Burke Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting

AUGUST 12, 2026

Burke County Commissioner's Meeting Room Section E,
110 North Green Street, Morganton, NC, 8:10 A.M.

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order & Welcome:** Council Chair Dr. Steve Moody called the meeting to order at 8:15 noting that a quorum 15 of 22 was present.

   Council Members Present: Ronn Abernathy, Keith Bowman, Nicki Carpenter, Judge Conrad, Chazlyn Thomas for Korey Fisher-Wellman, Jennifer Forney, Wessley Hasson, Jasper Hemphill, Wesley Hendrix, Sheriff Hinceman, Dr. Holden, Joseph Martinez, Dr. Moody, Chris Norman, Dr. Sain.

   Council members excused: Phil Smith and Brooke Mills.

   Programs attending: Bernice Gragg – Burke Recovery; Cathy Starnes– Conflict Resolution Center; Nicole Jenkins – Kids at Work; Renee Lewis – Repay Inc.

   Partners attending: Darryl Church, Derek Hare and Heather Atkins.

   Guests attending: None

   Staff attending: JCPC Admin, A.J. Coutu

2. **Approval of the Agenda**: Ronn Abernathy made the motion to approve the Agenda as presented, which was seconded by Jasper Hemphill and passed unanimously without discussion.

3. **Approval of the May 2026 Minutes** Ronn Abernathy made the motion to approve the Agenda as presented, which was seconded by Jasper Hemphill and passed unanimously without discussion.

COUNCIL REPORTS

4. Governance: Dr. Steven Moody, Chair, Jasper Hemphill Vice-Chair

   4.1 Membership: Returning Members - Dr. Moody thanked the Council members for filling out their applications for the County in order to retain membership on the Council. He also reminded the members that the Council still needs two (2) youth under 21 or At-Risk Youth Family Member for the complete membership. The Assistant District Attorney position was discussed, with Chris Norman advising the group that a dedicated replacement should be available in October. An invitation to join could be attempted at that time.

   4.2 Conflict of Interest Forms Due: Dr. Moody advised the group that most of the required Conflict of Interest forms have been turned in. Several members completed theirs at the meeting leaving only 3 from absent members to be collected.

   4.3 Membership review of Committee Assignments / Monitoring Teams, Change Requests: Dr. Moody asked the membership to review the Committee membership and Monitoring teams to confirm their agreement to serve as indicated; and asked the programs to confirm their leadership on the document sent prior to the meeting.

   4.4 November 11th Council Meeting Date Revision: Dr. Moody asked the Council to choose move the November meeting date from the 11th to the 18th due to the holiday on the 11th.

5. Finance: Joseph Martinez, Chair / Nicki Carpenter, Vice Chair

   5.1 Burke JCPC Administrative Budget Update - Final Accounting 2025/26 – Mr. Martinez noted that the administrative budget ended the year within $2.91 of the budget total. No refund will be necessary.

   5.2 Council Notification of CRC final 2025/26 Budget Revision – Cathy Starnes advised the Council that a final revision of the budget redistributed $276 in order to accommodate over and under expenditures. No reimbursement will be necessary.

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

   6.1 Continuum of Services Draft for Review - FY 25/26 (to produce 26/27 version)

   Continuum of Burke County Youth Services Programs Due before February Meeting – Ms. Forney asked the group to carefully review the Continuum to be sure any new or lost juvenile programs in the county are reflected. She reminded everyone that this document is an open file and can be updated anytime in the year, however, it

would be helpful to have it as accurate as possible for the October Outreach meeting which determines program priorities.

6.2 JCPC RFP Distribution List for Review – FY 25/26 version (to produce 26/27 version)

Ms. Forney once again asked the group to carefully review the Continuum to be sure any new or lost juvenile program personnel in the county will be contacted for the RFP. A December 9th deadline was mentioned as that is when the Council will approve the RFP for release.

STATE & LOCAL REPORTS

7. Program Reports for End of 2025/26:

7.1 Burke Recovery - Bernice Gragg reported for Burke Recovery. Their end of year finances were in line with the allowed budget. The program targeted 26 clients and served 24. Twelve clients are in treatment with four (4) pending intake.

7.2 Conflict Resolution Center – Cathy Starnes reported that the finances were over in several categories. The programs were working well with juvenile justice staff. She advised the group that a new IT program will be assisting with more friendly completion of forms and availability of data in whatever format requested. They have 10 or 12 Teen Court clients currently incoming. Patti Ferree has officially retired after many years. CRC estimated serving 64 youth last year and served 59.

7.3 Kids at Work - Nicole Jenkins reported the program proposed serving 12 clients and served 21. She mentioned that they were working regularly with CRC as well as the juvenile justice staff. Several of their youth have found work within the county after having gotten their Serve Safe certifications. Their budget was reported in line at the end of the year. She reported an improvement in processing clients as well as working with other agencies.

7.4 Repay Renee Lewis reporting.

7.4.1 Just Girls – Projected 15 clients and served 22. With an 83% success rate. Very happy about that.

7.4.2 Psychological Services – program projected 12 clients and only served 4 so there will be a payback on that one. 30 clients were served with CCAs. She noted that projecting court referrals for this program is as always very unpredictable depending on if they are remaining in the community or not. Psychological Services timely completion rate was 82% which is commendable.

7.4.3 SAIS – Evaluations projected 14 and served 6. 100% were completed on time. Treatment clients projected 12 had 5 and 100% were successful. Treatment projection was 12 actually had 5 with 100% successful completion. With both of the previous programs, Ms. Lewis informed the group that other counties are experiencing difficulty expected to impact Burke as well. Youth in Kindergarten and first grade during COVID, are coming of age requiring much greater program services, it is an explosion of youth with high needs. As 11 and 12 year olds, they are very difficult or practically impossible to evaluate. Interaction skills are poor at best. Mr. Abernathy noted that there were also issues showing up prior to this time.

7.4.4 Restorative Services – Projected serving 45 youth and did so. They had an 87% success rate.

7.4.5 R.I.S.E. – Projected 8 and served 5 which they were satisfied for a first year. They are confident the numbers will increase this year.

Ms. Lewis also updated the group on their Parenting for Success program which had 47 referrals. 7 came from DJJ some self-referrals, the majority from DSS. DJJ referrals are being added to existing group instead of being added to the waiting list. Their young therapist, Aleigh Bone has been easily accepted by the 35-40 year old age group. Approximately 35% of the participants are uninsured or under insured. They are looking into additional grants and currently there are enough insured to cover costs with Medicaid.

8. Juvenile Justice Update: Ronn Abernathy reported that juvenile justice has had a busy summer from April and May school referrals. Savannah Hyde-Strickland has moved to be closer to home and her new baby. It is doubtful that position will be filled. Currently they are down two (2) positions. They had a very successful National Night Out on the 11th of August. The weather threatened to wash out the event, however, it cleared and they spoke with hundreds of people, shared what DJJ and JCPC are about. Handed out hundreds of gun locks and initiated a raffle for the six (6) gun safes. The safes are capable of mounting in a car. Judge Conrad was willing to draw the 9 names of the winners. The staff will contact the winners.

9. Report from the State: Melissa Johnson was not able to be available for this meeting.

10. Open Discussion – Announcements, Questions and Comments, none were forthcoming.

11. ADJOURN TIME: 8:47 Ronn Abernathy made a motion to adjourn and Judge Conrad seconded the motion which passed unanimously.