

Agenda

February 2, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
200 College Street, 1st Floor

- | | | | |
|--------------|---|---------|--|
| I. | Opening and Roll Call | 12:30pm | DK Wesley - JRAC Chair/Assistant County Manager |
| II. | Consent Agenda | 12:35pm | |
| | a. Approval of February Agenda | | |
| | b. Approval of December Minutes | | |
| III. | Justice System Data Report | | |
| | Jail Review Team Analysis | 12:40pm | Dr. Lee Clayton – Strategy & Innovation |
| IV. | JRAC Committee Update(s) | | |
| | Behavioral Health Justice Collaborative | 1:00pm | Victoria Reichard – Behavioral Health Manager |
| V. | Old Business | | |
| | JRAC By-Laws | 1:15pm | Tiffany Iheanacho – Justice Services Director |
| VI. | New Business | | |
| | a. Co-Responder Model | 1:30pm | Major Eberhardt & Sergeant Freeborn - Buncombe County Sheriff's Office |
| VII. | Announcements and Departmental Updates | 1:40pm | DK Wesley – JRAC Chair |
| VIII. | Public Comment | 1:50pm | |
| IX. | Adjourn | | |

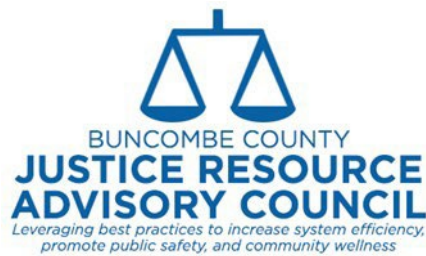
Next Meeting:

April 5th, 2024

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Buncombe County Sheriff Office Training Room

4th Floor – Buncombe County Courthouse



JRAC Meeting Minutes 12/1/23; 200 College St. Room 310

- **Welcome and Lunch: DK Wesley**
 - Start time of meeting- 12:32
 - Roll call (see attachment)

- **Consent Agenda**
 - Approval of December Agenda and October Minutes- Martin Moore made the motion to approve, Pat Freeman seconded the motion. Council approved the motion unanimously.

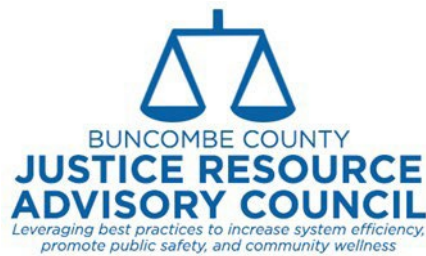
- **Justice Services Data Report:**

APD Anti-Crime Operation (Introduction)- Deputy Chief Mike Lamb- Asheville Police Department-

Jail Population Impacts- Dr. Lee Crayton- Strategy and Innovation

 - Presented slides on APD Operations-estimated impact on Jail Population
 - Focused on data related to New Charges, Average Length of Stay- Dr. Crayton spoke of the length of stay possibility increased due to the new legislation.
 - Dr. Crayton gave an example of the November 17th APD Operation and how that affected the length of stay and the impact in our Jail Population.
 - An additional slide was presented after the original presentation was sent in for data related to one of the last operations by APD. Names were published for the operation which allowed Lee to look at previous involvement in the jail. This data covered the last 6 months.

- **Old Business**
 - JRAC Year in Review 2023 Tiffany Iheanacho- Justice Services Director
 - Presented slides on Implementing Pre-arrest Diversion Strategies: Continuing with current programs and trainings that are happening- CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) , Community Re-entry Programs, Prison Reentry are a few of the programs.
 - Promoting Positive Youth Development- Creating customer notification programs for gun



violence

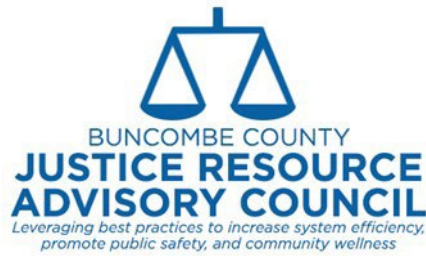
Implementing trauma informed responses to community

Create justice and community partnership to develop youth after school programming.

- Promoting Community Wellness to Avoid Detention
 - Expand Expunction Services
 - Partner with NC pro bono on projects to restore driver licenses
- Ensuring Cross System Collaboration-
- Facilitate Statewide Coordination- Partnering with Statewide Coordination, NC Safe-
- Conduct Education and Outreach- Community Engagement Workgroup, Justice Services Facebook Page
- Implementing Participatory Decision Making Models- JRAC Retreat in September discussed wanting to know about future Community Events in order to become engaged as well.
- Institute Training and Education- Racial Equity Modules
 - Implemented Racial Equity Tool
- Sustainability Planning for Existing Programs- Dogwood Funding for people coming out of incarceration
 - Possible Capstone Funding
 - Implemented Public Facing Justice Dashboards
 - Developed Justice Performance Measures and Reporting
 - Court Notification System and it's involvement for future use

- **New Business**

- Considerations for "Video First Appearance" Hon. Jean Marie Christy-Clerk of Court-Case Processing Workgroup Representative
 - Video First Appearance Systems- Spoke on the issues that we have had with the system not working efficiently.
- JRAC Plans for 2024- Steering Committee, Workgroups- DK Wesley- JRAC Chair
 - Need to move forward with a clear structure on moving forward with the Steering Committee and the Workgroups and reviewing the JRAC Bylaws.
 - Todd Williams made the suggestion of broadening the membership of JRAC
 - Spoke on the communication crossing into each workgroup to ensure they are reporting to JRAC at each meeting. These workgroups include: Community Engagement Workgroup, Racial Equity Workgroup, and Behavioral Justice Collaborative Initiative Workgroup.
 - Reinforcing the structure going forward in 2024. DK asked the group to review the JRAC Bylaws for the upcoming year and evaluate what the JRAC and workgroups are doing regularly.



