

Justice Resource Support

Update to the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Rachael Nygaard, Director of Strategic Partnerships

June 5, 2017

Strategic Priority

Coordinate a justice system that is efficient, effective, equitable and protects our public safety while holistically addressing the needs of people involved in the system



GOALS:

- Enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system
- Focus on law enforcement approaches informed by best practices for serving people impacted by mental illness, addiction, homelessness, poverty and trauma
- Offer diversion and alternatives to incarceration for low-level, first time nonviolent offenders and people with mental illness and substance use disorders
- Maximize community pretrial justice solutions while prioritizing safety and offender accountability
- Support people who are incarcerated and re-entering the community from incarceration
- Focus on crime prevention and offer trauma informed support for victims of crime, including domestic violence, sexual assault and discrimination

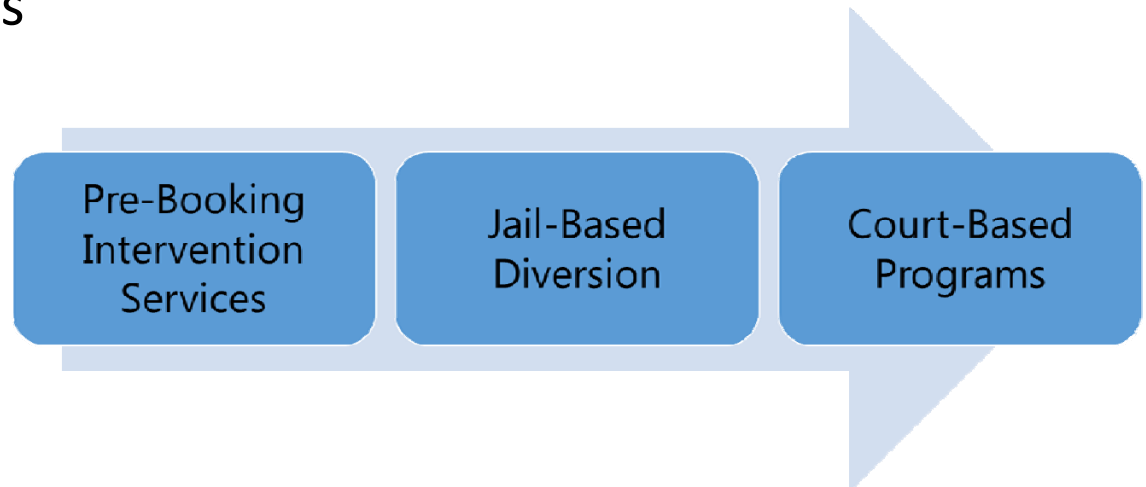
Strong Foundation

- Buncombe County a frontrunner in diversion with track record of decades of leadership in criminal justice



- Robust array of local criminal justice and behavioral health programs:

- Front end crisis responses
- Law enforcement
- Jail-based services
- Diversion programs
- Pretrial supervision
- Specialty courts
- Re-entry services
- Victim support



Successes Over the Past Year

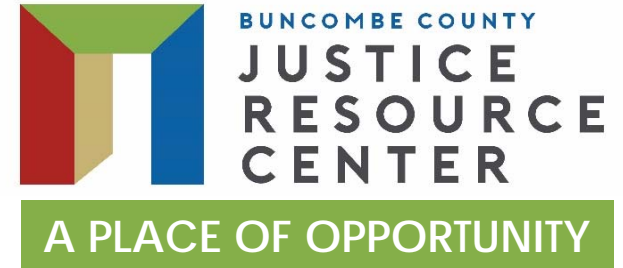
- ✓ Hired a Justice Resource Coordinator
- ✓ Created a Justice Resource Advisory Council
- ✓ Established a Justice Resource Center
- ✓ Expanded Diversion Programs & Increased Expungement Access
- ✓ Implemented of Expedited Release Protocol and Jail Based Prosecution
- ✓ Conducted a Sequential Intercept Model Workshop (system mapping)
- ✓ Participated in NACo/SAMHSA Best Practices Implementation Academy
- ✓ Participated in National Stepping Up Day of Action
- ✓ Invited to the National Network of Criminal Justice Collaborating Councils



Justice Resource Center

600+ people served since opening in October 2017

- Case management
- Diversion services
- Career & education
- Public benefits
- Re-entry services
- Expunction support



MANY PARTNERS, ONE LOCATION
Buncombe County Courthouse, 15th floor



**BUNCOMBE
COUNTY**
GOVERNMENT
— NORTH CAROLINA —

ABTech
Community College



RHA
HEALTH SERVICES

Sunrise Community
For Recovery & Wellness

Part of a National Conversation

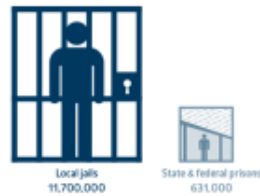


“The primary purpose of jails is to detain those awaiting trial who are a danger to public safety or a flight risk. Jailing someone who is neither results in huge costs for families and communities, including lost income, parents separated from their children, untreated mental health and substance abuse problems, a greater risk of re-offending, and wasted taxpayer dollars.”

