



Agenda

August 2, 2024, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

BCSO Training Rm; 4th Floor Buncombe County Courthouse

- | | | | |
|--------------|---|---------|---|
| I. | Opening and Roll Call | 12:30pm | Martin Moore- JRAC Chair/Buncombe County Commissioner |
| II. | Consent Agenda | 12:35pm | Martin Moore- JRAC Chair/Buncombe County Commissioner |
| | a. Approval of August Agenda | | |
| | b. Approval of June Minutes | | |
| III. | Justice System Data Report
Improvements to the detention facility release processes | 12:40pm | Dr. Lee Crayton – Strategy & Innovation
Capt. Littrell – BCSO
Cindy Green – Pretrial Services |
| IV. | Old Business | | |
| | a. eCourts - implementation updates | 1:10pm | Jean Marie Christy – Clerk of Superior Court |
| | b. Solutions to eCourts impact on Court Reminder System & Adult Misdemeanor Diversion Prg. | 1:25pm | Dr. Lee Crayton – Strategy & Innovation |
| V. | New Business | | |
| | JRAC meetings schedule
Proposed: 10/4/24; 12/6/24 | 1:35pm | Martin Moore-JRAC Chair/Buncombe County Commissioner |
| | Strategic Planning | 1:40pm | Dr. Lee Crayton – Strategy & Innovation |
| VI. | Announcements and Departmental Updates | | |
| VII. | Public Comment | | |
| VIII. | Adjourn | | |

Next meeting: October 4th, 12:30pm - 2:00pm
 Buncombe County Sheriff's Office Training Room
 4th Floor – Buncombe County Courthouse



Justice Resource Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

June 13th ,2024, 12:30pm – 2:00pm

Location: 200 College Street, 1st floor

Welcome and Lunch: DK Wesley (JRAC Chair)

- Start time of meeting: 12:30
- Roll call (see attachment)

Consent Agenda:

Approval of June Agenda and April Minutes- DK entertained the motion for the Consent Agenda, Martin Moore so moved, and Meredith Pressley Stone seconded the motion. Council Approved.

Old Business

JRAC By-laws- Tiffany Iheanacho- Justice Services Director

- Reviewed the By-law proposed changes again with the group before adopting. The changes were:
 - Adding and removing of membership
 - Clarifying the chair for the JRAC Steering Committee.
 - Clarifying quorum

Additional editing needed: Under the Membership, changing 28th District to 40th District. Tiffany Iheanacho made the motion for the change with no additional changes.

Additional Seats added to the Council:

- Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce- Zach Wallace- VP of Public Policy
- Asheville Buncombe Continuum of Care- Currently stabilizing and will be appointing someone soon

DK has been in contact with both, and they are in support of this. Once the By-laws have been approved, an Onboarding process will begin for the new members.

DK entertained the motion to approve the By-Laws, Meredith Pressley so moved and Martin Moore seconded the motion. The council approved with no additional discussion.

JRAC Retreat Follow-up- DK Wesley-JRAC Chair/Assistant County Manager and Tiffany Iheanacho-Justice Services Director

DK revisited the JRAC Retreat that happened in September of 2023 and discussed with the Council again high level the outline of the Retreat and moving forward.

- The background and Major Objectives of the Council, Recapped the Strategic Plan Accomplishments and an update on the alignment with National Standards as well as Next Steps.
- DK recapped her and Tiffany’s visit to the National Convening Conference in Montana
- Tiffany recapped the Strategic Plan Accomplishments since the Retreat
- Have implemented Community Violence Prevention and Safety Program
- Expanded the Expungement Program and created the Driver License Restoration Program
- Adding a Community Coordinated Response Committee to Domestic Violence and Substance Use to the JRAC
- Have increased Social Media coverage across all platforms and created a public input page.
- Started a Pilot Law Enforcement and Community Training Program
- Created County Wide Racial Equity Training
- Sustained funds for Treatment Courts
- Awarded additional Safety and Justice Challenge funding to support several of our programs
- Awarded funding through Dogwood Health and Opioid Settlement Funds for our Community Re-entry Programs.
- County funding to propose sustaining the Family Justice Center
- Utilized Data to enhance decision-making by creating dashboards
- Launched Jail Review Team
- NC Safe for gun safety was discussed

