Burke Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting

Minutes: July 9, 2025
Commissioner's Meeting Room, Section E,
110 N. Green Street, Morganton, NC

ATTENDANCE:

Council members attending: Ronn Abernathy, Keith Bowman, Andrew Byerly, Nicki Carpenter, Judge Scott Conrad, Camey Ervin, Wesley Hasson, Rev. Jasper Hemphill, Rev. Wesley Hendrix, Sheriff Banks Hinceman, Dr. Paul Holden, Joseph Martinez, Dr. Steve Moody, Chris Norman, Dillon Sain, Hon. Phil Smith, Kaylee Wohlenhaus.

Council members excused: Korey Fisher-Wellman, Jennifer Forney.

Programs attending: Brenda Throneburg– Burke Recovery; Cathy Starnes– Conflict Resolution Center; and Nicole Jenkins and Kim Castano– Kids at Work; Renee Lewis – Repay Inc.

Partners attending: Darryl Church, Derek Hare, David Hughey, Jackson Koonts.

Guests attending: None

Staff attending: JCPC Admin, A.J. Coutu and State Consultant Megan Webster

1.0 **Call to Order:** Dr. Steve Moody called the meeting to order at approximately 8:12 A.M. A quorum of 17 of 23 was present.

2.0 **Approval of the Agenda:** Upon request from the Chair, Jasper Hemphill made the motion to approve the Agenda. Ronn Abernathy seconded the motion which passed unanimously without discussion.

3.0 **Approval of the Minutes:** Upon request from the Chair, Jasper Hemphill made the motion to approve the Agenda. Ronn Abernathy seconded the motion which passed unanimously without discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

4.0 **Governance: Steve Moody, Chair / Jasper Hemphill, Vice Chair**

4.1 Membership Renewals for FY 2025/26: Dr. Moody welcomed Wesley Hasson as the new Parks and Recreation representative; ADA representative, Kaylee Wohlenhaus; and Andrew Byerly the Parks and Recreation representative all beginning their first full JCPC year. He also thanked all those who were willing to serve an additional term.

4.2 Conflict of Interest Forms for 2025/26: Dr. Moody asked that the remaining annual Conflict of Interest forms be completed. He noted that A.J. Coutu had blank copies for those who needed them.

5.0 **Finance: Joseph Martinez, Chair / Nicki Carpenter, Vice Chair**

5.1 Burke JCPC Administrative Budget Update: Joseph Martinez noted that the Administrative budget was on track and A.J. Coutu informed the group that with the receipt of the county document, final accounting was being completed .

5.2 CRC Budget Revision: Cathy Starnes and Megan Webster informed the group that there had been an end of year budget revision of the sort that did not require a council vote.

6.0 **Outreach: Jennifer Forney, Chair / Korey Fisher-Wellman, Vice Chair**

6.1 Continuum of Services: A.J. Coutu reported for Ms. Forney that the continuum document would need to be reviewed and updated. This will be by phone and email. Dr. Moody asked that if anyone who is aware of services for at-risk youth be sure to let Ms. Forney know.

6.2 JCPC August Outreach Meeting: This will be accomplished by phone and email. There will be NO in person meeting for that subcommittee, not the full Council.

7.0 Program Reports: Dr. Moody turned the floor over to each of the programs for a year end update, they each described their programs for the new members.

7.1 Burke Recovery – Drew Amburn was not available for the report and Brenda Throneburg mentioned the program had adequate referrals and successful outcomes.

7.2 Conflict Resolution Center – Cathy Starnes reported that Teen Court for Burke County was being initiated. She mentioned that Kaylee Wohlenhaus would be working as judge with the effort, they have volunteer teens to assist and that OCS (Occupational Course of Study) in the local schools has been helpful. They will be meeting with the local SROs before school starts. They programs had 36 successful cases last year, the majority being CRC Education classes. Arrangements for the courthouse being open with officers available after 5 PM and the metal detectors in use has been worked out with Sheriff Hinceman. Startup should be between third week of august and September depending on the referrals.