- **Announcements and Departmental Updates** – Buncombe County and Asheville City will convene a joint work session to hear an update on the National Alliance to End Homelessness Report Recommendations on Monday Dec. 4th beginning at 9:00am at Harrah’s Convention Center. This meeting will be open to the public.
- **Tiffany Iheanacho**- Buncombe County Youth Justice clinical program has been implemented with the hiring of 2 Licensed Clinical Therapists. They will begin helping with the backlog of Comprehensive
- **Black Heritage Trail**- December 15th, 2023. Sponsored by Explore Asheville.
- **Vaya Health**- Updated the group on the Medicaid Expansion Program. Vaya currently has 31 counties and recently assigned Rockingham County. Vaya is in good standing and will continue to provide services.
- **Pisgah Legal**- Medicaid Expansion Program- An exciting time for a lot of the clients that Pisgah Legal work with. This will allow safety for their clients.

- **Public Comment- None** DK Wesley, JRAC Chair

- **Adjourn at 1:52 PM**- Motion to adjourn by Todd Williams and seconded by Tiffany Iheanacho. Motion passed.

○

Next meeting:
February 2, 2023
12:30pm-2:00pm

200 College Street 1st floor



Membership List

Name	Title	Organization	
Martin Moore	Commissioner	Buncombe County Board of Commissioner	P
DK Wesley	Assistant County Manager	Buncombe County Manager's Office	P
Chief Herbert Blake	Chief Deputy	Buncombe County Sheriff's Office	P
Pat Freeman	Identification Director	Buncombe County Bureau of Identification	P
Sylvia Clement	Chief Court Counselor	NC 28 th Judicial District Juvenile Justice	P
Danny Cowan	Magistrate	NC 28 th Judicial Magistrates Office	P
The Hon. Alan Thornburg	Superior Court Judge	NC 28 th Judicial District Superior Court	P
The Hon. Todd Williams	District Attorney	NC 28 th Prosecutorial District	P
Sam Snead	Chief Public Defender	NC 28 th Judicial District	A
Tiffany Iheanacho	Justice Services Director	Buncombe County Justice Services Department	P
Angie Varner for Donald Reuss	Director Provider	Vaya Health	p
Capt. Mike Lamb for David Zack	Chief APD	Asheville Police Department	P
Julia Horrocks	Private Attorney	Coordinated Community Response DV/SA	P
Suzanne Avett	HHS Attorney	Buncombe County HHS	A
Rachael Nygaard	Director	Buncombe County Strategic Partnership	A
Debra Campbell	City Manager	City of Asheville	P
Esther Manheimer	Mayor of Asheville	City of Asheville	P
Lori Anderson	Probation	Probation/Parole	A
Joseph Hackett	Community Representative	Black Wall Street Asheville	P
Dustin Dow	Private Attorney	Defense Bar Association	A
Julie Risedorf	Community Representative		A
Hon. Jean Marie Christy	Clerk of Court	Clerk of Court	P

Additional Attendees:

Joshua Pierce- JRC Program Manager
 Dr. Lee Crayton- Presenter
 Vanessa Conley- Admin Coordinator
 Lisa Sousa- SJC Grants Manager
 Brent Bailey- Prison Re-entry
 Terry Bellamy- SJC Racial Equity

Nicholas Bolet- Court Navigator



Jail Review Team Analysis

Presented by

Lee Crayton, Strategy & Innovation



Jail Review Teams

- Jail review teams operate in jurisdictions throughout the country
- Purpose and goals of these teams vary, but Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research note two primary types of teams:
 - Policy/system level review of population drivers
 - Individual case review
- Buncombe County Jail Review Team focuses on **individual case review**
 - Collaborative approach – DA’s Office, PD’s Office, Detention, and Pretrial Services
 - Meets weekly to review individual cases and circumstances
 - Provide recommendations for faster and more effective case processing for that case

