

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
BUNCOMBE COUNTY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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Part I. Demographic and Other Observations

| <i>Juvenile Demographics</i> | <i>2015-16</i> | <i>2016-17</i> | <i>2017-18</i> | <i>2018-19</i> | <i>2019-20</i> |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Juvenile Population ages 6-17 | 33972 | 34256 | 34323 | 34169 | 34,120 |
| Juveniles Seen in Intake | 321 | 332 | 322 | 353 | 337 |
| Juveniles Put on Diversion Plans or Contracts | 150 | 176 | 163 | 176 | 153 |
| Juveniles Approved for Court | 151 | 135 | 144 | 161 | 155 |
| Juveniles Adjudicated | 134 | 93 | 84 | 93 | 68 |
| Juveniles Put on Protective Supervision | 41 | 35 | 23 | 34 | 22 |
| Juveniles Put on Probation | 83 | 49 | 61 | 46 | 38 |
| Number of Detention Admissions | 56 | 54 | 56 | 56 | 54 |
| Number of Juveniles Committed to YDC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Number of Juveniles put on Post Release Supervision | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

(from DJJDP Overview of Juvenile Court Data for Buncombe County)

From Asheville City and Buncombe County Schools (Due to COVID19, this data is from prior fiscal year):

- There is an upward trend in inappropriate behaviors and general lack of respect.
- Schools are seeing more discipline issues at an earlier age.
- Aggressive behavior has increased at Buncombe County and Asheville City Schools.
- More mental health problems are being identified in both school systems.
- Buncombe County and Asheville City Schools are seeing a decrease in reportable offenses.
- Buncombe County Schools report less alcohol use and an increase in THC controlled substances.
- Dab pen use has increased in both school systems.
- Continuing increase in aggressive behavior overall.

From Health and Human Services Data (Due to COVID19 this information is from prior fiscal year):

- Gaps in culturally competent services in language of preference for kids and their parents.
- Timely access to quality, trauma informed CCAs for parents of youth involved in care is another gap.

From LME/MCO Annual Report:

- Child Facility Based Crisis Center; Caitlyn Burrell Center (Private insurance does not cover this cost, only Medicaid).
- Child Respite- A Caring Alternative, Rapid Response Respite, and Brandi Nichol Center have Child Respite beds. These are only available for kids with Medicaid and are a good option for kids who are too acute for Trinity Place but may need time out of the home for stabilization.

Part II. Risk Assessment Summary

The Risk and Needs Assessment Committee reviewed data gleaned from the Juvenile Risk Assessment instrument administered by Juvenile Court Counselors after juveniles are referred with a complaint alleging that a delinquent act has occurred and prior to adjudication of the juvenile. The Juvenile Risk Assessment is an instrument used to predict the likelihood of the juvenile being involved in future delinquent behavior. For some youth, some of the individual item ratings may be heavily dependent upon information reported by the juvenile or the parent(s). For these items (*represented by percentages with a star next to them*), there is a likelihood of under-reporting the incidence of a particular behavior and the actual incidence may be higher than suggested by these figures. In those cases, the figure should be interpreted as a measure of the minimum level of occurrence.

Buncombe County Risk Factor Observations: FY 2019-2020

R3- Most Serious Prior Adjudication. Buncombe County is showing a 2% increase in Prior class 1-3 misdemeanors from 10% in 2018-19 to 12% in 2019-20. There is also an increase in Prior class f-1 felonies or a1 misdemeanors from 2% in 2018-19 to 3% in 2019-20.

R4- Prior Assaults (without a weapon). Buncombe County is showing a slight increase in youth with prior assaults without a weapon from 10% in 2017-18 to 13% in 2019-20.

R6- Known Use- Alcohol, Illegal Drugs prior 12 months). Buncombe County is showing a 7% increase from 25% in 2018-19 to 32% in 2019-20 in youth having some substance use, need further assessment. That is higher than the state rate of 23% in 2019-20. It was noted that these responses are self-reported and are likely under reported.

R7- School Behavior Problems (prior 12 months). Buncombe County shows a decrease in serious problems from 55% in 2018-19 to 52% in 2019-20. 78% of school behavior problems are documented as being moderate to serious problems.

