Burke Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Meeting
APRIL 8, 2026
Burke County Commissioner's Meeting Room Section E,
110 North Green Street, Morganton, NC, 8:10 A.M.

AGENDA

ATTENDANCE:

Council members attending: Ronn Abernathy, Andrew Byerly, Judge Scott Conrad, Chazlyn Thomas for Korey Fisher Wellman, Wesley Hasson, Rev. Jasper Hemphill, Rev. Wesley Hendrix, Sheriff Banks Hinceman, Dr. Paul Holden, Joseph Martinez, Chris Norman, Damion Patton, Phil Smith, and Deisy Zavala-Vasquez. A quorum of 14 of 22 was present.

Council members excused: Keith Bowman, Nicki Carpenter, Camey Ervin, Korey Fisher-Wellman, Dr. Steve Moody, Camey Ervin, Korey Fisher-Wellman and Jennifer Forney.

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

Partners attending: Darryl Church, David Hughey, 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 8:15 A.M. A quorum, 14 of 22 was present.

1.1 **Approval of the Agenda:** Judge Conrad made the motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Sheriff Hinceman and passed unanimously without discussion or amendment.

2.0 **Approval of the March Minutes:** Damion Patton made the motion to approve the March minutes, which was seconded by Sheriff Hinceman and passed unanimously without discussion or amendment.

REPORTS

COUNCIL

3.0 **Governance:** Governance Chair, Dr. Steve Moody / Vice Chair, Jasper Hemphill

3.1 Open Floor for Nominations/Election Slate of Officers 2026/2027: Rev. Hemphill opened the floor for additions or nominations for Council officers for the 2026/27 Fiscal Year. Hearing none, he recognized Rev. Hendrix who made the motion to approve the slate of officers as presented. Sheriff Hinceman seconded the motion. A discussion ensued as to any term limits for the Council/Officers. There was no conclusion about term limits for officers. The question was called and the motion to accept the slate of offices as presented passed unanimously.

3.2 Annual Plan 2026/2027 Rev. Hemphill introduced the complete Annual Plan which had been sent by email previously. Damion Patton made the motion to accept the plan as presented. Rev. Hendrix seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

4.0 **Outreach:** Outreach Chair, Jennifer Forney / Vice Chair [No Business at this time]

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

5.1 Conflict Resolution Center Budget Revision Request: Mr. Martinez turned the floor over to Cathy Starnes, CRC Director. Ms. Starnes reviewed the NCALLIES budget revision by amended line item. This had been sent to the Council previously by email. Ms. Starnes also introduced Payton Thomas and mentioned Kindra Tufts, both of whom are part of the organization. Sheriff Hinceman made the

motion to approve the budget revision as presented. Ms. Starnes noted that there was no change in service delivery. Judge Conrad seconded the motion which passed unanimously with the exception of Rev. Hendrix who abstained due to conflict of interest.

5.2 Kids at Work Budget Revision Request: Mr. Martinez turned the floor over to Nicole Jenkins from Kids at Work. Ms. Jenkins reviewed the items to be modified on their multi-county budget. The list of adjusted items was sent to the Council by email previously. Rev. Hendrix made the motion to approve the budget revision as presented. Sheriff Hinceman seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Megan Webster informed the group that the multi-county revision would also have to be approved by the other counties. This has been delayed due to a lack of quorum at a previously convening county JCPC. She will track the approval from the other counties to assure numbers approved will stay the same.

5.3 JCPC Administrative Budget, Update: Mr. Martinez turned the floor over to A.J. Coutu who mentioned that the current budget is exactly on track to spend the monies allotted. However, there will need to be a budget revision in May as the cost of the software the county has procured was almost half what was expected and approximately $40 will need to be adjusted.

6.0 General Program Presentations 3rd Quarter: Rev. Hemphill turned the floor over to the following programs to give their 3rd quarter update. Megan Webster provided a compiled summary of the funded programs'

6.1 Burke Recovery: Drew Amburn noted that their agency currently has 10 youth in treatment and 3 assessments scheduled making 13 assessments. He told the group the program has been receiving referrals from DSS, Teen Court, the schools and parents instead of just from DJJ. He reminded the group of the times their groups meet. Mr. Amburn stated that their budget is on track. There was a brief discussion concerning age-appropriate groupings of the youth. Ms. Webster reminded the group that youth could stay in JCPC funded programs past the age of 18, particularly if they were still in school.

6.2 Conflict Resolution Center: Cathy Starnes, director, stated that there were currently 29 circles and 14 court youth admitted and 4 mediations. She noted that they have a number of additional youth on their way into the programs. She mentioned that the groups are typically have age-appropriate groups. Ms. Starnes noted that their budget was on track at this time. She highlighted the fact that there are consistent referrals to other JCPC programs.

6.3 Kids at Work (Aspire): Nicole Jenkins reported the proposed number to serve is 12 youth, to date they served 17. 12 being served presently. She noted that additional youth are in process to be served. Ms. Jenkins relayed to the group the specific progress several clients have made with conflict management and learning to eat various foods.

6.4 Repay – [Presented last month]

STATE & LOCAL

7.0 Juvenile Justice Update: Ronn Abernathy reported that, after two years of attempting to fill a transportation position, it has been filled and will be housed in Burke County. The current number of youth with DJJ oversight is now "consistently low". Mr. Abernathy highlighted the work by their organization to coordinate school, law enforcement and program services over the past years to reduce the number coming into the court system. He also stated as a positive that the most serious cases come through their offices. The average caseload is about 18 Catawba 14 for Caldwell and 13 for Burke County. About 28 Burke County youth are being followed by local programs with support from DJJ staff. Mr. Abernathy advised the programs to expect lower numbers and project to do more intervention with the youth. He applauded the programs' referrals to each other. He noted that detention is seeing high influx of youth. Current cost is now $330 a night for detention with $165 for the local jail. The Sheriff noted that he should be rethinking his rental beds. Mr. Abernathy noted that the state needs at least 2 more detention facilities. The Sheriff stated that counties are offering as much as $10,000 sign on bonus in order to attract staff.

8.0 Report from the State: Megan Webster reported there is still no budget approved by the state. She noted that the state only recently increased the jail cost from $135 to $165. Ms. Webster highlighted the upcoming "Week of Action" to boost the NCSAFE program, in its 4th year. She has small safes and gun locks available. There was discussion of where there will be gatherings for potential tables with the NCSAFE merchandise, safes and locks. It was unclear who would staff these. Mr. Abernathy offered Buds Café in Drexel as a possible option. Their department has been able to secure funding to for DHHS to have a mental health presence at C.A. Dillon Youth Development Center. The funding should last approximately 2 years for crisis mental health needs starting this summer. She advised the programs to do their program agreement revisions as soon as possible since the Council does not meet in June. Ms. Webster referred the group to the pink handout and reviewed several high points. The number projected clients was 235, 185 have been served which is on track. The data suggests that there is not too many "carry over" numbers reflected. That is about 78% clients served which is on track. 124 completions were successful. The reasons for unsuccessful were reflective of what would be expected. A question was asked about parents removing their youth from programs. The referral sources are to be notified and addressed by them. Some clients feel that once their court oversight is over then there is no reason/leverage to make them stay. A discussion ensued concerning consequences for non compliance. There was additional discussion on possible sites and protocol for having tables and various site options.

9.0 Open Discussion – Rev. Hemphill opened the floor for Announcements, Questions and Comments: None were forthcoming.

10.0 ADJOURN: Rev. Hemphill invited a motion to adjourn at 9:00 AM, which Mr. Abernathy put forth, seconded by Rev. Hendrix and passed unanimously by acclamation.