    - **ACTION ITEM:** have Parks & Recreation share that presentation at May or June's board meeting

**IX. Adjournment:**

Chair McIver thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 5:26pm