



JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

November 19, 2025 JCPC Full Board Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Kevin McIver, Angela Nunn, Nicole Grant, Alex Hurdle, Laylon Williams

Members On-line: Jonathan Wilson, Ramya Krishna, Dr. Melissa Watson, Seth Kandl, Dr. Linda (LA) Cutler, Renee Hill, John Morris, Beverly (BJ) Council

Programs Present: Krystal Harris (Project BUILD), Raquel Dominguez (CRC), Cynia Black (Parenting of Adolescents)

Programs On-line: Yasmine Boone (PROUD Program), Quille Coath (PROUD Program), Tiffany Swoope (GRACED, Inc.), Alvin Black (Durham Teen Court & Restitution)

Guests On-line: Julien Odom (PROUD Program), Raven Walters-RYSE Assessment Center, Madison-Hill (Parenting of Adolescents), Candy Reyes Monterrosa (CRC), Kourtney Royster (DPS), Zakilya Taylor-Thompson (RYSE Assessment Center)

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

Excused Absences: Commissioner Stephen Valentine, Sgt. Larry Watkins, LiBria Stephens

I. **Welcome & Introductions**

Chair McIver called the meeting to order at 4:05pm and welcomed everyone.

All in-house attendees introduced themselves; roll call was conducted for on-line attendees. Quorum was not established.

II. **October 22, 2025 Minutes review/approval**

(In absence of a quorum, Chair McIver moved to Agenda Item III)

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

Dr. Watson introduced Kourtney Royster, Whole Schools Well-Being Specialist, who presented 'PULSE', Mental Health Services for students.

Mr. Royster began by stating that his position oversees school-based mental health programming. The funding received from Durham County allowed for the expansion and rebranding of DPS' existing mental health program by partnering with Alliance and developing PULSE. Mr. Royster proceeded to present the following:

- ▶ PULSE stands for **P**rioritizing and **U**plifting **L**earners through **S**ocial and **E**motional empowerment.

- ▶ PULSE consists of three (3) programs:

1. **ECHO:**

- stands for **E**motional **C**are and **H**ealing **O**n-site
- connects students with licensed therapists
- sessions are held during the school day
- ensures direct access to therapy and is an insurance-based program
- DPS is partnered with two (2) providers that administer mental health services to under/non-insured students:
 - i. Hazel Health – provides telehealth services; employs clinicians who speak over 30 languages
 - ii. World Relief – treats students who are qualified under the Office of Refugees and Resettlement

2. **SURGE:**

- stands for **S**pecialized **U**nified **R**esponse for **G**uidance and **E**mpowerment
- serves students who are classified as ‘Tier 3’ – students who have elevated needs, are evaluated to be Intellectually and **D**evelopmentally **D**elayed (**IDD**), and who require long-term services
- does not provide in-school treatment but provides coordinated care

3. **SYNC:**

- stands for **S**upporting **Y**outh in **N**avigating **C**risis
- supports students who experience a mental health emergency (i.e. students who are expressing suicidal or homicidal ideation) that requires time away from school
 - **SYNC PRTF Program - Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Program:** keeping up with students’ progress who require 6 months to a year in a treatment facility and assist them with transitioning back in to school

? How do you navigate the consent process for students who are in the ECHO Program?

Answer: All PULSE Programs require obtaining parental consent to ensure parental involvement, as a requirement of the Parents' Bill of Rights.

? How is scheduling therapy during the school day achieved?

Answer: It is a collaborative process between the agency and the school’s Student Support Services Team. The students’ schedule is looked at to see where there are gaps or opportunities available for the student to be out of class for an extended period of time.

? Is the PRTF Program for Durham based students only?

Answer: This program only follows Durham County students even though a student may be referred to a clinic outside of Durham.

? Is this a proactive program where students are sought out who have experienced trauma due to violence?

Answer: PULSE is a voluntary program, however, there are students who are sought out who might have been impacted by community violence, or grief. Students who have been referred by parents or other sources are also accepted into the program.

? Are there any proactive measures in place to address the current immigration situation?

Answer: DPS is making sure that all personnel are aware of what procedures to follow when it comes to students who may be impacted. Also, a meeting will be held where a collaboration between Durham Public Schools and community members will distribute information regarding mental health supports and other resources available to impacted families.

