SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
BUNCOMBE COUNTY PLANNING COMMITTEE

I. Demographic and Other Observations
II. Risk Assessment Summary
III. Needs Assessment Summary
IV. Resource Assessment Summary
V. Summary of Gaps and Barriers in the Community Continuum
VI. Proposed Priority Services for Funding

Part I. Demographic and Other Observations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Juvenile Demographics</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>2018-19</th>
<th>2019-20</th>
<th>2020-21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Population ages 6-17</td>
<td>34,323</td>
<td>34,169</td>
<td>34,120</td>
<td>34,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juveniles Seen in Intake</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juveniles Put on Diversion Plans or Contracts</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juveniles Approved for Court</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juveniles Adjudicated</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juveniles Put on Protective Supervision</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juveniles Put on Probation</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Detention Admissions</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Juveniles Committed to YDC</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Juveniles put on Post Release Supervision</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Based Complaints</td>
<td>51.50%</td>
<td>49.30%</td>
<td>42.40%</td>
<td>21.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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 youth are referred with a complaint alleging that a delinquent act has occurred and prior to adjudication of the youth. The Juvenile Risk Assessment is an instrument used to predict the likelihood of the youth being involved in future behavior that could lead to justice system involvement.

The Risk and Needs Assessment Data for Buncombe County Juvenile Court was pulled from the 6-month period of July-December 2020. The second half of the past year’s data will be coming from a new assessment tool that NC Juvenile Court Services began using in January 2021. The new assessment tool, known as the YASI, stands for the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument. The data from the YASI will be in a different
format that that pulled from the North Carolina Assessment of Risk that has been used for a number of years.

**Buncombe County Youth Risk Factor Observations for July-Dec. 2020:**

**Overall Risk Level:** Similar to previous years, the majority of youth were assessed at Risk Level (RL) 3 & RL 4 at 34% and 33% each. 13% of youth were assessed at RL 5.

**R2- Prior referrals:** 48% of youth assessed in Buncombe for July-December 2020 had one or more Prior Referrals. 22% had One Prior, 15% had 2 or 3 Prior, and 12% had 4 or More Prior Referrals. Each category increased over the previous year for One or More Prior. The % of youth with only the Current Referral was better than the NC Avg. in spite of these increases.

**R3- Most Serious Prior Adjudication:** 77% of youth assessed had no prior adjudications. The percentage of youth with Prior class 1-3 misdemeanors increased from 12% to 16% from the previous 19-20 assessment year and the % of Prior class f-l felonies or A1 misdemeanors rose from 3% to 5% over the same period and the % of Prior A-E felonies rose to 1%. It had been at 0 for the past three years prior. Raise the Age that began in December 2019 likely has impacted the % of youth with Prior Adjudications as it has shifted the overall age of youth served to include 16 and 17 year-olds. Before that time, this population was served under the adult judicial system in NC.

**R4- Prior Assaults (without a weapon):** 77% of youth had no prior assaults in July-December 2020. 4% were involved in an affray and 17% had a prior assault without a weapon. 1% had a prior assault with a weapon. The % of prior assaults without a weapon increased from 13% in 19-20 to 17% in the current assessment period of July-December 2020.

**R5- Runaway from Home or Placement:** The percentage of youth with a reported incident of running away or being placed outside of the home increased from 12-14% range in the past three years (14%, 14%, and 12%) to 21% in the July-December 2020 assessment period. While under the NC average (24%), it is still significantly higher than the previous 3 years.

**R6- Known Use- Alcohol, Illegal Drugs (prior 12 months):** The % of youth assessed with known substance use or misuse increased in July-December 2020 from the previous year. Youth with some substance use and in need of further assessment increased from 32% in 19-20 to 40% in the current period, and youth with substance misuse in need of treatment or assessment increased from 9% to 13% over the same period (19-20 vs. July-Dec. 20.) The % of youth with some use and in need of further assessment is higher than NC Avg. of 29% (NC) at 40% (Buncombe).

**R7- School Behavior Problems (prior 12 months):** The % of youth assessed with serious school behavior problems remained high for July-December 2020 at 56%
compared with 52% in the previous year of 19-20. This assessment indicator remained higher than the NC Avg. of 40% for July-Dec. 20.

**R8- Relationships with Peers:** The % of youth who lacked prosocial peer influence or sometimes associated with others with a history of juvenile justice involvement increased from 37% to 42% between 19-20 and July-December 2020. This is now higher than the NC Avg. of 39% for July-Dec. 2020. The % of youth who regularly associated with others involved with the juvenile justice system also rose from 9% to 17%, nearly double from the previous year of 19-20.

**R9- Parental Supervision:** Buncombe County is showing a slight decrease in willing and able to supervise from 89% in 2019-20 to 88% in the assessment period. 10% of parents were willing but unable to supervise the youth assessed in July-December 2020 compared with 9% in 19-20. This remained similar to previous year.

