



JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

October 22, 2025 JCPC Full Board Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Kevin McIver, Angela Nunn, Nicole Grant, Alex Hurdle, Beverly (B. J.) Council, Renee Hill

Members On-line: Abigail Holloway, Jonathan Wilson, Ramya Krishna, LiBria Stephens, Dr. Melissa Watson, Seth Kandl, Linda (LA) Cutler

Programs Present: Arkeem Brooks, Project BUILD

Programs On-line: Raquel Dominguez (Youth Mediation), Yasmine Boone (PROUD Program), Quille Coath (PROUD Program), Tiffany Swoope (GRACED, Inc.), Krystal Harris (Project BUILD)

Guests Present: Santos Flores, Data Analyst for the Department of Community Intervention and Support Services

Guests On-line: Quanesha Archer, Tia Squires-Court Counselor, Justin Locklear-Court Counselor, Julien Odom-PROUD Program, Sommer Presswood-GRACED, Inc., Dr. Gradesa Lockhart-DPS, Beth Steenberg-JSD Quality Assurance & Data Integrity, Jenni Amis-JSD Grant Administrator, Jennifer McRant-RYSE Program Manager, Leah Santibañez-Parenting of Adolescents, Madison-Hill-Parenting of Adolescents, Sheena Cooper-Chief of Communications for DPS

Staff Present: Roshanna Humphrey, Viveca Deans, Janice Williams

Excused Absences: Commissioner Stephen Valentine, Walter 'Eddie' Crews, Sgt. Larry Watkins, Laylon Williams, John Morris

I. Welcome & Introductions

Chair McIver called the meeting to order at 4:06pm and welcomed everyone.

Chair McIver opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence for DeWarren Langley and the memorial plaque to be presented to Mr. Langley's family was displayed.

All in-house attendees introduced themselves; roll call was conducted for on-line attendees.
Quorum was established.

II. September 2025 Minutes Approval:

Hearing no corrections, Beverly (BJ) Council moved to approve the September 24, 2025 minutes. The motion was seconded by Renee Hill and moved unanimously by the voting board members to approve the September 24, 2025 minutes.

III. Chair Update:

i. JCPC Letter of Support for the Alternative to Suspension (ATS) Program - Final Approval

Chair McIver stated that the Letter of Support for the Department of Public Schools' (DPS) ATS Program has been completed. It was confirmed that the voting board members had full knowledge and a clear understanding that the letter of support was for the ATS Program.

Chair McIver went on to state that going forward, this JCPC will respectfully respond to an 'ask' for support from an organization before submitting letters.

- Seth Kandl agreed with Chair McIver’s resolution to respectfully respond to an ‘ask’ from an organization and suggested sending the completed letter to the ATS Coordinator to use at her discretion.
- Dr. Watson commented that as the representative for the Department of Public Schools, her goal is to promote transparency and concurred with Mr. Kandl’s suggestion.

✚ Chair McIver requested a motion for approval to share the ATS Program Letter of Support with Mrs. Suggs-Shealy, District Intervention & Support Coordinator, Student Support Services and Dr. Mattocks-Perry, Senior Executive Director of Student Support Services.

