BUNCOMBE COUNTY
JUSTICE RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL
Leveraging best practices to increase system efficiency, promote public safety, and community wellness

Agenda

April 4th, 2025, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
200 College St. 1st Floor Conference Room
Lunch Provided *(SJC Funded)*

I.	**Welcome/Meeting Called to Order**	12:30pm	Martin Moore, JRAC Chair
II.	**Roll Call**		Regenia Herring, JSD Director
III.	**Consent Agenda**	12:35pm	Martin Moore, JRAC Chair
	a. Approval of 4/4/25 Agenda		
	b. Approval of 8/2/24 Minutes		
IV.	**Justice System Data Report** Jail Population Impact Report	12:40pm	Dr. Lee Crayton, Strategy & Innovation
V.	**Old Business** N/A		
VI.	**New Business**		
	a. Pretrial Services Program Update	1:00pm	Regenia Herring, JSD Director
	b. JRAC Next Steps and Proposed 2025 JRAC Meeting Schedule	1:25pm	Regenia Herring, JSD Director
VII.	**Future Agenda Items**		Regenia Herring, JSD Director
VIII.	**Announcements**		Martin Moore, JRAC Chair
IX.	**Public Comment**		
X.	**Adjourn**		

Next Meeting:
June 6th, 2025
12:30pm - 2:00pm
200 College St. 1st Floor Conference Room

Justice Resource Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

August 2nd ,2024, 12:30pm – 2:00pm

Location: Sheriff's Office Training Room, 4th floor

Welcome and Lunch: Martin Moore (JRAC Chair)

- Start time of meeting: 12:30
- Roll call (see attachment)

Consent Agenda:

Approval of August Agenda and June Minutes- Martin moved to accept the motion for the Consent Agenda, Donald Reuss seconded the motion. Council Approved.

Old Business

Ecourts-Implementation Updates- Jean Marie Christy-Clerk of Superior Court

Jean Marie explained there have been continued improved communication with the courts, detention center and Pre-trial. The improved communication has also improved delayed time frames.

- Reported things are going very well and everyone has been patient in working with each other during this process.
- Encouraged the people that are using Ecourts to continue to check the calendar pages since there are 2 different pages. One for court staff and one for non-court staff. There are certain timeframes attached to the Clerk's office when preparing records for someone interested in having records redacted.
- Explained that each court document has to be filed as separate PDF documents.
- Emails, Texts, Calls are still a way for continued communication outside of the system.

- Judge Kepple spoke on reducing calendars to be able to keep up with the delayed times that court staff is experiencing working in the new system. This is temporary but has to be done during this time.
- Court staff spoke on the challenges of how long it takes to process the cases currently within the new system.
- Jean Marie spoke on things that attorneys can do in the system ahead of time to possibly speed up paperwork challenges.

Solutions to eCourts impact on Court Reminder System and Adult Misdemeanor Diversion Program- Dr. Lee Crayton- Strategy and Innovation

- Dr. Crayton provided an update to the group on the Court Reminder System that was put into place in order to prepare everyone for this system implementation
- There should be no delays in the program requirements and eligibility requirements in the new system for the Adult Misdemeanor Diversion Program.

Eric Grau- Buncombe County Information Technology Director- Just wanted to let the group know that Buncombe County IT is here to help support anyway they can thru the ticketing process and any challenges that may arise, please let them know so they can assist along with State IT.

Justice System Data Report-Improvements to the detention facility- Dr. Lee Crayton, - Strategy and Innovation, Cindy Green- Pretrial Program Manager, and Capt. Littrell, BCSO Captain

Dr. Crayton first gave an overview to the group of the below three components:

What is the problem?	Delayed Release Times, which a variety of factors contribute to
Why is this happening?	Access to "real time" court data, secured bonds, pre-trial release processes, technical violations and serving outstanding processes at release
What is the goal?	For releases to be more evenly distributed throughout the day, avoiding a processing bottle neck after court shuts down.

Dr. Crayton presented release data from January 2024-June 2024. This data only includes individuals that spent time at our detention facility, does not include transfers to Department of Corrections or other counties.

- 66% of releases into the community took place at 3pm or later, 7pm and 8pm are the busiest release hours. Late afternoon/evening releases are a concern because it prevents individuals from being able to be linked to services and resources and during Code Purple days, they are not able to access Shelters due to it being after hours.

Capt. Littrell discussed and presented the Detention Center Release process overview and explained the steps of a release. One of the focuses will now be getting any outstanding processes served before the individual is actually released.

Cindy Green presented the Pretrial Release Process.

- She explained in detail the process from their staff performing the Public Safety Assessment to the submission of the paperwork to the courts for review and decision making. Court will then decide whether or not to assign Pre-trial at the first appearance or bond hearing with other conditions, A supervision agreement is prepared by staff and is then reviewed and signed by the individual. Copies are provided to the individual as well as detention staff. Once all conditions holding individual in custody have been clearly met, individual is released.
- Pretrial Technical Violation Process- If an individual violates court ordered conditions of release or Pretrial program rules, a violation report is prepared and presented to the Court. A Judge at that time will then review the report and can make several determinations
- Signed Pretrial Violation Reports are sent to the magistrate's office, where they are entered into eWarrants to be served by law enforcement.

Dr. Crayton then presented improvements to the Release Process that have been made:

- eCourts implementation- Detention is no longer having to wait until the end of the court day to being the release process
- Daily report sent to Detention of anyone in custody with an active warrant or order for arrest needing to be served.