Aligning JRAC to National Standards:

- **By-Laws Standard- During the retreat, the Council discussed clarifying roles/purpose of JRAC as it is related to executive member committees.**

Identified Areas to Align	Outcome
Standard 2: By-laws Standard	Updated By-laws Reestablished Executive Committee

Clarify roles/purpose of JRAC as it is related to executive member functions	
Standard 3: Membership Standard Need for engagement/re-engagement of key stakeholders	Reclaimed several members
Standard 6: Standing Committees and Workgroups Internal Communication, Workgroup Structure, work and communication, workgroup scope and purpose	Standardize Committee Reports Committees will be reporting back to the JRAC JRAC will have access to all committees Membership list Agenda additions
Standard 9: Strategic Planning Need SMART goals in next strategic plan to easily determine progress and aid in accountability	Plan to develop 2025-2030 Strategic Plan in January 2025
Standard 11: Community Outreach and Engagement Need for external and engagement around the role and purpose of JRAC	Launched Public Input Page More to come through Community Engagement Workgroup
Standard 12: Administration Clearly define staff structure in the framework of Buncombe County Government providing staff support	Establish Roles and Responsibilities for JRAC and its workgroups Tiffany defined each support role to the Council.

Next Steps:

Since By Laws have now been adopted, we can move forward with the development of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan and implementing the structure of the By-laws. DK discussed additional conversation about the Strategic Plan of others aligning with the JRAC Strategic Plan.

JRAC Leadership Update- DK Wesley

DK Wesley will be transitioning out of the Criminal Justice space and Sybil Tate will be coming into that space.

DK will be transitioning out of the JRAC Chair position and Avril Pinder, Buncombe County Manager has appointed Martin Moore as the JRAC Chair and that will be effective as of July 1, 2024.

Justice System Data Report-E-courts- Dr. Lee Crayton

Dr. Crayton presented an overview of the departments that will be utilizing E-courts.

- **Detention Division-** Will be using information from the court daily for release orders, court minutes, and release orders
- **Department of Social Services-** Social Work, Social Work Clerical and Child Support Enforcement and DSS Attorneys use various AOC forms including petitions and custody orders
- **Identification Bureau/Centralized Data Entry-** Use information from the court system daily to support business processes. Gun permit processing and expungement orders, civil processes.
- **Justice Services-** Multiple programs utilize information from the courts to support business processes.
 - Court Calendars
 - Conditions of release (AOC- CR-630, AOC-CR-631)
 - AOC Website

County Preparation-

Strategy and Innovation working with IT to address needs around data extracts received from the state

Confirming access and sharing materials with staff accessing the Enterprise Justice

Programs reaching out to counterparts in other counties that have gone live

Exploring GDAC services as a data source for analysis and reporting

Programs working with Clerk of Court to ensure information flow upon the go-live date.

The transition will impact multiple county departments and programs and there will be impacts that we are currently not aware of. Impact/potential impacts of most concern:

- Process delays during go-live period
- Access to timely and accurate information
- Missing court-ordered program assignments
- Court Reminder System reprogramming

Lee advised the group that our Buncombe County IT Department has received a file from the state to build the reprogramming and Buncombe County has started to receive some of the test files. Lee and our Buncombe County IT department meet weekly with AOC IT department to discuss the more technical pieces around the data.