**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 their 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. The current assessment data covers a six month period since the NC Department of Juvenile Justice and the switched to a new Assessment Tool in January 2021. The new assessment tool, the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument, known as YASI, was used for Juvenile Court Assessments for the second half of the year from January-June 2021 and will be covered in separate data as the indicators are different from the former assessment.

**Buncombe County Youth Needs Observations for July-Dec. 2020:**

**Overall Needs Level:** The Needs Assessment Data covers 271 youth assessed in Buncombe County between July 1 and December 30, 2020. 63% of youth assessed in Buncombe County had low needs. Another 33% had medium needs and 5% had high needs. It was gathered using the North Carolina Assessment of Risk that has been used for Risk and Needs Data for a number of years.

**Y2- School Behavior/Adjustment:** In Buncombe County, 54% of youth were assessed with serious school behavior problems from July-December 2020. This is a slight increase from the previous FY 19-20 % of 50% and higher than the NC Avg. of 40%. Another 19% were assessed with moderate school behavior problems for July-December 2020. This is also higher than the NC Avg. of 17%.

**Y4- Substance Use Within Past 12 Months:** In Buncombe County, 41% of youth assessed had some known substance misuse and the need for further assessment from
July-December 2020. This is an increase from the previous FY 19-20 % of 34% and also higher than the NC Avg. of 29% for the first six months of 20-21.

**Y6- Abuse Neglect History:** 27% of Buncombe youth assessed from July-Dec. 2020 had a history of abuse and neglect, with a history having support. This is an increase from the past two years with FY 18-19 at 22% and FY 19-20 at 23%. This is also higher than the NC Avg. of 19% for the July-Dec. 20 assessment period.

**Y7- Sexual Behaviors During Past 12 Months:** Both the percentage of youth assessed with dangerous sexual practices and with having sexually victimized others increased from FY 19-20 to the current six month assessment period of July-Dec. 20. Dangerous sexual practices increased from 2% to 4% from the previous period and the % of those having sexually victimized others increased from 1% to 3% from FY 19-20 to July-Dec. 20.

**Y8- Mental Health Needs:** The % of mental health needs remained high with 49% assessed with mental health needs with services in place and another 28% in need of additional mental health care assessment or treatment for July-Dec. 2020. The 49% for those with mental health needs but with some services in place is above the NC Avg. of 40%.

**Y9 - Basic Physical Needs/Independent Living:** The percentage of youth living in temporary residents with needs met increased from 8% in FY 19-20 to 13% in July-Dec. 20. This is above the NC Avg. for the current six month assessment period.

**F1 - Conflict in the Home Within Past 12 Months:** The % of youth assessed with conflict in the home over the past 12 months increased from 18% in FY 19-20 to 26% in July-Dec. 20. This is higher than the NC Avg. of 19% for July-Dec. 20.

**F2- Family Supervision Skills:** 55% of youth assessed had marginal family supervision skills for July-Dec. 20. This is above the NC Avg. of 50% and an increase from the FY 19-20 % of 40%.

**F4- Family Substance Use Within Past 3 Years by Member:** Family substance misuse of alcohol or drugs increased from 7% in FY 19-20 to 11% for July-Dec. 20.
Buncombe County Youth Risk and Needs Observations for January-June 2021:
In January 2021, the NC Department of Juvenile Justice switched to a new assessment tool, the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument, (YASI). YASI indicators are different from the former assessment, and key elements are included here:
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 substance use (R6 & Y4), school behavior problems(R7 & Y2), the need for positive peer support (R8 &Y1), mental health needs (Y8), and conflict in the home (F1).

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

Teen Court (Note: Currently offered, but JCPC funded and needed), particularly to address the need for positive peer support (R8 and Y1).

Restorative Services, particularly to address the need for positive peer support (R8 and Y1) and school behavior problems (R7 & Y2).

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

Services Addressing Problem Sexual Behavior (Note: Currently offered through Children’s Hope Alliance, but JCPC funded and needed), particularly to address conflict in the home or domestic violence (F1) and mental health needs (Y8).

Runaway Shelter (Note: Currently offered through Trinity Place, but JCPC funded and needed), particularly to address conflict in the home or domestic violence (F1) and the need for family supervision skills (F2).

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

Mentoring, particularly to address school behavior problems (R7), the need for positive peer support (R8 and Y1), academic functioning (Y2), and substance use (R6, Y4)

Tutoring and Academic Enhancement, (Note: Currently a part of Partners Unlimited programing, JCPC funded), particularly to address school behavior problems (R7) and the need for family supervision skills (Y2).

Parent/Family Skill Building, particularly to address abuse and neglect history (Y6), conflict in the home or domestic violence (F1), and the need for family supervision skills (F2).
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 2022-2023:

Priority 1: Restitution/Community Service
Priority 2: Services Addressing Problem Sexual Behavior
Priority 3: Teen Court/Restorative Services
Priority 4: Substance Use Services
Priority 5: Runaway Shelter
Priority 6: Parent / Family Skill Building
Priority 7: Vocational Skills
Priority 8: Interpersonal or Experiential Skills
Priority 9: Structured Day / Tutoring/Academic Enhancement / Mentoring