



# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & JUSTICE SUPPORT



18

## ANNUAL REPORT

**Fiscal Year 2018**

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

## INTRODUCTION

Buncombe County Government is dedicated to strengthening the quality of life for everyone by taking fiscally and socially responsible actions to ensure the prosperity of future generations. We are committed to building a community that is healthy, safe, well-educated and thriving. Buncombe County invests in services provided through a variety of programs to support and enhance core, mandated services. These community investments aim to reduce the costs of core services such as child welfare and public safety.

This report focuses on behavioral health and criminal justice collaboration efforts for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.



### Buncombe County's Behavioral Health and Justice Support Strategies

- Take a holistic approach to facilitating individual, family, neighborhood, and community wellness
- Fill gaps in the existing resource grid to ensure robust behavioral health services
- Create seamless linkages with systems that people navigate – including health care, housing, education, workforce, family services, law enforcement and the courts
- Provide victim centered, trauma informed support to survivors of domestic and sexual violence
- Offer criminal justice system diversion and alternatives to incarceration for low-level, first time nonviolent offenders and people with mental illness and substance use disorders
- Enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system
- Protect public safety, and hold people accountable for criminal behavior
- Use data-driven methods to maximize outcomes
- Make investments and deliver services grounded in collaborative, inclusive, and transparent processes that are conducted with integrity

### Contact

For more information about Buncombe County's Behavioral Health and Justice Support partnerships, please contact the office of the County Manager at (828) 250-4100 or by mail at 200 College Street, Asheville, NC 28801. Connect with Buncombe County online at [www.buncombecounty.org](http://www.buncombecounty.org).

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## Behavioral Health Collaboration Programs

### Access for the Uninsured

Through a contract with Buncombe County, All Souls Counseling provides low cost behavioral and mental health services for un-insured and under-insured residents of Buncombe County. All Souls Counseling provides therapy, group sessions, clinical coordination and psychiatric services. In FY18:

- 550 New clients were served
- 4,686 Client sessions were provided
- 279 Psychiatric sessions were provided



### Comprehensive Care Center

The Comprehensive Care Center at 356 Biltmore Avenue (C3356) is designed to provide crisis intervention, response, and stabilization services and supports within the context of a recovery-oriented and community resilience system of care. At one location and under one roof, individuals and families can access crisis prevention, intervention, stabilization, and response services embedded within in a full continuum of behavioral health care. Included on site are a behavioral health urgent care, facility based crisis unit, a peer living room, NAMI family support services, and a community pharmacy operated by ABCCM. Buncombe County provides the facility where the Comprehensive Care Center is located.



In FY18:

- 3,201 Individuals accessed walk in services
- 3,233 Individuals accessed the Behavioral Health Urgent Care, a 31% increase over FY17
- 1,677 Individuals were supported in the Peer Living Room
- 5,887 Prescriptions were filled by the ABCCM Pharmacy onsite



### Caiyalynn Burrell Child Crisis Center



The Caiyalynn Burrell Child Crisis Center, which opened in June 2018 provides an alternative to hospitalization for children and adolescents who are experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis, or young people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) who are in crisis. The crisis center is operated by Family Preservation Services of North Carolina, with guidance from Vaya Health. Buncombe County provides the facility.

## Interconnected Systems Framework



Interconnected Systems Framework is a comprehensive strategy that integrates Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and School Mental Health (SMH) into an

Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF) model that is both evidence based and data driven. In FY18, a multidisciplinary District Leadership Team including Buncombe County Schools, Buncombe County Department of Health and Human Services, Vaya Health and many other community partners lead the implementation of the Interconnected Schools Framework in five schools. These schools are participating in universal screening of students to identify internalizing and externalizing behaviors. Schools will use the data collected to evaluate the needs of students and ensure that they have services in place to meet those universal needs. Buncombe County has contracted to provide coordination of this collaborative effort.