New Business

E-courts-Implementation Updates- Jean Marie Christy-Clerk of Superior Court

- Definition and Roles of Clerks were explained to the Council
- Background of the systems we currently use and what we are transitioning to
- Differences between old and new systems were explained
- Judicial Staff received test access to the system and will be using that access to practice on the new system.
- All attorneys will need to bring some type of device to court with them since all documents will now be electronic.
- Most internet users will be Judicial Staff and will be using Judicial Staff Wi-Fi but guest Wi-Fi is also available.
- Guidance File on the portal is available for viewing purposes
- Go-Live Date is Monday July 22, 2024- will be starting with cases in chronological order
- 27 Counties have gone live with the system currently
- Onsite Support from the State and Buncombe County will be present
- Discussed impacts in other Counties- What has worked well along with challenges
- Implementation Planning-
 - Judicial System meets with AOC weekly on Fridays and on Mondays
 - Case Disposition Time should not be slower but will need to allow time for the transitions.
- Stakeholder Engagement- Hospitals, County departments, other non-justice partners should be aware of the process changes.
- Access levels are pre-determined by AOC for Enterprise Justice.
- Implementation Timeline
 - Currently in Training
 - July 17th- All legacy systems will be cut off and there will be no more access
 - July 21st- All staff will be working to get everything loaded into the system for Monday, the go live date.
- Expected Impacts:
 - Short-term and Long-term impacts was discussed
- If issues arise, members of the public and stakeholders should first reach out to the Clerk's Office
- The system will allow you to file, to serve, or to file and serve
- This presentation was available on the public input page and social media outlets.

- **Announcements-**

- Tiffany Iheanacho advised the group that Lindsay Holland will be the Interim Justice Services Director

Director Position has been posted

- Pat Freeman will be retiring on July 21st. Oscar Wooten will be taking over that position and will be taking the seat on JRAC for the ID Bureau.
- Any future IVC's will have to go thru the Clerk's office now for information
- Stoney Blevins is also retiring and HHS is currently hiring for that position and will take that JRAC seat as well.
- Behavioral Health Justice Collaborative Chair is also vacant and that position is looking to be filled.

- *No Public Comment*

Next Meeting:

August 4th - Sheriff's Training Room, 4th floor new part of the Buncombe County Courthouse.

Adjournment

DK motioned to adjourn; Martin Moore seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2pm.



Improvements to the Detention Facility Release Processes

Presented by

Lee Crayton, Strategy & Innovation

Captain Jeffrey Littrell, Sheriff's Office

Cindy Green, Pretrial Services



Problem Overview

What is the problem?: Once inmates are approved for release from the detention center, a variety of factors delay their actual release time. Majority of releases happen between 7-8pm, making it difficult for individuals to access services.

Why is this happening?: Access to “real-time” court data, time to secure bond, pre-trial release processes (1. serving outstanding processes at release, and 2. technical violation process).

What is our goal?: Releases to be more evenly distributed throughout the day, avoiding a processing bottle neck after court shuts down



Release Data

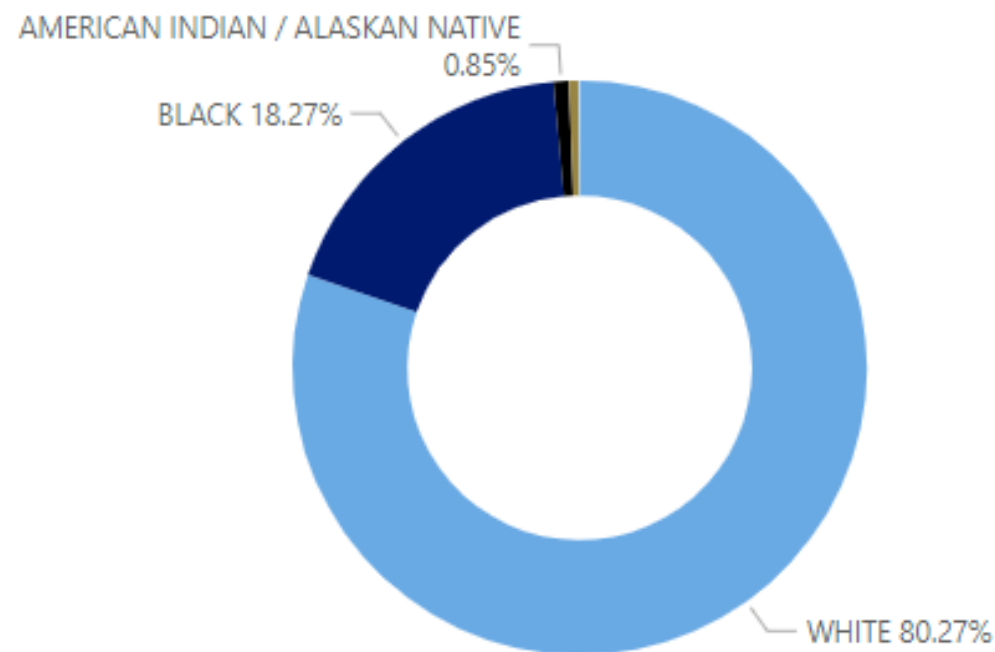


Release Data

January 2024-June 2024

- 2,342 releases, 1,983 people*
- Average of 13 releases into the community per day
- Demographics
 - 25% female, 75% male
 - 18% black, 80% white, 1% other races
 - 7% Hispanic/Latino