► Mr. Royster added the following points:

- In order to connect with any programs/resources at the school level, it's always best to contact the school counselor and/or the school social worker.
- There are seven (7) members of the School-Based Team (SBT) that represent the partnership with Alliance and coordinate services for the referred families. This team was developed and designed based on Wake County’s SBT module.
- DPS and Alliance contact information was provided and noted in the PPT

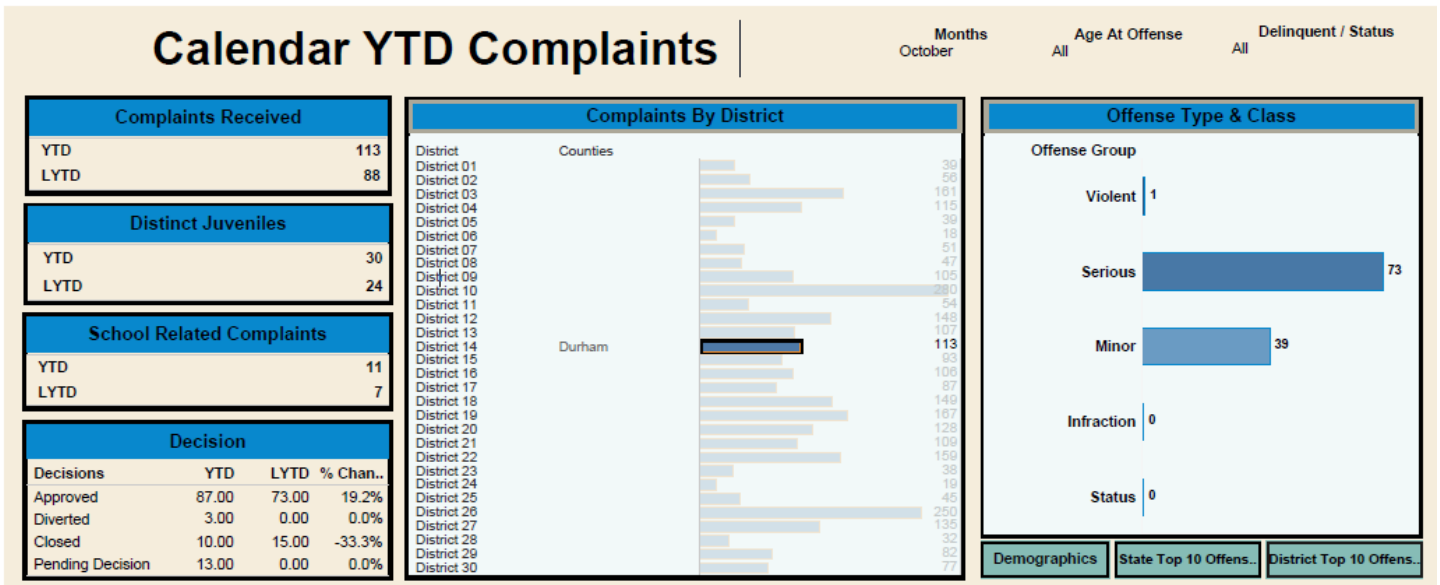
(The PULSE PPT and brochures provided by Mr. Royster will be shared with the entire board including Programs).

IV. **JCPC Member Presentation – Sgt. Larry Watkins – School Resource Officers (SROs) PPT Presentation**

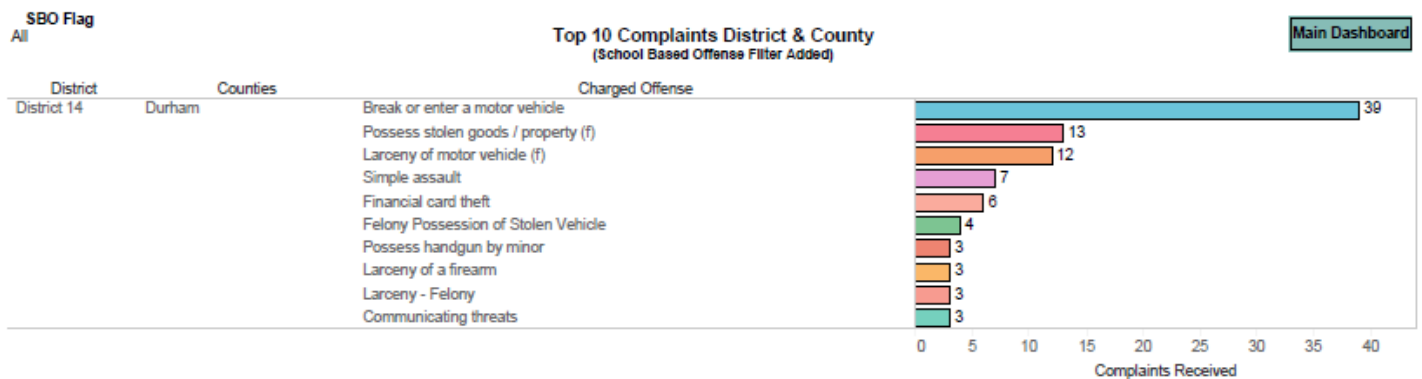
(Presentation cancelled – to be rescheduled)