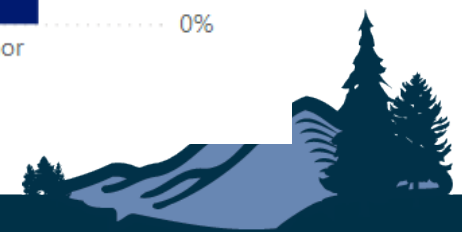
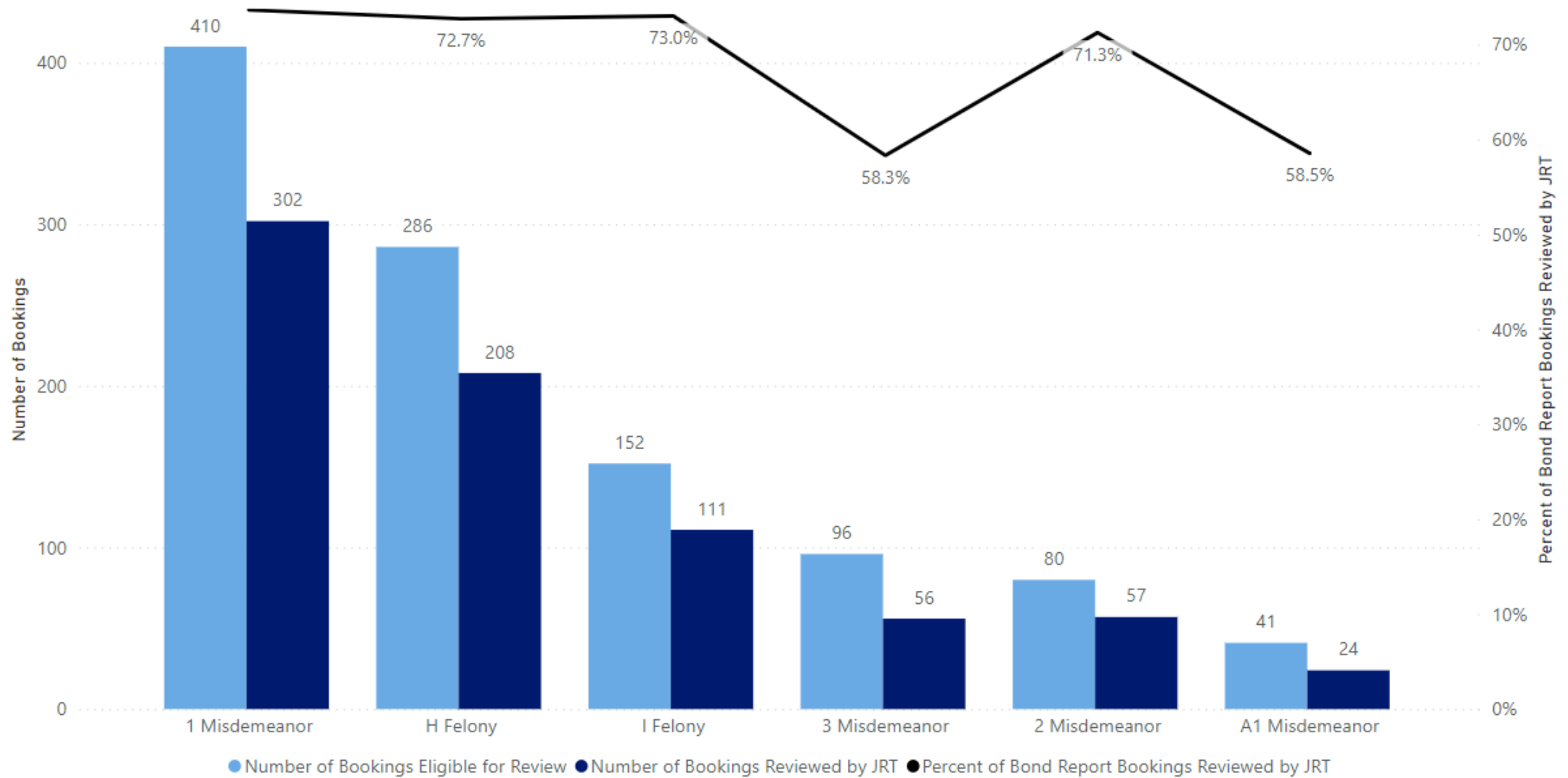


Buncombe County Jail Review Team

- Review parameters at time of analysis
 - Low level felonies (H and I) and misdemeanors who have been in custody for:
 - H felonies: 14+ days
 - I felonies: 4+ days
 - Misdemeanors: 0+ days
 - Do not review bookings with active secured bonds for Victim's Rights Act charges
- January 3 through September 5, 2023: **759** bookings reviewed
 - 71% of identified eligible bookings
 - Bulk of caseload was class 1 misdemeanor and H and I felonies



Chart 1: Number of Bookings Eligible for Review, Number of Bookings Reviewed by JRT and Percent of Eligible Bookings Reviewed by JRT by Top Charge



Jail Review Team Caseload

- People on the Jail Review Team caseload had been in custody an average of 15 days prior to review

Demographics	Pretrial Average Daily Population	JRT Caseload
% by Race		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.6%	0.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.5%	0.8%
Black	31.4%	17.9%
White	67.5%	78.7%
% by Gender		
Female	15.9%	23.9%
Male	84.1%	76.1%



Impact on Length of Stay

Demographics	Eligible Bookings Not Reviewed by JRT	JRT Caseload
Average Length of Stay (ALOS)	50.3 days	44.1 days
ALOS by Race		
American Indian/Alaskan Native*	6.1	56.4
Asian/Pacific Islander*	9.2	47.4
Black	57.1	57.6
White	49.2	41.0
ALOS by Gender		
Female	34.4	36.1
Male	54.3	46.6