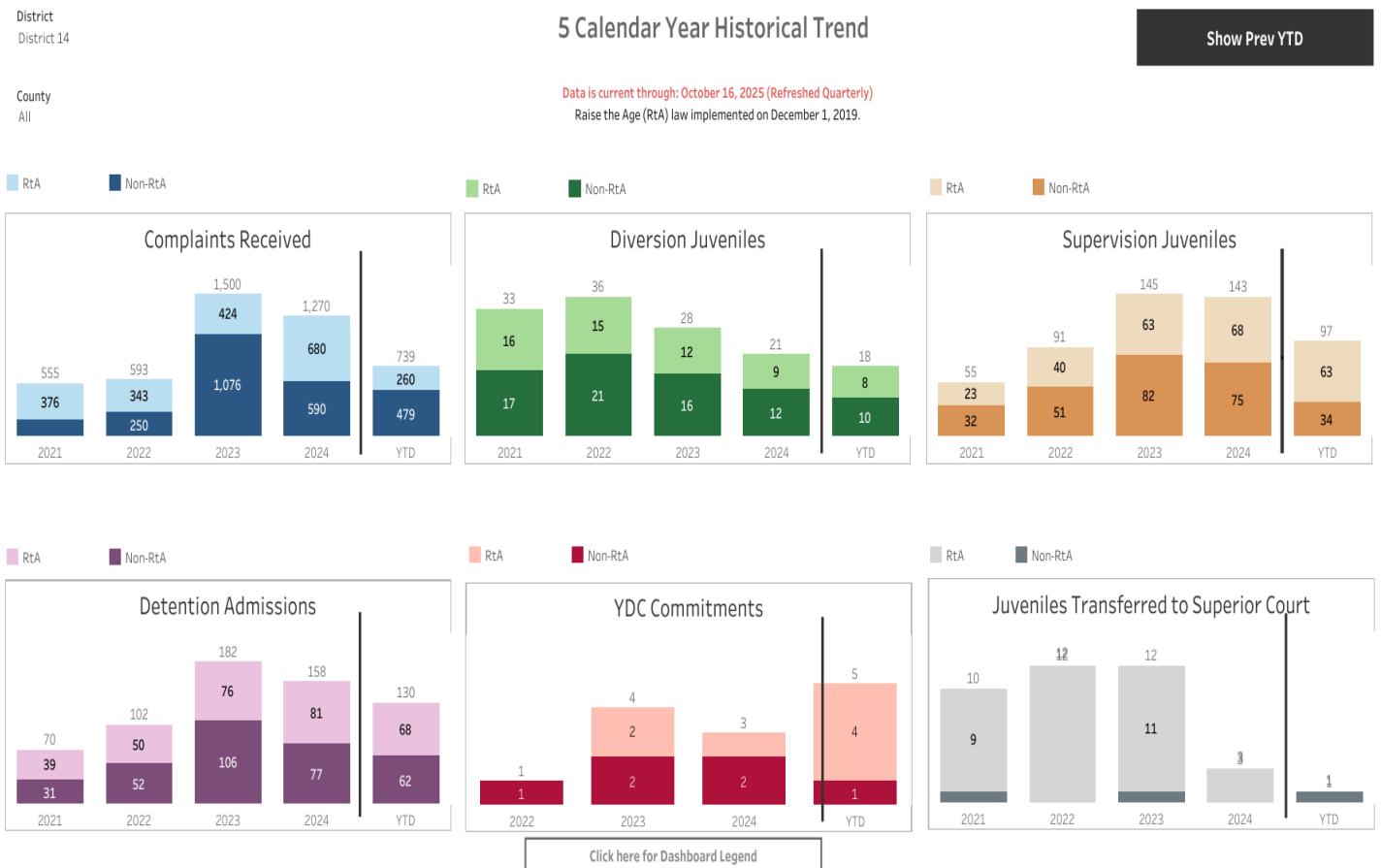
- ✓ The motion was moved by Seth Kandl and seconded by Dr. Watson. The motion carried unanimously with 13 votes in favor of sharing the ATS Program Letter of Support with Mrs. Suggs-Shealy, District Intervention & Support Coordinator Student Support Services and Mattocks-Perry, Senior Executive Director of Student Support Services.

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

No update given. Questions and/or concerns will be forwarded to Mr. Crews for resolve.