Judge Kepple discussed with the group to continue to be patient and how that we are only into the live system 10 days and that patience is needed. Things will improve.

New Business

JRAC Meetings schedule- Proposed 10/4/24; 12/6/24 - Martin Moore-JRAC Chair/Buncombe County Commissioner

- No concerns from the group with the two dates listed above

Strategic Planning- Dr. Lee Crayton- Strategy and Innovation-

- As Buncombe County approaches the new 5-year Strategic Planning period, there will be new members of the bench and learning curves that the team will have to take into consideration. Some of the things that will be looked at a little closer in the next planning will be the Ecourts implementation, Buncombe County Metrics, targeting goals, detention center and where we are with our system from 2024 to

current and how those can be improved in this next phase of strategic planning and creating systems that will be impactful**.**

- Lindsay Holland and Sybil Tate will be the points of contact for any follow-up.
- Strategic Planning Action Items:
  - Prior to our next October meeting, solicitated the group to think about what things they would like to see within the Justice System for the next 5 years and what it would take to make those things a reality?
  - What are some of the opportunities that are happening now on the horizon that we can build upon for the next 5 years?
  - What are some of the challenges?

Dr. Crayton asked the group to come back to the October meeting with 5 responses to the questions asked above or ideas such as goals and initiatives that the group would like to see as a foundation to build upon for the next Strategic Plan.

- **Announcements and Departmental Updates-** Martin Moore Introduced Guest Tom Eberly from the Safety and Justice Challenge. Tom is from Mecklenburg County and was there to listen in as the SJC provides funding for a lot of the work that was discussed in today's meeting.

- *No Public Comment*

Next Meeting:

October 4th, 2024 - Sheriff's Training Room, 4th floor new part of the Buncombe County Courthouse.

Adjournment

Martin Moore entertained motion to adjourn; Sam Snead so moved, and Sybil Tate seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:48pm.

Impact of Major Events on Jail Population

Presented by

Lee Crayton

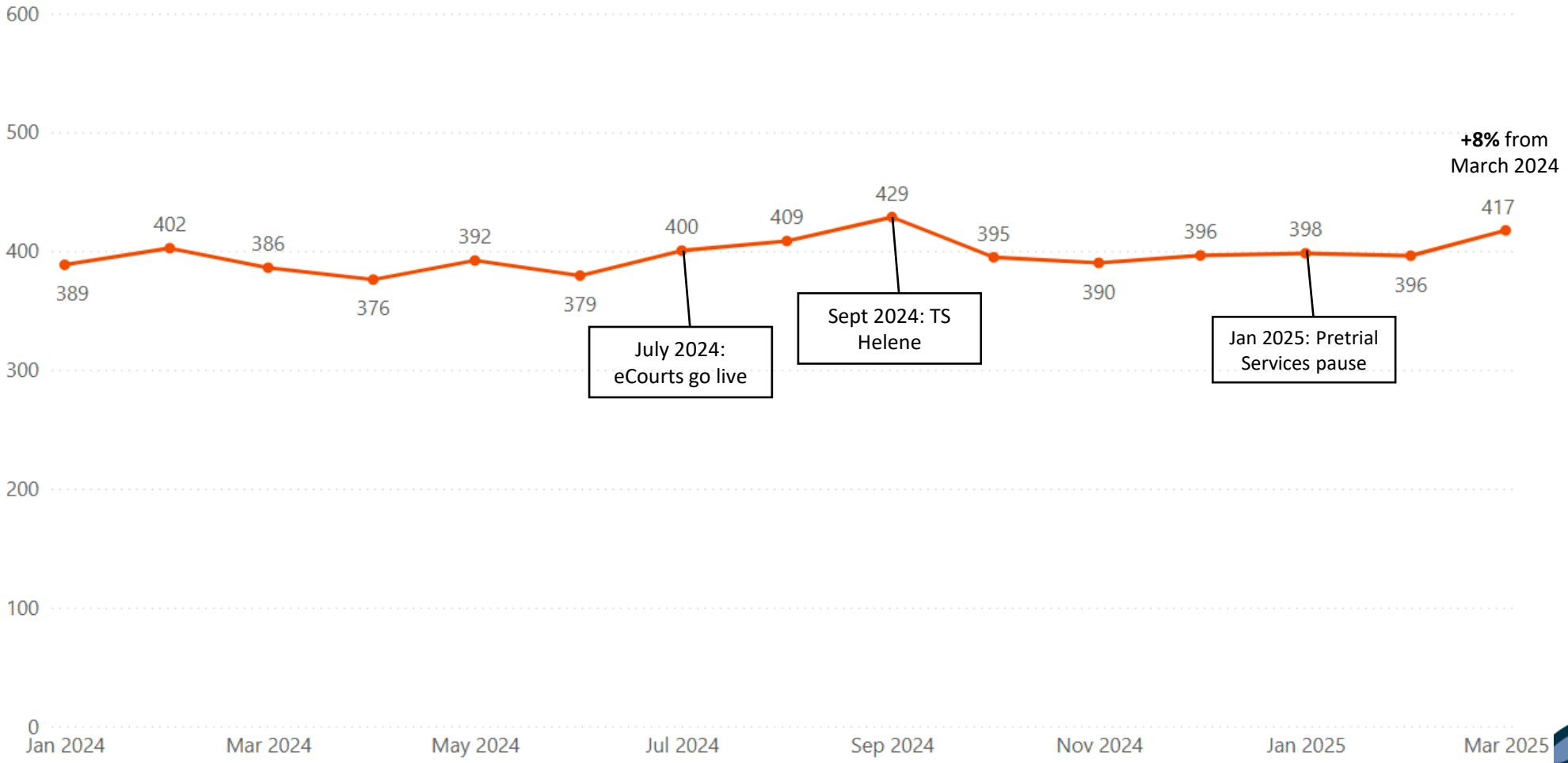
Strategy & Innovation

Presentation Overview

- **What, if any, impact have major events over the last year had on jail population?**
  - eCourts transition, July 2024
  - TS Helene, September 2024
  - Pretrial Services pause, January 2025
- **Where do we expect the jail population to be over the next six months?**
  - Six month forecast and drivers