Rethinking Jails Nationally



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



There are **nearly 12 million** jail admissions annually—equivalent to the populations of New York City and Los Angeles combined and almost 19 times the annual admissions to state and federal prisons.



From 1982 to 2011, local spending on corrections—largely building and running jails—increased at least 235%. Today, **\$22.2 billion** is spent annually by local jurisdictions on correctional institutions.

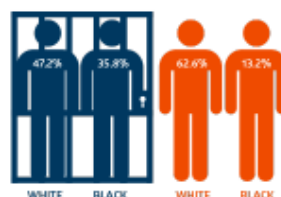


Three out of five people in jail are **legally presumed innocent**, awaiting trial or resolution through plea negotiations.

Jails in America



Nearly 75% of sentenced offenders and those detained in jail before trial are there for **nonviolent** traffic, property, drug, or public order offenses.



Nationally, African Americans are jailed at almost **4x the rate** of white Americans.



An estimated 14.5% of men and 31% of women admitted to jail have a **serious mental illness**—rates that are four to six times higher than in the general population.

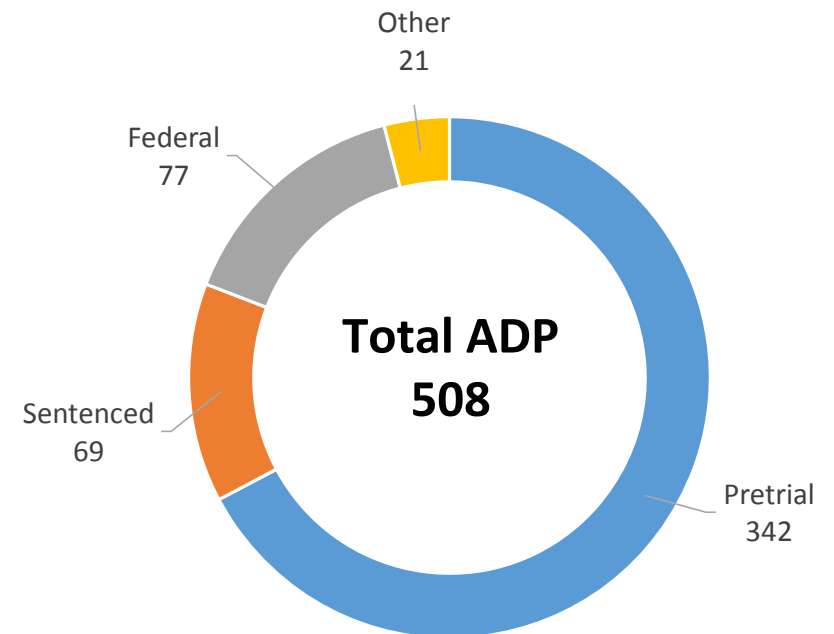
Jail in Buncombe County

Buncombe County Detention Facility can house up to 604 individuals in 13 housing units:

96 Female Beds & 508 Male Beds

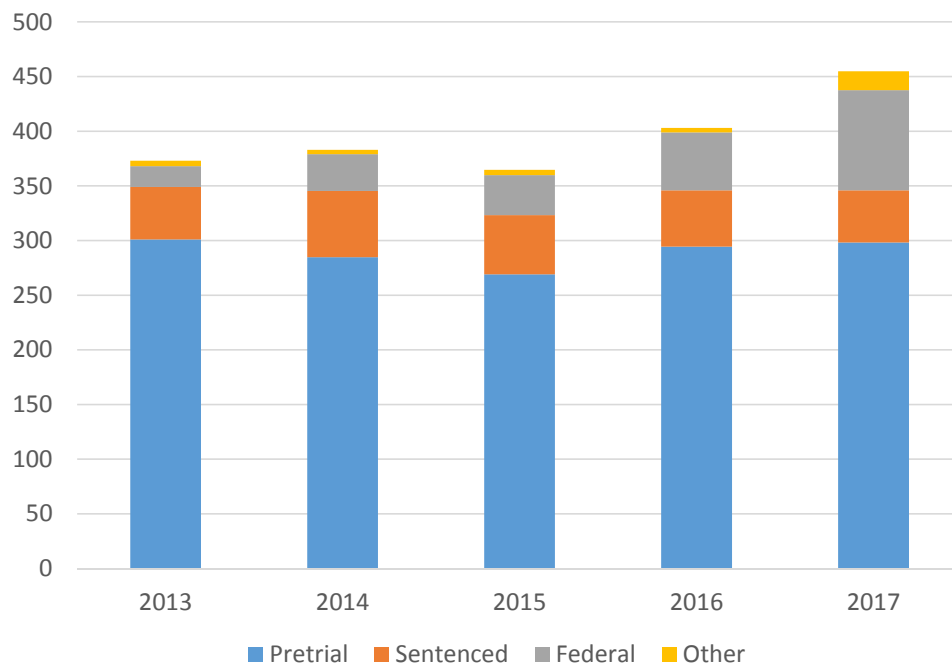


Average Daily Population – May 2018

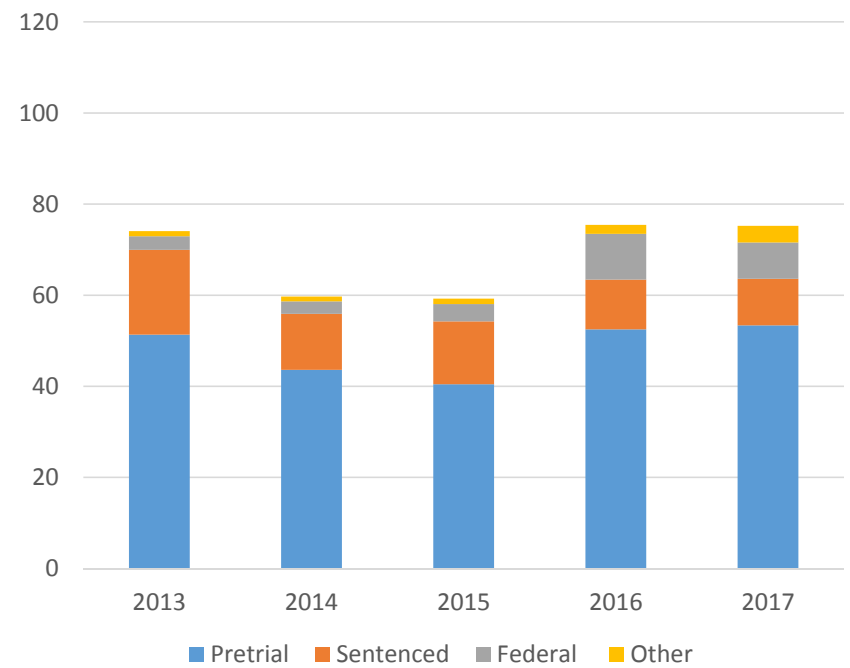


Population Trend

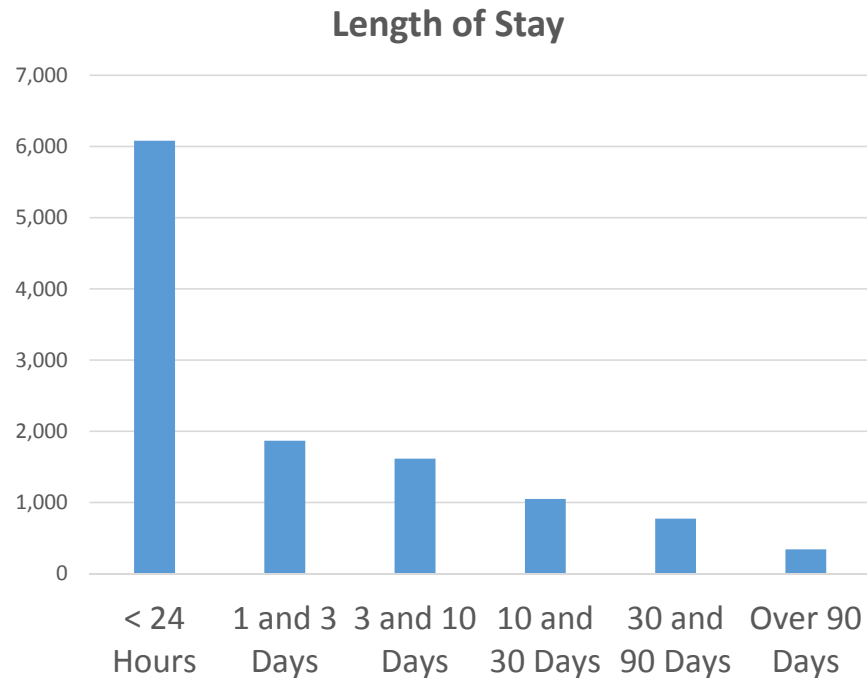
Average Daily Population Males



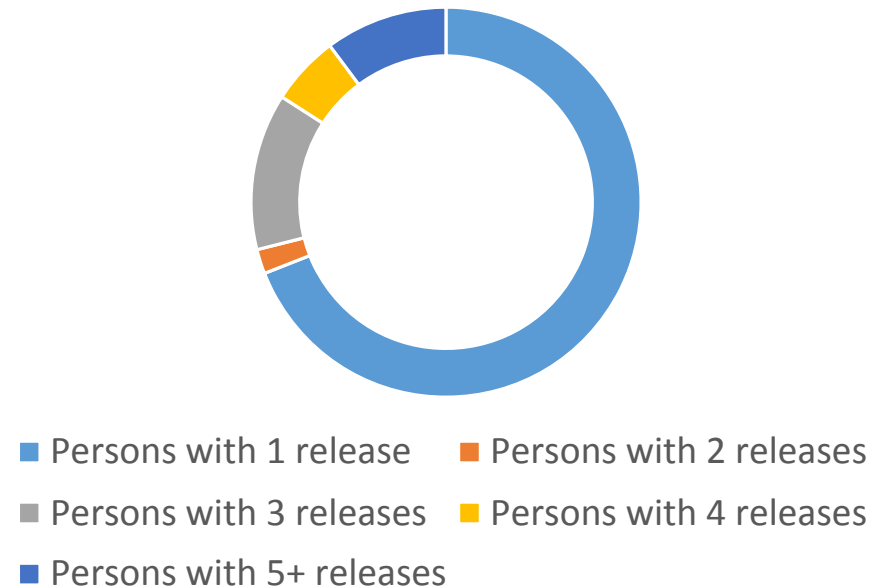
Average Daily Population Females



Jail Releases



Number of Persons Released



- There were 11,727 releases from jail in the past year: 7,336 people
- 10% had 5 or more releases... 16% had 4 or more... and 29% had 3 or more
- Most bookings were released within 24 hours

The Grant Opportunity



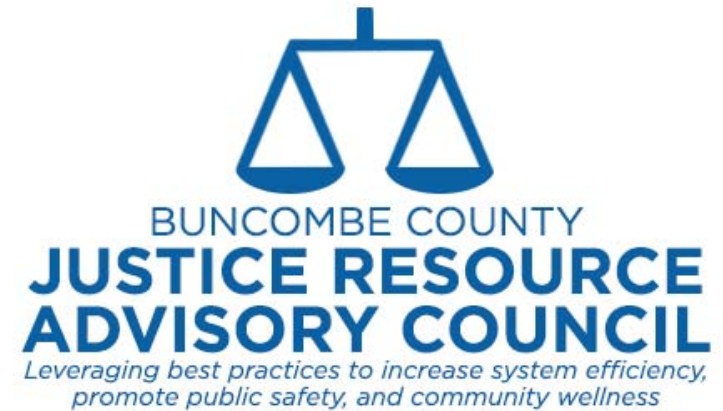
- Buncombe County previously awarded \$50,000 Innovation Fund Grant for work in Pretrial Services with domestic violence protocol
- Now invited to apply for Implementation Fund Grant of **up to \$2 million** plus expert technical assistance
- Goal to **reduce jail population by at least 15%**
- Requires system-wide collaborative and data-driven approaches
- Emphasis on protecting public safety and strengthening wellness



\$ Grant Funding

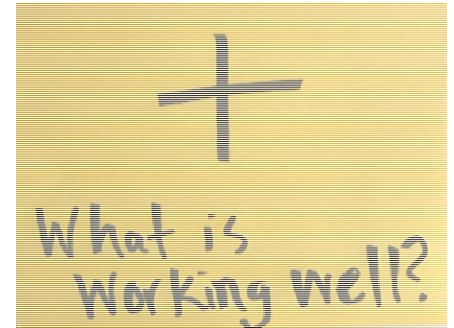
Partners

- Buncombe County – Sheriff's Office, Pretrial Services, ID Bureau
- Asheville Police Department
- Office of the District Attorney
- Public Defender's Office & Local Private Defense Bar
- Superior & District Court Judges
- Magistrate & Clerk of Court
- Probation Office
- Juvenile Justice
- Vaya Health Managed Care Organization