7.3 Kids at Work – Kim Castano reported that they served 19 youth. The youth have been interested in doing activities outside of class as well. So community service cooking opportunities have been available. They had a reduction in JCPC funding and have received a small grant from the Community Foundation.
Ms. Castano mentioned that the kids have been involved in fundraising activities. She introduced the new Burke County supervisor Nicole Jenkins and mentioned that Chef Kim is no longer with the organization and they have been doing some restructuring. They will be hiring additional staff.

7.4 Repay, Inc. - Renee Lewis reported for the various programs. For Just Girls, at-risk teen girls, they projected serving 16 youth and served 19. Most referrals came from DJJ, however, other programs and some parent referral come to them. Psychological Services program have been providing CCA evaluations as well as full psychological reports. Projected to serve 30 they ended up serving 35. Their turn around time average is 12 days for CCAs and for full psychological reports it is 21 days. A conversation ensued concerning ways to streamline the process as well as the help they receive from juvenile court staff. Restorative Services, community service program, projected 45 and served 46. All referrals coming from DJJ. They reported paying out approximately $2,000 last year for restitution from 12 youth. A new part of their process avoids having youth on diversion going to court due to restitution needs and avoids having additional work for the courts. Youth worked 1,277 hours last year. Work placements have been expanded. The SAIS program serving youth with sexualized behavior projected 14 and served 6. This is a very different situation. The referrals have come from DJJ the Child Advocacy Center and DSS. The program has hired a new staff to assist with testing. This has decreased the evaluations to 30. The treatment component has projected 12 and served 6, referred from DJJ. The new RISE program, group for boys, was not funded by JCPC last year, however, they have already served 12 youth. 8 youth were successful and only one had a new court referral. Their parenting program for at-risk parents of teens has been initiated without JCPC funding and they have served 5 people so far.

STATE & LOCAL REPORTS

8.0 Juvenile Justice Update - Ronn Abernathy reported, they have 6 vacancies. The one for transportation has been open for over a year and has a candidate in the pipeline. He complimented the programs for all they do and mentioned that their numbers are very low. Mr. Abernathy noted the extensive work the judicial district has done over the years to support coordination and the use of diversion programming in order to accomplish this. The average caseload is currently 17 as more than 60 at times previously. This does not capture the inner school work they do. This is with much more challenging youth than ever before. It was also noted that a Burke County DJJ counselor has been working directly with the school staff, Heather Atkins which has worked really well. The School Justice Partnership will be reconvening; their interventions have been ongoing. Chris Norman reported that he attended the national RFK conference in San Diego as the NC representative and it went very well

especially with the School Justice Partnership activity. A reminder of the Raise the Age activity which was expected to have a larger impact, may have been reduced due to these coordinated efforts.

9.0 Report from the State - Area Consultant, Megan Webster handed out the end of year accumulated measurable objectives report. She agreed that these numbers may not have the best input for accuracy of this report. Ms. Webster noted that the goals are chosen by the programs as long as they are above 70% success rate for their goals. She encouraged the programs to be diligent in their NCALLIES input when the termination information is added. Ms. Webster noted that she had heard the Sheriff on the radio talking about gun locks and safe gun storage. NCSAFE for the 3rd year has locks available and flyers are available. The SRO conference will be at Cherokee casino and she will be handing out gun locks. She offered additional gun locks for anyone who wanted to assist with distribution. Ms. Webster noted a number of events in the coming months such as Back to School bashes where additional distribution will happen. Final Accounting will be reporting back on their expenditures by August 15th. She asked that the email on that should be forwarded to the finance person or the one responsible. Ms. Webster encouraged anyone who needs to do a program agreement revision to go ahead and do that unless the revision is quite small. General Ledgers do need to be uploaded as well as any documentation for in-kind donations. Questions ensued on particulars of this obligation. She asked the programs they keep doing their risk assessments for the youth as it goes back to the SPEP scores. There is a clinical assessment conference at Carolina Beach in August, sponsored by Duke University.

REMINDERS / UPCOMING EVENTS

10.0 Open Discussion – Dr. Moody noted : No Council meeting in August, and please review the Continuum of Services. Renee Lewis offered brochures for all of her programs to anyone who would have a place to display them.

11.0 ADJOURN Ronn Abernathy made the motion for adjournment seconded by Wesley Hendrix. The Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:52 A.M. without discussion.

Respectfully Submitted by:
A.J. Coutu 7/12/2025