Jail Census

Average Daily Population by Month (Local Population Only)

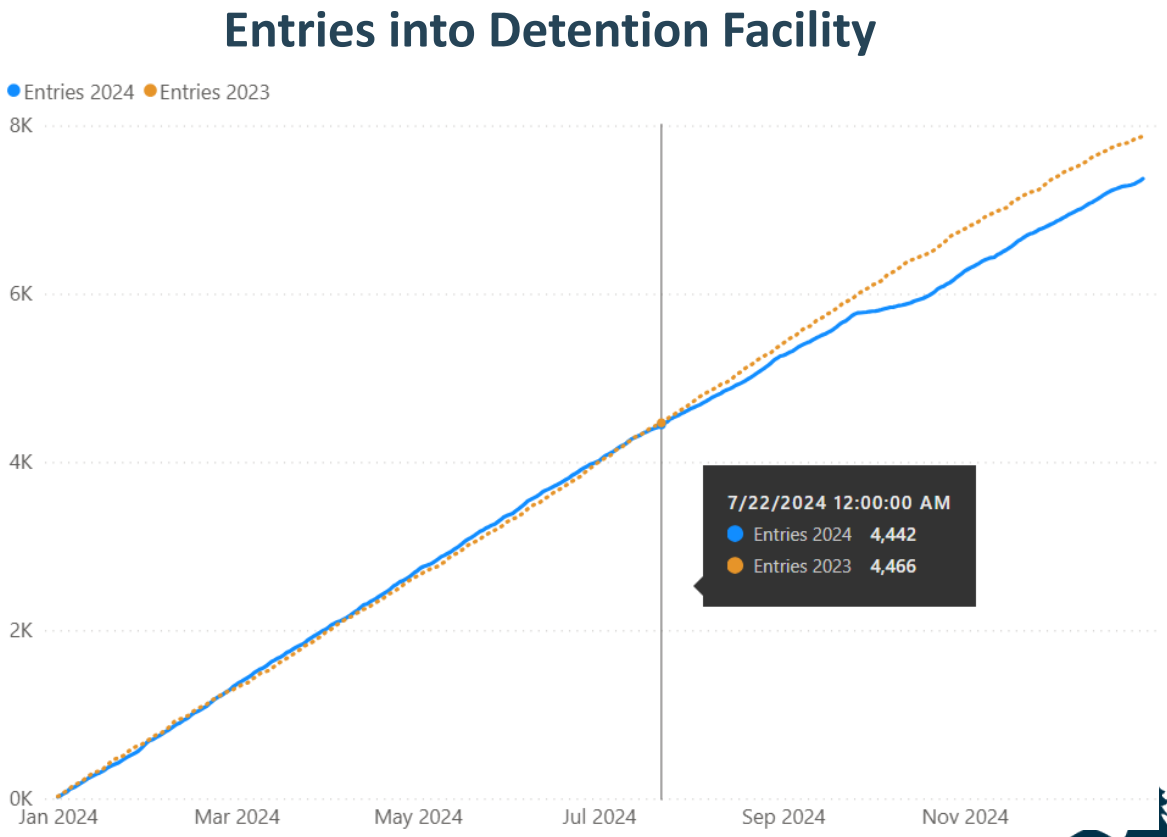


eCourts Transition

- Buncombe County went live on eCourts on July 22, 2024 as part of Track 5
- Average local daily population in July 2024 was 400
- Post transition typical month over month population increase occurred, peaking in September at 429 (+7%)
  - This was a slightly larger increase than the previous year, which was 5.5% – July 2023 (398) to September 2023 (420)
- **Jail population did not experience a significant increase following the eCourts transition**

