



North Carolina Department of Public Safety
Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

Roy Cooper, Governor
Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

W. David Guice, Chief Deputy Secretary
William L. Lassiter, Deputy Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairs of House Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

FROM: Erik A. Hooks, Secretary *E.A.H.*
W. David Guice, Chief Deputy Secretary *W.D.G.*

RE: Annual Evaluation of Community Programs

DATE: March 1, 2017

Pursuant to G.S. 143B-811, *The Department of Public Safety shall conduct an annual evaluation of the community programs and of multipurpose group homes. In conducting the evaluation of each of these, the Department shall consider whether participation in each program results in a reduction of court involvement among juveniles. The Department shall also determine whether the programs are achieving the goals and objectives of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, S.L. 1998-202.*

The Department shall report the results of the evaluation to the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety by March 1 of each year. (2013-360, s. 16D.1.)

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**Annual Evaluation of Community Programs and Multipurpose Group Homes Report
Submitted March 1, 2017**

**Submitted by:
Department of Public Safety
Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice
Juvenile Community Programs Section**

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Section I

Introduction

Section I – Introduction

This report is required by General Statute § 143B-811 which states:

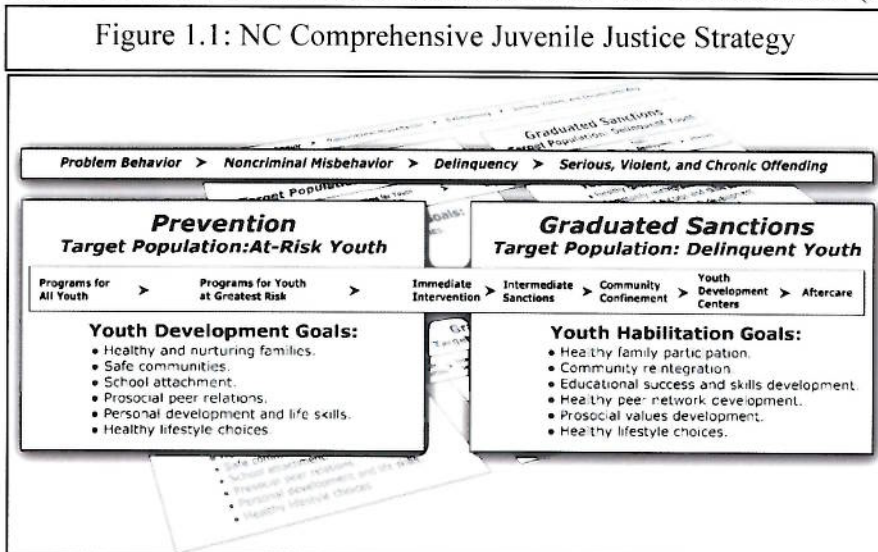
The Department of Public Safety shall conduct an annual evaluation of the community programs and of multipurpose group homes. In conducting the evaluation of each of these, the Department shall consider whether participation in each program results in a reduction of court involvement among juveniles. The Department shall also determine whether the programs are achieving the goals and objectives of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, S.L. 1998-202.

The Department shall report the results of the evaluation to the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety by March 1 of each year. (2013-360, s. 16D.1.)

In FY 11-12, the Department developed and implemented new evidence-based contractual services for youth receiving a Level II disposition. After five (5) years of data collection and analysis, the Department is pleased to announce that these new contractual services have accomplished the goals set forth by the North Carolina General Assembly through targeting those juveniles most at-risk, providing a cost efficient alternative to youth development centers and detention centers, and reducing the number of juveniles likely to reoffend.

Targeted Approach

Figure 1.1 below illustrates how Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) funded programs form the



foundation of North Carolina’s comprehensive juvenile justice strategy, which allows judges, court counselors, district attorneys, and law enforcement to have access to the right dispositional alternatives, for the right child, at the right time. State contractual services fill the gaps in local communities where JCPCs dollars are not abundant enough to serve higher risk juveniles who need intensive services in order to protect the public and to habilitate the juvenile. Having these separate

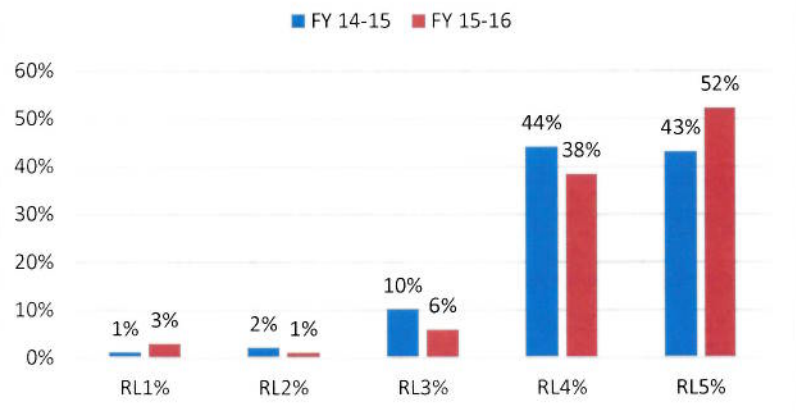
funding sources is imperative to ensure youth are not forced deeper into the system which comes at a far greater cost to the state.

The Department of Public Safety’s Juvenile Community Programs Section contracts with a number of providers engaged to provide a variety of programming as allowed through **SESSION LAW 2011-391, SECTION 41**. These contracts and JCPC-endorsed programs are designed to target youth who are at greater risk of further involvement in the juvenile justice system including commitment to a state-operated youth development center. These programs specifically target youth who have received a Level II disposition or demonstrate heightened risk factors for recidivism. Their risk scores, obtained from the North Carolina Assessment of Juvenile Risk for Juvenile Offending (NCAR) are used as a predictor for recidivism and prompts us to provide a systematic response appropriate that youth’s or juvenile’s level of risk.

The Department has been utilizing NCAR tool since 2001, and though the risk assessment instrument had been validated, it had not been re-normed since the inception of its use. In response to the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission’s (SPAC) report, *The Effectiveness of Programs Funded by Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils*, released on May 1, 2015 and the recommendations made therein, the department conducted an internal validation study of the assessment tool for the purpose of re-norming the instrument.

Prior to this re-norming, a juvenile’s risk for re-offending score ranges were identified as 3 distinct categories of risk: Low (0-7 pts), Medium (8-14 pts) or High (15+ pts), however, with the completion of this re-norming process, risk levels will now reflect 5 distinct risk levels (RL) to more accurately reflect the risk of a juvenile recidivating: RL1 (lowest), RL2, RL3, RL4, and RL5 (highest). These newly re-normed groupings are statistically sound in their ability to predict the risk of reoffending based on the internal study. The re-normed instrument now more accurately reflects the risk for reoffending for youth assessed. To demonstrate this, Graph 1.1 compares re-normed risk score percentage totals for FY 14-15 and FY 15-16, clearly indicating a shift toward serving higher risk youth.