## Substance Abuse Prevention and Response

### Drug Free Communities

Buncombe County remains committed to prevention, allotting a portion of its behavioral health funding for prevention programs. With these funds, the County funds the Partnership for Substance Free Youth through RHA Health Services. In FY18, the Partnership held 7 Prescription Drug Take Backs including 2 National DEA community wide take backs with multiple locations on those dates. Through these Take Backs and drop boxes placed throughout the community, the Partnership collected over 1,050 pounds of old prescription medications. These medications have been safely destroyed and are not available for potential abuse.



### Facility Based Crisis

The Neil Dobbins Center is a 16-bed detoxification and psychiatric crisis unit. Buncombe County supports the work of the Neil Dobbins Center by providing the facility. In FY18, census numbers for detoxification and psychiatric crisis beds was 95% (90% is considered full capacity). Buncombe County provides the facility where the center is now co-located at C3356, extending the continuum of care available at one location.

### Harm Reduction



The Steady Collective works to reduce rates of overdose and the spread of infectious disease by providing support services for people with substance use addiction. They provide overdose reversal kits and link people with addiction to behavioral health care services. With Buncombe County's support in FY18, The agency distributed 2,518 overdose reversal kits up from 561 in FY17. 108 Clients were referred to primary care and 54 were referred to behavioral health care.

### Sam Quinones

The Buncombe County Board of Commissioners and leaders from Buncombe and Henderson Counties partnered to host a conversation with Sam Quinones, author of "Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic" to learn more about the opioid epidemic and community responses. Elected officials, law enforcement leaders, community advocates and school system leaders discussed the impact of substance use disorder and innovative programs being implemented nationally.



## Youth Opioid Summit

Buncombe County partnered with Buncombe County Schools, The Partnership for Substance Free Youth and School Nurses to support the first Youth Opioid Summit. Approximately 80 middle and high school students from more than a dozen WNC schools gathered at the Western North Carolina University's Biltmore Park Campus for the first annual Student Summit focusing on opioid awareness and abuse prevention. During the summit, students heard from each other, peer recovery specialists, and addiction specialists that inspired students to take action.



## Programs to Prevent and Respond to Homelessness

### Hard to House at Woodfin Apartments

A partnership between Buncombe County and Homeward Bound encourages permanent supportive housing for the hard to house population. At Woodfin Apartments, 18 units are currently housing 'hard to house' clients. Hard to House clients may have physical and/or behavioral health care needs that often cause housing disruptions. So far the project has experienced a 100% housing retention rate, meaning no residents have returned to homelessness. Because many of these clients need supervision, structure, and protection, the security officer paid for by Buncombe County makes it possible for this population to remain safely housed.



### Homeless Initiative

In partnership with the City of Asheville, Buncombe County funds a Homeless Coordinator to provide leadership for the Asheville-Buncombe Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee (HIAC) and the Strategic Plan on Homelessness, as well as administration of federal homeless funds. Since 2005, the HIAC and the Homeless Coalition have implemented "housing first" strategies and reduced chronic homelessness by 75%. HIAC is implementing the five year strategic plan on homelessness in Buncombe County including interventions that target the needs of subpopulations such as chronically homeless individuals, veterans, and families.



### SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Program

Pisgah Legal Services identifies persons who are homeless and may be eligible for disability benefits, and attempts to fast-track the application process with the Social Security Administration. Buncombe County contracts with Pisgah

Legal Services to provide this service. In FY18, the project leveraged \$2,554,575.84 in value of benefits, resulting in a leveraging ratio of 1:42. That is, for every county dollar invested in the Project, \$42 are returned to the county over the span of the average entitlements.



#### SOAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Approved applications	17
Average time for approval	85.5
Dollars leveraged	\$2.6 M

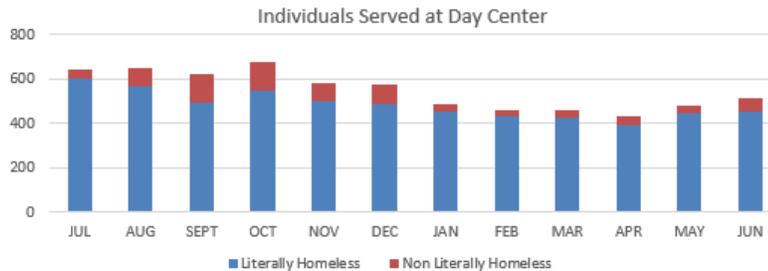
## Supportive Housing Programs

In addition to HIAC, the County provides funds to Homeward Bound to support programs and services aimed at reducing homelessness. Through its Housing Case Management programs, Homeward Bound provides intensive case management and permanent supportive housing for formerly chronically homeless individuals. In FY18, 77 individuals received case management services with 100% of them retaining housing.

As part of its “housing first” programs, Homeward Bound also provides Coordinated Assessment through its AHOPE day program. Coordinated Assessment paves the way for more efficient homeless assistance systems by helping people move through the system faster, offering prevention and diversion resources upfront, and improving data collection and quality. Homeward Bound completed 449 coordinated assessments in FY18, and 161 individuals were moved into housing.

### AHOPE

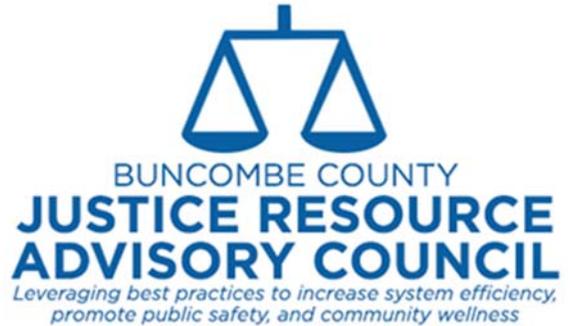
Unique individuals served by AHOPE Day Center FYTD:	1,833
Coordinated Assessments completed FYTD:	449
Individuals moved into housing FYTD:	161



### CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM COLLABORATION

#### Justice Resource Advisory Council

Planning for a formal justice related advisory board began during FY17. Effective January 2018, Justice Resource Advisory Council members adopted a Memorandum of Understanding with the commitment to develop a strategic plan and coordinate efforts to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system. Efforts supported by the Justice Council include launching the Justice Resource Center, hosting a sequential intercept model, and supporting the Governor's Re-entry Week Proclamation.



Justice Resource Advisory Council members include:

- Bureau of Identification
- Board of Commissioners
- Clerk of Court
- Community Corrections
- County Manager's Office
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- District Attorney's Office
- District Court
- Magistrates' Office
- Police Department
- Pretrial Services
- Private Defense Bar Association
- Public Defender's Office
- Public Managed Care Organization
- Sheriff's Office
- Superior Court

#### Stepping Up Initiative

The Stepping Up Initiative is a national campaign sponsored by The National Association of Counties aimed at reducing the number of people with mental illness in jail. In FY15, Buncombe County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution committing to the goals of this initiative. Since that time, County staff and community stakeholders have worked to incorporate the principles and best practices highlighted by the Stepping Up Initiative into existing programs and efforts. In FY18, Buncombe County received funding and technical assistance to participate in the Best Practices Implementation Academy and to complete a Sequential Intercept Map for our community.



