Burke Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting

Minutes: December 10, 2025
Commissioner's Meeting Room, Section E,
110 N. Green Street, Morganton, NC

ATTENDANCE:

Council members attending: Andrew Byerly, Judge Scott Conrad, Camey Ervin, Jennifer Forney, Wesley Hasson, Rev. Jasper Hemphill, Rev. Wesley Hendrix, Sheriff Banks Hinceman, Dr. Paul Holden, Joseph Martinez, Brooke Mills, Damion Patton, Dr. Dillon Sain, Kaylee Wohlenhaus.

Council members excused: Ronn Abernathy, Keith Bowman, Nicki Carpenter, Dr. Steve Moody, Chris Norman, Phil Smith.

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

Partners attending: Darryl Church and Jackson Koonts.

Guests attending: Chazlyn Thomas for Kory Fisher-Wellman.

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

1.0 Call to Order: Rev. Jasper Hemphill called the meeting to order at approximately 8:16 A.M. A quorum, 14 of 22 was present.

1.1 Approval of the Agenda: Upon request from the Vice-Chair, Brooke Mills made the motion to approve the Agenda. Sheriff Hinceman seconded the motion which passed unanimously without discussion.

1.2 Approval of the Minutes: Upon request from the Vice-Chair, Damion Patton made the motion to approve the Minutes. Brooke Mills seconded the motion which passed unanimously without discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

2.0 Governance: Steve Moody, Chair / Jasper Hemphill, Vice Chair

2.1 Membership: Rev. Hemphill noted that the only vacancy on the Council was for two Youth under 21 or At-Risk Youth Family Representative.

2.2 Committee Membership and Monitoring Assignments: Rev. Hemphill noted that everyone should have gotten the Committee and Monitoring Assignments.

3.0 Finance: Joseph Martinez, Chair / Nicki Carpenter, Vice Chair

3.1 Burke JCPC Administrative Budget Update: Joseph Martinez noted that the administration budget was a little under what was expected at this point in the year.

3.2 Request for Proposal and Timeline Documents : Mr. Martinez advised the Council that the RFP and Timeline came as a motion from the Finance Committee. The Documents were presented with the amendment that the Orientation for new programs would be at 10:00A.M. rather than the 9:00A.M. noted on the documents. With thanks to Megan Webster for catching that error. Both Sheriff Hinceman and Brooke Mills seconded the motion which passed unanimously without further discussion.

3.3. Distribution List: Mr. Martinez noted that the master list for distribution of the RFP and Timeline was sent previously and was available in hard copy at the meeting. A request was made that any member could review the list and recommend additions or changes.

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

6.1 Ms. Forney stated that the Outreach Committee had no business to present.

5.0 Program Reports July through November:

5.1 Burke Recovery: Drew Amburn mentioned the multiple referral sources helping their intake numbers. Their prevention specialist grant has assisted with the purchases such as brochures and more current materials. He also reported that the staff has had ongoing training. JBH paid for their clinical director to attend the APNC conference in October. It provided valuable current trainings for youth treatment and credit hours.
Mr. Amburn stated that they had switched their learning curriculum from in-person to "Everfi" which is an on-line source of learning modules. It is being used at the schools. He stated that this has increased participation and completion rates. There are 6-8 modules as needed. Repeat offenders are using "Johnny Ambassador" training. Their upstairs office is being turned into a Drug Free Community office with a "Secrets Revealed" set up for training parents which he described.

5.2 Conflict Resolution Center 5.2.1 Restorative Circles / Teen Court 5.2.2 Conflict Resolution Education 5.2.3 Mediation: Cathy Starnes reported that the Teen Court is up and running. They have closed 18 files; 11 from CRE class, 5 Circles and 2 Teen Court Classes. Eleven more are open with 7 in progress, with 4 new filings being processed. The agency is working hard on Teen Court and is working closely with DJJ and county players. A new staff person for their district court mediation may join the Teen Court in the future. She mentioned that a graduate will be helping as a juror in the future. Their PEP Plan has been filed. They have scored a 20 for each program which is highest. They are refining action steps for training on problem solving on many different types of problems.

5.3 Kids at Work: Nicki Jenkins reported that the program has served 3 youth to date and that there is a diverse mix of referrals. They have been meeting with school personnel to recruit more students. PEP report focused on staff training manuals which may be done next week for consistency across counties.

5.4 Repay, Inc.

5.4.1 Just Girls, is having many referrals from everywhere. With 13 being served and 15 was their projected population target for the year. These are noted as being mostly from middle school for both RISE and Just Girls. Almost all girls have been referred due to sexting self-produced porn to send to older men. 5.4.2 Psychological Services, One full psychological has been completed as well as 8 CCAs. These usually take off in the spring. Juvenile court frequently 5.4.3 SAIS has had lower referrals however, their treatment is past their goals. The age of the referred youth was shocking at 5,7 and 9 years old indicating a younger trend. Access to the social media has been driving this. Showing an ID has not helped to lower this. TikTok and Only Fans has allowed youth to sell their pictures. Video games have been allowing avatar of youth to meet adult predators. The sheriff noted that since Covid there has been an increase in internet crimes. They are working with SBI and FBI and watchdog groups as well as staff assigned to the problem which has increased. Additional staff has been requested for this. Ms. Wohlenhaus noted that these are being prosecuted. PEP issue has been working on staff evaluations, making them consistent. 5.4.4 R.I.S.E. Has had low referrals, as expected for a new program. 5.4.5 Restorative Services is on target with referrals and have worked 347 hours so far this year.

STATE & LOCAL REPORTS

8.0 Juvenile Justice Update - Jackson Koonts noted that Mr. Norman was not able to be there and offered the time to the state consultant.

9.0 Report from the State - Area Consultant, Megan Webster explained what the PEP plans are which assures that new hires can have a manual to know how to do a particular job; staff training including continuous 12 hours of training; updating evaluations for staff as well as program evaluations as they were designed for funding. A plan to maintain these standards are also required. The state budget is still not approved. Only North Carolina has not passed one in the U.S. Monitoring the programs will happen in January. The findings will be reported at the February meeting. This will report the recommendations of future funding to note strengths and weaknesses that could require Council assistance. Ms. Webster reminded the group that she has gun locks once again. She noted

that there would be a monitoring training for anyone interested, at 10AM once the meeting was over. This was forwarded to the Council previously.

REMINDERS / UPCOMING EVENTS

10.0 Open Discussion: None offered.

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11.0 ADJOURN Jackson Koonts made the motion for adjournment which was seconded by Sheriff Hinceman. The Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:00 A.M. without discussion.

Respectfully Submitted by:
A.J. Coutu 12/11/2025