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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the staff and partners of the Durham County Justice Services Department, it is my pleasure to share with you our Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

In alignment with Durham County's strategic plan, our department is dedicated to improving outcomes for justice-involved individuals by delivering a comprehensive range of services that promote compassionate, whole-person care. We strive to provide assistance grounded in dignity and respect, from outpatient substance use disorder treatment and mental health services to cognitive behavioral programming. We also work with community contractors to deliver essential supports such as emergency food, transitional housing, clothing, employment referrals, and job readiness classes. Every person who comes to us has unique needs, and we take the time to understand each client as an individual. This person-centered approach enables us to deliver tailored services to their specific circumstances.

Building and sustaining key strategic partnerships is essential to our success. We form partnerships with individuals and agencies that have values and missions in line with those we champion. We are thankful for the many partners who strengthen and sustain our work.

This report highlights some of our accomplishments over the 2024-2025 service year, including: renaming Adult Drug Treatment Court to Recovery Court, securing continuation awards from SAMHSA (Recovery Court expansion), ABC, and the Local Reentry Council, and the addition of a new Recidivism Reduction Services contract.

Our work would not be possible without the thoughtful guidance and support of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and County Administration. We are equally grateful for the compassion, dedication, and expertise of our exceptional staff, whose commitment makes our success possible.

With gratitude,



Joshanna Johnshren

Director

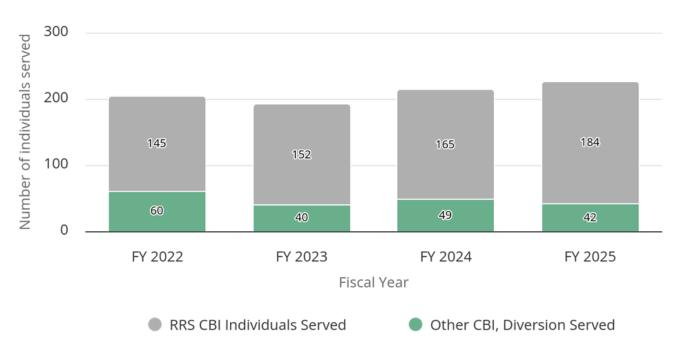
Justice Services Department

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

The Justice Services Department provides outpatient Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment, Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (CBI), case management, housing assistance, and wraparound services to Durham County residents on supervised probation, post-release supervision, or parole, as well as individuals participating in diversion programs.

Cognitive Behavioral Intervention

CBI teaches participants how to create positive change in their lives by developing more effective ways of thinking. Participants are taught to examine themselves and recognize when negative thoughts and emotions are escalating. CBI participants learn problem solving skills to help them make better decisions when stressed, angry, or in conflict situations.





I attended many group sessions where we talked a lot about thinking before reacting and doing. I learned how to think before acting, so my actions don't backfire. I'm not the old me. Now I stay away from the mess and am looking for a job. I spend my time working out and hanging out at the gym.

ANTOINE

Program Participant

Jail Transitions

Jail Transitions staff connect Durham County Detention Facility detainees referred by the Jail Mental Health and STARR staff to community-based services. In most cases, the Jail Transitions team begins working with detainees prior to their release. After receiving a referral, the Case Manager schedules an intake appointment with the individual to identify their needs, develop a care plan, and help them get connected to appropriate community resources.

On the day of their release, clients meet with Jail Transitions staff, who ensure a warm hand-off from jail-based behavioral health services to a community-based provider. They also assist with transportation, provide clothing and hygiene kits, and offer other assistance as needed. During the period immediately following release, staff provide ongoing case management, transportation assistance, and other supportive services based on each individual's assessed needs, ensuring continuity of care.

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Being there for clients in the jail lobby as they are being released is a key aspect of the work we do. It means we can assist clients with their basic needs right away, make their transition as smooth as possible, and be a support from the moment they are released.

SOPHIA JANKEN Case Manager Justice Services Department

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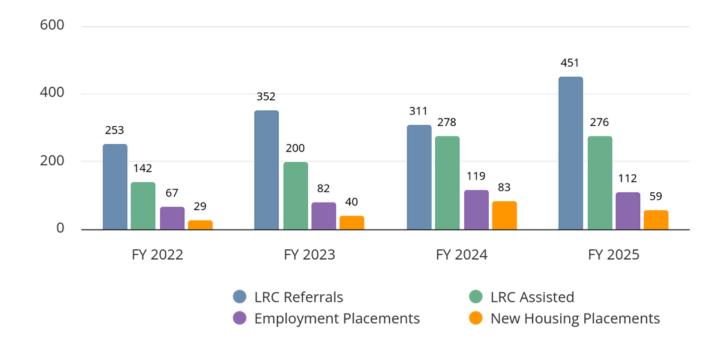


LOCAL REENTRY COUNCIL

Durham's Local Reentry Council (LRC) is a network of individuals, community organizations, and government agencies working in collaboration to provide services and supports for justice-involved individuals. LRC members represent faith-based organizations, employment and career readiness programs, community colleges, housing providers, mental health and substance use service providers, and much more. For nearly a decade, JSD has served as the LRC Intermediary Agency, the organization responsible for managerial oversight, administrative support, fiscal accountability, and service coordination.

LRC hosts bimonthly network and coordination meetings where local providers are invited to share about the services they offer, as well as any eligibility requirements and steps required to access their services. Community providers are invited to make announcements about events and any changes to services offered. Additionally, the subcommittees on housing, employment, and supportive services provide updates to council members on projects and future planning.

In April 2025, during Second Chance Reentry Month, the LRC conducted a backpack drive, held an Employment Resource Fair, co-hosted a Diabetes Education and A1C Testing seminar with Public Health's Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) Program, and co-hosted a digital resume builder workshop with SKILLD.



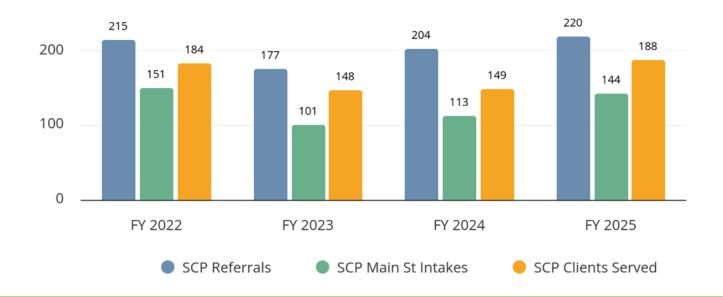
TREATMENT SERVICES

Second Chance Program

Through the Second Chance Program, JSD provides outpatient Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment for justice-involved individuals ages 18 and older. JSD receives referrals for SUD services from partners including Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC), the courts, and community service providers.

Prior to enrolling in services, participants complete a comprehensive clinical assessment to identify their strengths and needs. Based on the results of this assessment, participants then enter either regular outpatient treatment or intensive outpatient treatment. Services offered include substance use education, individual and group counseling, and Aftercare. Through these services, participants are expected to develop skills, gain knowledge, and build community connections to help support their ongoing recovery.

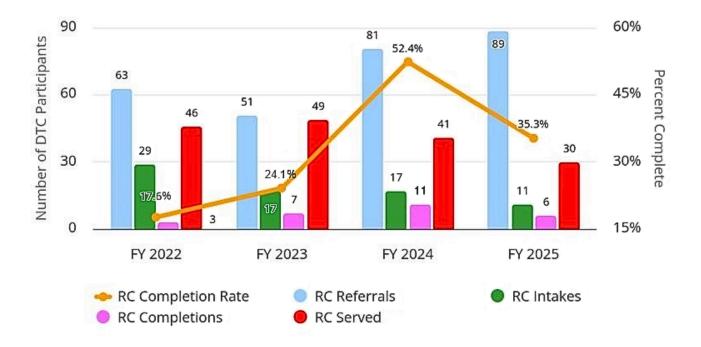




Recovery Court

Recovery Court (RC), formerly the Adult Drug Treatment Court, has been a critical component of Durham County's continuum of services for individuals involved in the justice system since its establishment in 1999. Recovery Courts are designed to reduce recidivism and alcohol and drug use while reducing the costs of drug-involved crimes and decreasing prison crowding. Through a variety of community partnerships, RC connects participants to a wide variety of resources to help them successfully reintegrate into the community. Participants commit to a minimum 12-month program comprised of five phases, gradually decreasing the service intensity until clients successfully graduate from the program.

In September 2023, JSD was awarded a five year, \$1.1M Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant to support the Durham County Recovery Court Expansion. Through this project, JSD is working to (1) increase access to substance use treatment services through a dedicated Substance Abuse Counselor serving RC participants; (2) provide more intensive treatment options for RC enrollees by launching a Substance Abuse Comprehensive Outpatient Treatment (SACOT) group; and (3) enhancing its current recovery support services for the population of focus with the help of a full-time Peer Support Specialist.





After years of drug use, several jail confinements, and serving 22 months in prison, I was court ordered to Recovery Court. My experience in prison woke me up and I decided I was never going back. I followed Recovery Court guidance and steps to discontinue drug use. Random drug screens helped me stay focused and clean. Recovery Court helped me with getting a job and obtaining housing. I work at Jersey Mikes and have an apartment and a car. I am able to pay my bills and have reestablished healthy relationships with my children. I remain clean because I've adopted the Recovery Court motto: "No matter what . . . do not use." And I keep remembering that whenever I did drugs bad things happened. I focus on doing the next right thing so the right stuff will happen.



LINDA WATLINGTON Recovery Court Participant





A key member of the Recovery Court Team is the NC Department of Adult Correction (DAC). We value their partnership and dedication to second chances and safer communities and their balanced approach combining accountability with compassion.



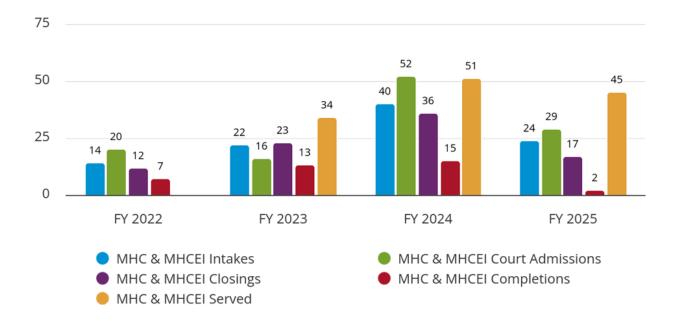
I've been with the Department of Adult Corrections for two years. During that time, an opportunity for Recovery Court officer position presented itself and I applied for it. I applied because I wanted to challenge and educate myself on why the participants are using and what are some resources to help them learn and understand how substances affect their overall health. I believe that probation plays a key role in helping them to be accountable and responsible for their actions.

OFFICER LEATHERS

NC Department of Adult Corrections

Mental Health Court

The Mental Health Court Diversion Program (MHC) connects individuals living with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) or Serious Mental Illness (SMI) to mental health treatment and other supports with an overall goal of improving participants' health and well-being while reducing recidivism. Individuals who successfully complete the program are eligible to have their charges dropped. Through the program, MHC participants have access to Medication Bridge services, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), individual and group therapy, evidence-based mental health and substance use disorder treatment and education, case management services, crisis intervention, and basic needs assistance.



The Mental Health Court Expansion Initiative (MHCEI), funded by a Bureau of Justice Assistance grant, was launched in 2021 to enhance treatment options and serve individuals who do not meet the MHC eligibility criteria, including people with more serious charges and those who have personality disorders. FY 2025 was the final year of the grant expansion initiative and helped to shape the future of MHC. The program prioritized individuals living with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders.

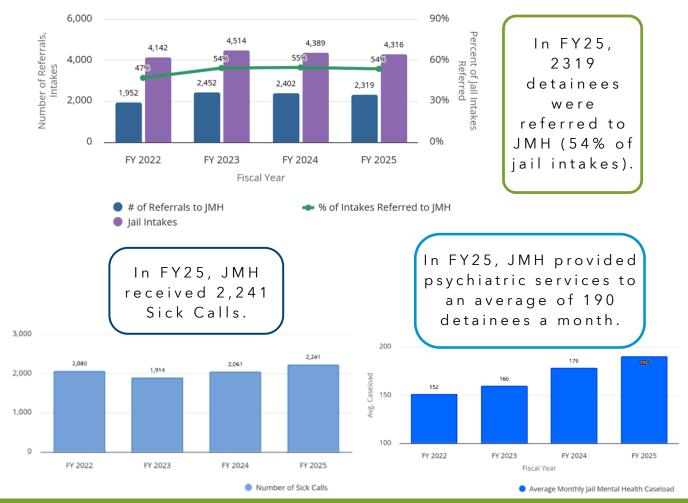
Under this program, JSD hired a Justice Liaison and Health Services Clinical Counselor. The Justice Liaison supported the MHCEI by screening clients for eligibility for specialty Courts and JSD programs. They built relationships and facilitated communications between the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, District Court officials, and the MHC team. They also presented cases to the team at staffing. The Health Services Clinical Counselor worked directly with individuals deemed ineligible for MHC. They provided intensive developmental and therapeutic assessment and treatment in serious or complicated cases which required a range of evaluation and therapeutic intervention skills. Both MHCEI supported roles ended following the conclusion of grant funding.

JAIL MENTAL HEALTH

The Jail Mental Health (JMH) Team serves detainees who are either diagnosed with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) or on medication for Severe Mental Illness (SMI). All individuals booked into the Durham County Detention Facility are screened for mental health concerns. JMH staff then follow up with detainees who meet the program's eligibility criteria. JMH staff also respond to detainee requests for a mental health check up or sick call.

In addition to mental health programs, JMH works to stabilize inmates on psychiatric medication, offers discharge planning and connection to care, and delivers specialized programming for high-acuity detainees in the therapeutic housing unit. Because of the high needs of this population, the JMH team provides services around-the-clock, with staff and telehealth available on evenings and weekends, and a contracted Psychiatrist.

JMH continued women's programming after being on hiatus due to Covid. This educational group is open to all women in the jail. An average of 20-25 women attend these weekly sessions, during which counselors help participants address areas where they are struggling, such as relationship building, communication, and self-esteem.

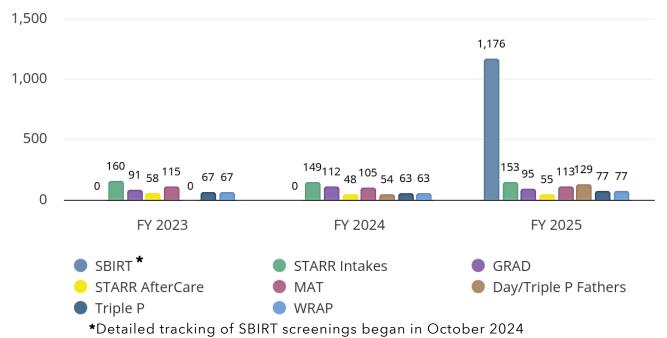


STARR

The Substance Use Treatment and Recidivism Reduction Program (STARR), managed by JSD, provides comprehensive substance use disorder treatment to detainees at the Durham County Detention Facility. STARR utilizes evidence-based practices developed for justice-involved individuals living with substance use disorders, mental health challenges, and criminogenic needs. The program provides therapeutic individual and group counseling, psychoeducational classes, and case management services.

STARR continues to utilize both the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) and Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). Triple P helps detainees develop parenting skills, improve relationships with their children, and build their families' well-being. SBIRT is a comprehensive, integrated public health model given to all people entering the Durham County Detention Facility. SBIRT (1) provides universal screening; (2) detects risky, problematic, or hazardous substance use; (3) offers prevention services for individuals at risk of developing a substance use disorder; and (4) provides early intervention, appropriate referrals, and treatment for people living with substance use disorders.

In June 2024, STARR launched an ongoing virtual Educational Tobacco Cessation (ETC) series designed to inform and empower participants through a comprehensive curriculum. Classes include the history of tobacco, vaping and e-cigarettes, health impacts and associated burdens, and available resources for support. The program has been highly successful, with most participants demonstrating at least a 75% increase in knowledge after completing the ETC series. In June 2025, STARR added Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) meetings on Thursday afternoons, and periodic Hands Only CPR classes.

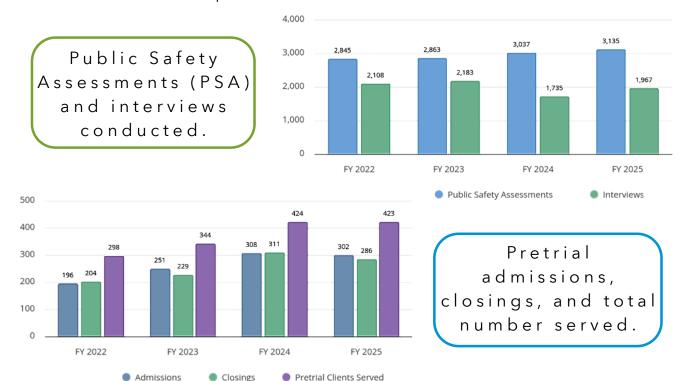


PRETRIAL SERVICES

Pretrial Services was established to create a systematic approach for release and community supervision for defendants who do not pose a risk to the community as they await trial. The aim of Pretrial Services is to reduce the overall jail population while ensuring that defendants appear for their court dates and are not a public safety risk while under pretrial release.

Pretrial Services has two key components: First Appearance and Supervised Release. Defendants scheduled for First Appearance who are willing to participate are interviewed by Pretrial staff to provide the court with stability factors, community ties, mental health history, and substance use disorder concerns. Additionally, a comprehensive criminal history report and risk assessment are prepared based on the information available through criminal history reporting agencies and presented to the court for review. The judge weighs each of these factors when making bond decisions and determines the release or detention of each defendant.

Supervised Release includes office and/or field contacts as deemed appropriate, and referrals for services on an individual basis or as ordered by the court. Supervision levels and conditions of release are determined by the court upon review of the charge allegations, criminal history, and findings from the public safety assessments. Pretrial Services is also responsible for electronic monitoring of a small number of identified criminal defendants released by a judge from the Durham County Detention Facility as an alternative to incarceration pretrial.





In FY25:

- 61% did not obtain a new charge before disposition, attended court sessions until disposition, and complied with Pretrial conditions of release.
- 94% attended court sessions until disposition.
- 79% did not obtain a new charge before disposition.



In FY25:
Pretrial
release
resulted in
44,495 fewer
jail bed days
- a value of
\$8,876,753
saved.

Benefits of Pretrial Release

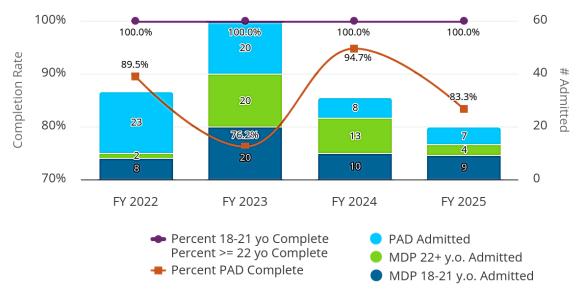
- Provide an opportunity for defendants to be released from custody to prepare for their defense, return to their families, work and/or school.
- Provide supervision in lieu of incarceration at a lower cost to the county (approximate detention per diem cost \$199.50).
- Promote victim safety through electronic monitoring of selected defendants, and communicate information and concerns to the court prior to and after the defendant's release.
- Assist with jail population management of pre-trial and pre-sentence defendants.
- Provide telephone bond assistance by notifying family and/or friends of court dates and bond amounts to assist with release, if requested.

DIVERSION

Misdemeanor Diversion Program

The Durham County Misdemeanor Diversion Program (MDP) transformed how law enforcement dealt with first-time misdemeanor offenses by allowing cases to be diverted from the courts into person-centered programming and, in turn, keeping participants' criminal records clean. Over the years, MDP has expanded numerous times to address community needs. The program primarily serves young adults age 18-26, with older adults allowed to participate at law enforcement officer discretion.

Following referral and intake, participants attend a community diversion program based on their individual needs and the reason for referral. If the participant does not comply or complete the assigned MDP program within 90 days, the referring officer will be notified and can opt to move forward in criminal court for prosecution. Once the participant successfully completes assigned MDP requirements, the case is closed out with the participant having no record or adult criminal history.



Post-Arrest Diversion Program

The Durham County Post-Arrest Diversion (PAD) Program, a joint initiative of the Durham District Attorney's Office and JSD, assists individuals charged with lower-level felonies. PAD participants must complete a needs assessment intake, after which they are assigned to an appropriate community-based program to be completed within 4-12 months. Once a participant has successfully exited the program, the Diversion Coordinator notifies the District Attorney's Office, and the prearranged agreement for the case is enacted.

Consistent with all JSD programming, the PAD and MDP programs are offered to participants free of charge. Spanish-language versions of both programs are available upon request.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Stepping Up Initiative

For nearly a decade, Durham County has taken part in the Nationwide Stepping Up Initiative, to reduce the number of people living with mental illness in our jails. Participating counties, including Durham, work to achieve this goal by implementing effective, data-driven programs and policies that connect people to appropriate care and local resources. Improving access to these supports means better health outcomes for people with behavioral health challenges, and a safer, healthier community.

In Durham, this work is led by the Stepping Up Initiative Committee, which includes representatives from local and state government agencies, law enforcement, the judicial system, healthcare system, higher education, faith community, and many more. In 2024, the Committee updated Durham's Sequential Intercept Map, which shows how individuals in our community flow through the justice system. It also helps with identifying available resources, and guiding efforts to address any service gaps. Subcommittees were developed in 2025 to begin planning action steps to address the identified gaps.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, Durham County's Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) has a diverse membership that reflects the Durham community. This includes representatives from County government, law enforcement, the legal system, healthcare providers, the faith community, education, and more serving on the Council. The North Carolina Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is responsible for conducting a risk/needs assessment for youth who are either court involved or at risk of court involvement. They identify appropriate services and supports to address these needs, and award state funds to community organizations to support treatment, counseling, and rehabilitation services aimed at delinquency prevention.

Based on the community risk/needs assessment, the Durham County JCPC launches a competitive RFP process for youth-serving organizations to address the challenges facing court-involved and at-risk youth and fill service gaps. The JCPC has a two-year funding cycle. The following programs were selected in spring 2025 for FY26 & FY27 funding:











The mission of the Justice Services Department is to promote community well-being and public safety by collaborating with the local criminal justice system. We provide restorative opportunities for justice-involved individuals through treatment, case management, wrap around and supportive services and supervision. We support their efforts through continuous improvement driven by the integrity, teamwork, and innovation of JSD staff.





Members of the Recovery Court team attend RISE25 Conference - May 2025



JSD staff volunteer their time to build homes with Habitat for Humanity of Durham - Fall 2024



Former Local Reentry Council Coordinator, Ontario Joyner, stands with JSD's Second Chance Month mural April 2025



Peer Support Specialist, Stanley Branch, presenting to Recovery Court program participants - Spring 2025



JSD Director, Roshanna Humphrey, and Assistant Director, Robin Heath, celebrate retirement of Johnny Pompey - Spring 2025

CONTACT US



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jsd@dconc.gov



dconc.gov/jsd



HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8:30am - 8:30pm

Friday

8:30am - 5:00pm































DURHAI COUNT