Releases by Race



*Analysis includes only those who are being released into community, not to the custody of other agencies

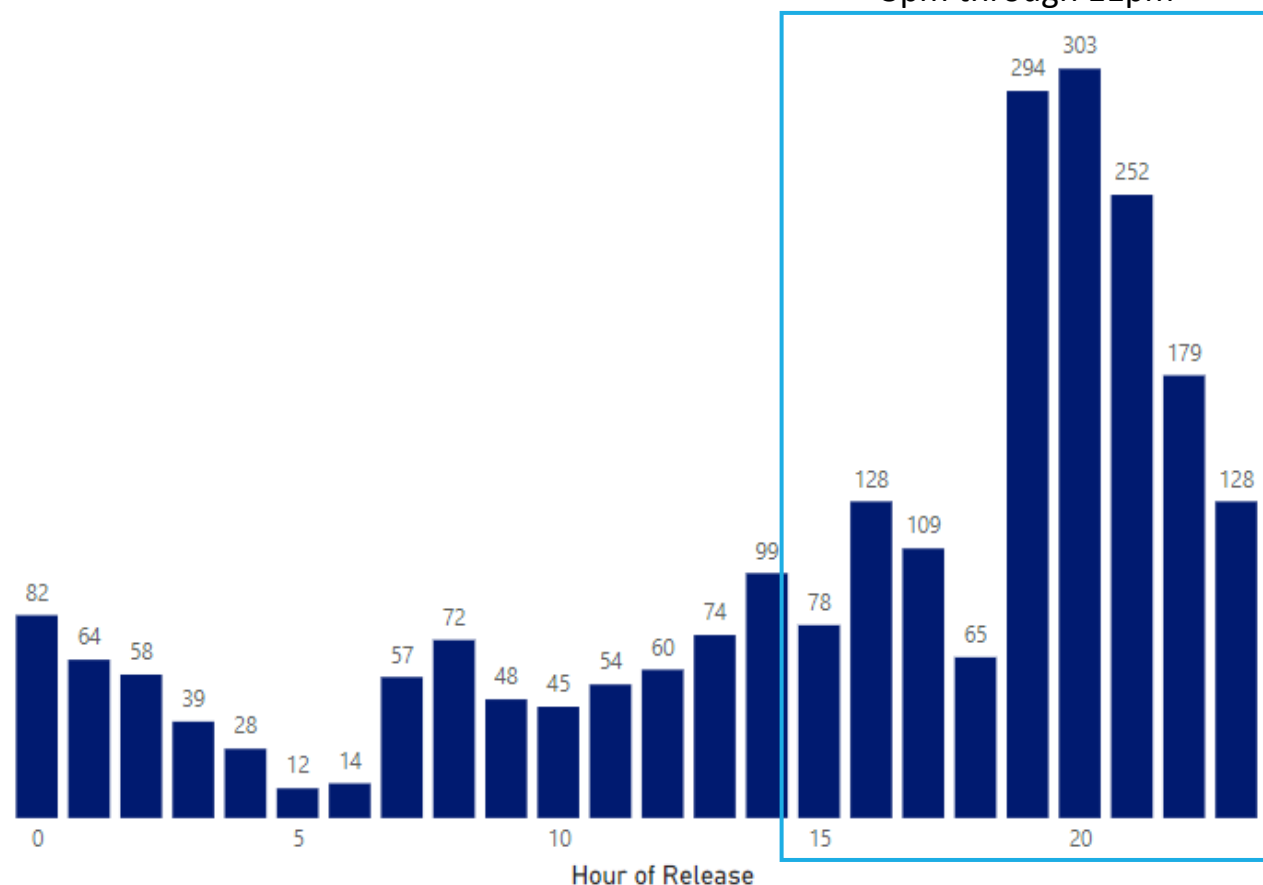


Release Data

January 2024-June 2024

- 66% of releases into the community take place at 3pm or later
 - 7pm and 8pm are the busiest release hours
- Why is late afternoon/evening release a concern?
 - Linking individuals to services
 - Accessing shelter, especially on Code Purple days

