

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE CATAWBA COUNTY RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

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

Part I: Risk

The Risk and Needs Assessment Committee reviewed data compiled from the Juvenile Risk Assessment instrument administered by Juvenile Court Counselors after juveniles are referred with a complaint alleging that a delinquent act has occurred and prior to adjudication of the juvenile. The Juvenile Risk Assessment is an instrument used to predict the likelihood of the juvenile being involved in future delinquent behavior. For some youth, some of the individual item ratings may be heavily dependent upon information reported by the juvenile or the parent(s). For these items (*represented by percentages with a star next to them*), there is a likelihood of under-reporting the incidence of a particular behavior and the actual incidence may be higher than suggested by these figures. In those cases, the figure should be interpreted as a measure of the minimum level of occurrence.

County Risk Factor Observations: FY 2016-2017

R1. Age for First Delinquent Offense Alleged in a Complaint. 20% of assessed youth are under age 12 for first delinquent offense (two-year increase trend and higher than the State's rate for the past four years).

R2. Number of undisciplined or Delinquent Referrals at Intake. 51% of assessed youth have one or more prior referrals (two-year increase trend and higher than the State's rate the past two years). 22% have one prior referral (increase from previous year's rate and higher than the State's rate). 19% of assessed youth have 2 or 3 prior referrals (three-year increase trend and higher than the State's rate the past three years). 10% of assessed youth have 4 or more prior referrals (two-year increase trend).

R3. Most Serious Prior Adjudication. 47% of assessed youth have prior adjudications (two-year increase trend but lower than the State's rate). 26% of assessed youth have prior Class 1-3 misdemeanor adjudications (three-year increase trend and higher than the State's rate the past two years). 8% of assessed youth have prior Class F1 felony or A1 misdemeanor adjudication (two-year increase trend). 2% have prior Class A-E Felony adjudication (increase from previous year's rate and higher than the State's rate.).

R4. Prior Assaults. 76% of assessed youth have no prior assaults (increase from the previous year's rate but lower than the State's rate the past two years). 19% of assessed youth have a prior assault without a weapon (decrease from previous year's rate but higher than the State's

rate the past four years). 1% of assessed youth have a prior assault without a weapon, inflicting serious injury (increase from previous year's rate).

R6. Known Use – Alcohol, Illegal Drugs.** (prior 12 months) 28% of assessed youth have known substance use (three-year increase trend). 15% have known use and need assessment (three-year increase trend but lower than the State's rate the past four years).

R7. School Behavior Problems. (prior 12 months) 76% of assessed youth have school behavior problems. 69% of assessed youth have moderate to serious school behavior problems (decrease from the previous year's rate). 7% have minor school behavior problems (increase from previous year's rate).

R8. Relationship with Peers. 54% of assessed youth lack pro-social peers and/or sometimes regularly associates with others involved in delinquent activity (increase from the previous year's rate).

**Under reported data.

Part II. Needs

The Risk and Needs Assessment Committee also reviewed data from the Juvenile Needs Assessment instrument administered by Juvenile Court Counselors prior to court disposition of a juvenile. The Juvenile Needs Assessment is an instrument used to examine a youth's needs in the various domains of his life: The Individual Domain, The School Domain, The Peer Domain, and the Community Domain. This instrument was designed to detect service intervention needs as an aid in service planning. As with the Juvenile Risk Assessment, some of the individual item ratings may be heavily dependent upon information reported by the juvenile or the parent(s). For these items (*represented by percentages with a star next to them*), there is a likelihood of under-reporting the incidence of a particular behavior and the actual incidence may be higher than suggested by these figures. In those cases, the figure should be interpreted as a measure of the minimum level of occurrence.

County Elevated Needs Observations: FY 2016-2017

Y1. Peer Relationships. 41% of assessed youth sometimes to regularly associates with delinquent peers (decrease from previous year's rate).

Y2. School Behavior/Adjustment. 72% of assessed youth have school behavior problems (increase from previous year's rate). 30% of assessed youth have serious school behavior problems (increase from previous year's rate).

Y4. Substance Abuse within the past 12 months. **73% of assessed youth have no substance abuse issues (increase from previous year's rate and higher than the State's rate the past four years). 26% of assessed youth have substance use or abuse issues and assessment or treatment needed.

Y6. Abuse/Neglect History. 20% of assessed youth have history/evidence of abuse or neglect (increase from previous year's rate and higher than the State's rate). 3% of assessed youth are victim of abuse but with no support (two-year increase trend).

Y7. Sexual Behaviors during Past 12 months. 20% of assessed youth have sexual behavior issues (higher than the State's rate the past four years). 7% of assessed youth need assessment (increase from previous year's rate and higher than the State's rate).

Y8. Mental Health Needs. 27% of assessed youth need more mental health assessment or treatment (two-year increase trend). 74% have mental health needs (increase from the previous year's rate and higher than the State's rate the past two years).

F2. Family Supervision Skills. 55% of assessed youth have parents with marginal to inadequate family supervision skills (decrease from previous year's rate and higher than the State's rate the past four years).

F4. Family Substance Abuse Within the Past Three Years by Household Member. **12% of assessed youth have family members with alcohol/drug abuse issues (increase from the previous year's rate).

F5. Family Criminality. 33% of assessed youth have family members with criminal history (increase from previous year's rate). 7% of assessed youth have family member actively under court supervision or gang-involved (increase from previous year's rate).

**Under reported data.

Part III. Summary of the Existing Community Resources

Structured Activities

- Experiential - 4-H Activities (restrictions and financial barrier)
- Private Recreational Programs - (restrictions and financial barrier)
- Parks & Recreational Programs – including Optimist Programs (restrictions and financial barrier)
- Mentoring - Council on Adolescents Lunch Buddy program (restrictions) and Young People of Integrity (restrictions); Mt. Zion Mentoring Program
- Teen Up / Links: restricted
- Tutoring/Academic Enhancement-Hickory High School and Middle School-access limited
- Parent Family Skill Building - Family Guidance Center (restrictions and financial barrier) would not be available if not JCPC funded
- Boys and Girls Scouts- (restrictions & financial barrier)
- Boys and Girls Clubs Salvation Army age restriction to age 15; financial barriers
- Quest and Communities in Schools – restricted, school-based
- Conflict Resolution Center Lifeskills –(restrictions and financial barrier) would not be available if not JCPC funded
- Vocational services- via the school systems-access is limited

- Apprenticeship programs-via the school systems – access is limited
- Private After-school Programs- financial barriers
- Kids at Work Program- would not be available if not JCPC funded

Restorative Services

- Restitution/Community Services (Project Challenge) services would not be available if not JCPC funded
- Mediation Conflict Resolution – services would not be available if not JCPC funded

Community Day Programming

- Alternative Schools restricted

Assessment Services

- Psychological Assessment - Catawba Department of Social Services/Family Net – (restricted to DSS-involved youth only)
- Private Sector – funding restriction; time restraint
- The Cognitive Connection – non-Medicaid eligibility only available if JCPC funded (restrictions and financial barrier)
- Repay Program

Clinical Treatment

- Mental Health Services Critical Access Behavioral Health Agencies and the Private/Public Sector Agencies – financial barriers
- Home Base Family Counseling : In-Home Therapeutic Services- Intensive & Multi-Systemic Therapy- financial barriers
- Alexander Youth Network – financial barrier
- Substance Abuse Assessment & Treatment- The Cognitive Connection - age restricted and financial barriers to services for non-Medicaid eligible youth, only available through JCPC funding
- Sex Offender Specific Treatment –Repay - would not be available if not JCPC funded
- Counseling: School based mental health - restrictions
- Child Advocacy and Protection Center – non offending parent, restricted to victims
- Mobile crisis – Partners Behavioral Healthcare
- AMI Kids – restricted to Level II youth & adjudicated youth
- Family Centered Treatment – limited and restricted would not be available if not JCPC funded

Residential

- Alexander Youth Network (restrictions and financial barrier)
- Therapeutic Foster Care - Private Sector - restrictions
- West Care – female short term residential facility-restricted; level II adjudicated youth
- Sipes Orchard home – restricted and limited
- Eckerd Residential – restricted and limited to level II males
- Buncombe Crisis – Multipurpose Crisis and Group Home – limited to court-involved youth
- Macon Multipurpose - limited to court-involved youth

- Forsyth Crisis – Multipurpose Crisis and Group Home – limited to court-involved youth
- County Group Homes – restricted, must be in DSS custody

Part IV. Summary of Gaps and Barriers in the Continuum of Services

Structured Activities

- Parent Family Skill Building -service would not exist without JCPC funding
- Tutoring/Academic Programs – hard to access, limitations
- Youth Interpersonal Skill Building would not be available if not JCPC funded
- Mentoring programs – limited and restricted.

Restorative Services

- Restitution/Community Services would not be available if not JCPC funded.
- Mediation/Conflict Resolution Services would not be available if not JCPC funded
- Teen Court – not available

Community Day Programming

- Structured day programs not available
- Alternative School –limited and restricted

Assessment Services

- Psychological Assessment Services are a priority. Assessments within the State policy-required 21 days for court involved youth would not be available if not JCPC funded.

Clinical Treatment

- Substance Abuse for JCPC youth is needed; would be difficult to access plus there would be financial barriers if JCPC did not fund.
- Sex Offender Assessment/Treatment Services – difficult to access plus financial barriers exist if JCPC did not fund
- Counseling for youth and families is needed. There are financial barriers plus programs are difficult to access.
- Home based and multi-systemic treatment is needed; financial restrictions.

Residential

- Group Home services are limited
- Therapeutic Foster Care is limited
- Emergency Shelter is limited

Part V. Proposed Priority Services for Funding

The committee compared the services needed to address the elevated Juvenile Risk Factors and Juvenile Needs with services currently available in the community. Services which are currently available in the community and sufficient to meet the needs of court involved youth or those youth most at risk for court involvement are not considered a priority for JCPC funding.

The Committee proposes that the following services in ranked order be approved as the funding priorities for FY 2018-2019:

1. Psychological services/comprehensive assessments
2. Substance Abuse assessment and treatment
3. Counseling
4. Restitution/Community Service
5. Sexual Offender assessment and treatment
6. Family Skill building
7. Interpersonal Skill building
8. Mediation
9. Mentoring
10. Structured Day
11. Group Home/Residential services
12. Temporary Shelter
13. Therapeutic Foster Care
14. Experiential
15. Vocational
16. Tutoring
17. Teen Court