Graph 1.1 Comparison of Risk Level for Community Programs Served Youth

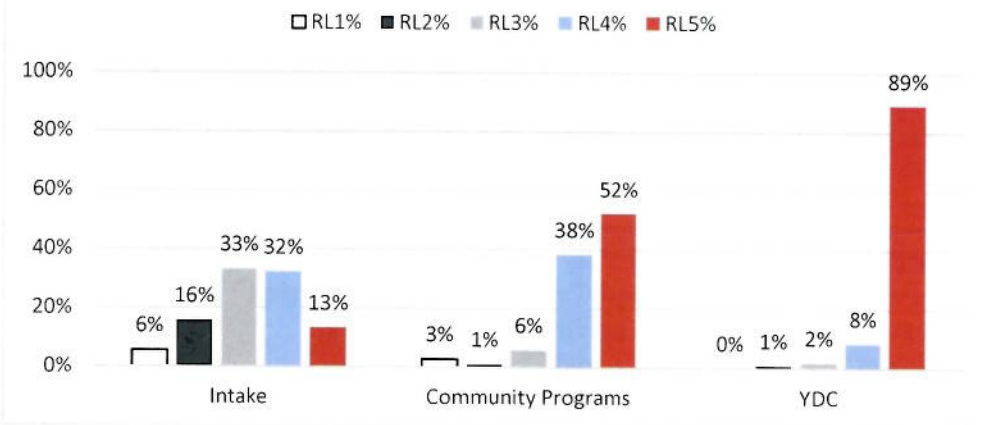


Graph 1.2 below compares the levels of risk for youth at Intake (JJ entry), at admission to a Community

Programs contracted service, and at admission to a youth development center (committed juvenile). Data clearly indicates that the programs highlighted in this report are serving those youth with higher risk for recidivating. In fact, the vast majority (96%) of youth served by these programs were at medium to high risk (RL3, RL4 and RL5) for reoffending, meaning these programs are working with a youth population who without these services would be expected to reoffend.

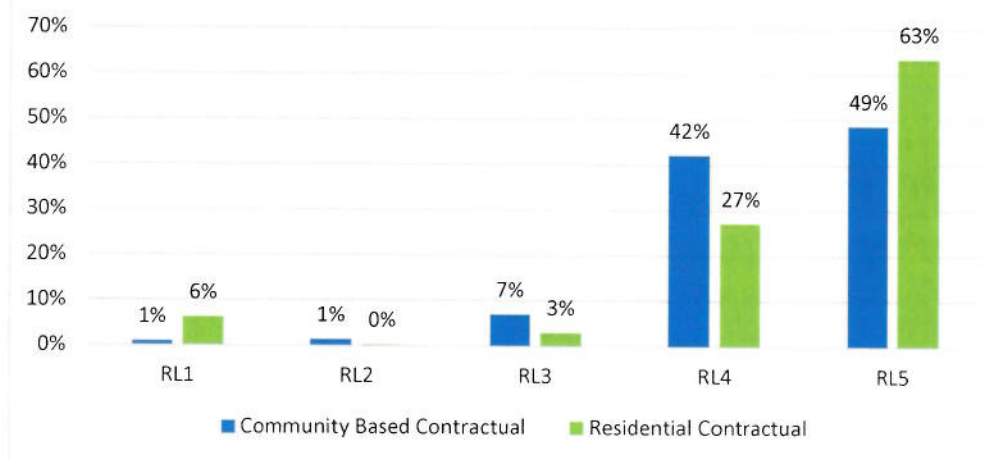
The Department recognizes that youth receiving a Level II disposition may have varying levels of risk for reoffending. Although the majority of youth risk scores were considered medium to high risk for reoffending, there were some youth (4%) that presented with a low risk factors for reoffending, but instead, had high need indicators for specific services. The Department chooses to take a comprehensive approach by matching services to not only to the youth’s level of risk for reoffending but to the youth’s needs indicators as well.

Graph 1.2 FY 15-16 Risk Level of Juveniles at Intake, Community Program Admission and YDC Commitment



The overall approach, however, has been to serve as many youth who fall within the medium to high risk range by matching their service needs to the most appropriate service, either to cost efficient/community-based contractual services or residential programming, reserving the use of this option for those juveniles on the high end of the risk spectrum. Graph 1.3 below illustrates this prioritization.

Graph 1.3 Risk Level per Program Type: FY 15-16



Cost Efficient Alternative

Through the implementation of these Level II contractual services, the Department has been able to achieve significant cost savings as compared to youth development centers. Table 1.1 below compares the average cost of serving youth in a Level II contracted service (residential and community-based) versus serving a youth in a youth development center for FY 15-16.

Table 1.1 Cost Comparison - Contractual Services versus Annual Youth Development Center Cost

Program Cost vs. Youth Development Center Cost	Cost per Child
Level II Community-Based Program: JCPC-Endorsed Level II Programs and AMIkids Community-Based	\$4,522
Level II Residential Program: Bridges Crisis and Assessment Center, Insight Crisis and Assessment Center, Eckerd Short-Term Residential Programs, WestCare Female Residential, Multipurpose Group Homes, Craven Transitional Home and North Hills Transitional Home	\$25,440
Youth Development Center	\$122,445

With more emphasis on programming designed to serve the medium to high risk/high needs of adjudicated youth, the Level II contractual services continue to play an important role in helping reduce the number of youth development center commitments and detention admissions for the last five (5) years. Table 1.2 below indicates how the number of youth development center commitments and detention admissions are impacted by the Department’s efforts to instead serve youth in Level II contractual services.

Table 1.2: Contractual Services Effect on Youth Development Center and Detention Center Admissions

Program or Facility Type	FY 12-13	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	FY 15-16
Level II Contractual Services	1,581	1,618	1,319	1,242
Youth Development Centers	208	219	186	231
Detention Admissions	3,412	3,292	3,253	3,257

Recidivism Summary

Table 1.3 below reflects youth served by these new contractual services in FY 14-15 and FY 15-16 and how many incurred additional adjudications and/or convictions. This analysis showed 17% of those juveniles served by a Juvenile Community Programs Section contractual service who could be followed for a full six months post-discharge received an additional adjudication or an adult conviction and 26% received an additional adjudication or an adult conviction at 12 months post-discharge.

Table 1.3: Juvenile Community Programs – Recidivism

All Community Programs, Recidivism		
Post-Discharge Time Frame	0 to 6 Months	0 to 12 Months
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6 and 12 Months	1,467	1,049
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	167	161
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	11%	15%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	84	116
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	6%	11%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	248	271
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	17%	26%

In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2010/11*, 36.0% of juveniles who were both adjudicated and disposed received an additional adjudication or conviction within 36 months. Although the time span for the SPAC's study was longer than the recidivism study conducted by the Department, the SPAC recidivism study shows that the average juvenile will recidivate within the first 12 months.

Conclusions

Results indicated in this report demonstrate that the effort made by the Department over five years ago to devote more dollars to serve juveniles with more significant risk and needs factors with evidence-based services has been very successful. These contractual services have proven they are targeting the appropriate youth, providing cost efficient services, and helping reduce the number of youth development center and detention admissions.

Although the Department recognizes the accomplishments of these programs, there are additional programming accomplishments that were realized during the 2015-16 fiscal year with the development of three new Crisis and Assessment Centers: Insight Crisis and Assessment Center, which opened in November 2015 located on the former Dillon Youth Development Center campus; Bridges Crisis and Assessment Center, located on the former Forsyth County Detention Center site, which opened in April 2016; and the Western Area Multipurpose Crisis and Assessment Center located at the former Buncombe County Detention Center, which began serving youth in October, 2016. The development of programming at two of these sites (Dillon and Buncombe Detention Center) was in strict adherence to the Juvenile Justice Facilities Strategic Plan, April, 2014. Additionally, Community Programs has been

committed to fully integrating all programming supported by the section, including all community-based and residential contractual programming into the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP) process, with SPEP scores projected to be produced at the end of the 16-17 fiscal year.