Releases by Hour of Day

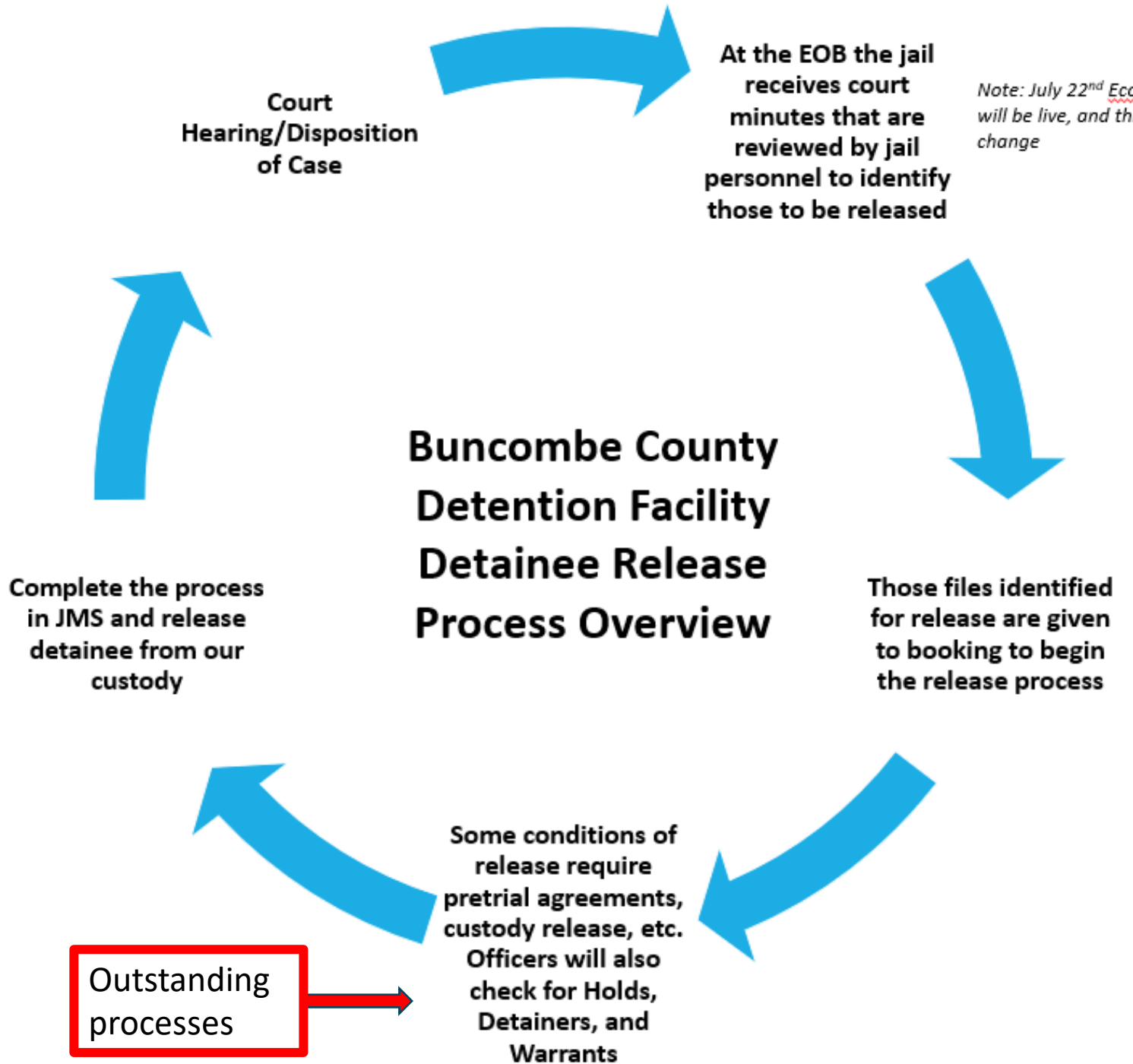


Detention Release Process





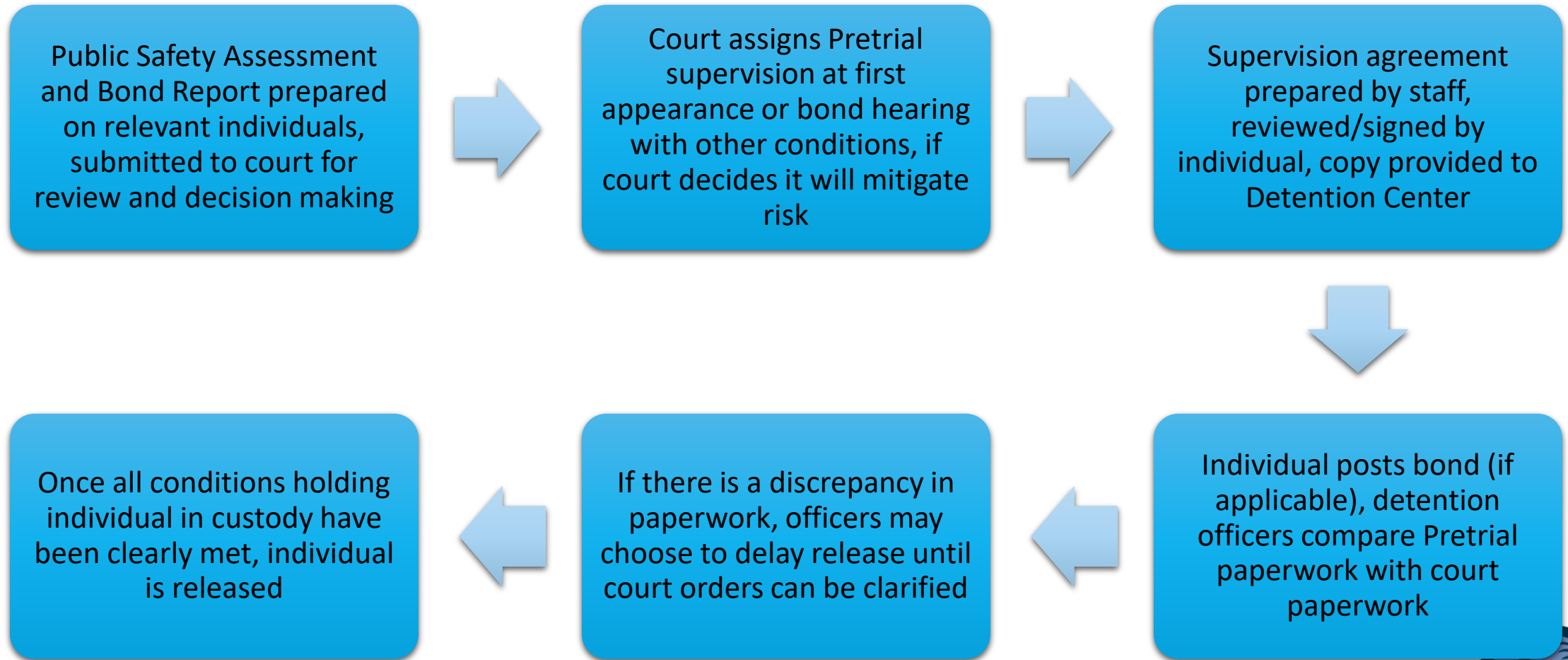
21st Century and Beyond



Pretrial Release Process



Pretrial Release Process



Pretrial Release Process

- Pretrial coordinators work with individual to support compliance with court orders.
- Aim is for individual to comply with all release conditions, returning to court for all hearings and avoiding recidivism.
- Pretrial supervision ends under three possible scenarios:
 - Individual fails to appear in court and an order for arrest is served
 - Judge removes supervision as a condition of release during a subsequent bond review
 - Judge removes supervision as a condition of release via a Pretrial Violation Report

Technical Violation



Pretrial Technical Violation Process



Pretrial Technical Violation Process

- If an individual violates court ordered conditions of release or Pretrial program rules, a Pretrial Violation Report is prepared and presented to the court.
- A judge reviews the report and makes several determinations:
 - An order for arrest is either authorized or denied. If authorized, the bond may be secured or unsecured, or the defendant may be released on a written promise.
 - Pretrial supervision is either continued or ended.
 - If the defendant was ordered to comply with electronic monitoring through the NCEMVNP program, the monitoring is either continued or ended.
- Signed Pretrial Violation Reports are sent to the magistrate's office, where they are entered in eWarrants to be served by law enforcement.



