



North Carolina Department of Public Safety



Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Roy Cooper, Governor
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

William L. Lassiter, Deputy Secretary

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary 
William L. Lassiter, Deputy Secretary 

RE: Annual Evaluation of Community Programs

DATE: March 1, 2022

Pursuant to G.S. 143B-811, *The Department of Public Safety shall conduct an annual evaluation of intensive intervention services. Intensive intervention services are evidence-based or research-supported community-based or residential services that are necessary for a juvenile, in order to (i) prevent the juvenile's commitment to a youth development center or detention facility or (ii) facilitate the juvenile's successful return to the community following commitment. In conducting the evaluation, the Department shall consider whether participation in intensive intervention services 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; 2020-83, s. 1; 2021-123, s. 6(c).)

Pursuant to G.S. 143B-853, *The Juvenile Justice Section of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety shall report to the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety no later than March 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, on the results of intensive intervention services. Intensive intervention services are evidence-based or research-supported community-based or residential services that are necessary for a juvenile in order to (i) prevent the juvenile's commitment to a youth development center or detention facility, (ii) facilitate the juvenile's successful return to the community following commitment, or (iii) prevent further involvement in the juvenile justice system. Specifically, the report shall provide a detailed description of each intensive intervention service, including the numbers of juveniles served, their adjudication status at the time of service, the services and treatments provided, the length of service, the total cost per juvenile, and the six- and 12-month recidivism rates for the juveniles after the termination of program services. (1998-202, s. 1(b); 2000-137, s. 1(b); 2005-276, s. 16.11(c); 2011-145, s. 19.1(l), (x), (ggg); 2017-186, s. 2(IIIlll); 2020-83, s. 5; 2021-123, s. 6(e).)*



**Annual Evaluation of Intensive Intervention Services
Submitted March 1, 2022**

**Submitted by:
Department of Public Safety
Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Juvenile Community Programs Section**

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Section I – Introduction

This report is required by General Statute § 143B-811 and 143B-853 which state:

G.S. 143B-811: The Department of Public Safety shall conduct an annual evaluation on intensive intervention services. Intensive intervention services are evidence-based or research-supported community-based or residential services that are necessary for a juvenile, in order to (i) prevent the juvenile's commitment to a youth development center or detention facility or (ii) facilitate the juvenile's successful return to the community following commitment. In conducting the evaluation, the Department shall consider whether participation in intensive intervention services 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.

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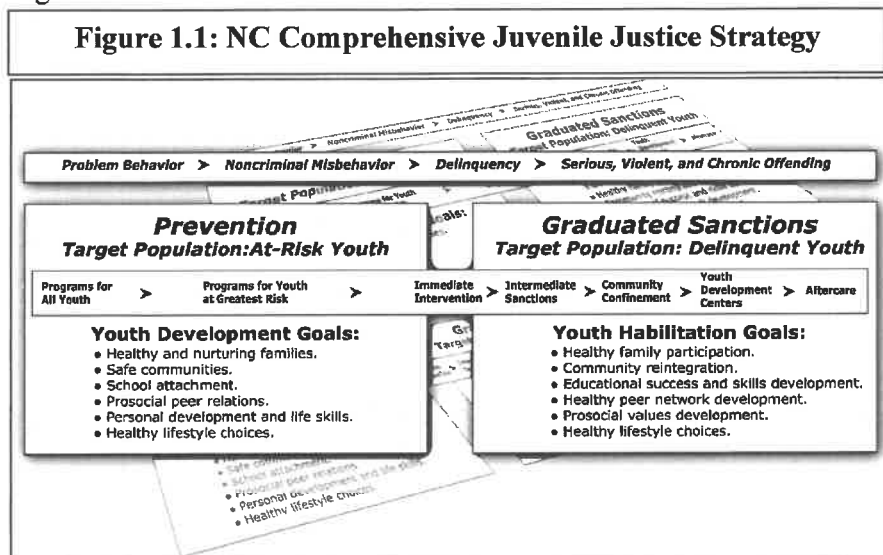
This legislative report is an evaluation of state contracted residential services, which include short-term residential male and female sites, multipurpose groups homes, transitional living homes, and juvenile crisis and assessment centers; state contracted non-residential community-based services, which includes functional family therapy; and intensive intervention services.

Under previous legislation, the Juvenile Community Programs Section was required to report on programs known Alternatives to Commitment Programs in a separate report. Under S.L. 114B-811, the Juvenile Community Programs Section has combined funds allocated for JCPC Level II Endorsed Programs and Alternatives to Commitment Programs into the funding stream “Intensive Intervention Services”. As a result, this legislative report will combine its evaluation of JCPC Level II Endorsed Programs and Alternatives to Commitment Programs into one section of the report titled “Intensive Intervention Services”. The reported data will reflect Level II Endorsed Programs and Alternatives to Commitment Programs, as those were still the active titles of the funding streams in FY 2020-2021.

Consistent with previous years, Juvenile Community Programs will publish an annual evaluation in March 2023 on programming provided in Fiscal Year 2021-2022. In the 2023 annual evaluation, a section evaluating “Intensive Intervention Services” will be included. Intensive Intervention Services were authorized under Session Law 2020-83 and put into practice July 1, 2021. There will no longer be data on JCPC Level II Endorsed Programs or Alternatives to Commitment Programs in the 2023 annual evaluation.

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 and the newly formed intensive intervention services provide broad reaching community based and residential interventions or behavior-

specific targeted interventions in communities where JCPCs dollars are not abundant enough to serve higher risk juveniles who need intensive services. This strategy is used to augment existing services in the local service continuum 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 intensive intervention services 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 and needs factors that are targeted for intervention to reduce recidivism.

Beginning January 1, 2021, in the Court Services section, the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) was implemented to capture risk, needs and strengths details across a myriad of domains. Community Programs, for purposes of target population evaluation, decided to continue using risk scores and levels obtained from the North Carolina Assessment of Juvenile Risk for Juvenile Offending (NCAR, see Appendix A).