V. Court Counsel Update: *presented by Nicole Grant, Chief Court Counselor*

Counselor Grant presented the Five (5) Calendar Year Historical Trend Report as follows:



- The data displayed:
 - is current through July 17, 2025
 - is separated by 'Raise the Age' category = 16-17 years of age and 'Non-Raise-the-Age' category = under 16 years of age
 - YTD #'s in comparison to 2024:
 - ◆ Complaints Received = 739 ↓
 - ◆ Diversion Juveniles = 18 ↓
 - ◆ Supervision Juveniles = 97 ↓
 - ◆ Detention Admissions = 130 ↓
 - ◆ YDC Commitments = 5 ↑
 - ◆ Juveniles Transferred to Superior Court = 1 ↓
- Breaking and entering a motor vehicle is the current top complaint

Other updates:

- ▶ The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is currently staffed with seven (7) court counselors.
- ▶ All JCPC Programs have attended the DJJ staff meetings with the exception of Durham Teen Court whose meeting is scheduled for October 31st.

? Other than the existing JCPC Programs, , is there a need for different types of programs based on this data?

Answer: There has been discussion of developing a program that directly addresses gun violence in light of losing two (2) youths to gun violence in September.

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

Dr. Watson introduced Ms. Sheena Cooper, DPS Chief Communications Officer, to discuss her PPT presentation addressing communication between parents and the Department of Public Schools.

Ms. Cooper began by stating that this presentation denotes the efforts made by DPS to inform families of the work that's being done at the school and district levels to support student outcomes. Ms. Cooper presented the following information:

- **DPS' Mission:** Durham Public Schools embraces, educates, and empowers every student to innovate, serve, and lead.
- **DPS' Vision:** Igniting Limitless Potential
- **DPS:**
 - ✓ serves over 31,000 students, ranging from pre-K to 12th grade in 57 schools
 - ✓ offers several programs including an International Baccalaureate Program, a dual language immersion program, and Montessori Programming
 - ✓ also offers a series of early college courses that provide additional support for students to enter college with credits prior to graduating high school
 - ✓ examines students' social and emotional needs, as well as their academic pursuits
- **DPS' Four (4) Core Values:**
 - ✓ Equity
 - ✓ Shared Responsibility
 - ✓ High Expectations
 - ✓ A Child-Centered Approach
- **Communication:**
 - ✓ a Multi-Pronged approach is used to communicate and engage with families across Durham Public Schools by utilizing the following:
 - ▶ The District Website
 - ▶ DPS App:

- Rooms - allows teachers and families across different Durham Schools to communicate utilizing the same mechanisms; particularly useful for parents who have children in multiple schools.
- Word of Mouth:
 - Parent Ambassador Program – parents who represent different Durham schools share information directly from the district to families and vice versa. Launched by Dr. Watson and Ms. Cooper several years ago, this program continues to grow and thrive.
- Social Media
- Text, Call, and Email
- Peachjar - electronic flyer system
- Printed Materials (Flyers, Posters, Brochures)
- Events

? What are some of the challenges being faced with regard to the numerous budget cuts administered by this new administration?

Answer: Some of the cuts that are happening at the federal level are impeding DPS' progress in supporting students in every way possible. However, cuts haven't stopped DPS' progress in developing more thoughtful and intentional planning with assisting students.

(This PPT presentation was updated with Ms. Cooper's contact information and emailed to all JCPC Board members including Program representatives)

Dr. Watson thanked Ms. Cooper for her presentation and added that her next goal is to have a DPS representative address the JCPC regarding Title I Schools.

VII. Program Updates: September 2025

Chair McIver explained that going forward the Program Updates will be presented by reporting on the following five (5) informational points:

1. Current number of enrolled students
2. Number of new referrals
3. Number of successful completions
4. Programmatic changes/issues
5. Are the program's fiscal budget goals being met? If not, what are the issues that need to be addressed in order to maintain targeted goals?

While the Programmatic Achievements will not be part of the verbal report, it will still be included in the written report to be acknowledged by the entire Board.