eCourts Transition

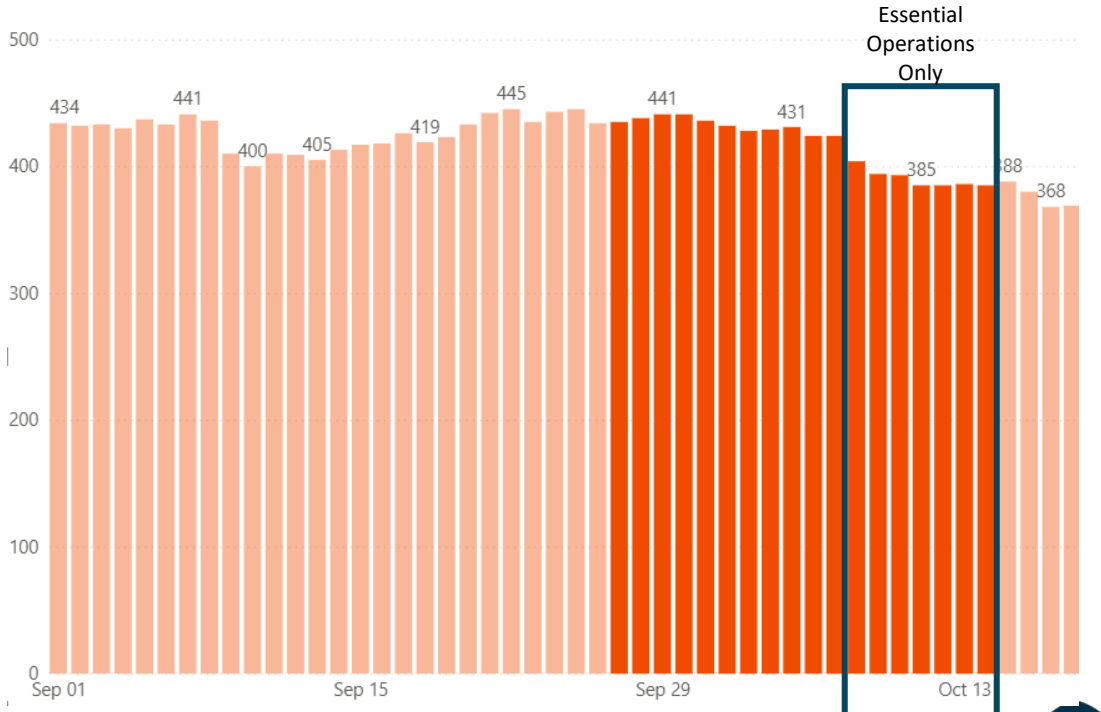
- Court dockets were reduced, so what factors could have contributed to keeping the population from experiencing a larger increase?
  - Bookings into the facility began to slow after a period of outpacing 2023
  - Prioritization of in-custody cases



TS Helene

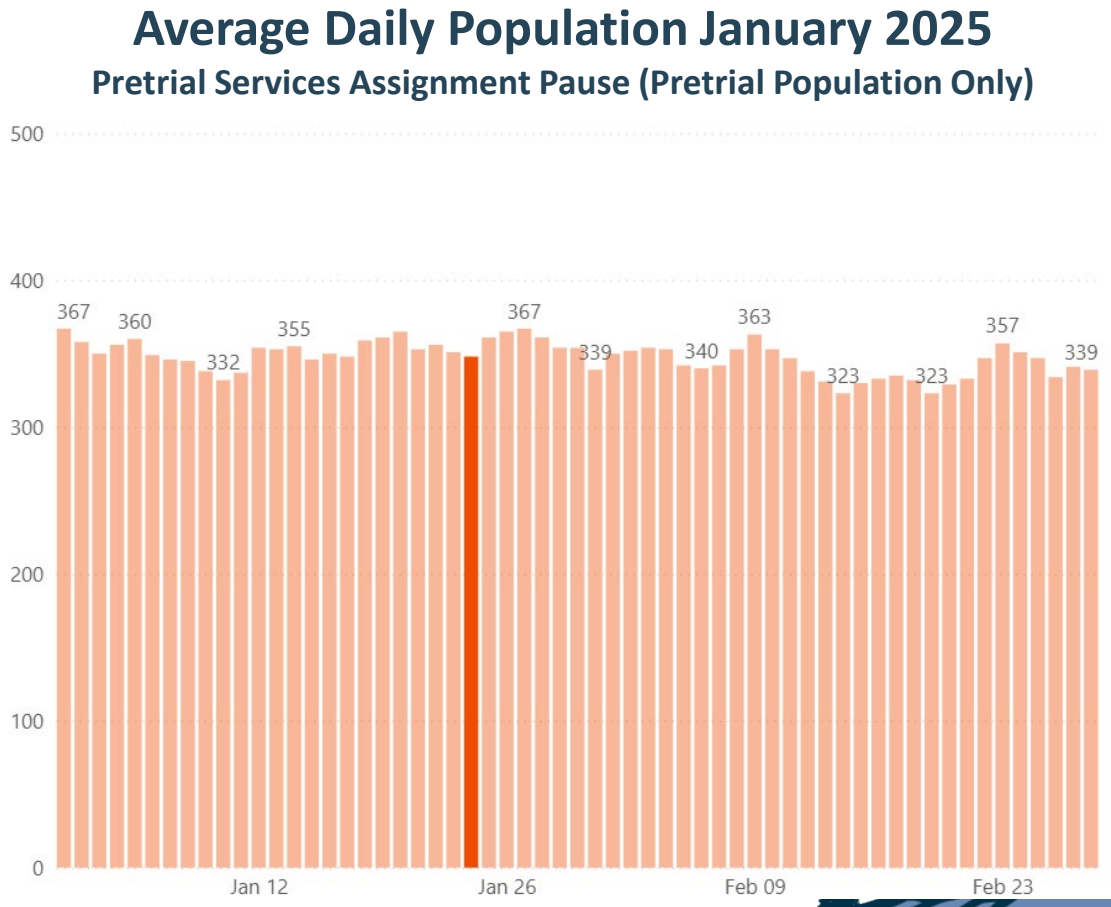
- Buncombe County Courthouse closed September 27 and remained closed until October 8; full reopening occurred the week of October 14
- Priority during re-opening period was given to in-custody cases and first appearances

Average Daily Population During Courthouse Closure (Local Population Only)