The following sections are devoted to the variety of contracted programs, each including a summary evaluation for FY 15-16. The Juvenile Community Programs Section continues to plan, implement, and evaluate the evidence-based practices delivered by our community partners. Continued development of strategically placed community-based services, multi-purpose group homes and transitional living homes to support reentry efforts should continue the positive trend of reducing future delinquent and criminal behavior. The goal is to establish a fully comprehensive approach that includes pre-placement and post release/ transition services to those juveniles that are more deeply involved in the juvenile justice system.

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Section II

JCPC-Endorsed Level II Programs

JCPC-Endorsed Level II Programs

Overview

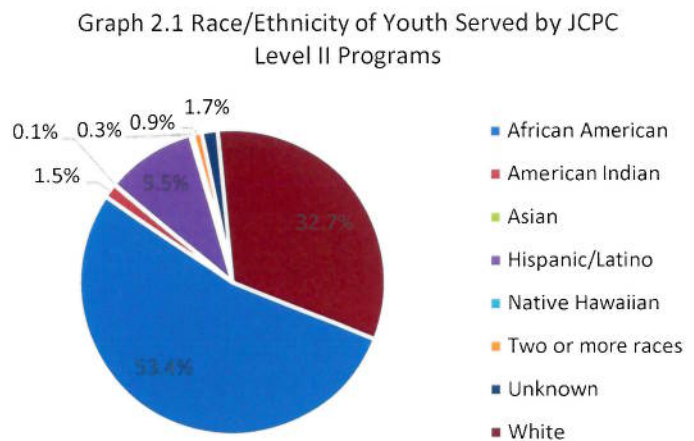
Five years ago the Department focused on providing a mechanism by which local communities could address gaps in services for Level II adjudicated youth. To this end, the Department established an annual Request for Proposals (RFP) process that engages the local JCPC and its stakeholders with seeking those services best matching the needs of this targeted Level II youth population. Request for Proposals are annually designed to identify these high risk youth and their criminogenic needs and match them with evidence-based, best practice models to effectively reduce juvenile delinquency. This practice annually continues and serves to address gaps in services for Level II youth. Services provided often serve youth within multiple counties within a judicial district, demonstrating the collaborative efforts of multiple Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils in order to build the local juvenile justice service continuum. The Community Programs Section continues to embrace the local community in its effort to develop effective programming to meet the needs of these targeted youth through the JCPC-Endorsed Level II programs.

Number of Youth Served

JCPC-Endorsed Level II programs served 243 youth during FY 2015-2016 and Table 2.1 indicates the number of youth served by JCPC-Endorsed Level II program type. Graph 2.1 represents the percentage of youth served by JCPC-Endorsed Level II programs by race/ethnicity.

Table 2.1: Youth served by Program Type

Program Type	Youth Served
Experiential Skill Building	74
Juvenile Structured Day	57
Restitution/Community Service	49
Home Based Family Counseling	46
Family Counseling	12
Sex Offender Treatment	5
Total	243



Cost Comparison

Table 2.2: The cost per child comparison for JCPC-Endorsed Level II programs versus annual youth development center cost.

Program vs Youth Development Center	Cost
FY 15-16 JCPC-Endorsed Level II Programs	\$3,321
FY 15-16 Youth Development Center	\$122,445

Recidivism

This study measured the recidivism rates for youth completing programs in FY14-15 and FY15-16. Of the 361 youth who could be measured at 6 months post-discharge 49 or 14% received a new adjudication and 17 or 5% received a new adult conviction. Total recidivism at 6 months post discharge was 18%.

There were 286 youth who were served by these programs that could be measured at 12 months. Fifty-six (56) or 20% received a new adjudication and 27 or 9% received a new adult conviction. Total recidivism as 12 months post-discharge is 29%. See Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: JCPC Endorsed Level II Programs - Recidivism

JCPC Level II Dispositional Alternatives, Recidivism		
Post-Discharge Time Frame	0 to 6 Months	0 to 12 Months
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6 and 12 Months	361	286
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	49	56
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	14%	20%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	17	27
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	5%	9%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions ¹	66	82
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	18%	29%

In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission’s (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2010/11*, 36.0% of juveniles who were both adjudicated and disposed received an additional adjudication or conviction within 36 months. Although the time span for the SPAC’s study was longer than the recidivism study conducted by the Department, the SPAC recidivism study shows that the average juvenile will recidivate within the first 12 months.

¹ 1 juvenile had both a juvenile adjudication and an adult conviction in the 12 month period

Conclusion

The report demonstrates that during its fifth year of operations JCPC-Endorsed Level II programs were able to serve a significant number of high risk/high needs youth in their home communities in a cost efficient manner versus placement in a youth development center. In addition, the youth served had a lower recidivism rate while achieving better overall outcomes.

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Section III
Community-Based Contractual Programs

AMIkids North Carolina Family Services – Community-Based Services

Overview

The Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice contracts with AMIkids North Carolina Family Services, Inc. (AMIkids) to provide Functional Family Therapy (FFT). FFT is an evidence-based program for adjudicated juveniles and their families serving 89 of North Carolina's 100 counties. In October 2015 the expansion of FFT services in Central and Western regions resulted in the addition of two additional catchment areas for a total of five (5). FFT offices are strategically located in Durham, Greenville, Morganton, Wilmington, and Winston-Salem with one office in each of catchment areas.

FFT is an in-home family and community-based model that promotes the use of strong motivational and engagement techniques which emphasize behavioral change and skill building. Considerable research has shown that FFT substantially increases youth and family communication, interaction, and problem-solving, while promoting involvement with positive peers and activities. In addition, this evidence-based model has been shown to improve relationships with teachers and the involved youth's commitment to school. Overall, the family unit is strengthened with a renewed sense of hope and expectation. FFT significantly reduces the frequency and intensity of family conflicts that are often characteristic in families with delinquent youth. In short, FFT has shown to be effective in supporting positive change in the lives of delinquent youth and their families.

All FFT therapists hold a minimum of a master's degree in a licensable human service field such as Counseling, Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy, or Social Work. All FFT therapists must complete forty hours of certification training through FFT LLC, participate in weekly clinical supervision from their certified FFT site supervisor to ensure model fidelity, and receive adherence and competency scores to help them identify areas of growth.

Youth Profile

AMIkids delivers FFT to male and female juveniles who are at medium and high risk of reoffending, while exception is made for some Level I youth on a case-by-case basis with high needs indicators. Typically, youth were adjudicated for person and/or property offenses and have often been previously served through one or more other types of community-based intervention programs. A majority of youth referred to FFT presented school disciplinary problems that resulted in both short and long-term suspensions and family discord. Other frequently noted characteristics of these youth included substance abuse, gang involvement, and mental health diagnosis.

