



JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

June 25, 2025 JCPC Full Board Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Kevin McIver, Angela Nunn, Jonathan Wilson, Nicole Grant, Beverly (B. J.) Council, Seth Kandl, Abigail Holloway, Sgt. Frederick Kearns, John Morris, Ramya Krishna, LiBria Stephens, Dr. Melissa Watson, Dorothy Hardin, Monica Burnette, DeWarren Langley, Quanesha Archer, Commissioner Stephen Valentine, Alex Hurdle, Sgt. Larry Watkins

Programs Present: Raquel Dominguez (Youth Mediation), Cynia Black (Parenting of Adolescents), Arkeem Brooks (Project BUILD), Yasmine Boone (PROUD Program), Quille Coath (PROUD Program), Alvin Black (Teen Court & Restitution Program), Tiffany Swoope (GRACED Inc), Katherine Pettaway (SUSO/EPIC)

Guests Present: Captain A. D. Hinton (Durham County Sheriff's Office), Beyonnshea Lucas (GRACED), Kendra Shealey (DPS)

Staff Present: Walter 'Eddie' Crews, Roshanna Parker, Viveca Deans, Janice Williams

Excused Absences: Duane Brinson, Layton Williams, Renee Hill, Maggie Clapp

I. **Welcome & Introductions**

Chair McIver called the meeting to order at 4:05pm, welcomed everyone and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

Quorum was established.

II. **May 2025 Minutes Approval**

Hearing no corrections, a motion to approve the May 28, 2025 minutes was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

III. **Election of Officers:**

Chair McIver opened the floor for additional nominations. Hearing none, ballots were given to each voting board member present. Proxy Ballots were given to those members appointed as proxies according to received, written documentation per Durham County JCPC Bylaws. All ballots were collected and tallied by the JCPC Coordinator.

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

Chair McIver moved this agenda for later discussion pending Mr. Crews' attendance.

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

Ms. Grant stated that the report given in May's JCPC Board meeting was the most recent update. The next update will be given in either August or September as numbers are now being updated quarterly. Ms. Grant reported that Alexis Cooper and Pamela Joyner are no longer with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the office is currently seeking replacements.

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

Dr. Watson stated that going forward, any data presented to this JCPC will more than likely be shared at the beginning of the year rather than the end because the Department of Public Schools Board must approve the data before it is shared.

i. Dr. Watson went on to present the **2023-2024 Attendance Rates and Dropout Reports via (PPT Attachment 1)**.

- A national view and percentages were presented reflecting attendance and absenteeism.
- Statistics show that when excessive absenteeism is present in kindergartners, these students continue to have significant academic challenges moving forward.
- Statistics also show that if a student is not reading at grade level by 4th grade, the potential to dropout of school increases.
- The larger the district, the greater the opportunity is to have chronically absent scholars.
- While Durham's absenteeism rate has increased from 19% in 2019 to 37% in 2023, all of North Carolina's county's absenteeism rates have steadily increased.

Dr. Watson presented the **Durham Public Schools – Attendance Rates – 2023 – 2024 (PDF Attachment 2)**, which displays the attendance rates by individual school.

- Numbers highlighted in red require/receive the greatest focus due to the numbers not reaching the required DPS benchmark.
- Numbers highlighted in yellow are being monitored very closely by DPS.
- Numbers highlighted in green have met the DPS benchmark.
- The schools that are doing well are monitored by DPS so that their practices can be replicated in schools whose numbers are not meeting or are below the benchmark.
- Durham Performance Learning Center and Lakeview are alternative schools where students who have not been successful in the traditional educational environment are placed to receive more personalized attention, strategies and support.

Dr. Watson stated that JCPC's Conflict Resolution Center (CRC) has been extremely instrumental in managing truant scholars in conjunction with DPS' administration. This collaborative effort has doubled the number of families serviced within the past year.

Dr. Watson presented the **Dropout Report by Race/Ethnicity & Gender 2023 – 2024 (PDF-Attachment 3)**

- The 'dropout' number is defined as the number of students who no longer attends the school where they are registered, and DPS has no information as to where that student is registered and attending school. A 'transfer' is identified as a student who is no longer attending the school where they are registered, and it is known where that student is registered and attending school.
- The monitoring systems that are in place by DPS are utilized to contact students and their families to have conversations before labeling a student as a dropout. Students and families are made aware that DPS will still provide learning services in addition to offering school alternatives (i.e. access to The Durham Performance Learning Center and Lakeview schools) to fulfill these students' educational needs.

Dr. Watson encouraged the continued, cooperative effort between DPS and JCPC to find solutions to the common concerns of Durham's absenteeism and dropout rates.

ii. Kendra Suggs-Shealey presented the **Alternatives to Suspension Programs (PPT-Attachment 4)**

Kendra began by stating that one of her roles at DPS is overseeing the Alternatives to Suspension Program (ATS). In addition to addressing attendance issues, another initiative of DPS is to lower the suspension rate.