Improvements to the Release Process



Improvements to the Release Process

1. eCourts implementation – Detention is no longer having to wait until the end of the court day to begin the release process
2. Daily report sent to Detention of anyone in custody with an active warrant or order for arrest needing to be served

Are there other improvements or opportunities we could pursue to improve release times and processes moving forward?

1. Technical Violation data process improvement
2. Others?



Questions?





JRAC Standing Committee Report

Date: August 2, 2024

Committee Name: Community Engagement Committee

Objective:

Committee Chair: Meredith Pressley-Stone

Staff Support: Brent Bailey

Date of last Committee meeting: July 24th

Committee Goals/Deliverables:

The Community Engagement Workgroup (CEW) infuses community voices and perspectives throughout the work of reducing the jail population and racial disparities. Our membership is comprised of a range of individuals, including people with lived experience and representatives from organizations providing direct support to people involved in the justice system.

Committee updates:

The Court Reminder System transition to eCourts is over 90% complete with 100% completion expected by the end of July.

One new community member was added to the workgroup and will begin receiving compensation. Recruitment for more community members continues as we had to remove community members from active membership status due to lack of attendance.

One member will begin attending Racial Equity Committee meetings as a liaison to improve collaboration between the two committees.



JRAC Standing Committee Report

Date: 7/30/24

Committee Name: Behavioral Health Justice Collaborative

Objective: This body seeks to foster private and public partnerships and collaboration to channel the right resources to the right place at the right time in response to behavioral health needs in the community with the goal of promoting public safety and improving outcomes for those in need of behavioral health services.

Committee Chair: TBD

Staff Support: Victoria Reichard (Behavioral Health Manager)

Date of last Committee meeting: 7/12/2024

Committee Goals/Deliverables:

1. Create, promote, and enhance pathways for coordination at the intersection of behavioral health and justice-based interventions.
2. Promote effective options for those with behavioral health needs to be safe, sheltered, and stable.
3. Promote the development of a consistent, qualified, and capable behavioral health workforce and recruitment pool in the region to increase service accessibility and reduce the burden on the criminal justice system.
 - Develop resources and directories to support providers and consumers in navigating the intersections of the behavioral health and justice systems effectively.
 - Host trainings and convenings to foster connections and collaboration across different sectors, such as between justice system personnel and behavioral health services, or private business owners and community resources related to behavioral health.
 - Offer policy and program insights and recommendations to JRAC to inform local, state and federal engagement and advocacy around improvements at the intersections of our behavioral health and criminal justice systems.
 - Identify and facilitate outreach opportunities for BHJC members and organizations to engage with individuals in need of support within their communities.

Committee updates:

July 12th meeting was focused on exploring more about the priorities identified in the previous meeting, youth diversion, career development, and sustain coalition building/partnerships with local businesses.

For career development, a draft list of scholarships, loan repayment, and training resources for the Behavioral Health workforce was reviewed and gathered feedback on how it is organized, updated, and shared with various groups. Additionally, an example of a local tuition assistance program, New Hanover County Fellows Program was reviewed and there was interest in pursuing something similar for our County and noted the interest in considering options for Peer Support Specialists, Community Health Workers, CNAs, and Paraprofessionals and having a specific focus on working within community mental health agencies/Medicaid and a youth focus. Another initiative is Project AWE (Addiction Workforce Education) which is a partnership with WCU's graduate substance use disorder curriculum to enhance knowledge and skills of peer support professionals to be able to apply for a Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor license.