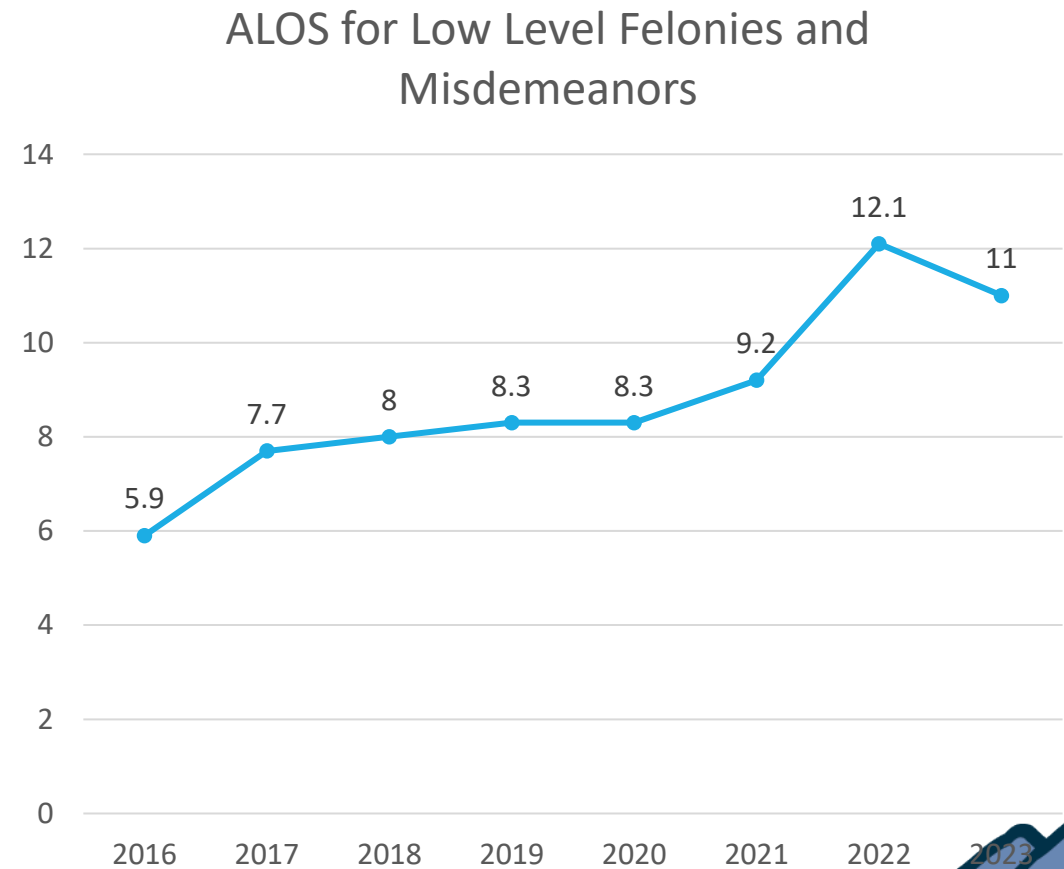
Impact on Length of Stay

- Reductions in length of stay were realized for people charged with low level felonies but not misdemeanors.
 - Greatest difference was between those charged with H felonies – nearly 60 days.
 - People with a top charge of misdemeanor, especially 2 and 3 misdemeanors, could have been released before the Jail Review Team (JRT) had a chance to review the case. Those individuals would drive the average length of stay down for the group not reviewed by the JRT.



Impact on Jail Population

- A reduction in ALOS for low level felonies and misdemeanors occurred in 2023.
- Given the caseload of the Jail Review Team, it does appear this team is impacting ALOS trend.

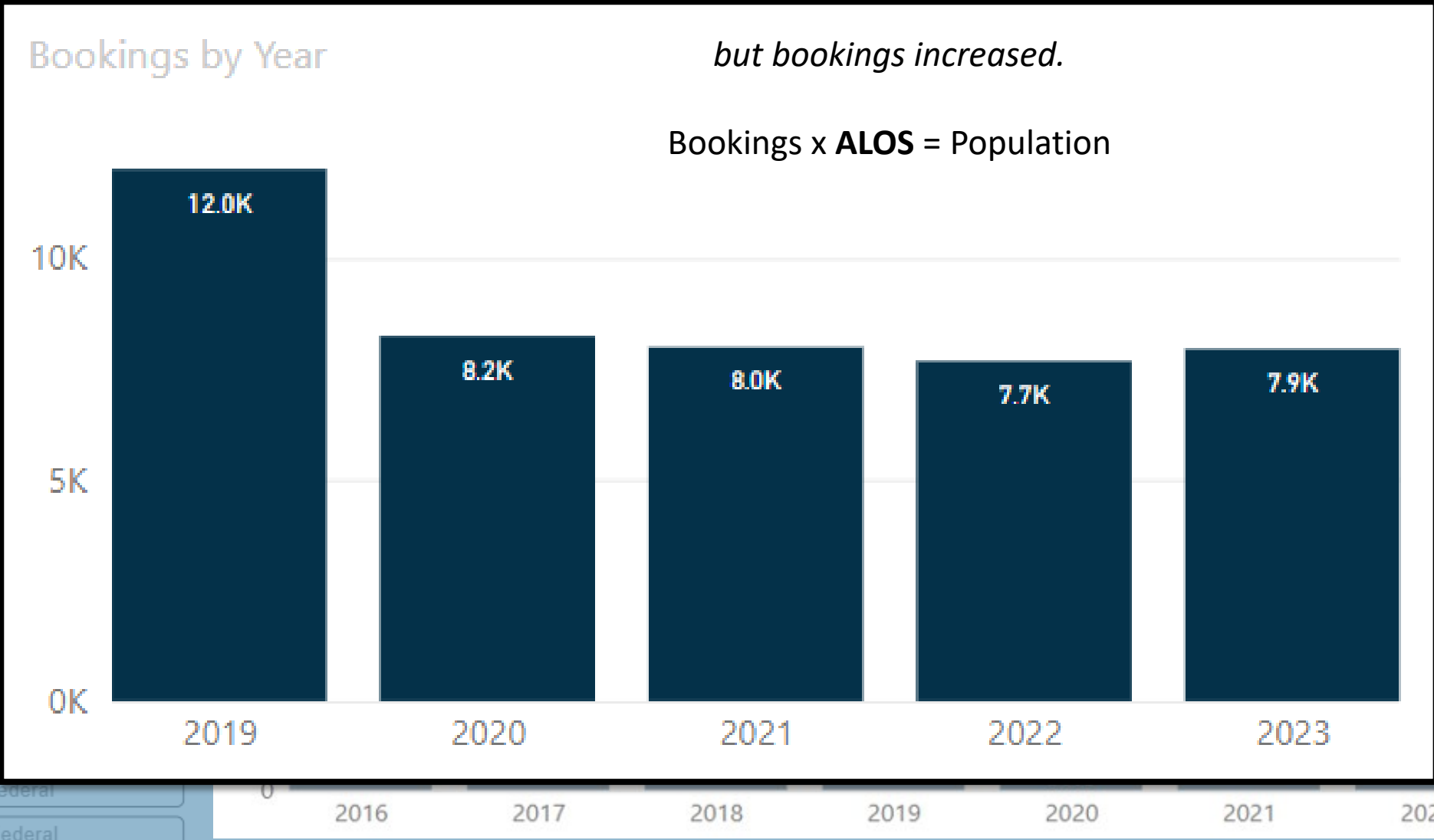




The Buncombe County criminal justice agencies, including the County Sheriff's Office and the County Jail, are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for the community. This dashboard presents information presented.

Select Race

Select Confinement Reason



local, state, and federal agencies. To learn more about the facility, visit the [Buncombe County Sheriff's Office](#). How to update the



Summary

- The Jail Review Team (JRT) does appear to have an impact reducing length of stay for those whose cases they review.
- The impact on length of stay is not the same across race, gender, or top charge.
- Groups that have seen reductions in average length of stay after having their case reviewed by the JRT are white, male, and charged with a low-level felony (excluding VRA charges).



Questions





Behavioral Health Justice Collaborative

JRAC Update

Workforce Development Strategies

February 2nd, 2024



Background

- BHJC FY23-24 Strategic priorities:
 1. Coalition Building
 2. Enhancing Diversion Infrastructure
 - 3. Workforce development, recruitment, & retention**
- Discussion ensued and team pivoted to prioritize the development of strategic priority #3:
 - **3 actionable ideas** to support efforts to address behavioral health staffing challenges



Why Behavioral Health?

NACo 2023 Annual Conference Proposed Policy Resolutions:

Resolution on Declaring Mental/Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse, and the Lack of Service a National Public Health Crisis:

- 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year
- 1 in 8 of all visits to U.S. emergency departments are related to mental and substance use disorders

Proposed policy solutions*

- 1) Assess internal plans, policies and procedures to ensure solutions to address [the] need for increased mental and behavioral health services in their local municipalities
- 2) Create strategies to increase awareness of mental and behavioral health services
- 3) Increase access to inpatient and outpatient mental and behavioral health services

**3 of 6 total proposals*

NACo, "[2023-2024 American County Platform](#)", July 31, 2023.



Why Workforce?

North Carolina is currently experiencing a behavioral health crisis marked by a surge in demand and a shortage of care professionals in the field.

52%

Of the 14.2% of youth in North Carolina who were diagnosed with a major depressive episode in 2022, 52% did not receive mental health services.

13%

North Carolina mental health providers only meet 13% of the mental health needs in the state compared to the national average of 28% demand that is met by providers.

Challenges

- Low reimbursement rates
- High administrative burden
- Lack of visibility surrounding career paths
- Limited career advancement opportunities for unlicensed professionals.

NCDHSS, "[Investing in North Carolina's Caregiving Workforce: Recommendations to strengthen North Carolina's nursing, direct care, and behavioral health workforce](#)", January 2023.



Workforce Support Strategy #1

An exploratory study: options for promoting workforce recruitment & retention best practices among behavioral health employers.

- *Activities may include:*
 - Benchmark & statutory authority research
 - Research & propose employer policy best practices.
 - Research & propose pathways and credentialing opportunities.
 - Research & propose the benefits available to qualifying employers.



Workforce Support Strategy #2

Partner with philanthropic organizations to pursue **housing stipends** for members of the behavioral health workforce

Activities may include:

- Benchmark research into existing comparable models.
- Inquire with funding stakeholders of interest.



Workforce Support Strategy # 3

Support the BHJC's legislative advocacy priorities

Activities may include:

- Follow the Vaya Provider Advisory Council's workforce development strategy recommendations pertaining to "Local and Statewide Legislative Involvement", e.g.:
 - *Invite legislators for tours and lunch-and-learns to learn about our providers and their programs, the barriers faced, and collaborate on ways to overcome them.*
 - *Inform representatives of administrative burdens.*
- Work with local and state stakeholders to engage with NC DHHS recommendations to develop regular intervals for behavioral health rate adjustments
- Participate in the Land of Sky's local municipality collaborative advocacy efforts re. increased behavioral health funding for Western NC



Discussion



**By-Laws of Buncombe County
Justice Resource Advisory Council (JRAC)**

Article I - Name and Purpose

Section 1 – Name: The name of the organization shall be the Justice Resource Advisory Council, known as the JRAC henceforth.

Section 2 – Authority: Approved by the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners in 2017, the JRAC is Buncombe County Board that serves in an advisory capacity regarding justice system improvements to include policy and allocation of fund recommendations to the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners.

Section 3 – Purpose: The purpose of the JRAC is to serve as an advisory body to the policy makers, judiciary, and stakeholder groups of the criminal justice system in Buncombe County. The JRAC examines potential improvements to the system, sets priorities, makes recommendations, and guides with their implementation. The JRAC utilizes evidence based methods to identify goals and priorities, develops solutions, and measures results to ensure policies and programs are cost effective, efficient and produce maximum outcomes for the community.

To achieve its purpose, the JRAC is committed to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Buncombe County criminal justice system with emphasis on strategies that are cost effective, prioritize public safety, provide greater resources to law enforcement and the courts and supportive services to individuals involved in the justice system. Based on this goal, the objectives are:

- to align efforts to ensure cohesive systemic planning;
- to produce and continually improve a comprehensive criminal justice plan;
- to identify and initiate programs or strategies for improvements of the criminal justice system;
- to utilize evidence based system planning, evaluation and data driven decision making and;
- to address jail population management in a holistic manner considering resources, safety, and disparities.

Section 4 – Strategic Plan: The JRAC will develop and adopted a comprehensive criminal justice plan that aligns with the understanding the needs of the community, best practices, and allocation of resources. Once adopted the progress of the plan will be reviewed quarterly with the JRAC to ensure we are meeting the goals and objectives set forth. The plan will be reviewed and updated every 2-3 years to reflect the changes in needs, and resources.

Article II – Membership

Section 1- Representation of the justice system: Membership that represent organizations of the local criminal justice system. Memberships shall consist of one leadership representative.

- Asheville Police Department
- Buncombe County Sheriff’s Office
- NC ~~4028~~⁴⁰²⁸th Judicial District Clerk of Court
- NC ~~28~~²⁸th Judicial District Community Supervision
- NC ~~4028~~⁴⁰²⁸th Judicial District, District Court

- NC 4028th Judicial District Juvenile Justice
- NC 4028th Judicial District Magistrates' Office
- NC 4028th Judicial District Public Defender's Office
- NC 4028th Judicial District, Superior Court
- NC 4028th Prosecutorial District Attorney's Office

Section 2 –Membership by representation: Membership by representation of local government and community partner organizations. The organization or department which they represent determines who will serve on the JRAC and the length of time. Staff will send out an invitation to the membership organization asking them to reply in writing with their designated representative.

- Buncombe County Government
 - Bureau of Identification
 - Board of Commissioners
 - County Manager's Office
 - Health and Human Services
 - ~~○ Justice Services~~
 - Strategic Partnerships

⊖ Feedback from JRAC membership: "My feedback is that since we are considering membership changes, I suggest that we consider of a model that includes a Commissioner and the County Manager's Office (or designee) as the extent of County staff (mirroring the City's). I think we are too County-staff heavy at this time, and there are other ways to engage with the work other than being a JRAC member.

- The City of Asheville
 - City Council
 - City Manager's Office
- Local Private Defense Bar Association
- Regional Area Public Managed Care Organization

Section 3 –Membership based on nomination and appointment:

- Buncombe County Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Buncombe County Treatment Court(s) Graduate
- Asheville-Buncombe Homeless Initiative Advisory Committee (Continuum of Care)
- Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Community Members At-Large: Membership in which Section I and II members nominate community members and recommendations are provided to the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners for appointment. These two members will serve for two years and can only serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Section 4- Membership Responsibility: JRAC members agree to participate on the JRAC with the purpose of improving cross-system collaboration and designing collective strategies to address justice and mental health needs. Members will actively participate in planning, provide relevant data (if applicable), evaluate the facts and explore alternatives to incarceration while prioritizing public safety. Members will participate

in system mapping and data analysis to understand current services and justice-involved populations. Members will engage in discussions on procedures for sharing information between agencies as allowed by statute and not in conflict with the legal or ethical obligations of any member. If a JRAC member is unable to attend, they will send a designated proxy. If a JRAC member by appointment misses 4 consecutive meetings or more than 75% of the meetings in a year, they will resign their position.

Article III – Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair of the JRAC is appointed by the County Manager and will serve a term of two 2 years. The Vice Chair is voted on by simple majority of the JRAC. This vote will be done by secret ballot. Nominations will be accepted via email one week prior to the meeting. The Chair will be responsible for working with JRAC members in agenda setting, calling the meeting to order and ensuring JRAC by-laws are properly carried out. The chair is also responsible for presiding over the JRAC and JRAC Steering Committee. The Vice Chair is responsible for the former in the event the chair is unable to attend the meetings.

Article IV – Staff Support

Staff support for the JRAC is provided by Buncombe County Government, including coordination, logistics, program planning, and performance management. Primary support is provided by a ~~one full-time~~ full-time equivalent position. This position will serve as the primary point of contact for the JRAC and organizes logistics, public communications, and handles all the official records and all other basic matters pertaining to the JRAC.

Article V – Steering and Standing Committees

Section 1 – Purpose: To expedite and facilitate the business of the JRAC and the orderly and efficient consideration of matters coming before it, the following standing committees have been established:

1. Racial Equity
2. Community Engagement
3. Behavioral Health Justice Collaborative
- ~~3-4.~~ Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Section 2a – Steering Committee: The Steering Committee is to provide leadership in the planning and implementation of the JRAC goals by:

- designating existing structures or creating new structures for the achievement of the JRAC goals and;
- reviewing implementation plans, timetables and costs and reporting with recommendations on such matters to the JRAC.

Section 2b – Composition: The Steering Committee is comprised of:

- Chief District Court Judge, ~~4028~~th Judicial District
- Chief of Police, Asheville Police Department
- Chief Public Defender, ~~4028~~th Judicial District
- District Attorney, NC 40th Prosecutorial District Attorney’s Office
- Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, ~~4028~~th Judicial District
- Sheriff, Buncombe County Sheriff’s Office
- County Manager’s Office Representative
- City Manager’s Office Representative
- JRAC Chair (if not a member of one of the aforementioned offices)

Article VI – Standing Committees and Work Groups

Section 1 – Standing Committee Purpose: Standing committees shall be determined by the JRAC. The size, and term of the committees shall be determined by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee Chair upon consultation with the full Steering Committee shall designate the committee’s membership and chair. Committee membership can include representation from member organizations that are not on the Steering Committee, and JRAC. Committees provide regular updates to the full Steering Committee. Staff will send out a proposal for standing committees.

Section 2 - Work Groups Purpose: Work groups will form on an ad hoc basis to investigate and analyze specific issues within the criminal justice system as determined by the JRAC. The work groups will form recommendations and submit them to the JRAC for review. Work groups will also assist in the implementation and evaluation of supported plans. Work groups will be led by a JRAC member and may include members from the public and private sector. The number of members and meetings will vary. Work groups shall dissolve once they have completed their purpose.

Article VII – JRAC and Committee Meetings

Section 1a – JRAC Meetings: The JRAC meets the first Friday of February, April, June, August, October, and December at 12:30pm. The JRAC must designate the time and place of all JRAC meetings, which meetings must be conducted in compliance with the North Carolina Open Meetings Law (G.S. 143-318.9).

Section 1b – Steering Committee Meeting: The Steering Committee meets bi-monthly on months ~~opposing~~ opposite JRAC meetings.

Section 1c – Standing Committees and Workgroup Meetings: Meeting, time and location will be determined by committee/workgroup members once they are formed. In order to encourage open discussion, committees, and work groups are not public meetings unless a majority of the JRAC is present or unless otherwise determined by the JRAC to be required by the North Carolina Open Meetings Law (G.S. 143-318.9).

Section 1d – Special Meeting: The Chair or three of the members of the JRAC may at any time call a special meeting of the JRAC by signing a written notice stating the time and place of the meeting and the subjects to be considered. The person or persons who call the meeting shall cause the notice to be mailed, emailed, or delivered to the Chair and all of the JRAC members or left at the usual dwelling place of each member at least 48 hours before the meeting and shall cause a copy of the notice to be posted at the door of its usual meeting room and on the building in an area accessible to the public at least 48 hours before the meeting. Only those items of business specified in the notice may be transacted at a special meeting, unless all members are present or those who are not present have signed a written waiver.

If a special meeting is called to deal with an emergency, the notice requirements of this rule do not apply. However, the person or persons who call an emergency special meeting shall take reasonable action to inform the other members and the public of the meeting. Only business connected with the emergency may be discussed at the meeting.

Section 2 – Public Comment: There shall be the opportunity for public comment during JRAC meetings, using the same guidelines as the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners. No specific cases shall be discussed.

Section 3 – Minutes and Records: In conducting its business, the JRAC shall comply with all applicable North Carolina laws, including but not limited to open meetings laws, public records laws, and the laws

setting forth the powers and duties of local Committees. To assist the JRAC in compliance, the Chair shall maintain a current copy of relevant North Carolina General Statutes and make them available to JRAC members on request.

Staff support shall prepare minutes of each JRAC and committee meetings. Copies of the minutes shall be made available to each JRAC and/or committee member before the next regular JRAC and committee meetings. At each regular meeting, the JRAC and/or committee members shall review the minutes of the previous regular meeting as well as any special or emergency meetings that have occurred since the previous regular meeting, make any necessary revisions, and approve the minutes as originally drafted or as revised. The public may obtain copies of JRAC and/or committee meeting minutes at the County Administration Building, 200 College St., Asheville, NC 28801. Said minutes will also be available on the website at www.buncombecounty.org/jrac.

Section 4 – Absences: In alignment with the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners policy if an JRAC appointee misses 4 consecutive meetings unexcused or fails to attend at least 75 percent of the regularly scheduled meetings within a 12 month period, her or she is obligated to resign. JRAC members by position or representation should adhere to professional courtesy to prioritize the JRAC meeting. If a JRAC member by position or representation is unable to attend, they shall send a designated proxy.

Article VIII - Voting and Decision-Making

Section 1 – Consensus: Many decisions of the JRAC are made through discussion and consensus and do not require a formal vote.

Section 2 – Consensus: If a designated representative is unable to attend a JRAC meeting, they may provide an opinion respective to their office in one of two ways:

1. They may authorize another member of their organization who is in attendance to provide feedback related to the topic on their behalf; or
2. The designated representative may email their feedback in advance of the meeting to the Chair or their designee.

Section 3 – Submitting Items for Formal Discussion or Vote: The established protocol is as follows:

1. Members of the JRAC may submit agenda items to the Chair or their designee in advance of the meeting, or request placement on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.
2. Steering Committee members discuss issues, make decisions, or refer the items to a committee or work group. The steering committee has the authority to make decisions on behalf of the JRAC.
3. A consensus is required for an item to be approved.
4. A consensus is develop by all members verbally affirming the decision unless determined otherwise by the Chair.
5. ~~Budgetary considerations and~~ Proposed by-law revisions and new program recommendations must be presented to the Steering Committee at least one meeting prior to the meeting at which the vote will occur.
6. In the event that items are referred to a committee or work group, the members will meet, discuss the items, and make recommendations to the full Steering Committee. At this time, the Steering Committee has final approval to move forward on items.

Section VII IX– Amendments

1. The By-Laws may be amended by a simple majority vote of the Steering Committee. Amendments must be submitted for consideration at least one meeting prior to the vote.

Section ~~VIII~~ X- Amendments to the By-Laws

Original Approval: February 14, 2020

Revised: April 1, 2022

Revised:



Office of the Sheriff

Presented by

January 2024

*Co-Responder Update
Buncombe County Sheriff's Office
Support Operations*



Executive Summary

In the spring of 2023, Sheriff Miller requested Support Operations develop a Co-Responder team in collaboration with Emergency Service's Community Paramedic program.

TASK to provide community outreach and timely response to community members who may be in crisis with a mental health and/or substance use emergency, overdose, or other issues, with trained and coordinated response personnel and other resources.

TEAM APPROACH consisting of EMS, law enforcement, and mental health professionals to mitigate emergent situations and connect individuals to resources that may further mitigate the crisis.

ROOT CAUSE SOLUTIONS to calls for service for the purpose of providing diversion from future jeopardy to the individual's well-being through prevention of criminal justice system to more adequate resources.



Pilot Objectives

- Respond to incidents where community members are experiencing a behavioral health or substance use crisis.
- Provide mitigation strategies for individuals in crisis and prevent future crisis.
- Provide safety and security for the patient, public, and responders during crisis events.
- Provide proactive outreach to improve outcomes and prevent future crisis.



Partners

Buncombe County Sheriff's Office

Buncombe County Emergency Medical Services Community Paramedics

Buncombe County Emergency Mobile Community Outreach Team (MCOT)

Buncombe County Emergency Medical Services Mental Health Clinicians

Buncombe County Emergency Medical Services Nurse Support

Asheville Housing Authority Community Health Workers (AHA)



Initial Planning Process

A planning team with members from Emergency Services, Dispatch, Community Paramedics, and the Sheriff's Office met and outlined a pilot program.

The program would buildout an approach that would lead to a team response of community paramedics, sheriff's deputies, and clinicians to specific calls for service.

These nature codes were identified as:

EMS

E32 Unknown Medical i.e. subject down

ZAOD Recreational Overdoses

Z9 Cardiac Arrest

Any emergency call when no EMS unit is close

Sheriff's Office

Welfare Checks

Overdose Response/Suicide Response

Assist EOC

Mental Subjects

Deliver Emergency Message

Subject Down



APPLICATION OF PLAN – MAKING IT HAPPEN

The initial response plan was adjusted to match staffing needs at the Sheriff's office.

On July 12, **two School Resource Deputies** were temporally reassigned to assist with the project during summer break.

The two SRO's spent the first week shadowing the Community Paramedic program.

Weeks 2 – 9, Co-Responder Deputies began “jumping” calls on the law enforcement side. **Prioritized calls were: overdose, metal health subject, welfare checks, and IVC's.**



DATA AND OUTCOMES

Co-Responder Deputy Totals				
Nature	Goodman	JUSTUS	Agency (All Hours)	% of All Hours
ABAN VEH		1	32	3%
AST EOC	10	12	131	9%
AST MOTO	1	1	71	1%
CHK BUS	1	2	29	7%
COMOUT	8	5	8	63%
CONTACT	2	2	759	0%
DOMESTIC	1	1	371	0%
INVEST	2	2	237	1%
MENT PAP	6	7	35	20%
MENT SUB	13	14	66	21%
SUICIDE	1	2	14	14%
SUICIDEO	4	4	52	8%
SUS PER	2	2	226	1%
Transport		13	22	59%
TRESPA	2	1	139	1%
WELFARE	21	24	614	4%
ZAOD	12	12	52	23%
Total	86	105	2858	4%

Between June 19 and August 11, the two deputies self-dispatched by jumping calls for service within the pilot parameters.

Co-Responder Deputies operated Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 4 pm.

Co-Responder Deputy Call volume is compared to all call volume, 24/7 for the same time period.

Co-Responder Deputies provided significant relief for patrol on specific call types.



POST PILOT PROGRAM— KEEPING IT GOING

Since the fall re-launch of the program, Sgt. Freeborn has assisted patrol and community paramedics as needed, with the goal of a full-time, Monday through Friday dispatched response once a second deputy is added to the team.

Sgt. Freeborn operates Monday – Friday 8am to 5pm.

On-Call for community paramedics and patrol.

“Jumps” Calls for Service as available.

Provides after hour consultation for community members, community paramedics, and patrol.

Nature	Total
ASSIST	1
AST EOC	7
COMOUT	5
CONTACT	5
ESCORT	2
FOLL UP	1
GUN	1
INVEST	1
MEET	2
MENT PAP	4
MENT SUB	10
OD	9
SUICIDEO	1
Transport	11
TRESPA	2
WARRANT	2
WELFARE	20
Grand Total	84



CALLS FOR SERVICE PERSPECTIVE— LAST 12 MONTHS

ALL SHERIFF'S OFFICE POTENTIAL CO-RESPONDER CALLS

Nature Code	Total
(Z)SUICIDE	26
(Z)SUICIDE OVERDOSE	66
ASSIST EOC	787
EMS ASSISTANCE REQUESTED	1
MENTAL PAPERS TO BE SERVED	284
MENTAL SUBJECT	469
OVERDOSE / POISONING	2
PERSON DOWN	11
PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS	1
WELFARE CHECK	3685
Grand Total	5332



MOVING FORWARD - OBJECTIVE

The Co-Responder Unit will respond to incidents where community members are experiencing a behavioral or substance use crisis. The unit will provide mitigation strategies for individuals in crisis and prevent future crisis. This unit will streamline communications across first responder agencies to these calls for service. This unit will increase cultural diversity of first responders operating in the behavioral health emergency response ecosystem. The unit will provide safety and security for the patient, public, and responders during crisis events.

This program will reduce recidivism for and overall number of:

Jail bookings related to behavioral health and substance use-related behaviors

Overdoses

Involuntary commitments

911 calls for service among identified behavioral health-related call codes



NEXT STEPS

Phase 1: **One team of two deputies** under the Support Operations Supervision. With support from contracted community paramedic clinicians. Primary coverage would be Monday – Friday

Additional Phase 1 needs: Assign one additional co-responder deputy assigned to the program. One additional Co-Responder vehicle with cage. Funding for additional clinician hours through the Counterflow Behavioral Health contract with Community Paramedics. Work with EMS Community Paramedics to get an MCOT member assigned to the team.



NEXT STEPS – PHASE 2

Two teams of two deputies (4 deputies total) with one sergeant (5-person unit) under the Support Operations Supervision. Two teams would provide 7 day a week coverage with 12-hour shifts. Two contracted community paramedic clinicians and one social service navigator.



NEXT STEPS – PHASE 3

Four teams of two deputies (8 deputies total) with two sergeant and one lieutenant (11-person unit) under the Support Operations Supervision.
Four teams would provide **24/7 day a week coverage** with 12-hour shifts.
Two day teams and two night teams.



MOVING FORWARD - DISPATCH

Once we have dedicated Co-Response units, we will start a joint response from dispatch..

Co-Responder units will be designated per group in CAD and will be the primary/priority units for dispatching to mental health and substance use calls that come into Communications. There will be a designated Community Paramedic unit that will be dispatched alongside the Co-Responders.

Co-Responder units will be dispatched with Community Paramedic units when CP units require a law enforcement response.

Joint Co-Response units will be dispatched to the following call types: **Welfare Checks, Overdose Response/Suicide Response, Assist EOC, Mental Subjects, Deliver Emergency Message, Subject Down, and IVC's.**



MOVING FORWARD – POST CALL FOR SERVICE

Post Call Follow-up: The team will assertively work to ensure that all individuals the unit responds to will receive a minimum of two follow-up contacts for documentation of outcomes.

Case Management: Case management will be coordinated across the unit with follow-up support done primarily by clinicians and service navigators on the team. Case management will be utilized to support consumers' access and use of existing services in the justice and health services space. The goal of this case management is to help remove road blocks to successful usage and access to service providers in an effort to ensure that on-going service needs are being met.



QUESTIONS?



BUNCOMBE COUNTY