- A principal has the option of offering the student the opportunity to participate in an Alternative to Suspension Program if a student violates one of the six (6) identified infractions (outlined in the attached PPT presentation).
- If a student and their parent/caretaker agree to participate in and complete the ATS Program in its entirety, the principal has the discretion to rescind or reduce the number of suspension days.
- There are six (6) corresponding community providers (identified in the attached PPT presentation) that students are referred to when participating in the ATS Program depending on the infraction.

- Of the 68 students referred to the ATS Program, 53 students completed the program in its entirety.
- The Drug Education and Counseling Program received the highest number of referrals of all six (6) infractions totaling 57.
- DPS' initiatives are to highlight and expand this program so that this will be the first option for a student rather than suspension.
- This school year, the ATS Program ran out of funding due to budget deficits which resulted in students not having this option. Advocation by way of attending school board meetings for this program would be greatly appreciated and was encouraged by Kendra Shealey.
 - Commissioner Valentine stated that once the county has finalized and approved the budget, it is at the discretion of Durham Public Schools to allocate that funding according to the schools' needs.
- Hillside, Riverside and Southern High Schools utilize the ATS Program most frequently.

✚ Appointed Board Member, BJ Council, suggested that this JCPC compose a letter to the BOCC advocating for increased financial support for this Alternative to Suspension Program as it is evidenced as being successful. Also, to make it known to the public/community that the JCPC is supporting this initiative.

✚ Mr. Langley made a motion to send a letter on behalf of this JCPC to the DPS Board and the Superintendent in support of this ATS Program. The motion was seconded and unanimously moved by majority vote.

! Chair Mclver stated a letter will be drafted which will contain input from **all voting board members** and their approval. This letter will also incorporate verbiage relevant for submission to the BOCC.

Chair Mclver recalled Agenda Item IV. Area Consultant Update – Mr. Walter ‘Eddie’ Crews

Mr. Crews addressed the following:

- **County Cash Match:** Mr. Crews acknowledged the County for providing the \$105,300 cash match (15% of the 30% required by the State from Programs). The FY '25-'26 Funding Plan was displayed, and it was explained that the \$105,300 was evenly allocated to each program in 15% increments denoted in the second column - 'County Cash Match'. The 15% was added to any existing amount of county cash a program is already receiving.
 - The funding plan has to align with what is in NC Allies in order for the State to approve the FY '25-'26 Program Agreements before the July monthly disbursements are scheduled to go out to the Programs. Programs were urged to make any necessary adjustments as soon as possible.
- **Final Accounting:** Mr. Crews stated that this is a standard report detailing the final accounting of all expenses incurred by each program for FY '24-'25. Programs still have time to complete revisions to their expenditures making sure that it is aligned with the program's budget.

VII. **Program Updates:** [see attachments **5-Parenting of Adolescents**, **6-GRACED**, **7-Proud Program**, **8- Durham Teen Court & Restitution** and **9 - Elna B. Spaulding/Conflict Resolution**]

✚ **Election Results**

Chair	Kevin Mclver
Vice Chair	Ramya Krishna
Secretary	LiBria Stephens
Treasurer	Jonathan Wilson
Parliamentarian	Angela Nunn

VIII. Chair Updates:

- EPIC and Triangle Literacy Programs are no longer with this JCPC
- There is no July JCPC meeting scheduled; the next meeting is August 27th – **in-person**
- There are two (2) open Board seats:
 - Substance Abuse Professional
 - Youth (Under Age 21) OR Member of the Public Representing the Interests of Families At-Risk Juveniles

✚ **Link to access the profile to apply for a Durham County Board Seat** (Ctrl + Left Click to access link):
<https://durhamcounty.granicus.com/boards/forms/111/apply/>

IX. Other Business/Announcements:

- DeWarren Langley announced:
 - He has emailed a Durham County Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report Release for the board members review.
 - Another email was sent to the board regarding a new loan program to open doors to careers in the Electric Line Technician field through Durham Tech.
 - He will be re-establishing a partnership with the Durham Rescue Mission with their back-to school event and would like the program providers to prepare to participate in this event to share information about each their programs to the community.
 - Programs should Connect with NC Works Program where you can utilize this federally funded program to assist juveniles with skill development and employment placement.
- BJ Council suggested that as a new board member (and as new members come on board) a packet containing past meeting minutes should be provided for reference . Also, provide an ‘Annual Report’ that identifies programmatic trends and how the programs’ needs are being communicated to the community.

X. Adjournment:

Chair McIver adjourned the meeting at 5:57pm

Attachments

To access attachments, double-click on icon and PPT

1.



Attendance &
Graduation Gaps.ppt

2.



Attendance Rates
2023-24 - Attendance

3.



Dropout Report
2023-24.pdf

4.



5. Parenting of Adolescents Monthly Report



POA June 2025
JCPC YTD Report.pdf

6. GRACED Monthly Report



GRACED June
Update.pdf

Attachments (cont'd)

To access attachments, double-click on icon and PPT

7. PROUD Program Monthly Report



PROUD - JCPC
Monthly Report Jun

8. Durham Teen Court & Restitution Monthly Report



Teen Court JCPC
Monthly Report Ter

9. Elna B. Spaulding



Elna B. Spaulding
Monthly Report Jun