Application for Appointment to Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

This information is requested to assure that a cross section of the community is represented.

Buncombe County residency is required for appointment to any board or commission.

Are you a resident of Buncombe County?

Yes

Residence County Commissioner District

3

How many years have you been a resident of Buncombe County?

14

Pronouns

He/His

My Pronouns

Prefix

None

First Name

Michael

Last Name

Pesant

Home Phone

[redacted]

Mobile Phone

Email Address

[redacted]

Address

[redacted]

–

City

Asheville

State

North Carolina

Zip Code

28803

Mailing Address (If different from above)

Suite/Apartment #

City

State

North Carolina

Zip Code

For the purpose of diversity and balance, please complete the following questions.

Race

Hispanic or Latino

Gender

I identify as male

My Gender

Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

Yes, Cuban

My Ethnicity

Age Group

35-54

What is your current employment status?

Employed

Employer Name

NC Department of Commerce (Remote)

What position do you currently hold?

Program Manager

Employer Address

[redacted]

Suite/Unit #

City

Asheville

State

North Carolina

Zip Code

28803

Employer Phone

[redacted]

Extension

Employer Email Address

[redacted]

How did you hear about this board vacancy?

I try to stay updated with respect to landscape of behavioral health, education, and justice issues in the community.

Are you currently serving on any other Buncombe County board or commission?

No

Are you aware of any potential conflicts of interest that may arise during your service on this board (i.e. property interest, business interest, etc.)? If so, please explain:

No

Please indicate the area of expertise you can bring to the board, then list education, experience and reason for your interest.

Youth Behavioral Health - BA, Psychology; MSW, Social Work, LCSW, LCAS
Organizational Health/Funding - MBA, Business
Government - NC Dept of Commerice

Why are you interested in serving on this board?

To advocate for evidence-based and community-centered innovation.

What would you like to achieve if appointed?

Support Buncombe County youth in having the highest access to enrichment, support, and services where needed.

Attachments

Download a zip (/Application/DownloadById/1108) of this application to view attachments.

Pesant Resume Updated.pdf

[redacted]
28803
[redacted]
LinkedIn • Asheville, NC 28803

Michael Pesant, MSW, MBA

Community Resilience Leader

Program Officer & Grants Manager with 15+ years leading systems change in social determinants, behavioral health, substance use, and community recovery. Skilled in managing multi-million-dollar grants, driving cross-functional teams, and securing funding through high-impact proposals. Expertise in contract management, ensuring sustainability and long-term success of community programs. Proven ability to collaborate with state, local, and federal stakeholders to address complex challenges and drive equitable, data-driven solutions that improve lives in high-impact environments.

Areas of Expertise

- Strategic Initiative Leadership
- Program Evaluation & Data Analysis
- Consultation & Technical Assistance
- Clinical & Therapeutic Expertise
- Investment Portfolio Management
- Community Investment & Partnerships
- Project Development & Execution
- Grant Writing & Fundraising
- Data Analysis & Evaluation

Career Experience

Dogwood Health Trust, Asheville, NC
Sep 2021 — March 2025

Community Investment Officer

Co-led strategic investment initiatives, directing $30M towards Opioid Overdose Mitigation in collaboration with state agencies. Implemented and refined strategic framework for Recovery Ecosystem, fostering sustainable substance use disorder treatment innovations. Coordinated Recovery to Career/Workplace Recovery and Recovery-Oriented Justice Systems across multi-county cohorts. Provided consultation and technical assistance to partners, ensuring adherence to program implementation standards and best practices. Represented organization's strategy in community and professional settings, advocating for impactful recovery solutions.

- Spearheaded $30M portfolio, effectively managing substance use investments and driving regional systems of care development.
- Secured over $10M in additional public and private funding for Recovery to Career and Recovery-Oriented Justice Systems.
- Led initiatives that secured significant federal and private foundation funding, enhancing organizational financial stability and program reach.

Buncombe County Justice Services/RHA
Jan 2020 — Sep 2021

Program Manager

Managed comprehensive case coordination and administrative functions for county's recovery court and diversion programs, ensuring adherence to guidelines and advocating for participant welfare. Orchestrated integration of community behavioral health services within criminal justice system, providing expert guidance on billing, documentation, and compliance to partners. Led community outreach efforts as program representative, conducting training sessions and presenting program metrics to stakeholders. Adapted justice programs to pandemic constraints by transitioning to remote court sessions, treatment, and drug screening protocols. Initiated design and funding of pioneering pre-trial substance use disorder diversion program, enhancing treatment accessibility.

- Led dynamic team, promoting collaborative environment and efficient program management.
- Developed and secured braided state, federal, and funding for pre-trial substance use disorder diversion model, fostering multidisciplinary collaboration. Expanded and strengthened community-based Jail Reentry programming by building robust team and forming essential partnerships.