Service Capacity

AMIkids has the capacity to serve 190 youth and their families at any given time (34 within the East, Central, and West catchment areas as well as 44 within the South and Piedmont). AMIkids has the capacity to serve 570 youth and their families in a year. Per FFT standards, the average length of service for each youth/family enrolled in FFT is estimated at 4-5 months and the average number of sessions that each youth/family are expected to receive is 12 to 14.

Length of service data:

- Average number of sessions for completed cases: 13.7
- Average length of service for completed cases: 128 days

Referrals received in FY 15-16:

- Total number of referrals from 27 judicial districts: 477

Measurable Objectives:

- 80% of youth terminated successfully or satisfactorily completed services as intended by the program design
- 82% of youth terminated showed improvement in replacement behaviors and targeted skills identified in the individual service plan
- 81% of youth reduced specific problem behaviors presented at referral and targeted in the individualized service plan

Cost Comparison

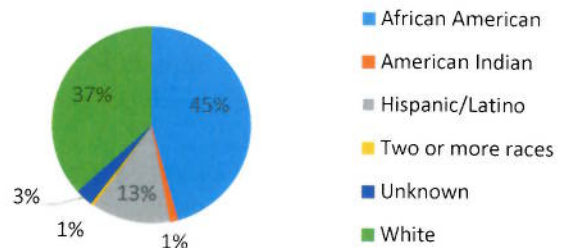
Table 3.1: The cost per child comparison for AMIkids North Carolina Family Services versus youth development centers.

Program vs. Youth Development Center	Cost
FY 15-16 AMIkids North Carolina Family Services	\$5,083
FY 15-16 Youth Development Center	\$122,445

Demographic Information about the Youth Served during FY 15-16

- Total number of youth served by the program in FY 15-16 was 521
- The average age of the youth served in the program was 15.4
- 417 or 80% of youth served were male
- 104 or 20% of youth served were female

Graph 3.1 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by AMIkids North Carolina Family Services



Outputs and Process Measures

- 77.5% of those admitted into the program successfully completed the full course of FFT
- 96% of completed cases in which the youth remains in the home upon termination
- 94% of completed cases in which the youth was enrolled in an educational program or working
- 84.5% of all completed cases in which the youth acquired no probation violations during program

Recidivism

FY 14-15 and FY 15-16 recidivism data compiled by the Department shows that of the 635 youth who had been in post-discharged status from AMIkids for more than six months, 58 youth or 9% had received a new adjudication and 31 youth or 5% had received a new conviction. The total recidivism rate at six months post discharge was 14%.

At 12 months post discharge there were 412 youth who could be analyzed for this report. Forty-nine youth (49) or 12% received a new adjudication and 38 youth or 9% received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at 12 months post-discharge was 20%. See Table 3.2.

Table 3.2: AMIkids North Carolina Family Services Recidivism

North Carolina Family Services (AMI), Recidivism		
Post-Discharge Time Frame	0 to 6 Months	0 to 12 Months
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6 and 12 Months	635	412
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	58	49
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	9%	12%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	31	38
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	5%	9%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions ^{2, 3}	88	84
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	14%	20%

In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission’s (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2010/11*, 36.0% of juveniles who were both adjudicated and disposed received an additional adjudication or conviction within 36 months. Analysis from the SPAC report indicates that youth assessed as medium to high risk are much more likely to recidivate. Although the time span for the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission’s study was longer than the recidivism study conducted by the Department, the SPAC recidivism study shows that the average juvenile will recidivate within the first 12 months.

Conclusions

The findings reflected in this report demonstrate that AMIkids North Carolina Family Services, through its delivery of the evidence-based service model of Functional Family Therapy, has successfully expanded services in the Western and Central regions of the state. AMIkids met their target goals by 91% which falls strongly within FFT, LLC standards. Outcome and recidivism data at 6 and 12 months post discharge reflects very positive results with 86% and 80% of youth having no new adjudications or convictions.

² 1 juvenile had both a juvenile adjudication and an adult conviction in the 6 month period

³ 3 juveniles had both a juvenile adjudication and an adult conviction in the 12 month period

Section IV
Residential Contractual Programs

Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers

Overview

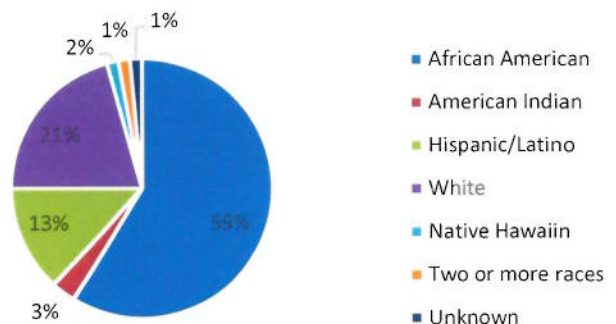
The North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice introduced a new short-term residential services model during FY 15-16 as part of the Department's continuum of services. The Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers (JCAC) are strategically located in the Central, Piedmont, and Western areas of the state. The Insight JCAC is located in Butner and opened in November 2015, while the Bridges JCAC is located in Winston-Salem and opened in late April 2016. These centers provide a comprehensive clinical assessment with the primary goal of matching the youth to the most appropriate services in their community. The assessment takes place under the supervision of a Licensed Psychologist and licensed clinical case managers. The length of stay ranges between 14 and 30 days.

The Juvenile Assessment Centers serve Level II offenders between the ages of 10 and 17. Some exceptions are made for offenders that are not in the Level II category. The services provided by the JCAC include a systematic evaluation with testing in the areas of education, behavior, personality, and intelligence. As indicated, additional testing is provided in particular areas such as sexual predation, substance abuse, and trauma. Testing information is combined with information obtained through the daily living aspects of the program. This combination allows for a more complete look at the youths strengths, areas of concern, and goals. At discharge the youth, family, and court counselor are provided a comprehensive and user-friendly evaluation report accompanied by clear and actionable recommendations. The facilities provides a structured environment including recreation, school, meals, individual rooms, group work, socialization skills, and counseling.

Demographics for youth served in FY 15-16

- 100% of youth served were under court supervision 68 youth were served in FY 15-16
- 14.5 was the average age of youth served in the Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers
- 70% of youth served were male and 30% female
- The average length of stay for youth was 31 days
- Out of 56 discharged youth, 91% were successful discharges

Graph 4.1 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by Crisis and Assessment Centers



Cost Comparison

Table 4.1: The cost per child comparison for crisis and assessment centers versus youth development centers.

Program vs. Youth Development Center	Cost
FY 15-16 Crisis and Assessment Centers	\$25,644
FY 15-16 Youth Development Center	\$122,445

Recidivism

FY 14-15 and FY 15-16 recidivism data shows that of the 55 youth who had been in post-discharged status from Crisis and Assessment Centers for more than six months, 5 youth or 9% received a new adjudication. The total recidivism rate at six months post discharge was 9%.

There were only 4 youth in the community for 12 months or more post discharge from a Crisis and Assessment Center. The sample size was too small to demonstrate a statistical significance effecting the recidivism rate. See Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Crisis and Assessment Center Recidivism

Crisis and Assessment Center, Recidivism	
Post-Discharge Time Frame	0 to 6 Months
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6 or 12 Months	55
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	5
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	9%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	0
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	0%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	5
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	9%

In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission’s (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2010/11*, 36.0% of juveniles who were both adjudicated and disposed received an additional adjudication or conviction within 36 months. This is the best comparison available, the subset includes youth with varied adjudication levels. Analysis from the SPAC report indicates that youth assessed as medium to high risk are much more likely to recidivate. Although the time horizon for the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission’s study was longer than the recidivism study conduct by the Department, the SPAC recidivism study shows that the average juvenile will recidivate within the first 12 months.