R8- Relationships with Peers (Lacks prosocial peers or sometimes assoc w/del. others) Buncombe County is showing an increase from 26% in 2018-19 to 37% in 2019-20.

R9- Parental Supervision. Buncombe County is showing a slight decrease in willing and able to supervise from 90% in 2018-19 to 89% in 2019-20.

Part III. Needs

The Risk and Needs Assessment Committee also reviewed data gleaned from the Juvenile Needs Assessment instrument administered by Juvenile Court Counselors prior to court disposition of a juvenile. The Juvenile Needs Assessment is an instrument used to examine a youth's needs in the various domains of his life: The Individual Domain, The School Domain, The Peer Domain, and the Community Domain. This instrument was designed to detect service intervention needs as an aid in service planning. As with the Juvenile Risk Assessment, some of the individual item ratings may be heavily dependent upon information reported by the juvenile or the parent(s). For these items (*represented by percentages with a star next to them*), there is a likelihood of under-reporting the incidence of a particular behavior and the actual incidence may be higher than suggested by these figures. In those cases, the figure should be interpreted as a measure of the minimum level of occurrence.

Buncombe County Elevated Needs Observations: FY 2019-2020

Y2- School Behavior/Adjustment. In Buncombe County there has been a decrease in Serious School Behavior Problems from 54% in 2018-19 to 50% in 2019-20. However, there is still an increase from 41% in 2016-17 and 48% in 2017-18. Buncombe County is also higher than the state rate of 45% in 2019-20.

Y4- Substance Abuse Within Past 12 Months (Some Abuse Use, need Further Assessment). In Buncombe County, there has been a 8% increase from 26% in 2018-19 to 34% in 2019-20.

Y6- Abuse Neglect History. In Buncombe County there was a slight increase in victim with support from 22% in 2018-19 to 23% in 2019-20.

Y8- Mental Health Needs. In Buncombe County, the percentage of No Mental Health Care needs Indicated increased from 17% in 2018-19 to 24% in 2019-20. Mental Health Care needs Addressed increased from 48% in 2018-19 to 50% in 2019-20.

Part IV. Summary of the Existing Community Resources

See attached Continuum of Services

Part V. Summary of Gaps and Barriers in the Continuum of Services

Interpersonal skills (Note: Currently offered through Kids at Work, PIVOT- JCPC funded and needed), particularly to address R6, R7, R8, Y1, Y2, Y4, Y8 and F1.

Experiential Skill Building (Note: this is a part of PIVOT and Kids at Work programing- JCPC funded and needed) particularly to address R6, R8, Y1, Y4 and Y8.

Teen court (Note: Currently offered, but JCPC funded and needed), particularly to address R8 and Y1.

Restitution/Community Service (Note: Currently offered through Earn and Learn, but JCPC funded and needed), particularly to address R8 and Y1.

Sex offender assessment and treatment (Note: Currently offered through Children's Hope Alliance, but JCPC funded and needed), particularly to address F1 and Y8.

Runaway shelter (Note: Currently offered through Trinity Place, but JCPC funded and needed), particularly to address F1 and F2.

Structured Day (Note: Currently offered through Partners Unlimited, JCPC funded), particularly to address R7 and Y2.

Mentoring, particularly to address R6, R7, R8, Y1, Y2 and Y4.

Tutoring and Academic Enhancement, (Note: Currently a part of Partners Unlimited programing, JCPC funded), particularly to address R7 and Y2.

Part VI. Proposed Priority Services for Funding

The committee compared the services needed to address the elevated Juvenile Risk Factors and Juvenile Needs with services currently available in the community. Services which are currently available in the community and sufficient to meet the needs of court involved youth or those youth most at risk for court involvement are not considered as a priority for JCPC funding.

The priorities were determined, in part, based on ranking dispositional alternatives as top priorities, then diversion programs, and finally other needed services.

The committee proposes that the following services be approved as the funding priorities for FY 2021-2023.

- Priority 1: Restitution/Community Service**
- Priority 2: Sex Offender Treatment**
- Priority 3: Teen Court**
- Priority 4: Vocational Skills**
- Priority 5: Interpersonal Skills**
- Priority 6: Runaway Shelter**
- Priority 7: Structured Day**
- Priority 8: Mentoring**
- Priority 9: Tutoring**
- Priority 10: Experiential Skills**