Mission Hospital/Fullerton Genetics
Aug 2015 — Jan 2020

Coordinator of Behavioral Health

Launched and expanded North Carolina's premier multidisciplinary clinic for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), overseeing service provision and clinical operations. Spearheaded integration of hospital cost centers into unified clinical

model, focusing on population health and facilitating transition to value-based care. Developed and implemented expanded clinical services, including brief evaluations, service provisions, and mental health referrals for genetics patients. Introduced innovative treatment modalities for patients with chronic conditions, improving clinic efficiency. Provided continuous screening, counseling, and community referrals, advocating for FASD awareness and supporting affected individuals and families.

- Successfully doubled clinic capacity, addressing critical need for FASD assessment and support.
- Recognized as top performer within Mission Hospital System.

CRC Health May 2012 — Aug 2015
Supervising Therapist
Managed team of six Bachelor's level field staff, providing oversight and professional development. Conducted weekly individual and family therapy sessions for adolescents with substance abuse/dependence and co-occurring disorders. Facilitated collaboration with interdisciplinary teams, including clinical professionals and program managers, to ensure effective after-care planning. Represented organization at national conferences, disseminating clinic research findings on behavioral healthcare.

- Presented clinic research findings at national behavioral healthcare conferences, enhancing organization's profile.

Aspire Youth & Family, Inc, Clyde, NC Sep 2011 — May 2012
Intensive In-Home Therapy Supervisor
Provided in-home and community-based therapeutic services to children and adolescents within three counties, focusing on mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disorders. Led and developed team of Qualified Mental Health Professionals, enhancing community-based interventions and emotional skill-building strategies. Conducted comprehensive diagnostic assessments, crafted detailed treatment plans, and facilitated necessary service referrals. Streamlined employee recruitment processes, including sourcing, interviewing, and onboarding, for diverse non-profit workforce.

The Evaluation Group, Columbia, SC May 2009 — Sep 2011
Evaluation Coordinator
Conducted comprehensive evaluations for variety of educational, mentoring, and social service programs across the Southeast, collaborating with partners in nonprofit, community, and educational sectors to deliver utilization-focused assessments. Developed evaluation instruments and databases to ensure meticulous data collection, management, and analysis, including interpretation of surveys, test scores, and qualitative data. Synthesized findings into coherent quarterly and annual reports, offering actionable insights for program improvement. Identified and pursued funding opportunities to support regional initiatives.

Additional Experience

- Mitigation Specialist at Death Penalty Resource Center, Columbia, SC
- Education Support Specialist at Region Ten CSB, Charlottesville, VA
- Residential Counselor at The Little Keswick School, Rivanna, VA
- Head Field Instructor at SUWS of the Carolinas, Old Fort, NC

Education

Master of Business Administration (MBA), Business Administration East Carolina University 9/2018 to 12/2022

Master of Social Work (MSW), Social Work
The University of South Carolina 8/2008 to 5/2010

Bachelor of Arts (BA), Psychology
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 8/2000 to 5/2005

Appalachian Leadership Institute Fellow
Appalachian Regional Commission 2023-2024

Certifications

- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (NC)
- Licensed Certified Addictions Specialist (NC)
- Motivational Interviewing
- Quality Essentials
- Trauma-Focused CBT
- Rational Living Therapy
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for Children
- CBT for Supervisors
- Person-Centered Thinking
- Systems of Care
- All Vaya Health LME Billing and Authorization Training
- Microsoft Office Suite (MS Word, Excel, Access, Publisher)
- Statistical Analysis Software (SPSS, SAS, Minitab)
- Prevention & Management of Aggressive Behavior (PMAB)
- Mind Body Set (Therapeutic Restraint)
- First Aid & CPR

Awards & Publications

- Pesant, M., Shatzkes, K., & Shukla, S.(2023). Partnering to create 'hub-and-spoke' system for opioid use disorder treatment in North Carolina. Presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- Pesant, M.E.(2023). Substance Use Disorder: Reentry Strategies. Presented at the Appalachian Funders Network Conference, Asheville, NC.
- Hendricks, A. & Pesant, M(2018). FASD: A Guide for Families. Published by Fullerton Genetics Center
- Andrews, A.B. & Pesant, M.E.(2009). Dangers in utero: from alcohol and neurotoxins to medical treatment and transfusions. Presented at the National Seminar on Development and Integration of Mitigation Evidence in Capital Cases, Philadelphia, PA.
- Death Penalty Resource Center(2010). Mental disability and death penalty: why South Carolina should ban execution of severely mentally disabled. (Pamphlet).Pesant, M.E. & Paavola, E.: Authors
- Eileen McCaughn Memorial Scholarship
- Marie L. Campbell Mitigation Scholarship
- Merit Recognition: Top 5% Performer across Mission system

Community & Professional Leadership

- Member: Hispanics in Philanthropy
- Member: American Evaluation Association (AEA)
- Contributor: AEA 360
- Member: National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
- President (2008-2009): Social Work Students Association, University of South Carolina
- Steering Committee: Trinity Place Discernment, Trinity Episcopal
- Volunteer: Adopt-a-Waterway, Keep the Midlands Beautiful
- Volunteer: Midlands Housing Alliance
- Volunteer: Harvest Hope Food Bank