Conclusions

Crisis and assessment centers provide an effective and cost efficient alternative to detention. The recidivism results are extremely positive given the risk levels of the youth being served in an out-of-home placement for a period of upwards to 30 days.

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Eckerd Short-Term Residential Programs

Overview

FY 15-16 marked the fifth year of a contractual partnership with Eckerd to provide short-term residential programming as a Level II court ordered disposition. Eckerd's residential program model offers a complete rehabilitative experience delivered in an average of 145 days to adjudicated male youth, ages 13 to 17, referred by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. These services are delivered on two campuses: Candor, located in Montgomery County, and Boomer, located in Wilkes County.

Eckerd's short-term residential treatment concept combines promising and evidence-based practices with a strong family transition component. Intensive, short-term services include individualized treatment and academic plans that combine formal and experiential education, vocational education, community service, behavioral health, and family counseling designed to address the youth's behavioral challenges through a strength-based approach. Youth also receive accredited education on-site and work together in small group settings with assigned counselors.

Youth Profile

All referrals made to these short-term residential programs are males possessing a Level II disposition and assessed as medium or high risk, and defined as serious, chronic juvenile offenders. Typically these youth have had multiple adjudications for person and property offenses and have received multiple community-based interventions. These youth also have histories of significant school discipline problems, often resulting in short and long-term suspensions. Other indicators found in these youth include histories of substance abuse, gang involvement, unmet mental health needs, and family discord.

Service Capacity

The Eckerd campuses at Candor and Boomer serve 64 youth at a time and approximately 180 youth annually. Both campuses are designed to serve juveniles referred statewide—Eckerd Boomer serves primarily those youth referred from the piedmont and western region counties while Eckerd Candor serves primarily those counties located in the central and eastern region of the state.

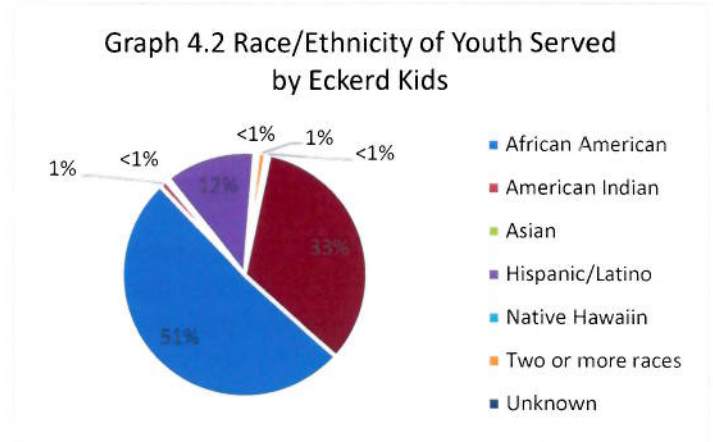
Cost Comparison

Table 4.3: The cost per child comparison for Eckerd Short-Term Residential services versus Youth Development Centers.

Program vs. Youth Development Center	Cost
FY 15-16 Eckerd Short-Term Residential	\$24,081
FY 15-16 Youth Development Centers	\$122,445

Demographic information about Youth Served for FY 14-15

- 100% of youth served were under court supervision and received a Level II disposition by the court.
- 201 youth were served in FY 15-16
- 143 youth were discharged in FY 14-15 of which 76% completed the program successfully
- 187 of the 201 youth served were between the ages of 14-17



Outcome Data for Youth Exiting in FY 15-16

Academic Growth

The majority of youth served by Eckerd in FY 15-16 achieved academic progress through experiential learning. Eckerd administers the STAR Reading and Math Assessment as a way to measure academic progress in reading and math. Youth are given a pre-test upon their arrival and post-test at their completion. For youth successfully completing the program in FY 15-16, results show an average increase in reading scores of 1.8 grade levels and an average increase in math scores of 2.7 grade levels. See Table 4.4. These are youth that completed the program successfully, and at intake, presented below average in scoring.

Table 4.4 Academic Growth –STAR Reading and Math Assessment Average Test Score

Subject	Average Grade Level at Intake	Average Grade Level at Exit	Average Grade Level Improvement
Reading	5.6	7.4	1.8
Mathematics	6.1	8.8	2.7

Mental Health Gains

Mental Health gains are measured by The Youth Outcome Questionnaire – Self Report (YOQ - SR) a brief 64-item self-report measure of treatment progress for adolescents (ages 12 – 18) receiving mental health intervention. The YOQ-SR is meant to track actual change in functioning as opposed to assigning diagnoses. The YOQ-SR is completed at intake, at discharge, and as needed throughout the course of services. The instrument domains address intrapersonal distress, somatic complaints, interpersonal relations, social problems, behavioral dysfunction and suicidal ideation. The YOQ has very strong reliability with a .79-.84 test/retest rate (OQ Analyst, 2007). Of those youth successfully completing the program in FY 15-16, 97% showed mental health gains. These are youth that completed the program successfully who at the time of intake presented in the clinical range.

Social Skill Gains

Social skills gains are measured by the Social Skill Improvement System (SSIS). This instrument, by Pearson Assessments, is a pre/post measure of social skills (interpersonal behaviors that help the individual in society), normed by age and gender. The SSIS assesses both positive and problem social skills behavior. Specific categories assessed are as follows: (1) Social Skills which include cooperation, empathy, assertion, self-control, responsibility, communication, and engagement, and (2) Problem Behaviors including externalizing behavior (aggression), hyperactivity/inattention, bullying, and internalizing behavior (sadness, anxiety). This instrument serves a dual purpose of (1) providing important structured feedback for individual service plan development, and (2) providing an outcome assessment instrument to gauge the success of wraparound services rendered. Of those youth who successfully completed the Eckerd Short-Term Residential programs, 93% showed social skills gains. These are the youth that completed the program successfully, while at the time of intake initially presented with below average scoring in Social Skills.

Recidivism

FY 14-15 and FY 15-16 recidivism data shows that of the 296 youth who had been in post-discharged status from Eckerd Short-Term Residential for more than six months, 36 youth or 12% received a new adjudication and 23 youth or 8% received a new conviction. The total recidivism rate at six months post discharge was 20%.

At 12 months post discharge there were 237 youth who could be analyzed for this report. Thirty-eight (38) youth or 16% received a new adjudication and 33 youth or 14% received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at 12 months post-discharge was 30%. See Table 4.5.

Table 4.5: Eckerd Short-Term Residential – Recidivism

Eckerd Short-Term Residential, Recidivism		
Post-Discharge Time Frame	0 to 6 Months	0 to 12 Months
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6, or 12 Months	296	237
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	36	38
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	12%	16%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	23	33
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	8%	14%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions ^{4,5}	58	70
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	20%	30%

In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2010/11*, 36.0% of juveniles who were both adjudicated and disposed received an additional adjudication or conviction within 36 months. Analysis from the SPAC report indicates that youth assessed as medium to high risk are much more likely to recidivate. Although the time span for the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's study was longer than the

⁴ 1 juvenile had both a juvenile adjudication and an adult conviction in the 6-month period

⁵ 1 juvenile had both a juvenile adjudication and an adult conviction in the 12-month period

recidivism study conducted by the Department, the SPAC recidivism study shows that the average juvenile will recidivate within the first 12 months.