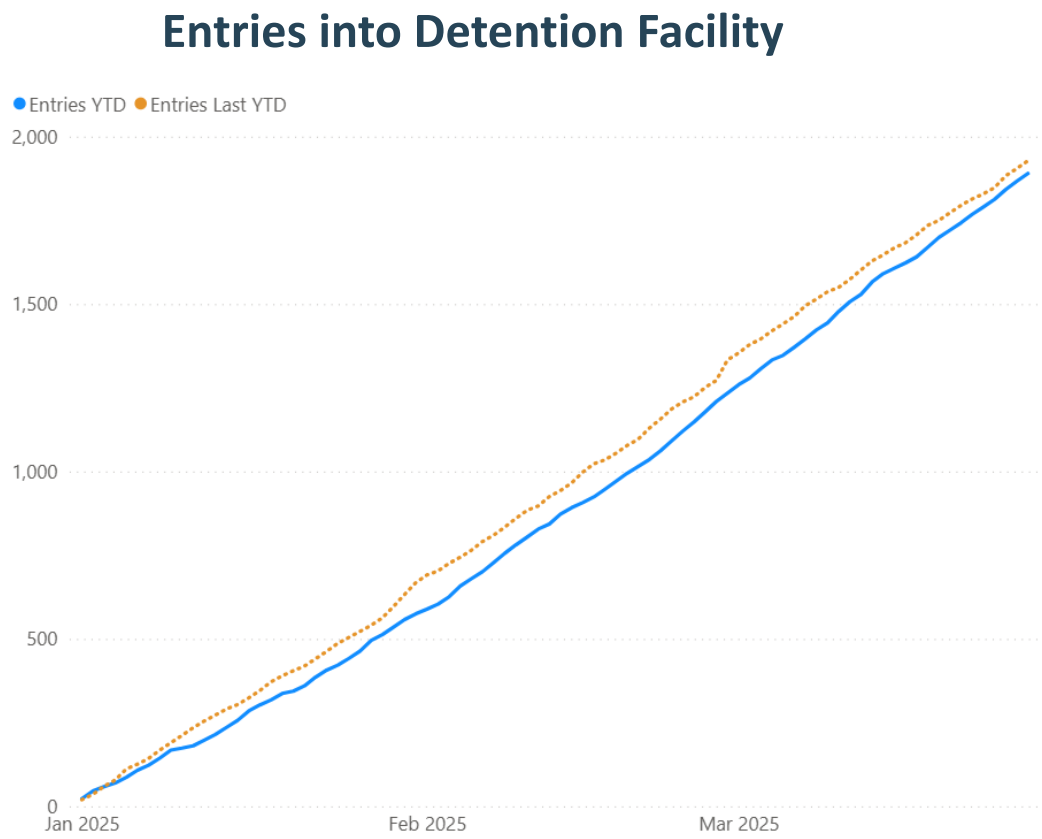
Pretrial Services Pause

- Buncombe County Pretrial Services paused accepting new assignments on January 24, 2025
- Average pretrial daily population in January was 408, slightly lower than January 2024 (412)
- No immediate impacts to the pretrial population occurred following the pause