For sustain coalition building/partnerships, various resources were reviewed that are happening within the community such as the partnership with All Souls Counseling and offering mental health support to the restaurant industry through [Linked4Life](#). [Recovery Friendly NC](#) was also reviewed as another initiative that can support employers in creating a recovery friendly workplace by combatting stigma, connecting to resources, and reducing the negative impacts of substance use. There was a suggestion to share this information to JRAC. An area this group felt as an opportunity is to expand the 988 messaging across the County and sharing basic #'s to call including 988, mobile crisis, and Vaya's crisis line all of which are 24/7 and insurance blind.

For youth diversion, we had the youth justice program manager share about the diversion work currently happening in the County and to also share about what JCPC does and some of the data that has been monitored and some of the priorities identified in reducing the number of referrals to DJJ for low level offenses and to connect with the various community resources that are available. There has been a focus on the use of Teen Court, Restorative practices and building up programming. JCPC recently updated the resource guide and will be sharing widely. There was not sufficient time in this meeting to discuss what the BHJC's role could be and potential action items.

There was interest in learning more about the Asheville City BID and how we can get involved and coordinate.

Co-response is building up staffing and now have a team available Monday – Friday from 8am to 8pm.

Meeting Date: July 12th, 2024

Name	Title	Organization	Attend? Y/N
Kathleen Blaney	BH + J Analyst	Buncombe County	Y
Brea Madara	Coalition Coordinator	Part for substance abuse unit	Y
Mitch Hibbs	Harm Reduction program mgr	BC HHS	Y
Edan Payne	ED	NAMI	Y
Meredith Switzer	ED	All Souls Counseling	Y
Elle Thippen	Intern ⁺	All Souls Counseling	Y
Angie Garner	CR Director	Vaya Health	Y
Hilary Jones	Community Responder Program mgr	AFD	Y
Joey Moore	ED Fundraising Coordinator	SEEK HEALING	Y
Mary Singer	Volunteer	Self	Y
I. Manacho	Director	B.C.	
Natalee Harrison	ICHC	B.C.	Y
Sherrie Pace	RITA MCM - Program Director		Y
Brandy Rose	ICHC - Lease Manager	JAC	Y
Janna Ngranin	Director - RITA		Y
Harold Roberto	H.O.P.E Director	UMOJA	Y
Lye Harrison	P.S.S./C.H.W	Umoja HWJ Collective / B.C.C.P	Y
Hannah Legerton	Buncombe County Youth Justice Manager	Justice Center Buncombe County	Y



Membership List

Name	Title	Organization	
Martin Moore	Commissioner/JRAC Chair	Buncombe County Board of Commissioners	
Sybil Tate	Assistant County Manager	Buncombe County Manager's Office	
Chief Herbert Blake	Chief Deputy	Buncombe County Sheriff's Office	
Oscar Wooten	Identification Director	Buncombe County Bureau of Identification	
Sylvia Clement	Chief Court Counselor	NC 40 th Judicial District Juvenile Justice	
Shalissa McDaniels	Magistrate	NC 40 th Judicial Magistrates Office	
The Hon. Alan Thornburg	Superior Court Judge	NC 40 th Judicial District Superior Court	
The Hon. Todd Williams	District Attorney	NC 40 th Prosecutorial District	
Sam Snead	Chief Public Defender	NC 40 th Judicial District	
Meredith Pressley	Sr. Assistant District Attorney	NC 40 th Judicial District	
Donald Reuss	Director Provider	Vaya Health	
Michael Lamb	Chief APD	Asheville Police Department	
Julia Horrocks	Private Attorney	Coordinated Community Response DV/SA	
Hon. Julie Kepple	District Court Judge	NC 40 th Judicial District	
Debra Campbell	City Manager	City of Asheville	
Maggie Ullman	Asheville City Council Member	City of Asheville	
Lori Anderson	Judicial District Manager	NC 28 th Judicial District of Adult Correction; Community Supervision	
Joseph Hackett	Community Representative	Black Wall Street Asheville	
Dustin Dow	Private Attorney	Defense Bar Association	
Julie Risedorf	Community Representative		
Hon. Jean Marie Christy	Clerk of Court	Clerk of Court	
Zach Wallace	VP of Public Policy	Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce	

Additional Attendees: