

BUNCOMBE COUNTY JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Prog. Name: Teen Court
Prog. ID #: 211-10576

County: Buncombe
Reporting Period: 2/28/2025

1. Number of Youth to be Served this Fiscal Year 65 (From page 2 of the Program Agreement)

2. Youth Admitted to Program: Age		
	# YTD	% YTD
Under 7	0	0.0%
Ages 7 - 9	0	0.0%
Ages 10 - 13	5	35.7%
Ages 14 - 17	9	64.3%
Over 17	0	0.0%
Total	14	100.0%

3. Youth Served this Fiscal YTD:		
	# YTD	% YTD
Number Served Year-to-Date	30	46%
July 1st # of Participants (Carry-Overs)	16	25%
Number of Admissions	14	22%
Total # of Terminations YTD	26	40%
# of Successful or Satisfactory Completions	20	77%
# of Other Terminations	6	23%
Current # of Participants	14	22%

4. Youth Admitted to Program: Gender		
	# YTD	% YTD
Male	6	42.9%
Female	8	57.1%
Other	0	0.0%
Total	14	100.0%

5. Youth Admitted to Program: Ethnicity		
	# YTD	% YTD
Hispanic or Latino	2	14.3%
Not Hispanic or Latino	12	85.7%
Other	0	0.0%
Total	14	100.0%

6. Youth Admitted to Program: Race		
	# YTD	% YTD
African American/Black	3	20.0%
Asian	0	0.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0.0%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0.0%
Multi-Racial/Other	1	6.7%
White	11	73.3%
Total	15	100%

7. Referral Source for Youth Admitted this Reporting Period		
	# YTD	% YTD
Juvenile Court	9	64.3%
DSS	1	7.1%
School	3	21.4%
SROs	1	7.1%
Mental Health	0	0.0%
Law Enforcement	0	0.0%
Parent/Guardian	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Total	14	100%

8. Legal Status of Youth at Time of Admittance		
	# YTD	% YTD
N/A - No Juvenile Justice Involvement	4	28.6%
Court Counselor Consultation	0	0.0%
SRO/Law Enforcement Diversion	1	7.1%
Vulnerable Juvenile (DJJ involved-under age 10)	0	0.0%
Diversion Plan/Contract	9	64.3%
Petition Filed	0	0.0%
Deferred Prosecution	0	0.0%
Adjudicated Undisciplined Disposition Pending	0	0.0%
Adjudicated Delinquent Disposition Pending	0	0.0%
Protective Supervision	0	0.0%
Probation	0	0.0%
Commitment	0	0.0%
Post Release Supervision	0	0.0%
Continuation Services	0	0.0%
Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ)	0	0.0%
Total	14	100%

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9. Financial report: (July 1 – xx/xx/xx)			
Budget Cost Centers (adapt to fit your budget)	Program Budget	Amount Spent YTD	Remaining Budget
I. Personnel Services	\$90,000	\$52,386	\$37,614
II. Supplies and Materials	\$4,399	\$2,378	\$2,021
III. Current Obligations & Services	\$2,400	\$1,321	\$1,079
IV. Fixed Charges & Other Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
V. Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$96,799	\$56,085	\$40,714

COMMENTS:

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EVIDENCE OF CLIENT PROGRESS / SUCCESSES THIS REPORTING PERIOD:

This reporting period has provided strong evidence of the program's positive impact. One standout success story is An, a former client who completed the program years ago. Since then, she has continued to stay involved—first as a volunteer juror, then as a Lead Peer Juror, and as a Trained Youth Attorney. Her dedication and growth were recognized in a meaningful way when I had the opportunity to write a strong recommendation letter for her, in hopes of helping her secure a summer job at the Tourists stadium. An's journey from client, to volunteer, to leader is a testament to how this program builds confidence, responsibility, and professional skills that extend far beyond its completion.

PROBLEMS / CHALLENGES CONCERNING PROGRAM OPERATIONS:

This reporting period was not without its challenges. Hurricane Helene caused disruptions, though we were able to ensure all clients were accounted for. Transportation also continues to be a struggle—while we provide transportation home after court, many clients have difficulty finding a way to court in the first place. This remains a barrier to full participation, particularly for those without reliable access to transportation.

PROBLEMS / CHALLENGES CONCERNING STUDENT ISSUES:

One of the ongoing challenges we have identified is ensuring proper communication between referring agencies, clients, and their families. Before an intake is scheduled, the referring agency must confirm participation with both the client and their parent. Too often, this critical step is missed, leading to confusion and lack of engagement. To address this, we have added a consent form to the referral paperwork, reinforcing the need for this conversation before intake. This small but important change aims to ensure that all families understand and are prepared for the program before they are officially referred.

REFERRALS / COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN JCPC FUNDED PROGRAMS:

Please see attached - the referral process and collaborations with JCPC funded programs continues to be a success.

OTHER COMMENTS:

Please see the attached document

Report Prepared by: Jamielee Willocks

Date: 2/28/2025

Implementation Report for Teen Court cont:

Evidence of Client Progress and Success:

Another exciting sign of progress came from a senior who began just before Helene, and recently completed the program. Rather than immediately running away from the courthouse (which is always presented as an option upon successful completion), she asked if she could continue volunteering until graduation, and possibly join during the summer. Yes, you absolutely may, is the answer. This is especially significant because, when she first entered the program, she was shy and terrified. Over time, she has gained confidence and self-awareness, which she expressed openly in her interactive evidence-based journal. Her request to stay involved shows how participation in this program leads to real, lasting changes in behavior and attitude. Additionally, in the wake of Hurricane Helene, we successfully accounted for and contacted all clients by October 9th. Every client and family survived this storm, and this effort to account for each family in our programming only reinforced the strength of our support networks in times of crisis.

Other Comments:

During this reporting period, BCTC had a total of 14 adult observers, including five representatives from DJJ, one parent of a volunteer, four staff interns, two staff members, one board member, and one therapist. Notably, this list does not include anyone from Asheville City Schools or Buncombe County Schools.

There has been a noticeable lack of follow-through from community members, school representatives, and stakeholders regarding observation requirements. While this is concerning, it is important to acknowledge the multiple school lockdowns and weather-related closures that have impacted the ability of administrators and SROs to observe proceedings. Teen Court follows the school calendar for weather closings, which has also contributed to scheduling challenges. Additionally, incomplete referrals continue to be an issue. Moving forward, all incomplete referrals will be returned. Ensuring referrals are fully completed before submission is necessary for a smooth intake process and successful client participation.

Another challenge we want to bring attention to is the number of referrals that were sent directly to Teen Court, where contact was attempted but ultimately unsuccessful. These clients were either unreachable or unwilling to participate, and because they were never officially admitted into NC Allies, there is no way to track them. This highlights a larger issue: families who are referred without prior communication from the referring agency are often the least engaged and most likely to fall through the cracks.

Teen Court is not juvenile court—it is a diversion program, and this distinction must be clearly communicated to families before referral. While DJJ has a long intake process, Teen Court is simply asking for one conversation between the referral maker and the family before submitting the referral. This small but crucial step would significantly improve engagement and

success rates. We welcome any guidance on how to improve communication between referring agencies and families to ensure more successful participation and reduce the number of clients lost due to lack of engagement.

Buncombe Alternatives, Inc.



Giving Youth the Chance to Give Back

Hello Everyone,

This is your reminder that Buncombe County Teen Court is scheduled for MONDAY 3/10/25, and we encourage you to attend if you are a School Justice Partner, D.S.S. employee, S.R.O, School Admin, or a stake holder in the community who is wanting to observe this program prior to making a direct referral or wanting to get a jump on starting your School-Based-Teen Court in your school.

All Teen Court hearings are held at 5:00pm, on the fourth floor of the Buncombe County Courthouse.

PLEASE ARRIVE **BEFORE** 5:00pm, the bailiffs will lock the front doors at 5:00pm. Hearings will begin no later than 5:30 and finish no later than 8:00pm.

PLEASE let us know if you plan to attend, or simply come early if you have comments questions or interests in further involvement.

IMPORTANT DATES: March Hearings: 3/10 and 3/24

Monday, March 10th: ATTORNEY TRAINING - PLEASE DRESS ACCORDINGLY!

Adult Judge Hearing: ATTORNEY TRAINING Judge: TBD

Attorney Training: 3/10/25

All training materials will be provided on 3/10.

The BAR exam for Youth Attorneys will be held on 3/24.

Thank you for your continued support of restorative justice, and for your commitment to serving the youth of Buncombe County.

Jamie Lee Willocks

Director of Teen Court Programs

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Pronouns: She/Her

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