Burke Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting

Minutes: November 12, 2025
Commissioner's Meeting Room, Section E,
110 N. Green Street, Morganton, NC

ATTENDANCE:

Council members attending: Andrew Byerly, Nicki Carpenter, Judge Scott Conrad, Korey Fishr-Wellman, Wesley Hasson, Rev. Jasper Hemphill, Rev. Wesley Hendrix, Sheriff Banks Hinceman, Dr. Paul Holden, Chris Norman, Hon. Phil Smith.

Council members excused: Ronn Abernathy, Camey Ervin, Jennifer Forney, Joseph Martinez, Brooke Mills, Dr. Steve Moody, Deisy Zavala-Vasquez.

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: None

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 8:19 A.M. A quorum, 12 of 22 was present.

2.0 **Approval of the Agenda:** Upon request from the Vice-Chair, Wesley Hendrix made the motion to approve the Agenda. Sheriff Hinceman seconded the motion which passed unanimously without discussion.

3.0 **Approval of the Minutes:** Upon request from the Vice-Chair, Wesley Hendrix made the motion to approve the Minutes. Sheriff Hinceman 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: Rev. Hemphill noted that the only vacancy on the Council was Youth under 21 or At-Risk Youth Family Representative. Nicki Carpenter offered to look into filling those two positions.

4.2 Conflict of Interest Forms for 2025/26: Rev. Hemphill noted that there remains only one outstanding Conflict of Interest form due.

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

5.1 Burke JCPC Administrative Budget Update: Nicki Carpenter reported that the administration budget was in line at this point with 31% spent and an additional $4 should be on the report for travel which will be corrected. She also relayed the Final Accounting Summary report from the state; noting that the Administration budget was $1.01 overspent, the Juvenile Mediation budget was $3 overspent and Repay Psychological Services was $669 overspent which is not unusual due to the reimbursement process.

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

6.1 Burke County Risk and Needs Data: Megan Webster offered and gave out additional documents to the group. She reminded the group that the data was gathered by the local juvenile court counselors as well as the those across the state. For the 214 youth, Ms. Webster noted that the youth had: Moderate Risk Level; a Moderate to High Moderate Needs Level; and their Strengths were Moderate to High Moderate. She also noted when the numbers were different from the previous year or different than the state average. Ms. Webster reviewed each of the data items which the Outreach Committee identified as significant (see Annual Plan item: IV) Burke County YASI Full Assess Data Overview FY 25-26). The Juvenile Court Counselors assisted with additional explanations for the data as well as clarification of terms or meanings for the questions which produced the data. The local

program representatives also added information from their experiences. Ms. Webster wrapped up the information with the list of priorities the Outreach Committee compiled, which was the same as those for the previous year.

6.2 Recommendations for 2026/2027 Priorities for Funding: Megan Webster and Rev. Hemphill noted to the Council that the priorities came as a Motion from the Outreach Committee. The floor was open for a 2nd which Sheriff Hinceman supplied. With no further discussion, Rev. Hemphill called for a vote which was unanimous with only Wesley Hendrix abstaining due to conflict.

7.0 Program Reports: This item, usually on the November Agenda was deferred to December due to the time constraints engendered by the Finance Committee meeting to follow.

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STATE & LOCAL REPORTS

8.0 Juvenile Justice Update - Chris Norman reported that the office is for all intent and purposes fully staffed. The state budget is not available. The State now has a committee much like the Federal DOGE looking at all of the state agency staffing patterns. It is expected that current vacancies will no longer be kept. A lower current caseload is helping with additional attention to each case. The Department's strategic plan includes keeping youth out of detention. Currently there are NO youth from Burke County in detention, which are still "grossly overcrowded". Mr. Norman listed different strategies used to keep them out of an incarcerated situation. Local judges and attorneys are cooperating with this effort for appropriate youth. A new law will come into effect December 1, 2025 which will make some subtle changes in the system. The most impactful will be youth charged with A,B,B1 or C felony offenses not sent over to the adult side will have juvenile jurisdiction possibility up to 3 years. Those coming out of YDC of this level offenses shall be on post release supervision for 3 years (compromised from 10 years). Mr. Norman noted that there are very few youth (one or two) locally with this type of designation. He also thanked the programs and informed them that he would be asking for presentations from them for their staff meetings to ensure proper referrals and remind the counselors of what is available. Mr. Norman noted that the School Justice Partnership in Burke County is very robust and is nicely reflected in the YASI data previously presented. Case manager Heather Atkins has 18 youth on her caseload which, with SRO help, has diverted this number from court involvement. Memorandum of Agreement documents for that effort is still in process.

9.0 Report from the State - Area Consultant, Megan Webster noted there will be a virtual training for those doing the monitoring in January. She offered to do the training individually for those interested if the December 10th date was inconvenient. The DJJ department is going to do a pilot project with the universal referral form to make it possible for the NCALLIES system to "talk" to the referring program. District 25 will be the pilot site. Also, a service directory which has been in process for many years is on hold trying to work out the communication between the entities. NC Secure All Firearms Effectively is still making progress. Ms. Webster reminded the group that she has gun locks as well as hats, bags and other swag to raise awareness, available in her car.

REMINDERS / UPCOMING EVENTS

10.0 Open Discussion: Kim Castano noted that Kids at Work has been doing a fundraiser which everyone should have gotten an email about. They have positions available for referrals.

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11.0 ADJOURN Sheriff Hinceman made the motion for adjournment seconded by Wesley Hendrix. The Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:08 A.M. without discussion.

Respectfully Submitted by:
A.J. Coutu 9/10/2025