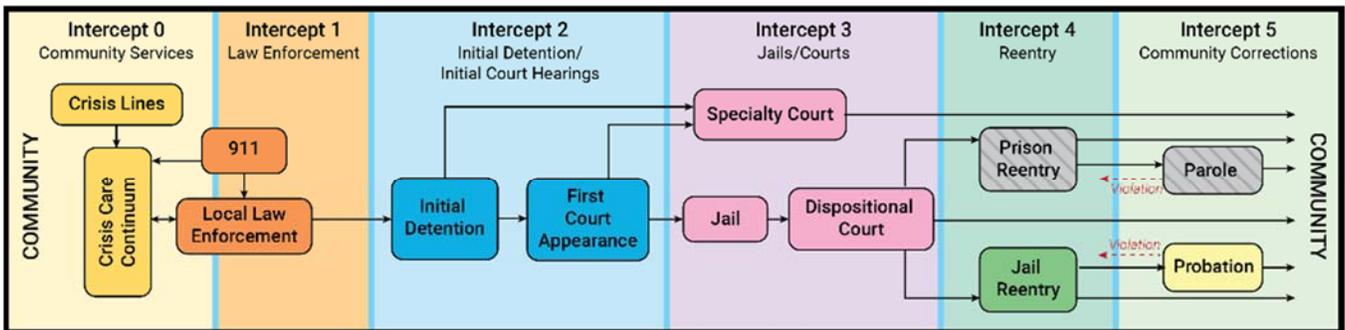
**Stepping Up Initiative in Action:  
Best Practices Implementation Academy**

As a leading jurisdiction prioritizing policy, practice and funding improvements, Buncombe County was invited to participate in a learning academy for continued strategic action planning around our efforts to reduce the number of people with mental health and substance use disorders in jail. A partnership between Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the National Association of Counties (NACo), the academy connected Buncombe County with communities from across the nation that are working to reduce the number of people with mental and substance use disorders in the criminal justice system.



**Stepping Up Initiative in Action:  
Sequential Intercept Mapping**

Through our Innovation award with the MacArthur Foundation, Buncombe County Justice Resource Advisory Council hosted a Sequential Intercept Model workshop facilitated by Policy Research Institute. With the support from our facilitators, over 50 criminal justice leaders, county staff, and community providers mapped out criminal justice and behavioral health services; an activity that helped identify potential gaps in service and inventory other resources that might not be fully utilized.



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## CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

### Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

Often, an underlying behavioral health issue is the root cause for a law enforcement call. Buncombe County invests in CIT training which provides law enforcement with methods to deescalate a potentially volatile situation caused by a behavioral health crisis. As part of Buncombe County's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program, law enforcement has the ability to "drop off" persons for a psychiatric evaluation, when appropriate, instead of booking them in the detention facility. In FY18, a total of 99 members of law enforcement completed CIT training. Since implementation of CIT in 2008, 538 first responders have been trained in CIT.



### Justice Resource Center



Officially opening in October of 2017, the Justice Resource Center (JRC), located on the 15th floor of the Buncombe County Courthouse, is a place for individuals involved in the criminal justice system to access meaningful services and supports to help them on a path to stability and wellness. The JRC offers several diversion programs and supportive services to include case management, education and career support, expunction, evidence based classes, public benefits and re-entry services. In FY18, 804 clients accessed the Justice Resource Center.



A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY



### Justice Resource Center Case Management Services

RHA Health Services coordinates case management support at the Justice Resource Center. These services, which are voluntary, are available to individuals involved in the justice system. Case managers assist clients as they navigate the justice system and community resources, including mental health and substance use services, health care, housing assistance, and employment. They also work closely with Probation, Public Defenders, District Attorneys, Pretrial Services, and

Department of Health and Human Services. JRC case managers offer weekly psychoeducation groups including Anger Management, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, Seeking Safety, Prime for Life, and Positive Parenting Program. In FY18, 349 individuals received case management services at the JRC. 237 clients were provided with direct services, including assistance with employment applications; connection to direct employment, education, and healthcare; and case management support. 52 clients were provided support for transportation and housing.



### Justice Resource Center Public Benefits Access

An Income Maintenance Caseworker from Buncombe County Health and Human Services is stationed at the JRC and is available to take applications and change information for public benefits, including Medicaid, and Food and Nutrition Services (FNS).

Benefits Originated from the JRC	
Number of Clients Applying for Benefits	103
Number of Clients Approved for FNS	71
Total FNS Amount	\$12,430.00
Average Monthly FNS Amount per Recipient	\$118.38

### Justice Resource Center Education and Career Navigation

AB Tech Career and Education Navigators connect individuals involved in the criminal justice system with upskilling opportunities, postsecondary education and higher paying career pathways. Services include educational assessments, developing educational pathways for clients based on assessment and client goal, and connection to adult literacy programs, occupational and vocational training, curriculum programs of study, as well as employment placement.



Through a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant award, the program served 98 justice involved individuals. Of those:

- 35 Were referred directly to employment
- 19 Were referred to NC Works Career Center
- 19 Obtained employment, if unemployed
- 17 Obtained a new job, if already employed
- 37 Were enrolled in training/education
- 11 Retained employment past 90-days
- 35 Obtained employment/increased wages

## DIVERSION PROGRAMS

### Adult Misdemeanor Diversion Program

The Adult Misdemeanor Diversion Program (AMDP) is a voluntary program coordinated by RHA Health Services, in collaboration with the District Attorney and other court partners. The program offers individuals an opportunity to participate in a 3-9 month program in lieu of criminal prosecution for certain misdemeanor charges. Upon completion of assigned conditions, including evidenced based educational classes, volunteer service hours, and restitution (as required), participants are eligible for a voluntary dismissal of charges. Participants also have access to additional community resources, as needed, including housing, education, job placement, and treatment services. The goals of the AMDP include supporting individuals to link with resources, limiting collateral consequences, reducing re-arrest, and diverting from the criminal justice system. In FY18, the AMDP enrolled 205 individuals and successfully completed 44 participants.

### Juvenile Misdemeanor Diversion Program

The Juvenile Misdemeanor Diversion Program (JMDDP) offers 16 & 17 year olds who have potential misdemeanor offense charges the opportunity to engage in meaningful and effective community programs and avoid the impact of the collateral consequences of having an adult criminal record. RHA Health Services coordinates the JMDDP in collaboration with the Courts, Law Enforcement, and County/City Schools. Diversion plans require completion of skill building and psychoeducational programming, volunteer service, and participation in Court and Case Management sessions. In FY18, the JMDDP enrolled 50 youth into the program and 50 youth successfully completed the program, which prevented them from having adult charges on their records. Since the JMDDP began in April 2017, the program has served 73 participants.



### The Felony Drug Diversion Program



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*“Without this, I would be a felon and that would put more obstacles in my way. I’m very grateful for this program,” exclaims Seth, a Felony Drug Diversion Participant.*

Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness is a peer staffed and managed organization that serves individuals recovering from substance use and mental health challenge. Sunrise, in coordination with the District Attorney’s Office, operates a 6 month felony drug diversion program at the JRC. The program includes: volunteer service hours, recovery groups, individual peer support sessions and random drug screens. In FY18, the Felony Drug Diversion program enrolled 62 individuals the program, 13 participants successfully completed the program, and 38 participants were actively enrolled at end of the fiscal year.

## POST-BOOKING SERVICES

### **Familiar Faces / FUSE (Frequent User of Services Engagement)**

The Familiar Faces team supports the needs of some of our community's most vulnerable members. The team consists of representatives from community agencies, housing supports, health services, and criminal justice partners. There is a formal monthly meeting coordinated by RHA Health Services, to discuss the needs of individuals with multiple bookings into the Detention Facility and to facilitate planning and communication among community partners who support these individuals. The Familiar Faces team strives to increase access and linkage to services, support community integration and stabilization, and reduce interactions with law enforcement.



### **Jail Diversion Program**

The Justice United in Support of Treatment (JUST) Program seeks to identify individuals with severe mental health issues who interface with the criminal justice system and connect them with community-based resources. The program is coordinated by RHA Health Services, and is a partnership with the Courts, Pretrial Release, and the Detention Facility with funding from NCDHHS and Vaya Health. In FY18, 309 eligibility screens were completed and Jail Diversion case management served 88 people. 35 individuals were admitted to the program formally and of these, 51% of individuals exited the program successfully.

### **Jail Re-entry Case Management**

The Jail Re-entry Program provides assertive case management and linkage to community resources to individuals in custody at the Detention Facility. RHA Health Services coordinates the program, in collaboration with the Office of the Sheriff, court partners, Buncombe County, and Vaya. Case managers provide reentry screening, psychoeducational group programming, and release planning. In FY18, case managers conducted 1,182 GAINS Jail Re-entry Screens to individuals in custody and provided weekly group programming including Anger Management, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, Seeking Safety, and Prime for Life. Case managers also provide structured re-entry plans and substance use treatment plans to the Courts. In FY18, case managers facilitated 92 diversions to residential treatment.

## Pretrial Services Program

Established in 1986, Pretrial Services is a Buncombe County Government Department that assists with jail population management. The program provides information to be utilized by the courts during the bond process to make pretrial release decisions and provides a supervised release option for defendants awaiting trial.



### Evidence-Based Pretrial Release Decisions

Pretrial Services conducts impartial interviews and compiles information about individuals that have been arrested and are in custody before their trial. A standardized risk assessment using an evidence-based tool provides information about the probability that released individuals will appear for future court dates and avoid committing other crimes while their cases are pending. The risk assessment used is the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (VPRAI).

Summaries of these findings are shared with the courts to assist judicial officials in making pretrial release and bond decisions. A Bond Report is provided to the District Court for the defendant's First Appearance Hearing. The Bond Report includes self-reported data gathered during the defendant interview, such as housing, employment, and mental health/substance use history. The report also includes the defendant's criminal history from state and federal data systems, Failure to Appear (FTA) history, Probation status, Pretrial Supervision history and the calculated risk level.

### Supervised Release

Pretrial Services, when ordered by the Judge as a condition of the defendant's bond, provides supervision and monitoring of court ordered release conditions. The Judge may order Pretrial Supervision as a condition of the defendant's bond. All defendants have equal access to the program. There are no exclusionary criteria based on charge type.

Pretrial Coordinators monitor compliance with the court ordered conditions of release. Supervision levels vary depending on the defendant's charge, risk level, and conditions. The expectations for each level can range from once-a-week telephone contact to weekly face-to-face meetings, along with any monitoring and field-based supervision required. Examples of other conditions of release include random drug screening, mental health or substance abuse assessments, and orders to comply with treatment recommendations. Some of the most intensive cases are court ordered to receive GPS-based electronic monitoring, which is administered by Pretrial Services.

As part of this supervision, there are also varied levels of response when a defendant is noncompliant with court orders. The response varies depending on the number and nature of noncompliance events, ranging from a verbal warning to an order for arrest.

In FY18, Pretrial Services provided reports at First Appearance Hearings for 4,562 defendants. Of those, 2,530 individuals were placed on supervised release. At a minimum defendants are required to maintain weekly contact with their Pretrial Coordinator.

Pretrial staff supervise approximately 650 individuals in the community at any given time. Pretrial staff ensure the defendant is compliant with the conditions ordered by the court, and noncompliance is reported to the assigning judge. If directed by the judge, Pretrial staff will have an order for arrest issued and the defendant will be re-arrested and placed back in custody. In FY18, 74% of individuals were compliant with pre-trial supervision, 87% of individuals appeared for court, and 85% of individuals did not receive any new charges while on pre-trial supervision.

North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein visited Pretrial Services in May 2018 to learn more about Buncombe County's efforts to support defendants at the pre-trial phase of their criminal justice system involvement while prioritizing public safety and court effectiveness.



## POST CONVICTION SERVICES

### Expunction Support

A criminal history, even for low-level, one-time offenses can be a barrier to obtaining gainful employment and becoming self-sufficient. Expunction (also known as expungement) can remove charges and convictions from a criminal history in limited circumstances. A panel of volunteer attorneys assists individuals through the process to expunge criminal charges and convictions so they can improve their chances for employment and earn higher wages.

In FY18:

218 Expunction cases opened

51 Expunction and Motion for Appropriate Reliefs (MAR) Petitions filed

13 Expunction and Motion for Appropriate Relief (MAR) granted

### Prison Re-entry Services and Local Re-entry Council

The NC Governor's Crime Commission and the NC Department of Public Safety, with matching funds from Buncombe County, support the Buncombe County Local Reentry Council (LRC) and Prison Re-entry Program (REP), coordinated by RHA Health Services. The LRC is comprised of local agencies and organizations who support the needs of individuals returning home to Buncombe County from incarceration. The Re-entry Program serves individuals upon release and assists them with employment, housing, education, and transportation, with the goals of reducing recidivism and creating a stable environment for individuals reentering society. Case managers also began offering a Job Readiness seminar in January 2018 and served 32 individuals preparing to be released from custody. In FY18, 237 people were admitted to the Prison Reentry Program. 28.3% of individuals were successfully linked to housing and 64.9% of individuals were successfully engaged in employment.



## SPECIALTY COURTS

Through County funding and grant support, Buncombe County has four problem-solving courts. These programs are designed to keep individuals out of the detention center and in community-based treatment.

### Adult Drug Treatment Court

The Adult Drug Treatment Court (ADTC) is a voluntary criminal court program that seeks to reduce recidivism, while providing guidance, treatment, and discipline to individuals seeking recovery from drugs and alcohol. RHA Health Services coordinates the ADTC and the team is comprised of probation, law enforcement, treatment providers and court officials. The program offers individuals the tools necessary to help maintain sobriety for years after program completion. Buncombe County funds a coordinator position and supportive services for this court.

In FY18, the ADTC program averaged 22-28 participants each month. 24 new participants started the program in FY18 and 5 participants successfully completed the program. Participants completed an estimated 1200 required community service hours. Approximately 52% of participants identified heroin, fentanyl and/or other opiates as their main drug of use. Since 2009, the ADTC has graduated 92 participants.

### Family Drug Treatment Court

The Buncombe County Family Drug Treatment Court - Success Overcoming Addiction through Recovery (SOAR) Court- is a voluntary civil court program coordinated by RHA Health Services in partnership with the Courts and the Department of Social Services. SOAR Court serves parents and care givers of minor children who are involved with DSS, secondary to substance use issues. The program offers trauma-informed case management, care coordination, and treatment support to parents, and supports them to achieve and maintain recovery. The goals of SOAR Court include increasing parents' ability to safely care for their children and decreasing the time required to achieve permanency for children. Buncombe County funds a coordinator position and supportive services for this court.



### Sobriety Court

Sobriety Court is a voluntary treatment court for high risk, high need, and repeat DWI offenders. The program is coordinated by RHA Health Services, under the direction of the 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. Through collaborations between the criminal justice system and local treatment agencies, individuals are able to remain in the community under supervision and attend substance use treatment. The goal of the program is to reduce recidivism of DWI offenders by addressing their substance use disorders. Buncombe County administers grant funds from the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program to support a coordinator and supportive services for this court. Since established in 2013, Sobriety Court has admitted 79 participants with 37 successful graduates,

making the program's success rate 62%. There have been no instances of recidivism among Sobriety Court graduates. In FY18, 14 individuals were admitted to program and 11 successfully completed the program.

### **Veterans Treatment Court**

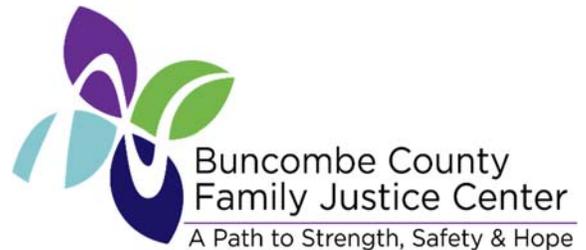
Modeled after drug courts, veterans treatment courts were developed to provide an alternative to incarceration for men and women who have served in one of the five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and are in need of mental health or substance abuse services. The Buncombe County Veterans Treatment Court was developed in July 2015. The Court is an 18-24 month program during which veterans with certain non-violent felony charges can receive intensive case management, mental health treatment, and/or substance abuse treatment. Upon successful completion, veterans have their case dismissed. During FY18, Buncombe County's Veterans Treatment Court accepted 9 new clients, 4 clients successfully graduated the program. Buncombe County funds supportive services for this court.