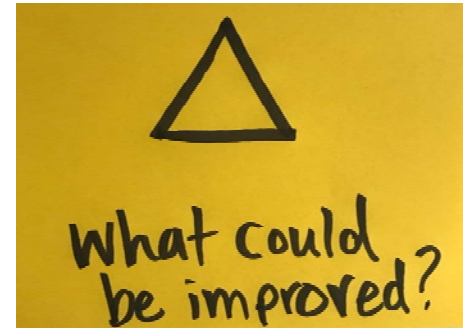
Strengths

- + Below average incarceration rate
- + Track record of leadership in criminal justice
- + Continuum of justice and behavioral health supports
- + Cross-system work with Family Justice, Mental Health, Housing, Workforce
- + Supportive elected leaders
- + County staff resources
- + Commitment to data-driven planning
- + Some shared data systems
- + IT infrastructure and dashboard reporting



Areas for Improvement

- Δ Jail population growth trends
- Δ Rising numbers of women in jail
- Δ Rising numbers of substance abuse detox protocols in jail
- Δ Lengths of stay for defendants awaiting trial
- Δ Pretrial lengths of stay for non-violent charges
- Δ Number of people who cycle in out of jail multiple times
- Δ Growth in Pretrial Supervision
- Δ Higher incarceration rates/longer lengths of stay for Blacks and Hispanics
- Δ Gaps in public confidence



Jail Population Reduction Goal

Average Daily Population (ADP) Excludes Contract (e.g. Federal) and State Sentenced Baseline measured November 2017-April 2018	385
15% Reduction	Down by 58 to 327 ADP

Strategies

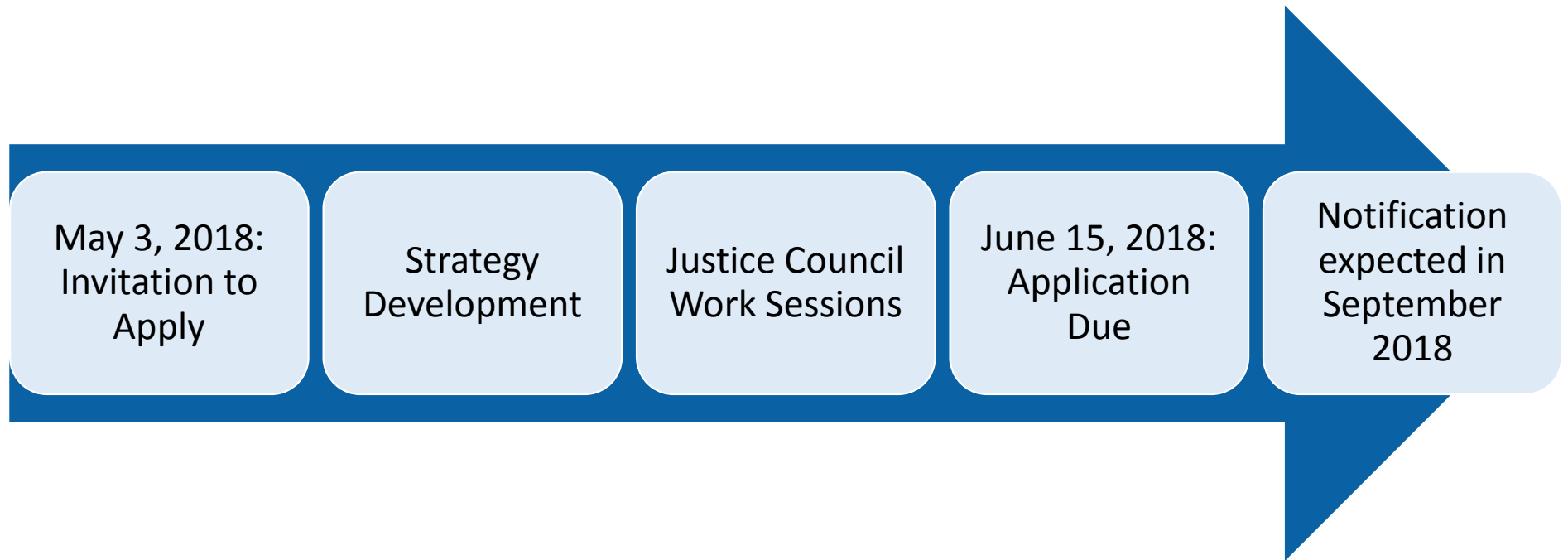
Primary

- Increase Efficiencies in Case Processing
- Deflect at Arrest and Booking
- Enhance Pretrial Services
- Divert to Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Treatment

Supportive

- Improve Data Utilization
- Increase Community Engagement
- Address Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Application Process



Ongoing Commitment to Justice