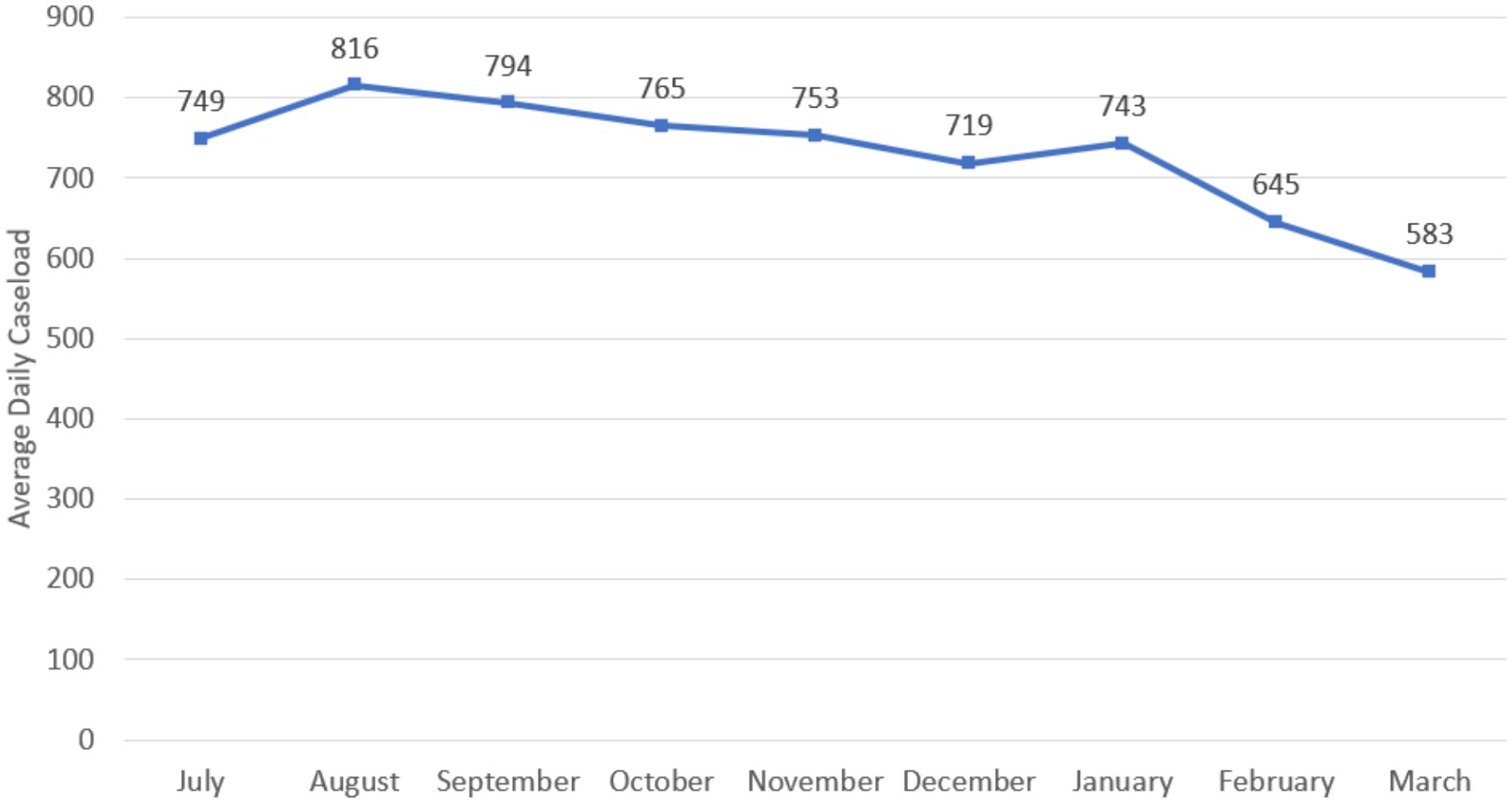
Pretrial Services Pause

- A release pathway was removed, so what factors could have contributed to keeping the population from experiencing an increase?
  - Going into pause, approximately 10% of pretrial releases from custody had a Pretrial Services release reason
  - Bookings are down from where they were this time last year; especially true for mid-February – mid-March
  - Post pause releases:
    - Higher percentage of releases after processing
    - No change in percentage posting bond



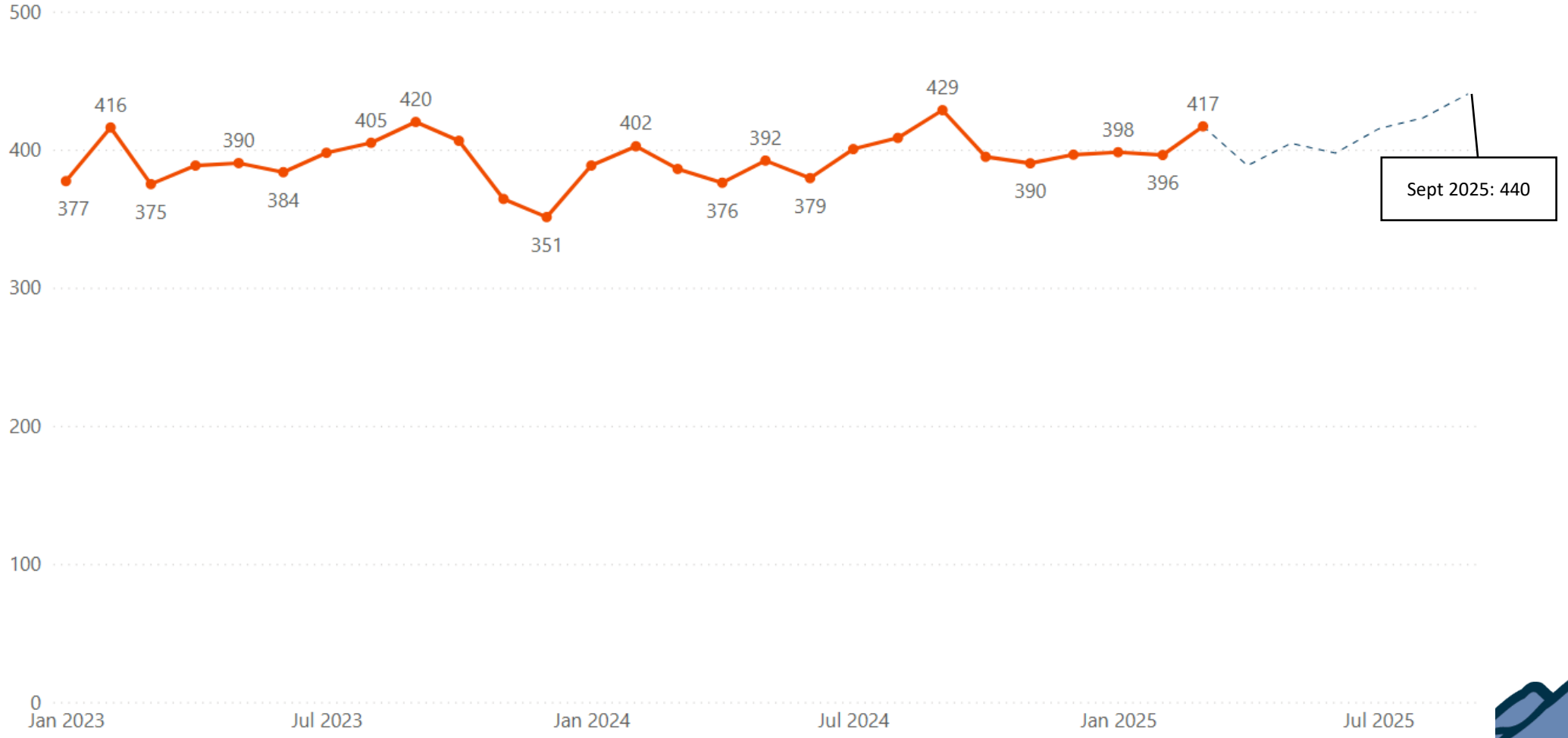
Pretrial Services Caseload

Fiscal Year 2025



Jail Population 6 Month Forecast

Average Daily Population by Month (Local Population Only)