① Project BUILD: report by Arkeem Brooks, Program Manager

- ◆ Current number of enrolled students: **86**
- ◆ Number of new referrals: **15**
- ◆ Number of successful completions: **6**
- ◆ Programmatic changes: **3** New Outreach Workers added to the Project BUILD Team.
- ◆ Programmatic issues: None
- ◆ Programmatic achievements:
 - 5 youths connected to educational services
 - 4 youths received employment
 - 15 youths participated in Project BUILD Group Session

Mr. Brooks also reported:

- ◆ As of October 22nd, the number of enrolled students are actually 82.
- ◆ With the three (3) new outreach workers that were hired in September, Project BUILD is now fully staffed.
- ◆ The Program is on track with their fiscal budget goals

② **PROUD Program:** report by Yasmine Boone, Intake Counselor

- ◆ Current number of enrolled students: **5**
- ◆ Number of new referrals: **4**
- ◆ Number of successful completions: **0** for the month; **2** for the year. Our program is 16 weeks.
- ◆ Programmatic changes: No issues, but we are working closely with DPS staff to assist with those juveniles who say they are interested in getting their GED but are nowhere close to being eligible due to their school status.
- ◆ Programmatic issues: None
- ◆ Programmatic achievements: All staff have completed recertification for our evidence-based facilitation. Our interns are being trained also by staff, in preparation to begin group facilitation on their own. Our DEAC referrals have picked up this month also, from Durham Public Schools (for students who have been suspended for violating the school policy on drugs or alcohol).

Dr. Watson thanked Ms. Boone for attending their anti-bullying rally and added that the increased number of referrals to the PROUD Program are a direct result of the growing trust and transparency in the program's relationships that are being formed across the district.

③ **Parenting of Adolescents:** report by Leah Santibañez

- ◆ Current number of enrolled students: **10** Students (**8 MDFT** cases, **2 TFCBT** cases).
- ◆ Number of new referrals: **3** new referrals were received during the month of September
- ◆ Number of successful completions: **0** cases were successfully closed in September
- ◆ Programmatic changes: N/A
- ◆ Programmatic issues: Low incoming referral numbers
- ◆ Programmatic achievements:
 - 1 additional Therapist has begun their training in MDFT and TFCBT, which will increase capacity for service delivery
 - Trunk-or-Treat Family Event is scheduled for October 25th at EFC Office site
 - Current wait time has been decreased to 2 weeks for all services
 - New case assignment process is going well
 - POA will be able to accept 1-2 interns for the Spring 2026 semester

Ms. Santibañez stated:

- ◆ Madison Hill has been hired as a Therapist Assistant who will support efforts to increase referrals and assist in closing cases.

? Define MDFT and TFCBT.

Answer:

MDFT = Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy = working with a family 3 hours/week; one hour with the student, one hour with the parent, and one hour with the family together; this treatment utilizes a substance abuse prevention reduction model, which will ultimately improve communication and relationship strength.

TFCBT = Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy = focused on healing from a traumatic incident; treatment involves the caregiver's participation.

④ **Durham Teen Court & Restitution Program:** *(representative not present)*

Durham County Teen Court:

- Current number of enrolled students: **13**
- Number of new referrals: **3**
- Number of successful completions: **1**
- Programmatic changes: none
- Programmatic issues: none
- Programmatic achievements: n/a

Durham County Restitution Program:

- Current number of enrolled students: **11**
- Number of new referrals: **2**
- Number of successful completions: **0**
- Programmatic changes: none
- Programmatic issues: none
- Programmatic achievements: n/a

⑤ **GRACED:** *presented by Tiffany Swoope, Executive Director*

- Current number of enrolled students: **18**
- Number of new referrals: **0**
- Number of successful completions: **0**
- Programmatic changes: Please email tiffany@gracedinc.com for questions.
 - GRACED, Inc. has implemented a monthly Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Art Fusion class in collaboration with Artpost Durham. This initiative provides youth with opportunities to build self-awareness, emotional regulation and interpersonal skills through creative expression. The sessions are facilitated with support from three master's-level students from NCCU, specializing in Social Work and Psychology, further strengthening the program's therapeutic and educational impact.
- Programmatic issues: Transportation is an ongoing issue and a huge expense.
- Programmatic achievements:
 - Our Community Healing Circle pilot program, held on the first and third Fridays of each month, has been a tremendous success so far. The initiative focuses on mental health awareness and community healing, providing a safe and welcoming environment for parents, teens and youth to connect through activities that promote emotional well-being and relationship building. Participants engage in a variety of experiences including board and card games, basketball, laughter, open dialogue and shared meals, all designed to foster connection and reduce social isolation. The program is supported by seven dedicated NCCU volunteers, many of whom have academic interests in community-based mental health and social work. GRACED Inc. remains committed to continuing this impactful series as long as resources allow.
 - Our Team successfully **recruited 25 NCCU students** on-campus to support the launch of the **Eagle Vision Collective** initiative, developed in collaboration with the **NCCU Psychology Department**. These students will receive structured **classroom-based training and academic support** as they prepare to serve as mentors in a **targeted adolescent diversion program**. This effort is designed to promote positive youth development, provide early intervention and strengthen the connection between higher education and community-based mentoring while maximizing the opportunity to best support at-risk youth.
 - Youth who attended the Leadership Conference in Orlando have continued their growth by working one-on-one with our Team to develop and deliver peer presentations focused on behavioral change and positive mindsets. This initiative empowers participants to translate their learning into action while building leadership, public speaking, creative expression and confidence. In addition, Spanish-speaking support has been provided to ensure full participation and inclusion of youth with language barriers, reinforcing our commitment to equity, accessibility and meaningful engagement for all participants.

Ms. Swoope also reported:

- ◆ A Youth-Centered Strategic Plan was submitted to the Mayor and County Commissioners' Office for the advancement of services provided by the program .

⑥ **Elna B. Spaulding Conflict Resolution:** *(representative not present)*

- ◆ Current number of enrolled students: **15**
- ◆ Number of new referrals: **Youth Mediation - 1 | Truancy Mediation - 9**
- ◆ Number of successful completions: **0**
- ◆ Programmatic changes: N/A
- ◆ Programmatic issues: N/A
- ◆ Programmatic achievements:
 - We held several interviews for our pilot Mentorship Program.
 - Attended Project BUILD intervention meetings on September 3 and 17.
 - Conducted the first Truancy Mediation session for the 2025–2026 school year and scheduled additional Truancy Mediation sessions for October. We are pleased to begin receiving referrals early in the school year.
 - Met with representatives from Durham Public Schools (DPS) and the Durham Housing Authority to discuss how to help DHA communities with school attendance issues on September 30.
 - Presented CRC programs to secondary principals at the Early College building on September 18.
 - Attended community meetings hosted by the Durham Crisis Prevention Center on September 19.
 - Attended the webinar “*Is it Defiance or is it Trauma? Recognizing the Differences that Impact Diagnoses and Treatment of Justice-Involved Youth*” on September 24.
 - Scheduled 1-hour workshop on conflict resolution tools to youth and families at two Durham Housing Authority communities—Laurel Oaks (October 9) and Cornwallis (October 14)—in collaboration with DHA contact, Jamel Malone.
- ◆ **Upcoming Goals – October 2025:**
 - Complete scheduled presentations at Laurel Oaks and Cornwallis Housing Communities
 - Conduct mentor onboarding for Mentorship Program on October 13.
 - Continue conducting Truancy Mediation sessions to address attendance challenges and promote improved school engagement.
 - Present to School Social workers to review the truancy mediation protocol and ensure consistent implementation across schools.

VIII. Other Business/Announcements:

Chair McIver paid homage to the late DeWarren Langley and encouraged board members to continue including and considering Mr. Langley’s contribution to the community via the operations of this JCPC.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Angela Nunn; seconded by Alex Hurdle; Mrs. Nunn adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:16pm.