Conclusion

Eckerd Short-Term Residential facilities provide intensive, residential services to Level II serious and/or chronic, juvenile offenders with elevated risks and needs that have not been able to change behavior through multiple community-based interventions. This residential program often serves as the final intervention before a youth is committed to a youth development center. Ultimately, some of the highest risk youth in the state are served at the Eckerd Short-Term Residential Programs.

The results of this analysis show that these short-term residential programs are achieving positive outcomes for youth who are served, with 70% of those participating in the program not reoffending at 12 months post completion.

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Multi-Purpose Group Homes

Overview

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice currently contracts with Methodist Home for Children, Inc., to operate five multi-purpose group homes that provide secure non-institutional alternatives to a youth development center and secure detention. The five (5) homes are located in Chowan, Hertford, Wayne, Robeson, and Macon Counties. These eight-bed facilities feature the Model of Care Program, recognized by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention as a Promising Practice, which addresses antisocial behaviors by implementing a social and life skills curriculum that has been individualized for each youth. Implementation involves consistent and continuous behavioral teaching and the practice of selected skills. This focus on practice and skills meets the learning-style needs of each youth and leads to an internalization of skills and the values of honesty, respect, responsibility, empowerment, compassion and spirituality. Each home is staffed with a program manager, residential counselors, a certified teacher, and a family counselor that works with youth and their families. The homes serve court ordered, Level II youth in the judicial districts they are located.

Youth Profile

Youth being referred to the multi-purpose group homes have received a Level II court ordered disposition. Typically, these males and females have had multiple adjudications for person and property offenses and have received multiple community-based interventions. These youth have also experienced significant school discipline problems resulting in short and long-term suspensions. Other characteristics found in these youth include substance abuse, gang involvement, mental health needs, and family discord.

Service Capacity

The Multi-Purpose Group Homes can serve forty (40) youth at a time and approximately eighty (80) youth annually. The homes are located in rural judicial districts and serve as an alternative to detention and youth development centers.

Cost Comparison

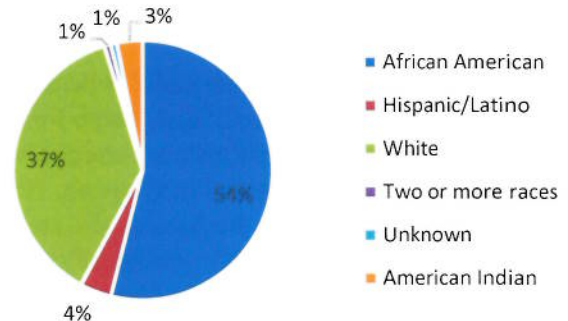
Table 4.6: The cost per child comparison for Multi-Purpose Group Home Services versus youth development centers.

Program vs. Youth Development Center	Cost
FY 15-16 MPGH Residential Program	\$24,184
FY 15-16 Youth Development Centers	\$122,445

Demographics for youth served in FY 15-16

- 100% of youth served were under court supervision
- 131 youth were served in FY 15-16
- 78% of youth served completed the program successfully
- 15.4 was the average age of youth being served in the Multi-Purpose Group Homes
- 76% of youth served were male, 24% female

Graph 4.3 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by Multi-Purpose Group Homes



Outcome Data for Youth Exiting in FY 15-16

Academic Growth

Results indicate significant improvements in reading and math as evidenced by *Wide Range Achievement Test* (WRAT) scores. Youth are tested on their reading ability upon entry into the program and at several intervals while in residence. During FY 15-16, the *Wide Range Achievement Test* was administered to 84 youth. See table below for the average improvement youth were able to make.

Table 4.7: Academic Growth - Wide Range Achievement Test

Subject	Average Grade Level at Admission	Average Grade Level at Discharge	Average Grade Level Improvement
Reading	8.69	9.25	.56
Mathematics	6.61	8.03	1.42

Change in Risk & Protective Factors

The information provided in the table below reflects data from the *Risk and Protective Factors Worksheet* for youth served during FY 15-16. Risk factors are evidence-based characteristics that increase the likelihood of a youth being at high risk for committing delinquent acts and, therefore, needing continuous services to manage functioning. Likewise, protective factors are characteristics that protect the youth and reduce this risk.

This assessment is completed for each youth at admission and at discharge. The categories listed represent a set of protective factors that have a positive correlation to youth resiliency and success. The data show a significant positive increase in critical protective factors for youth while in care. The Risk & Protective Factors was administered for 88 youths. See Table 4.8.

Table 4.8: Change in Risk & Protective Factors

Category	Admission	Discharge
Acceptance of Authority	43%	73%
School Performance is at Grade Level	41%	85%
Reading Ability	53%	81%
Age appropriate social behavior	66%	81%
Youth has Positive Self-Image	44%	84%
Empathetic towards others	53%	82%
Appropriate friends	40%	79%
Religious Community Involvement	21%	39%
Good Personal Health Habits	72%	100%
Decision-making Skills	12%	53%
Honesty Behavior	36%	71%
Substance-Free Behavior	38%	81%
Personal Development Activities	48%	81%

Youth Outcome Survey

In order to follow the progress of program-served youth, the contracted provider conducts outcome surveys up to twelve months post discharge from the continuing care program. These surveys help all parties understand the success of post-discharged youth served through a Multipurpose Juvenile Home. Listed in Table 4.9 below are data from the surveys completed during FY 15-16.

Table 4.9: Provider's Outcome Survey

Living in a safe home environment that is either in the child's permanent home or the next logical, most appropriate setting towards a permanent home	93%
Maintaining a positive on-going relationship with a caring, responsible adult	86%
Maintaining optimal health functioning with needed and appropriate supports	95%
Attending School/Work regularly	85%
Avoided Criminal Activity	86%
Engaged in Positive Development Activities	78%
Attended Routine Health Appointments	91%
Attending Mental Health Appointments or Participating in Treatment	90%
Following substance abuse recovery plan	74%
Regularly participating in pro-social community activities	80%

Recidivism

FY 14-15 and FY 15-16 recidivism data shows that of the 167 youth who had been in post-discharged status from Multi-purpose Group Homes for more than six months, 21 youth or 13% received a new adjudication and 6 youth or 4% received a new conviction. The total recidivism rate at six months post discharge was 16%.

At 12 months post discharge there were 121 youth who could be analyzed for this report. Twenty-four youth or 20% received a new adjudication and 8 youth or 7% received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at 12 months post-discharge was 26%. See Table 4.10.