Conclusion

- Significant events over the last year have not had major impacts on the jail population
- Booking levels have been a major factor in keeping the population from experiencing larger increases
- If bookings begin to outpace releases or booking levels last year, expect population increases
- Continue to monitor release types through out the Pretrial Services pause to understand release type impacts
- Population levels in May typically play a big role in the size of the population through the summer and into early fall

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JRAC Standing Committee Report

Date: 4/4/25

Committee Name: Behavioral Health Justice Collaborative

Objective: This body seeks to foster private and public partnerships and collaboration to channel the right resources to the right place at the right time in response to behavioral health needs in the community with the goal of promoting public safety and improving outcomes for those in need of behavioral health services.

Committee Chair: Vacant

Staff Support: Victoria Reichard (Behavioral Health Manager)

Date of last Committee meeting: 9/13/2024

Committee Goals/Deliverables:

1. Create, promote, and enhance pathways for coordination at the intersection of behavioral health and justice-based interventions.
2. Promote effective options for those with behavioral health needs to be safe, sheltered, and stable.
3. Promote the development of a consistent, qualified, and capable behavioral health workforce and recruitment pool in the region to increase service accessibility and reduce the burden on the criminal justice system.
   - Develop resources and directories to support providers and consumers in navigating the intersections of the behavioral health and justice systems effectively.
   - Host trainings and convenings to foster connections and collaboration across different sectors, such as between justice system personnel and behavioral health services, or private business owners and community resources related to behavioral health.
   - Offer policy and program insights and recommendations to JRAC to inform local, state and federal engagement and advocacy around improvements at the intersections of our behavioral health and criminal justice systems.
   - Identify and facilitate outreach opportunities for BHJC members and organizations to engage with individuals in need of support within their communities.

Committee updates:

1. Shared updated Workforce Development Resource Mapping and identified action item of sharing with employers/employees as well as local high schools/guidance counselors and engaging employers in supporting employees in being able to apply for the resources.
2. Dogwood Health Trust shared some of their recent funding efforts to support the behavioral health workforce, i.e. Clinicians of Color Initiative, Project AWE, Land of Sky Inspire, Voices of Affrilachia, Center for Trauma-Resilient Communities, and a new partnership with Vaya to hire someone to help the provider network in accessing scholarship and loan forgiveness opportunities so that they are eligible and employees are supported to apply. An identified gap has been around internships and considering opportunities to fill employment vacancies with students required to complete internships and support for staff that are already spread thin and needing to spend more time in supervision. Possible action items would

be around creating resources such as an MOU template to share across agencies seeking to register for scholarship/loan repayment for employees and possibly developing paid internship opportunities.

3. Lee Crayton shared an overview of the E-Courts system. The group is curious about the impact of E-Courts and had a question about consideration of having an Amnesty Day to help clear up backlogs. It was identified that folks with even low-level offenses are having challenges in being able to access housing/treatment services. There was also conversation around timeliness of release to ensure connection to resource, especially for those going back to homelessness.
4. Just Home Grant was shared with the group and suggested that this be shared/presented to the Continuum of Care (CoC), the Recovery Community Collaborative, the Crisis Collaborative, and the North Carolina Association of Recovery Residences (NCARR). Also shared the Recovery Housing Report that was completed with Opioid Settlement funds and will share the report from Land of Sky for surrounding counties once available.
5. Updates on Buncombe County's 2030 Strategic Plan and the group highlighted that affordable housing impacts a majority of other goals and that housing first is important to achieve education, safety, wellness, etc.

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JRAC Standing Committee Report

Date: 4/4/25

Committee Name: Community Engagement Committee

Objective: To educate and engage with the community concerning criminal justice

Committee Chair: Vacant

Staff Support: Brent Bailey

Date of last Committee meeting: 3/26/25

Committee Goals/Deliverables:

The Community Engagement Workgroup (CEW) infuses community voices and perspectives throughout the work of reducing the jail population and racial disparities. Our membership is comprised of a range of individuals, including people with lived experience and representatives from organizations providing direct support to people involved in the justice system.

Committee updates:

Focus for workgroup during 2025:

1. Offering trainings/presentations on topics of interest expressed by members (such as Court Watching, landlord incentives, increased housing options)
   By doing this, we hope to inspire more in person attendance to the monthly meeting.

Meetings are always offered as a hybrid of in person/virtual.

2. Offering presentations in the community as a way to engage with community members. Also, this is a way to hear from community, to understand what they think the main issues are that need to be addressed as it relates to the justice system here in Buncombe County.