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

Mr. Crews stated that the following report was approved by the Executive Committee to present to the board on a monthly basis, which will replace the Court Counsel Quarterly Report. This report will show the prior calendar month’s total number of complaints, total number of distinct juveniles, and the types of complaints that are being received by court services.



- Mr. Crews noted that this report compares statistics from October 2024 to October 2025
 - Complaints Received ↑ of 25
 - The 113 complaints are broken down by type and class with ‘Serious’ offenses being the highest
 - Distinct Juveniles ↑ of 6
 - School related complaints ↑ of 4
 - With regard to the increase in numbers, one juvenile can commit multiple offenses, especially with the increased number of breaking or entering into motor vehicles



- Mr. Crews noted the above ‘Top 10 Complaints’ Report shows:
 - Breaking or entering a motor vehicle has the highest number of complaints – not just in Durham but across the state of North Carolina.
 - The other charges noted in this report are directly associated with the breaking or entering a motor vehicle charge. Durham youths’ access to weapons are increasing due to unsafe storage of weapons in motor vehicles.
 - **Chief Court Counsel Nicole Grant announced that there are gun locks available in the Department of Juvenile Justice’s Office at 201 East Main Street, 6th Floor, Ste 620.**

VI. Program Updates: October 2025

① **Project BUILD:** *report by Krystal Harris, Director, Community Intervention and Support Services*

- Current number of enrolled students: **85**
- Number of new referrals: **6**
- Number of successful completions: **0**
- Programmatic changes: **None**
- Programmatic issues: **None**
- Are the program's fiscal budget goals being met? **Yes**
- If not, what are the issues that need to be addressed in order to maintain targeted goals? **N/A**
- Programmatic achievements: 2 youths completed probation, 3 received employment

✚ Chair McIver posed the following question to **all** programs: What trends (beyond the juveniles' criminal behavior) do you see among the youth and families that lead them to need services for your program?

Answer: Ms. Harris replied that the biggest need is transportation. The Program's staff members have undertaken the responsibility of providing a great deal of transportation for their youths to obtain services, take their GED, get to job interviews etc.

Also, there is a great deal of food and laundry insecurities as well as basic needs not being met i.e. lack of toiletries and hygiene products. Adverse behavior in youths is significantly increased when basic needs are not met.

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

- Current number of enrolled students: **14**
- Number of new referrals: **17**
- Number of successful completions: **0** (being a 16-week program)
- Programmatic changes: We've begun providing services for the students in the alternative school.
- Programmatic issues: **None**
- Are the program's fiscal budget goals being met? **Yes**
- If not, what are the issues that need to be addressed in order to maintain targeted goals? **N/A**
- Programmatic achievements: We attended the DPS Bullying Summit, as requested by Dr. Watson, where we provided literature and information to DPS administrators and staff. Staff continues to fulfill monthly trainings provided by the state and other agencies

Ms. Boone also reported:

- there were 38 school-based program referrals, (for the DEAC and Bullying Programs)
- there are 24 youths in the Life Skills program
- there are five (5) youths in the GED program (a total of 68 youths were referred to date)
- there are increased referrals from SROs for youths with weapon and drug charges (who do not qualify for DPS' DEAC services)

Mr. Coath responded to Chair McIver's question by stating:

- Transportation is an issue because a lot of parents are unable to transport their children to and from the program due to having to work during the operating times of the program .
- A lot of criminal activity is being committed in the evenings due to lack of supervision because more and more parents are working 2 – 3 jobs which causes youths to have a lot of idle, unsupervised time.

③ **Parenting of Adolescents:** *report by Cynia Black, Program Manager*

- Current number of enrolled students: **7** families (Team has contacted/ in the process of contacting **9** additional families)
- Number of new referrals: **6** new referrals were received during the month of October
- Number of successful completions: **1** satisfactory completion
- Programmatic changes: MSW Intern, Bethany Harper, joined the team on November 5th. Ms. Harper will be assisting with MDFT clients
- Programmatic issues: **N/A**
- Are the program's fiscal budget goals being met? **Yes, however budget revision will be submitted to account for training funds not spent for TF-CBT**
- If not, what are the issues that need to be addressed in order to maintain targeted goals? **N/A**
- Programmatic achievements:
 - 1 Clinician was accepted into TF-CBT collaborative with CCFH
 - 1 Clinician has completed 60% of MDFT training
 - Program has filled intern and clinical case manager positions

Ms. Black responded to Chair McIver's question by stating:

- More of the Program's families prefer to do their services virtually however due to their work schedules, parents do not have much availability to participate in their individual sessions.
- More of the Program's parents are working 2 - 3 jobs which are leaving a lot of students unsupervised and not attending school which is resulting in an uptick of problematic behavior.

④ **Durham Teen Court & Restitution Program:** *reported by Alvin Black, Coordinator*

Durham County Teen Court:

- Current number of enrolled students: **11**
- Number of new referrals: **4**
- Number of successful completions: **1**
- Programmatic changes: **None**
- Programmatic issues: **None**
- Are the program's fiscal budget goals being met? **Yes**
- If not, what are the issues that need to be addressed in order to maintain targeted goals? **N/A**
- Programmatic achievements: **N/A**

Mr. Black also reported that:

- After November's session of Teen Court, there were four (4) additional successful completions.
- One youth graduated and is now enrolled and attending college.
- The Program successfully assisted the North Carolina School of Science and Math in starting a mock trial program where juveniles volunteer as youth attorneys.

Durham County Restitution Program:

- Current number of enrolled students: **9**
- Number of new referrals: **1**
- Number of successful completions: **1**
- Programmatic changes: **N/A**
- Programmatic issues: **None**
- Are the program's fiscal budget goals being met? **Yes**
- If not, what are the issues that need to be addressed in order to maintain targeted goals? **N/A**
- Programmatic achievements: **N/A**

Mr. Black responded to Chair McIver's question by stating:

- ◆ Transportation to and from the program is an ongoing issue.
- ◆ Lack of adequate technology – juveniles are unable to fulfill court ordered requirements i.e. writing and submitting apology essays etc.
- ◆ Parents are dealing with ungovernable youths and are unsuccessful in obtaining accessible mental health services.

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

- ◆ Current number of enrolled students: **19**
- ◆ Number of new referrals: **1**
- ◆ Number of successful completions: **0**
- ◆ Programmatic changes: **None**
- ◆ Programmatic issues: **None**
- ◆ Are the program's fiscal budget goals being met? **Yes, for the most part. We need more resources and are actively seeking opportunities.**
- ◆ If not, what are the issues that need to be addressed in order to maintain targeted goals? **Due to the current political challenges, the demographic that we serve are being crushed with hunger and simple essentials, i.e. hygiene**
- ◆ Programmatic achievements:
 - GRACED, Inc. proudly participated in National Night Out in the Cornwallis Community, joined by three NCCU interns and two program ambassadors who helped represent our mission. The event was a great opportunity to connect with new programs and local churches eager to collaborate and strengthen our collective efforts to uplift and support the community.
 - GRACED, Inc. has launched a podcast class in collaboration with our partner: One Community. One Voice. One Vision. Our teens are taking the lead in building this project from the ground up, selecting the name, applying for the EIN, and managing every step with guidance and support. Our podcast will launch out of Weaver Street Recreation Center and is open to our mentoring participants and any interested youth, this initiative empowers our teens to grow as future leaders while learning the power and impact of their voices.
 - GRACED, Inc. continues to host Community Healing Circles on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at the recreation center for youth and their families. Over the past two months, these gatherings have been a great success, bringing together NCCU Psychology students and a dance team from NCCU to infuse positive energy, fun, and connection into the space. Each event includes a shared meal, creating a warm and uplifting environment for the community to come together and heal.
 - Our Team has remained deeply committed to meeting the community's needs in light of the recent SNAP shutdown. In response, we developed an extensive list of community resources to share widely and help families access vital support. We also launched hygiene, dry food and coat drives across NCCU's campus, local churches and partnering organizations to ensure families have the essentials they need during this challenging time.
 - Our Team participated in a community health event hosted by NCCU's Community Engagement Department, where we connected with potential new partners and shared information about our program and collaboration with NCCU's Psychology Department. The event also provided an opportunity to strategically advocate for the Cornwallis Community and raise awareness about the impactful work GRACED, Inc. is positioning to do through Eagle Vision Collective.

- GRACED, Inc. launched its second community health initiative in partnership with NCCU's Psychology Department, creating intentional spaces for both men and women in the Cornwallis Community to engage in healing through art, open dialogue and connection. Each event provided a safe environment for participants to express themselves, build trust and strengthen community bonds. Refreshments were served, and the gatherings fostered powerful conversations around mental health, resilience and unity—continuing our shared mission to promote healing and holistic well-being for all.

Ms. Swoope responded to Chair McIver's question by stating:

- ◆ Transportation to and from the program for juveniles that live outside of the community due to parents working multiple jobs is an ongoing major issue.

⑥ **Elna B. Spaulding Conflict Resolution:** *reported by Raquel Dominguez, Executive Director*

- ◆ Current number of enrolled students:

- 1) **Truancy Mediation = 24**
- 2) **Youth Mediation = 12**

- ◆ Number of new referrals:

- 1) **Truancy Mediation = 15**
- 2) **Youth Mediation = 6**

- ◆ Number of successful completions: **0**

- ◆ Programmatic changes: **N/A**

- ◆ Programmatic issues: **N/A**

- ◆ Are the program's fiscal budget goals being met?

Most budget goals are being met. Staff salaries are being paid according to the approved budget, and overall expenditures are within plan. Variances are anticipated, such as under-budget mentor costs (mentors begin receiving cases in November) and differences in supplies. Most expenses occur between January and June. All variances are monitored.

- ◆ If not, what are the issues that need to be addressed in order to maintain targeted goals? **N/A**

- ◆ Programmatic achievements:

- Continued providing mediation sessions to youth and families.
- Conducted 5 Youth Mediation activities, including debriefings and parent/school conference meetings.
- Attended the Laurel Oaks outreach event (expected 30 participants; actual attendance 0). Efforts are underway to improve engagement for future events.
- Rescheduled the Cornwallis Rd. presentation from October 14 to December 10.
- Maintained ongoing participation in Project Build intervention meetings to support collaboration and youth outcomes.
- Held mentor onboarding meeting on October 13.

Ms. Dominguez responded to Chair McIver's question by stating:

- ◆ Lack of supervision due to parents' work schedule is an ongoing issue.
- ◆ Transportation to and from the program is also an ongoing issue.

- ❖ Having established quorum, Chair McIver recalled **Agenda Item II. October 22, 2025 Minutes Approval:** Hearing no corrections, Angela Nunn moved to approve the October 22, 2025 minutes. The motion was seconded by Alex Hurdle and moved unanimously by the voting board members to approve the October 22, 2025 minutes.

VII. Chair Update:

- a. JCPC Letter of Support Status:

Chair McIver informed the board that the JCPC Alternative to Suspension Letter of Support has been sent out to the DPS Superintendent, Dr. Anthony S. Lewis, the BOCC Chair, Nida Allam and, the DPS Board Chair, Bettina Umstead on November 7th. No response has been received as of yet.

b. Monitoring Team Assignments (reminder):

The submission of completed monitoring reports due date is January 30th, 2026 and team leads will present their findings at February's full board meeting on the 25th.

VIII. Other Business/Announcements:

- ❖ Chair McIver urged board members to be mindful of the current climate regarding immigration and the recent reinstatement of SNAP benefits by trying to reach out to those in need during this holiday season.
 - ✚ Chair McIver announced that he is in the planning stages of going before the BOCC to request the full 30% match required by the Department of Public Safety.
- ❖ BJ Council suggested that the identification of trends be an ongoing conversation in order to address the issues brought to light by the Program representatives
- ❖ Dr. Cuttler urged everyone to engage in self-care while well-doing for others.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Angela Nunn; seconded by Alex Hurdle; meeting adjourned at 5:21 pm.