Table 4.10: Multi-purpose Group Home Recidivism

Multi-purpose Group Home, Recidivism		
Post-Discharge Time Frame	0 to 6 Months	0 to 12 Months
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6 or 12 Months	167	121
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	21	24
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	13%	20%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	6	8
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	4%	7%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions ^{6, 7}	26	31
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	16%	26%

In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2010/11*, 36.0% of juveniles who were both adjudicated and disposed received an additional adjudication or conviction within 36 months. This is the best comparison available, although the youth being served at the multi-purpose group homes represent a higher level of adjudicated youth. This subset includes youth with multiple adjudications, serving a Level II disposition, and having been assessed medium to high risk. Analysis from the SPAC report indicates that youth assessed as medium to high risk are much more likely to recidivate. Although the time horizon for the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's study was longer than the recidivism study conduct by the Department, the SPAC recidivism study shows that the average juvenile will recidivate within the first 12 months.

Conclusions

Multi-purpose Group Homes continue to be an effective and cost efficient alternative to committing youth to a youth development center. The recidivism results are extremely positive given the risk levels of the youth being served in the homes.

⁶ 1 juvenile had both a juvenile adjudication and an adult conviction in the 6 month period

⁷ 1 juvenile had both a juvenile adjudication and an adult conviction in the 12 month period

WestCare Female Residential Program

Overview

The WestCare North Carolina Girls Program is a gender responsive, short-term, residential treatment option for adolescent females between 13 and 17 years of age. The average length of stay ranges between 4 and 6 months. All youth admitted into the 16 bed program are adjudicated Level II offenders referred by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. The program is licensed as a Residential Child Care Facility by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services.

The primary goal of the WestCare North Carolina Girls Program is to assist adolescent females with learning and developing life coping and social skills for successful family reunification and re-integration back into their respective communities. Family support services are an integral component of the program. Individualized service plans guide the development of the services based on the need to facilitate the social and emotional growth within each adolescent. Residents have the following services available on-site:

- Cognitive Behavioral Treatment
- Educational Services (The WestCare Girls Academy provides educational services and curricula aligned with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Classes are administered by a licensed Special Education teacher.)
- Health Care
- Life and Social Skills Education and Practice
- Psychological, Psychiatric, and Social Assessments
- Recreation (Exercise, Outdoor Activities, Drama, Art, and Creative Expression)
- Substance Abuse Education
- Trauma Informed Care

Youth Profile

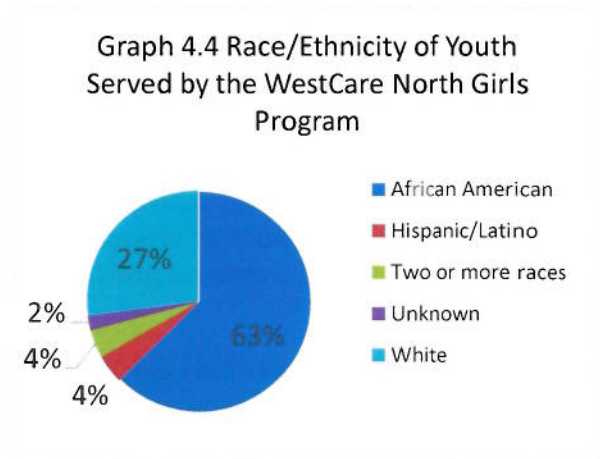
All referrals originate with a Juvenile Court Counselor and undergo a comprehensive review by a WestCare Clinicians, Social Workers, and Education staff. Typically, those admitted have had multiple adjudications for person and property offenses and have received more than one community-based intervention. A significant number of these adolescents have also experienced school discipline problems resulting in both short and long-term suspensions. Other characteristics found in the referred population include: trauma, substance abuse, gang involvement, mental health diagnosis, and family discord. The most common traumatic event disclosed during the length of stay is sexual abuse either assault or rape.

Table 4.11: The cost per child comparison for the WestCare North Carolina Girls Program versus youth development centers.

Program vs. Youth Development	Cost
FY 15-16 WestCare North Carolina Girls Program	\$29,333
FY 15-16 Youth Development Center	\$122,445

Demographics for youth served by WestCare

- A total of 48 clients were provided services
- 100% of the youth served were under court supervision
- 100% of the youth served were between the ages of 13-17
- 32 clients were discharged through June 2016 with a 77% successful completion rate.
- The average length of stay for discharged clients was 145 days.
- The average age of the population was 15.2 years.



Outcome Data for Youth Exiting in FY 15-16

Multiple assessments were used at intake and discharge to measure growth. Below are some of the highlights achieved by the youth at WestCare.

100% of clients participated in therapeutic and educational didactic groups, house governance meetings, recreation activities, school, life skills practices, job functions, and post-discharge planning.

- 68% of clients showed decreased symptoms of depression from intake to discharge (*Beck Depression Inventory*).
- 68% of clients showed increased self-esteem from intake to discharge (*Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale*).

Clients in the program advanced an average of almost three full grades. See Table 4.10 below:

Table 4.12: Academic Growth – Woodcock Johnson Average Test Score

Subject	Average Grade Level at Admission	Average Grade Level at Discharge	Average Grade Level Improvement
Reading	7.8	10.8	3.0
Mathematics	6.5	9.1	2.6
Writing	9.9	13.0	3.1

Life Skills

- 87% could read a bus schedule, use public transportation, develop a budget, and cook 5 basic meals.

Job Skills

- 96% of clients who successfully completed the program created a professional resume at discharge.

Discharge Data

- 85% of those clients who successfully completed the program were reunified with their family at discharge.

Recidivism

FY 14-15 and FY 15-16 recidivism data shows that of the 77 youth who had been in post-discharged status from WestCare for more than six months, three (3) youth or 4% received a new adjudication and one (1) youth or 1% received a new conviction. The total recidivism rate at six months post discharge was 4%.

At 12 months post discharge there were 61 youth who could be analyzed for this report. Three (3) youth or 5% received a new adjudication and four (4) youth or 7% received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at 12 months post-discharge was 5%. See Table 4.13.

Table 4.13: WestCare North Carolina Girls Program Recidivism

WestCare North Carolina Girls Program, Recidivism		
Post-Discharge Time Frame	0 to 6 Months	0 to 12 Months
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6 or 12 Months	77	61
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	3	3
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	4%	5%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	1	4
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	1%	7%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	4	7
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	5%	11%

In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission’s (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2010/11*, 36.0% of juveniles who were both adjudicated and disposed received an additional adjudication or conviction within 36 months. This is the best comparison available, although the youth being served at the girls program represent a higher level of adjudicated youth. This subset includes youth with multiple adjudications, serving a Level II disposition, and having

been assessed medium to high risk. Analysis from the SPAC report indicates that youth assessed as medium to high risk are much more likely to recidivate. Although the time span for the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's study was longer than the recidivism study conducted by the Department, the SPAC recidivism study shows that the average juvenile will recidivate within the first 12 months.

Conclusions

The outcome and recidivism data from the WestCare North Carolina Girls Program is positive and reflects noteworthy change in the youth's adjustments, academic accomplishments, and resolution of trauma related issues.

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Section V
Transitional Services

Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes

Overview

FY 15-16 marked the fifth year of operation for the Craven Transitional Independent Living Program (male only) located in New Bern, NC and the second year of operation for the North Hills Transitional Independent Living Program (female only) located in Raleigh, NC. Both are six to twelve month residential programs that help youth leaving a youth development center and/or a Level II residential program build the skill sets they need to live independently. The Craven Home can serve six youth at a time and approximately 16 youth annually; and the North Hills Home can serve five youth at a time and approximately 10 youth annually.