3. Aim for a speaker/presentation during each meeting relative to the Just Home Initiative.

4. Increase member engagement through working sub-committees.

Attendance at last meeting which was held March 26: Brent Bailey, Eric Jackson, Micah Hayes William Castro, Kecia White, Mary Singer, Hannah Calloway

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JRAC Standing Committee Report

Date: 4/4/25

Committee Name: Coordinated Community Response

Objective: Integrate existing community resources to provide high quality, trauma-informed services for victims of domestic and sexual violence

Committee Chair: Julia Horrocks

Staff Support: Ashley Wilberding

Date of last Committee meeting: 9/4/24

Committee Goals/Deliverables:

Increase victim safety by coordinating services to empower victims, reduce assaults, build hope, and prevent homicides

Committee updates:

- **Rebecca Smith- HHS Social Worker Director**- Gave an update on current programming for their department. Spoke on the implementation of Perpetrator Mapping.
- **Judge Julie Kepple-** Gave brief update on the staff still adjusting to E-courts and will continue to work thru the challenges.

- **Hannah Legerton- Youth Justice Program Manager** and Community Safety and Violence Prevention- Shared with the group that the Youth Justice Resource Guide is now available.
- **April Burgess Johnson- Helpmate Executive Director**- Shared with the group the new Shelter updates as well as some Porchlight updates.
- **Julia Horrocks- Pisgah Legal Services**- Announced that Pisgah Legal has a new Executive Director, Jaclyn Kiger. She replaced Jim Barrett, who has retired. Julia also announced there are alot of restructuring and change happening with staffing.
- **Lt. Diana Loveland- Asheville Police Department**- Spoke on staffing concerns for the FJC Front Desk officer position. She announced the position is coming upon a year of being vacant. The personnel currently there is on light duty and cannot act as an officer. Staffing conversations are continuing to happen.
- **Jackie Maillet- Mission Hospital Forensic Nurse**- They currently have 4 nightshift positions open and are currently staffing for those. Other hospitals are experiencing staffing challenges and the they have been in a holding pattern with staffing since June.

- **Jackie Latek- SPARC Foundation**- SPARC has recently applied for GCC Grant funds for DV Offender services. If received, this will allow them to charge a lesser amount for the Client DV Classes. It will not eliminate the charge all together for the client but will be less for them to pay.
- **Rita Sneider-Cotter- Our Voice**- Added Ty Johnson as a Community Advocate. Also provided the group with other staffing updates within the agency.
- **Carla Jones- Mountain Child Advocacy Center**- Carla has been appointed the new director. No other updates to provide to the group at this time.

JUSTICE RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Coordinated Community Response Subcommittee

September 4th, **2024**

Name	Title	Organization	Attend? YIN
Ashley Wilberding	FJC Program Manager	Buncombe County	y
Vanessa Conley	Admin Coordinator	Buncombe County	y
Rebecca Smith	HHS Social Work Director	Buncombe County	y
Sherri Thomas	HHS Social Work Program Manager	Buncombe County	y
Nick Fowler	Probation Officer	NC State Probation/Parole	y
April Burgess Johnson	Executive Director	Helpmate	y
Maggie Slocumb	Program Director	Helpmate	y
Julia Horrocks	Private Attorney	Pisgah Legal Services	y
Julie Kepple	District Court Judge	NC 40TH District	y
Diana Loveland	Lieutenant	Asheville Police Department	y
Rita Sneider-Cotter	Executive Director	Our Voice	y
Jenn Henga	Program Director	Our Voice	y
Jackie Maillet	Forensic Nurse	HCA -Mission	y

BUNCOMBE COUNTY
JUSTICE RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL
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JRAC Standing Committee Report

Date: 4/4/25

Committee Name: Racial Equity Committee

Objective: The Racial Equity Committee will actively work to ensure Buncombe County is a place where every resident experiences fair and equal justice, and the impacts of systemic and institutional racism are fully eradicated.

Committee Chair: Vacant

Staff Support: Terry Bellamy

Date of last Committee meeting: 9/11/24

Committee Goals/Deliverables:

Goal 1: Identifying and implementing culturally and developmentally appropriate intervention
Deliverable(s): a) Evaluate risk, needs, and strengths of older youth (16-24) who are being treated as adults
b) Identify best and emerging practices to better support transition to adulthood

Goal 2: Evaluating and improving strategies to reduce racial disparities in the jail
Deliverable(s): Conduct a deep dive on jail population patterns and make recommendations to change local practices to reduce racial disparity.

Goal 3: Enhancing the quality of life for those most impacted through holistic community-based and people-centered lens and interventions
Deliverable(s): Identify and review current restorative justice practices used locally and explore options for expanding utilization of restorative practices.

Committee updates:

The strategy to address the aforementioned goals and deliverables was to seek assistance/expertise from associated justice system partners as follows:

Goal 1: Justice Services Youth Justice Program Manager; Chief Court Counselor (NC Dept. of Public Safety

Goal 2: District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office; BCSO (Detention)

Goal 3: Behavioral Health Program Manager (Public Health); Chief Equity and Human Rights Officer (Buncombe County)

BUNCOMBE COUNTY
JUSTICE RESOURCE
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Racial Equity Committee

Mission: To equip Justice Services staff and its collaborators with the necessary resources to dismantle racism, ensuring public safety and justice are equitably implemented across all criminal justice sectors.

DATE: Sept. 11, 2024

Printed Name	Signature	Organization
Jillian Davis	Jillian Davis	BC Justice Services
Blaine Fish		Justice Services
Kevin Rumley		Justice Services
Terry M. Bellamy	Terry M Bellamy	Buncombe Co

Printed Name	Signature	Organization
Vanessa Conley	Vanessa Conley	Justice Services
Monique Pierre	Monique Pierre	HACA
MARCUS KIRKMAN	M	COA
Lindsay Holland	Holland	BC
Sylvia Clement	Sylvia Clement	DJJ