## Coordinated Community Response to Domestic and Sexual Violence

### Family Justice Center

Survivors of domestic or sexual violence can access counseling, civil legal services, safety planning, sexual assault medical exams, education, and criminal justice support from agencies located at the Buncombe County Family Justice Center (FJC).



Buncombe County provides the FJC facility and a Coordinator for these services. Many of the services provided at the FJC are supported by grants from the US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women and the North Carolina Governors Crime Commission through Buncombe County.



At the FJC a survivor can access integrated intake from an FJC Intake Specialist who helps assess needs and coordinate access to additional service providers.

In FY18:

- 600 people accessed integrated intake services for the first time at the FJC, a 44% increase over FY17.
- 83% of clients identified domestic violence as the primary victimization
- 13% of clients identified sexual assault or stalking as the primary victimization.

### Increasing Safety; Reducing Fear and Anxiety

After meeting with an FJC Intake Specialist, 97% of survey respondents indicated that they had a plan to keep themselves safe and they knew what to do if they were in danger and 85% of survey respondents reported a decreased fear and anxiety level. 61% of victims accessing integrated intake at the FJC connected with more than one agency in their first visit.

## MANY PARTNERS, ONE LOCATION.



**If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic or sexual violence, support is available at the Family Justice Center located at 35 Woodfin Street in downtown Asheville or by calling (828)250-6900.**

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER SERVICES

### Batterers Intervention Program

The SPARC Foundation provides a 26 week Batterers Intervention Program following the Emerge Abuser Education Group curriculum. This curriculum focuses on battering not just as physical violence, but instead as a range of behaviors that include physical, sexual, psychological, verbal and economic abuse. In FY18:

- 109 people referred to the program were assessed and enrolled
- 43 people successfully completed the 26 week Batterers Intervention Program

### Domestic Violence Focused Deterrence

The SPARC Foundation and community partners including Probation, Law Enforcement and the District Attorney's Office are utilizing a modified High Point Domestic Violence Focused Deterrence Model to hold domestic violence offenders accountable and offer them access to supportive services. In FY18, 20 domestic violence offenders were notified of the program

### Offender Services

Buncombe County invests in support services to engage offenders in behavior change. Through these supports, people using violence in relationships have the opportunity to learn new ways of dealing with conflict. The SPARC Foundation offers Batterers Intervention, Strong Fathers, and Domestic Violence Focused Deterrence. These programs include case management to support offenders in accessing stable housing, employment and education.



### Pretrial Services Domestic Violence Protocol



Buncombe County Pretrial Services received a John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation: Safety and Justice Challenge grant to plan and implement a 12-month pilot program aimed at enhancing pretrial

supervision of defendants charged with domestic violence offenses. Stakeholders including Judges, the District Attorney's Office, The Public Defender's Office and Family Justice Center partners collaborated to develop a new Domestic Violence Defendant Supervision Protocol, which Pretrial Services implemented in FY18. Preliminary results indicate that while the failure to appear rate increased after protocol implementation, the technical violation rate for defendants charged with domestic violence decreased (27.2% to 22.8%). This finding suggests that supervision strategies employed by the new protocol, including increased discretion for Pretrial Services, resulted in fewer defendants returning to jail due to a technical violation.

### Specialized Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit

As part of the Coordinated Community Response to Domestic and Sexual Violence, Buncombe County invests in a Specialized Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit. This adds an Assistant District Attorney, Legal Assistant and Investigator to work from the Family Justice Center and focus on domestic violence cases.