Major program components of these transitional homes, include education, employment, group activities, money management, mental health services, substance abuse counseling, community volunteering and independent living group activities.

With the assistance of on-site staff and community partners, the youth learn how to budget, meal plan, develop a resume, interview for a job, negotiate salary, manage a cell phone, earn their driver's license and open a bank account.

Youth Profile

All referrals made to the Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes are under post-release supervision or under probation transitioning from a Level II residential program. Typically these youth have had significant juvenile court involvement including multiple adjudications for person and property offenses prior to their commitment to a youth development center or court ordered placement into a Level II residential program. Other characteristics found in these youth include substance abuse, gang involvement, and family discord. However, the youth selected for placement have expressed a desire to make significant life changes and cannot return to their home communities due to safety concerns.

Cost Comparison

Table 5.1: The cost per child comparison for Craven and North Hills Transitional Home versus youth development centers.

Program vs. Youth Development Center	Cost
FY 15-16 Craven and North Hills Transitional Home	\$33,333
FY 15-16 Youth Development Center	\$122,445

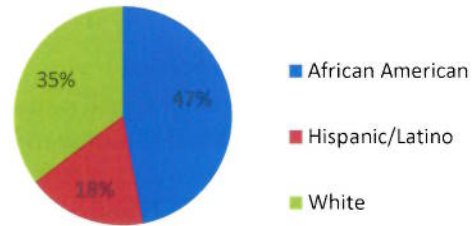
Demographics of Youth Served during FY 15-16

Craven

11 youth served were discharged from YDC, three (3) youth came from residential placement, two (2) youth came from the community and one (1) youth came from Detention

- 100% were males
- 17 total youth were served
- 17.6 was the average age of youth being served

Graph 5.1 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by Craven Transitional Independent Living Program

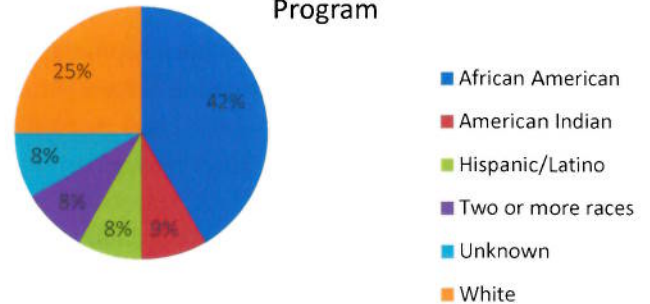


North Hills

Six (6) youth served were discharged from YDC and 7 youth were discharged from residential placement

- 100% were females
- 13 total youth were served
- 17.1 was the average age of youth being served

Graph 5.2 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by North Hills Transitional Program Independent Living Program



Outcome Data for Youth Exiting in FY 15-16

Academic Achievement

During their stay at the Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes, youth have a choice of four educational tracks that include community college classes, vocational trade, GED, or high school. Youth who are participating in a vocational trade can also complete their GED or high school curriculum at the same time. The education track is determined after interviewing youth to determine career goals and interest and assessment of youth's previous academic achievements. The Transitional Living Specialist will monitor the progress the youth are making on their decided tracks to ensure youth are able to make their discharge plans.

Craven Community College has developed an effective relationship with the Craven Transitional Home by letting the youth partner with them in certain trades while obtaining their GED or high school

diploma. For North Hills, effective partnerships have been established with Sanderson High School, Wake Technical College and YES Program operated through Community Partnerships Inc.

Education Participation:

Craven Transitional Independent Living Program

Out of 17 youth served at Craven last year, 17 participated in educational programming. Sixteen (16) youth completed the following educational tasks and 1 youth enrolled in Penn Foster's online course, but did not complete.

- 4 completed GED
- 3 Completed High School
- 9 Completed Trades or Certificates
 - 6 completed a course in Forklifting
 - 2 completed a course in Welding
 - 1 completed Nurse's Aide course

North Hills Transitional Independent Living Program

Out of the 13 youth that were served, twelve (12) participated in an educational track. One (1) youth did not participate due to her length of stay in the program. Of the 12 youth participating in educational tracks, the following identifies each educational track and the number participating in each:

- 2 obtained their high school diploma while in the program
- 3 participated and attended Sanderson High School
- 6 participated in On-Line High School through Penn Foster
- 1 attended On-Line High School through Plato
- 1 attended On-Line High School through Grad Point
- 2 attended college courses at Wake Technical Community College
 - 2 youth obtained ServSafe Certificates while in the program

Employment:

The Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes strive in having every youth employed while working through the program. The programs teach and enhance job seeking skills from the moment a youth enters the home. During the first level of the program, youth are working on how to search for appropriate jobs. The Transitional Living Specialist work with each youth on how to navigate search engines, build resumes, fill out on-line applications and dress for seeking job applications. Next, the Specialist works with youth on how to obtain employment by going through practice job interviews, how to dress for an interview, what questions to ask during an interview, and how to negotiate a salary. After a youth is offered a job, staff will work with the youth on their employment skills to ensure they are becoming effective employees. Employment is a core component of the transitional home as it empowers the youth by giving them confidence and improving their self-esteem as well as allowing them to be a positive contributor to the community and workforce.

Employment Results:

Craven Transitional Independent Living Program

Of the 17 youth served, 14 were employed (three were ineligible due to length of stay in the program)

- 1 youth worked in Construction
- 3 youth worked in Customer Service
- 10 youth worked in the Food Industry

North Hills Transitional Independent Living Program

Of the 13 youth served, 8 of the youth obtained employment in the food industry.

Recidivism

The data provided in Table 5.2 below represents promising results. Youth leaving the Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes only had a 16% recidivism rate at 6 months post discharge, and only a 22% recidivism rate at 12 months post discharge. These results are truly significant given the delinquency histories and backgrounds the youth possessed. The data indicates that intense educational and vocational services being delivered at the Transitional Homes, coupled with separating the youth from their home environments are significantly reducing recidivism rates.

Table 5.2: Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes Recidivism

Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes, Recidivism		
Post-Discharge Time Frame	0 to 6 Months	0 to 12 Months
Distinct Juveniles in the Community for At Least 6 or 12 Months	38	27
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	0	0
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	0%	0%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	6	6
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	16%	22%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	6	6
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	16%	22%

In comparison, according to the most recent NC Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's (SPAC) *Juvenile Recidivism Study: Sample FY 2010/11*, 36.0% of juveniles who were both adjudicated and disposed received an additional adjudication or conviction within 36 months. This is the best comparison available, although the youth being served at the Craven Transitional Home represent a higher level of adjudicated youth. This subset includes youth with multiple adjudications, serving a Level III disposition, and having been assessed as mostly "high risk." Analysis from the SPAC report indicates that youth assessed as medium to high risk are much more likely to recidivate. Although the time horizon for the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission's study was longer than the recidivism study conduct by the Department, the SPAC recidivism study shows that the average juvenile will recidivate within the first 12 months.

Conclusions

The Craven and North Hills Transitional Independent Living Programs provide a structured learning environment that promote life and social skills development. Accessibility to a network of local community resources, including educational and vocational services are contributing factors in the reduction of recidivism rates. Juveniles demonstrate resiliency and positive behavioral outcomes on their pathway to successful reintegration into the community.