The Department has been utilizing the NCAR tool since 2001. A juvenile’s risk for re-offending is scored into one of 5 distinct risk levels (RL): RL1 (lowest) to RL5 (highest). Graph 1.1 compares risk score percentage totals for FY 18-19, FY 19-20, and FY 20-21, clearly indicating higher risk youth are served by the intensive services evaluated in this report.

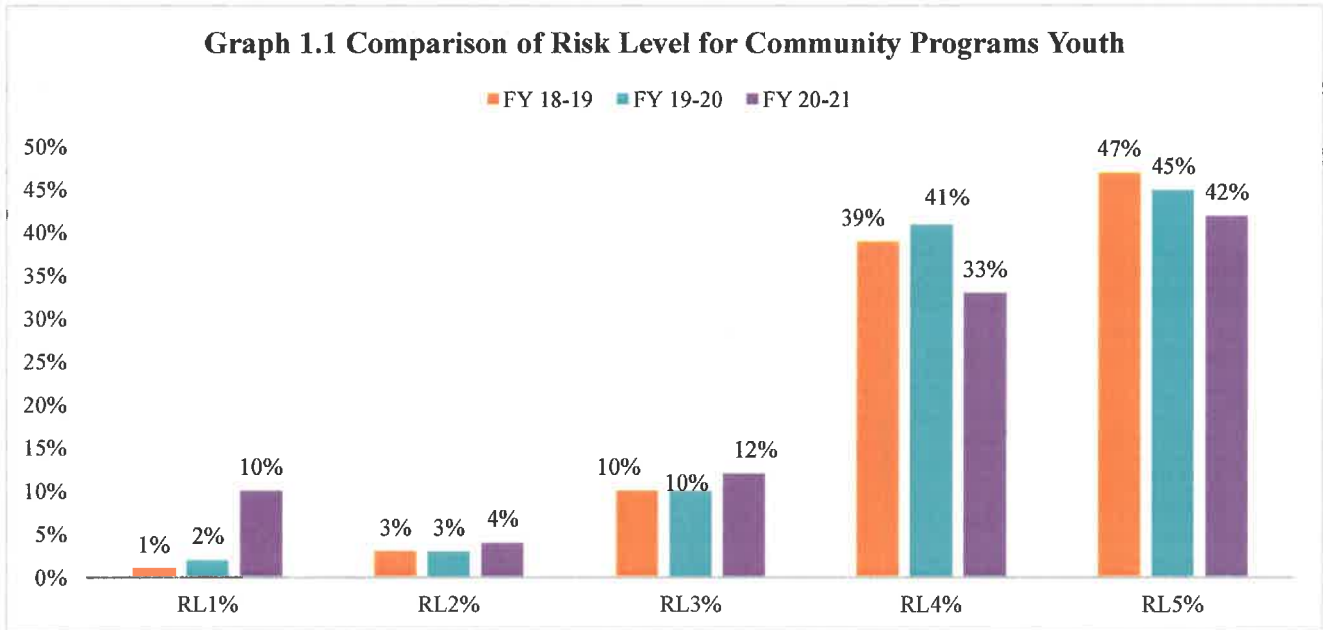


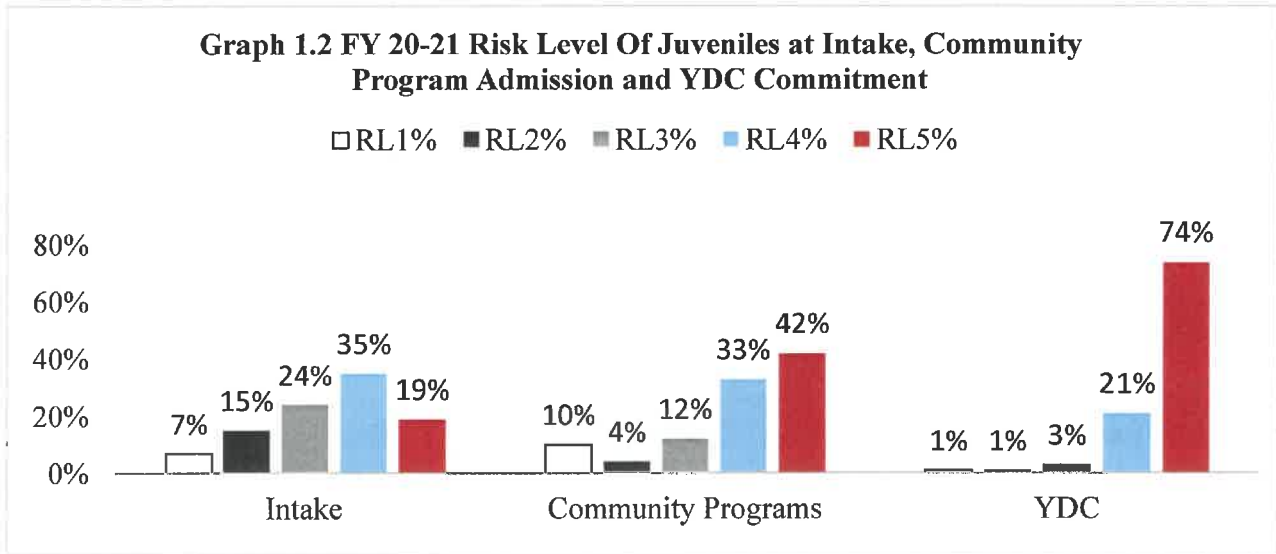
Table 1.1 FY 20-21 Youth Served by Funding Source

Funding Source	Youth Served
Community Based Contractual Services	310
JCPC Alternatives to Commitment Programs	150
JCPC Level II Dispositional Alternatives	272
Residential Contractual Services	619
WA Multi-Purpose JCAC	92

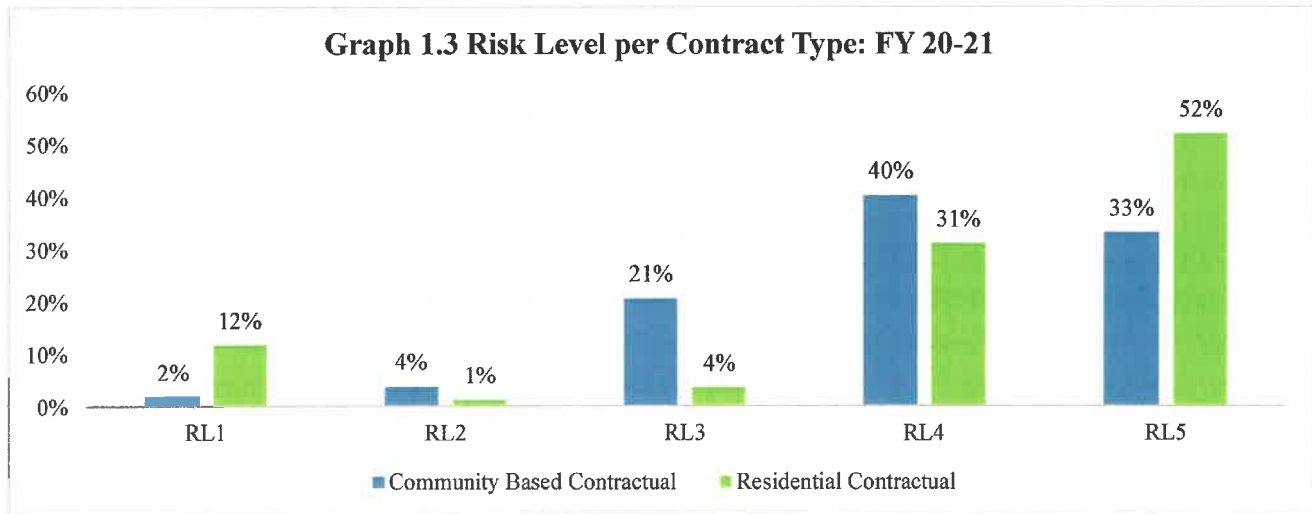
Graph 1.2 below compares the levels of risk for youth at three distinct points in the juvenile justice system: 1) at intake (JJ entry), 2) at admission to a Community Programs contracted service, and 3) at admission to a youth development center (committed juvenile). Data clearly indicates that the programs highlighted in this report are serving those youth with higher risk for recidivating. In fact, the vast majority (86%) 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 likely 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 (14%) that presented with low risk factors for reoffending, but instead, high need indicators for specific services. The department chooses to take a comprehensive approach by

matching services to not only the youth’s level of risk for reoffending but to the youth’s needs indicators as well. This practice became fully supported by the legislature with the enactment of HB593, which allows access to intensive services to be determined based on a youth’s criminogenic needs, and not solely the youth’s disposition level.



The overall approach remains to serve as many juveniles who fall within the medium to high-risk range by matching their service needs to the most appropriate service, either to cost-effective community-based contractual or short-term residential programming services. Graph 1.3 below illustrates this prioritization.



The trend continues to show that youth with higher risk (RL5) and (RL4) are served in residential and community-based contractual services, respectively.

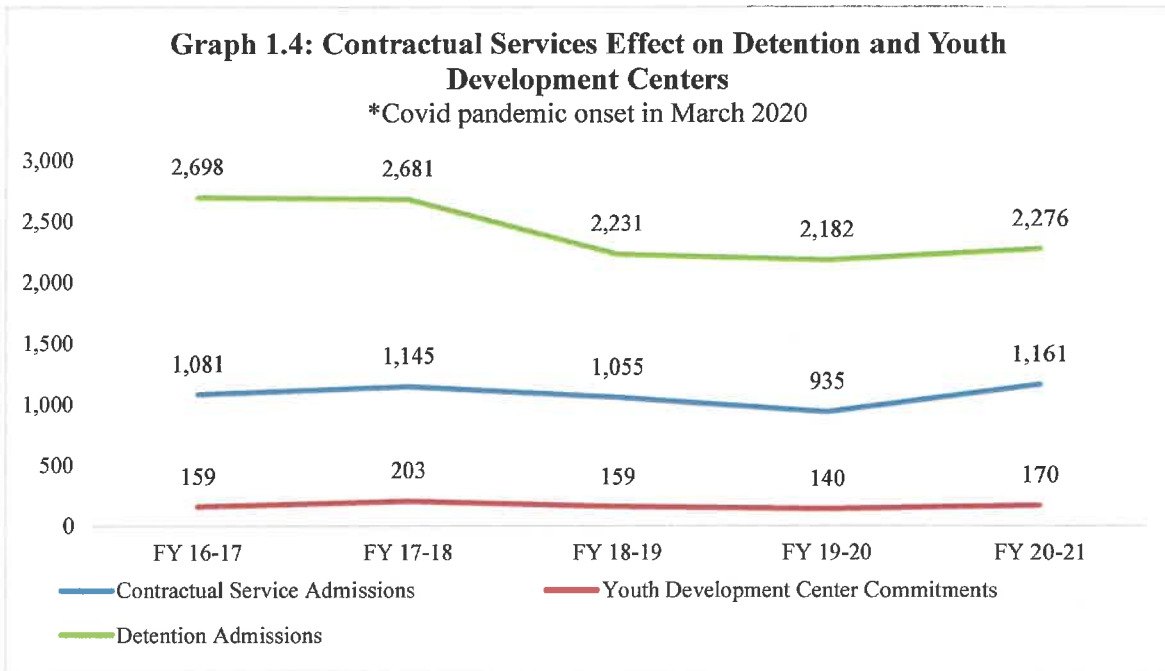
Cost Efficient Alternative

Through the implementation of these contractual services, the Department has been able to achieve significant cost savings as compared to youth development centers. Table 1.2 below compares the average cost of serving youth in a contracted service, either residential or community-based, versus serving a youth in a youth development center for FY 2020-2021.

Table 1.2 Cost Comparison - Contractual Services versus Annual Youth Development Center Cost

Program Cost vs. Youth Development Center Cost	FY 20-21 Cost per Child
Level II Community-Based Program: JCPC-Endorsed Level II Programs, JCPC Alternatives to Commitment, and AMIkids Community-Based	\$8,280
Level II Residential Program: Bridges Crisis and Assessment Center, Insight Crisis and Assessment Center, Western Area Multipurpose Crisis and Assessment Center, Eckerd Short-Term Residential Programs, Kerr Lake Academy Girls, Multipurpose Group Homes, Craven Transitional, Forsyth Transitional and North Hills Transitional	\$24,167
Youth Development Center	\$111,931

With more emphasis on programming designed to serve the medium to high risk/high needs adjudicated youth, the 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. Graph 1.4 indicates how the number of youth development center commitments and detention admissions are impacted by the Department’s efforts to promote cost-saving community-based contractual programming options to serve youth. In FY 2020-2021, contractual services served 1,465 youth, allowing opportunity for interventions in lieu of the use of detention and youth development centers. Of these served youth, Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers served seventy-two (72) juveniles aged 13 or younger, a total of 23.4% of the overall population served by the Centers for the year. Focus for the Division is to immediately intervene for this younger population, routing them away from the potential harms of secure detention environments and toward more therapeutic environments.



Recidivism Summary

Table 1.3 below reflects youth terminated by contractual services in FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021 and how many incurred additional juvenile adjudications and/or adult convictions. This analysis showed 14% of those juveniles served by a Juvenile Community Programs Section contractual service who could be followed for a full six (6) months post-discharge received an additional adjudication or an adult conviction, while 21% received an additional adjudication or an adult conviction at twelve (12) months post-discharge.

While the section is pleased with the overall low recidivism percentages within this report, it is important to note that the recidivism percentage decreases represented in the adult criminal conviction data may have been affected by COVID-19 and closure/case backlog in the adult criminal court proceedings across North Carolina or may be the result of the impacts of the Raise the Age legislation and changes in jurisdiction.

Table 1.3: All 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 or 12 Months	1,269	958
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	162	179
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	13%	19%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	17	27
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	1%	3%

Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	178	203
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	14%	21%

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

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

Conclusions

Contractual services have proven they are targeting the appropriate youth, providing cost-efficient services, and helping reduce the number of youth development center commitment and detention admissions.

Section II

Intensive Intervention Services

***(Formerly JCPC-Endorsed Level II Programs
and Alternatives to Commitment Programs)***

Intensive Intervention Services

(Formerly Level II JCPC-Endorsed Programs and Alternatives to Commitment Programs)

Overview

Eleven years ago, the Department focused on providing a mechanism by which local communities could address gaps in services for Level II disposition adjudicated youth. To this end, the Department established an annual Request for Proposals (RFP) process that engages the local Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) and its stakeholders with seeking those services best matching the needs of youth with a Level II disposition. Following changes in legislation, the RFP process now allows funded programs to admit youth based on their assessed risk *and* needs, a shift away from program admission based solely on disposition level. The programs funded are designed as interventions for some of the highest risk and high needs youth in juvenile justice system. The Section’s annual Request for Proposal process is designed to identify the state’s high-need and high-risk youth, understand their criminogenic needs, and appropriately match them with evidence-based, best-practice models to effectively reduce juvenile delinquency. To effectively scale up intervention services for targeted populations, services are geographically planned to provide services across multiple counties within a judicial district or across multiple judicial districts, a strategy that demonstrates the collaborative efforts of multiple JCPCs to build an effective, 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 Intensive Intervention Services. Strategic measures are undertaken by the section to seek out state-county partnerships to sustain effective program models through identified “host” counties when regionalized or specialized program services are warranted.

Table 2.1: Level II JCPC- Endorsed Programs Funded in FY 20-21

County	Program Name	Component Name
Wake	Community Alternatives Program	Community Alternatives Program
Granville	Community Connections Level II	Community Connections
		YVLEAD Clinical Assessments
Lenoir	Community Intervention Program	Community Intervention Program
New Hanover	Community Service and Restitution, Level II	Community Service & Restitution, Level II
Randolph	Family Centered Treatment- Fostering Solutions Level II Dispositional Alternatives	Family Centered Treatment
		Fostering Solutions
Rockingham	Fresh Start	Fresh Start
Beaufort	HYPE	Helping Youth Pursue Excellence (HYPE) Vocational Skills
Haywood	Home Based Family Counseling	Home Based Family Counseling
Durham	Parenting of Adolescents Program- Level II	In-Home Family Counseling
Rowan	Rowan County Gang Intervention Strategies	Rowan County Gang Intervention Strategies

Iredell	Treatment Alternatives for Sexualized Kids (TASK) Level II PSB	Comprehensive Evaluation of Sexual Harm (CESH) TASK Treatment
Union	Union County Multipurpose Juvenile Home	Union County Multipurpose Juvenile Home Union County Transitional Living Component
Mecklenburg	YDI Vocational & Career Development Academy	YDI Vocational & Career Development Academy

Table 2.2: Alternatives to Commitment Programs Funded in FY 20-21

County	Program Name	Component Name
Nash	7th District TFC	7th District TFC
New Hanover	Alternatives to Commitment: Family Preservation Program	Homebuilder's Family Preservation
Burke	Barium Springs Home Remedies: Juvenile Justice	Barium Springs Home Remedies
Richmond	DASH Mentoring	DASH Mentoring
Onslow	Day Services Commitment Program	Day Services Commitment Program
Wayne	Family Preservation Community Commitment Program	Family Preservation
Davidson	Family Services Mentoring and Counseling Program	Family Services Mentoring and Counseling Program
Wake	Gang Reduction and Intervention Team	Gang Reduction and Intervention Team
Cumberland	Intensive Services Network	Intensive Services Network
Mecklenburg	Mecklenburg County Juvenile Re-Entry Services	ASSET ATC

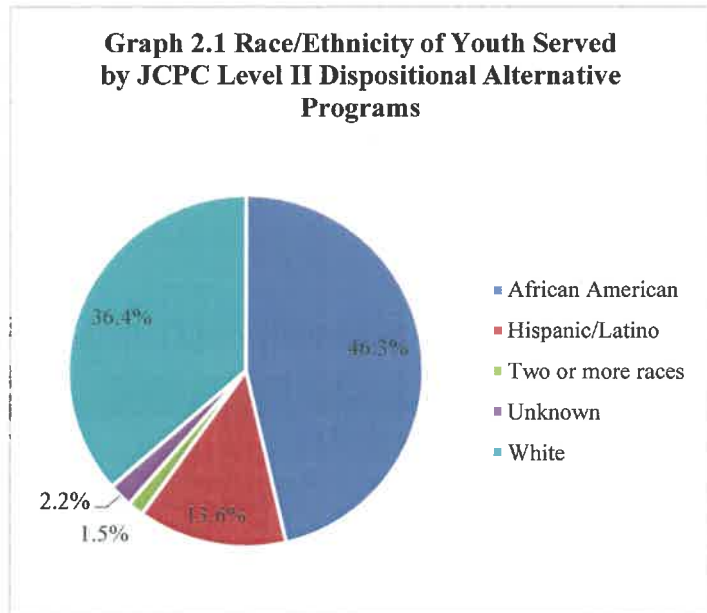
Number of Youth Served

JCPC-Endorsed Level II programs served 272 youth during FY 2020-2021. Table 2.3 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 2.3: FY 20-21 Level II JCPC-Endorsed: Youth served by Program Type

Program Type	Youth Served
Assessments	46
Experiential Skill Building	46
Family Counseling	33
Group Home Care	16
Home Based Family Counseling	28
Restitution/Community Service	43
Services Addressing Problem Sexual Behavior	23
Temporary Foster Care	11
Vocational Skills	26
Total	272

Graph 2.1 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by JCPC Level II Dispositional Alternative Programs

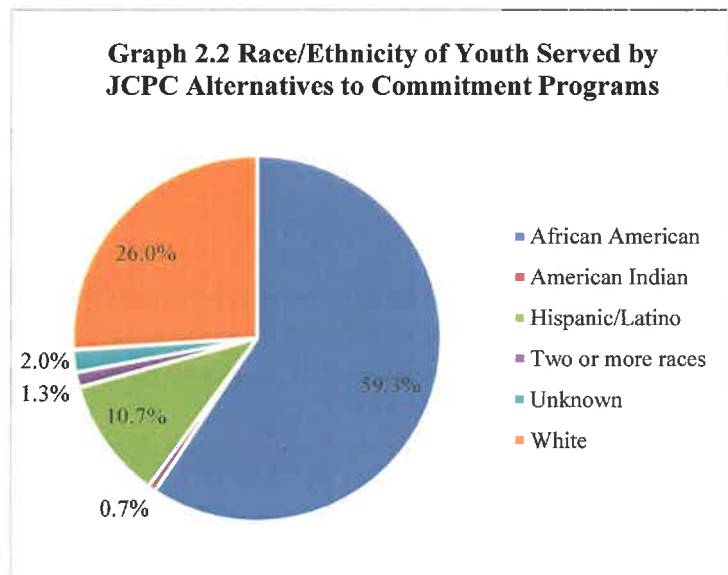


Alternatives to Commitment programs served 150 youth during FY 2020-2021 and Table 2.2 indicates the number of youth served by Alternatives to Commitment program type. Graph 2.2 represents the percentage of youth served by Alternatives to Commitment programs by race/ethnicity.

Table 2.4: FY 20-21 Alternatives to Commitment Programs: Youth served by Program Type

Program Type	Youth Served
Home Based Family Counseling	22
Individual Counseling	27
Interpersonal Skill Building	8
Mentoring	42
Parent/Family Skill Building	29
Specialized Foster Care	6
Vocational Skills	16
Total	150

Graph 2.2 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by JCPC Alternatives to Commitment Programs



Cost Comparison

Table 2.5: The cost per youth comparison for JCPC-Endorsed Level II programs versus annual youth development center cost.

Program vs Youth Development Center	Cost
FY 20-21 JCPC-Endorsed Level II Programs	\$8,725
FY 20-21 Youth Development Center	\$111,931

Table 2.6: The cost per youth comparison for Alternatives to Commitment programs versus annual youth development center cost.

Program vs Youth Development Center	Cost
FY 20-21 Alternatives to Commitment Programs	\$5,400
FY 20-21 Youth Development Center	\$111,931

Recidivism

This study measured the recidivism rates for youth completing JCPC-Endorsed Level II programs in FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021. Of the 255 youth who could be measured at six (6) months post-discharge, twenty-eight (28), or 11%, received a new adjudication, and three (3), or 1%, received a new adult conviction. Total recidivism at six (6) months post-discharge was 12%.

There were 156 youth who were served by these programs that could be measured at twelve (12) months. Twenty-five (25) or 16% received a new adjudication and four (4) or 3% received a new adult conviction. Total recidivism at twelve (12) months post-discharge is 18%. See Table 2.7.

Table 2.7: 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 or 12 Months	255	156
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	28	25
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	11%	16%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	3	4
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	1%	3%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	30	28
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	12%	18%

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

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

Similarly, the study also measured the recidivism rates for youth completing Alternative to Commitment programs in FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021. Of the 165 youth who could be measured at six (6) months post-discharge, nineteen (19), or 12% ,received a new adjudication, and one (1), or 1%, received a new adult conviction. Total recidivism at six (6) months post-discharge was 12%.

There were 110 youth who were served by these programs that could be measured at twelve (12) months. Twenty-two (22), or 20%, received a new adjudication and six (6), or 5%, received a new adult conviction. Total recidivism at twelve (12) months post-discharge was 25%. See Table 2.6.

Table 2.8: Alternatives to Commitment Programs- Recidivism

JCPC Alternatives to Commitment, 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	165	110
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	19	22
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	12%	20%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	1	6
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	1%	5%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	20	27
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	12%	25%

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

Conclusion

The report demonstrates that JCPC-Endorsed Level II Programs and Alternatives to Commitment 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. For purposes of this report, the Alternative to Commitment Programs were reported upon in this report separately since the passage of HB593 during FY 20-21 allowed for this appropriation to combine with the newly titled Intensive Intervention Services, formerly Level II appropriated funds.

Section III

Community-Based Contractual Programs

AMIkids North Carolina Family Services – Community-Based Services

Overview

AMIkids North Carolina Family Services is contracted with FFT LLC to provide Functional Family Therapy to all youth/families referred by NCDPS. Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is a highly effective short-term, strength-based model for working with juveniles and their families. The guiding principles of FFT include a respect for differences, maintaining family focused involvement, ensuring non-judgmental professionalism, keeping therapy interventions individualized, and ensuring an overriding relational focus as opposed to problem focus. FFT therapists are relentless in engaging families and maintain a balanced alliance between all family members throughout treatment. FFT focuses on reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors through a phase-based model

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 and participate in weekly clinical supervision with their certified FFT site supervisor to ensure model fidelity.

As of October 1st, 2020, AMIkids North Carolina Family Services began offering services for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention referred juveniles in all 100 counties in the state with the ability to serve a maximum total of 520 juveniles and families annually.

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 with high needs indicators on a case-by-case basis. The inclusion of Level I youth follows risk responsivity practices. The criminogenic needs of juveniles lead to younger juveniles with a higher needs and possible lower disposition level to be admitted to the program, with intervention being offered earlier in the juvenile justice continuum. Typically, youth served 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 173 youth and their families at any given time and is projected to serve 520 youth and their families in one year. The Piedmont and South teams have the capacity to serve forty (40) youth at any given time. The East, Central, and West teams have the capacity to serve thirty-one (31) youth at any given time.

Provider’s Length of service data:

- Average grade level of youth served: 9.1
- Average age of youth served: 15.9

Provider’s Referrals received in FY 20-21:

- Total number of referrals: 269

Provider’s Measurable Objectives:

- *141 youth responses reported*
 - 90% of youth reported in general, their family has changed for the better since they began counseling.
 - 89% of youth reported their family has changed its communication for the better.
 - 92% of youth reported their behavior has changed for the better.
 - 89% of youth reported their parents improved their parenting skills.
 - 88% of youth reported their parents changed their ability to supervise them for the better.
 - 96% of youth reported a change in family conflict level for the better.

Provider’s Program Effectiveness Based on FFT’s Youth Outcome Measure Questionnaires

- *141 youth responses reported*
 - 90% of youth reported in general, their family has changed for the better since they began counseling.
 - 89% of youth reported their family has changed its communication for the better.
 - 92% of youth reported their behavior has changed for the better.
 - 89% of youth reported their parents improved their parenting skills.
 - 88% of youth reported their parents changed their ability to supervise them for the better.
 - 96% of youth reported a change in family conflict level for the better.

Provider’s Program Effectiveness Based on FFT’s Parent Outcome Measure Questionnaires

- *164 responses reported. Some including multiple parent figures per youth.*
 - 96% of parents reported in general, their family has changed for the better since they began counseling.
 - 96% of parents reported family has changed its communication for the better
 - 95% of parents reported their adolescent’s behavior has changed for the better
 - 91% of parents reported improvement in their parenting skills.
 - 90% of parents reported a change in their ability to supervise their adolescent for the better.
 - 96% of parents reported a change in family conflict level for the better.

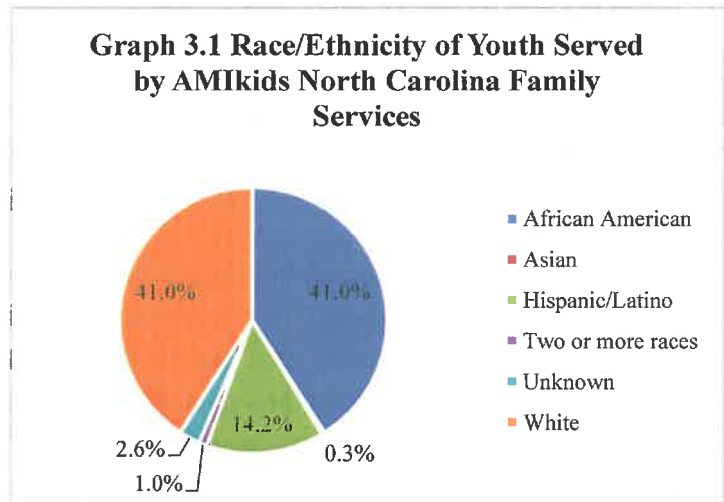
Cost Comparison

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

Program vs. Youth Development Center	Cost
FY 20-21 AMIkids North Carolina Family Services	\$9,282
FY 20-21 Youth Development Center	\$111,931

Demographic Information about Youth Served during FY 2020-2021

- The total number of youth served by the program in FY 20-21 was 310.
- The average age of the youth served in the program was 15.2.
- 240, or 77%, of youth served were male.
- 72, or 23%, of youth served were female.
- The average length of stay for the youth was 130 days.



Recidivism

FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021 recidivism data compiled by the Department shows that of the 530 youth who had been in post-discharged status from AMIkids for six (6) months, forty-five (45) youth, or 8%, had received a new adjudication and seven (7) youth, or 1%, had received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at six months post-discharge was 10%.

At twelve (12) months post-discharge, there were 438 youth who could be analyzed for this report. Sixty-three (63), or 14%, received a new adjudication and eight (8) youth, or 2%, received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at twelve (12) months post-discharge was 16%. 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 or 12 Months	530	438
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	45	63
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	8%	14%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	7	8
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	1%	2%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	52	70
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	10%	16%

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

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 implemented services in all of North Carolina's 100 counties. Outcome and recidivism data at six (6)- and twelve (12)-months post discharge reflects very positive results with 90% and 84% of youth, respectively, having no new adjudications or adult convictions.

Section IV

Residential Contractual Programs

Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers

Overview

The Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers provide a comprehensive juvenile assessment in a residential setting with the primary goal of matching the youth to the most appropriate services in their community. There are three centers: Insight (located in Butner), which serves the Central and Eastern areas; Bridges (located in Winston-Salem), which serves the Piedmont region; and the Western Area Multipurpose Center (located in Asheville), which serves the Western region of the state. The assessment takes place under the supervision of a licensed psychologist and licensed clinical case managers. The length of stay is between 21-45 days.

The Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers serve juvenile offenders between the ages of ten (10) and seventeen (17). The service includes a systematic evaluation that includes 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 youth's 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 plan of care including specific recommendations.

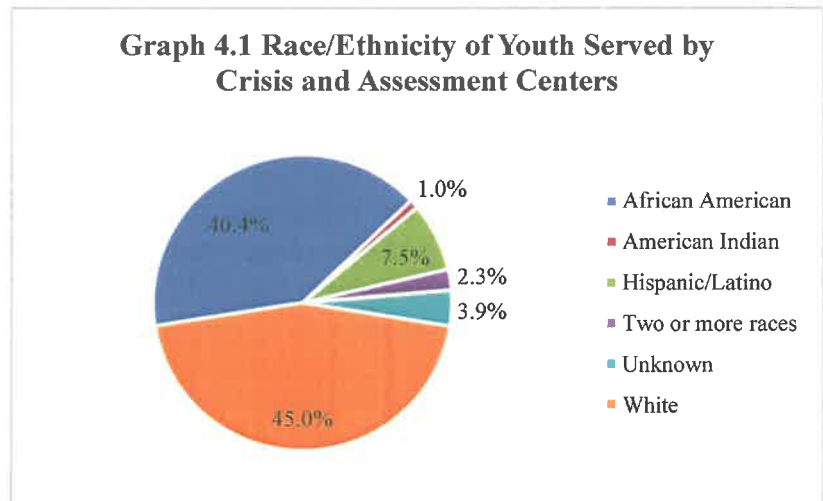
The centers also provide crisis care/respice stays for youth in need of a short-term residential intervention. The center poses a viable placement option for juveniles twelve (12) and younger who are in need of an alternative to detention secure placement. Crisis care/respice stays are usually between five (5) and fourteen (14) days.

In addition to assessment and crisis care, the Western Area Multipurpose JCAC has two (2) secure custody beds for short-term secure custody stays.

Each center utilizes the Model of Care in addition to crisis and assessment services and provides a structured environment which includes recreation, personal hygiene, self-care, school, meals, individual rooms, group interaction, socialization skill-building activities, independent living skills, and crisis counseling.

Demographics for youth served in FY 2019-2020

- 307 youth were served in FY 20-21. Eleven (11) of those were under protective supervision.
- 14.7 was the average age of youth being served in the Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers.
- 67% of youth served were male, 33% of youth served were female.
- The average length of stay for the youth was 26.2 days.



Outcomes

Outcome data collected from tracking the progress of youth admitted until discharge, suggests that the youth benefit from their stay at the crisis and assessment centers. In FY 20-21, a difficult year of COVID impacts and challenges, the three assessment centers were tracked using a service efficacy tool, the Youth Outcome Questionnaire (YOQ). The YOQ is a valid and scientifically demonstrated tool to assess a client's level of stress, anxiety, social functioning, behavioral stability, and emotional health. Forty-one percent (41%) of the youth admitted reported being more stable and functional during their stay according to a series of well-being trackers. Only 3% indicated that they were deteriorating while in care; a significantly low number, particularly since the majority of juveniles admitted to the centers suffer serious emotional and psychiatric conditions. Though not designed as a primary treatment facility, the data suggested that the stay at the center resulted in creating a positive experience for the youth while enabling opportunities to provide valuable assessment data to make effective treatment and service recommendations.

Provider's Primary Recommendations Based on Assessments

Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers make primary treatment/service recommendations based on individualized assessments. Secure custody and crisis youth do not receive assessments; however, there are situations whereby the centers initially respond as crisis caregivers and then juveniles remain at the center to obtain assessments as more information is gathered about the juvenile's needs. The primary recommendations for assessment youth served FY 20-21 who completed the assessment process are listed below.

Table 4.1: Provider's Primary Recommendations

Program Name or Type	Percent with Primary Recommendation
Multisystemic Therapy	18%
Juvenile Justice Level 2 Programs (Eckerd, Multipurpose Homes, Transitional Living Programs)	16%
Functional Family Therapy	15%
Outpatient Therapy	11%
Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility	11%
Level 3 Mental Health Group Home	9%
Therapeutic Foster Care	5%
Family Centered Therapy	3%
Level 2 Mental Health Group Home	3%
Substance Abuse Treatment Program	3%
Intensive In-Home	3%
Inpatient Treatment	1%
High Fidelity Wrap Around	1%

Cost Comparison

Table 4.2: The cost per youth comparison for crisis and assessment centers versus youth development centers.

Program vs. Youth Development Center	Cost
FY 20-21 Crisis and Assessment Centers	\$13,600
FY 20-21 Youth Development Center	\$111,931

Conclusions

Methodist Home for Children’s evidenced-based therapeutic environment, including its Model of Care, is the treatment model utilized within crisis and assessment centers; however, assessment services are not considered a therapeutic treatment intervention intended to effect recidivism. Due to the typical length of stay of less than thirty (30) days and use of assessments in service delivery, recidivism is not tracked for this service.

Eckerd Connects Short-Term Residential Programs: Male Short Term Residential

Overview

FY 2020-2021 marked the tenth 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 four (4) to six (6) months to adjudicated male youth ages thirteen (13) to seventeen (17) referred by the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. 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

Most referrals made to these short-term residential programs are males possessing a Level II disposition. All males referred are assessed as medium or high risk and typically have high needs. 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 are contracted to serve eighty (80) youth at a time and approximately 181 youth annually. Both campuses are designed to serve juveniles referred statewide—Eckerd Boomer primarily serves youth referred from the Piedmont and Western region while Eckerd Candor primarily serves youth referred from the Central and Eastern region of the state. However, the sites are not restricted to only accepting referrals from their primary catchment.

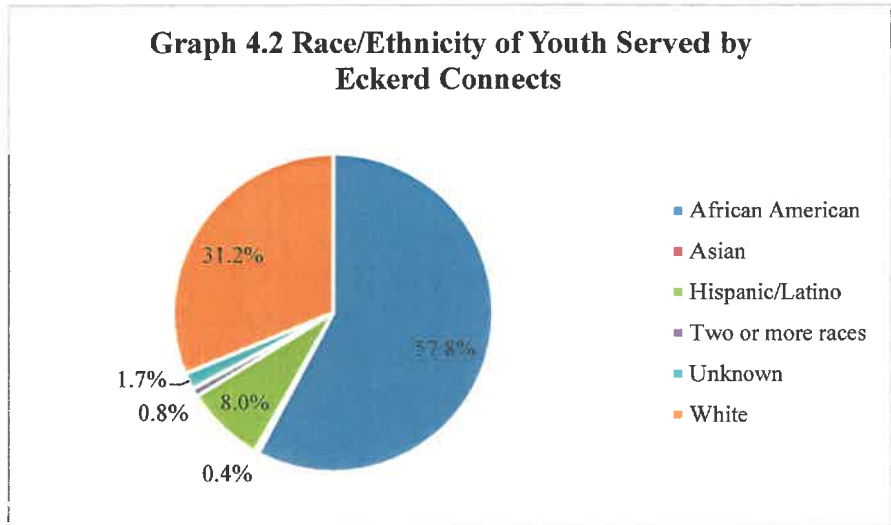
Cost Comparison

Table 4.3: The cost per youth comparison for Eckerd Short-Term Residential services versus youth development centers.

Program vs. Youth Development Center	Cost
FY 20-21 Eckerd Short-Term Residential	\$28,997
FY 20-21 Youth Development Centers	\$111,931

Demographics for youth served in FY 2020-2021

- 100% of youth served were under juvenile court supervision.
- 237 youth were served in FY 20-21.
- 173 youth were discharged in FY 20-21, of whom 78% completed the program successfully or satisfactorily.
- 222 of the 237 youth served were between the ages of 14-17.
- Average age was 15.1



Provider Outcome Data for Youth

Most of the youth served by Eckerd in FY 2020-2021 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 2020-2021, results show an average increase in reading scores of 1.3 grade levels and an average increase in math scores 1.5 grade levels. See the table below, which represents the youth that completed the program successfully, and who, at intake, presented below average in scoring.

Table 4.4: Provider 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	5.3	6.6	1.3
Mathematics	6.2	7.7	1.5

Provider 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 youth who successfully completed the program in FY 2020-2021, 88% showed mental health gains. These are youth who presented in the clinical

range at intake and successfully completed the program.

Provider 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: Social Skills which include cooperation, empathy, assertion, self-control, responsibility, communication, and engagement; and Problem Behaviors including externalizing behavior (aggression), hyperactivity/inattention, bullying, and internalizing behavior (sadness, anxiety). This instrument serves a dual purpose of providing important structured feedback for individual service plan development, and 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, 100% showed social skills gains. These are youth that presented with below average scoring in Social Skills at the time of intake and successfully completed the program.

Recidivism

FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021 recidivism data shows that of the 344 youth who had been in post-discharge status from Eckerd Short-Term Residential for more than six (6) months, sixty-seven (67) youth, or 19%, received a new adjudication and five (5) youth, or 1%, received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at six (6) months post-discharge was 21%.

At twelve (12) months post discharge, there were 258 youth who could be analyzed for this report. Seventy-three (73) youth, or 28%, received a new adjudication and nine (9) youth, or 3%, received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at twelve (12) months post-discharge was 32%.

Table 4.5: Eckerd Short-Term Residential – Recidivism

Eckerd 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	344	258
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	67	73
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	19%	28%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	5	9
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	1%	3%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	72	82
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	21%	32%

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 demonstrated behavior change 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 male 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 68% of those participating in the program not reoffending at twelve (12) months post completion.

Eckerd Connects Short-Term Residential Programs: Female Short Term Residential

Overview

In FY 2019-2020, the contract for the Female Gender Specific Residential services was re-bid. Following the Request for Bid Process (RFP), the Community Programs Section awarded the contract to a new provider beginning October 1, 2020.

The Eckerd Girls Academy at Kerr Lake, also referred to as Eckerd Kerr Lake, is a gender responsive, short-term, residential treatment option for adolescent females between thirteen (13) and seventeen (17) years of age. Youth accepted into the twenty (20)-bed program are typically adjudicated Level II offenders referred by Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The average length of stay ranged between four (4) and six (6) months and the site has the ability to serve approximately sixty (60) youth annually. The program is licensed as a Residential Treatment Facility by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and sits on an expansive lake-front property leased from the Army Corp of Engineers. The Eckerd Kerr Lake program accepts referrals from all 100 counties in the state.

The primary goal of the Eckerd Kerr Lake Program is to assist adolescent females with learning the skills and developing the tools needed to successfully transition back to their families and re-integrate into their communities. Individualized service plans guide the development of the services based on the need to facilitate the social and emotional growth within each adolescent. The program utilizes Girls Circle, a structured support group that addresses the needs of girls, and Seeking Safety, a therapeutic program for females suffering from trauma, substance abuse, and/or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Youth Profile

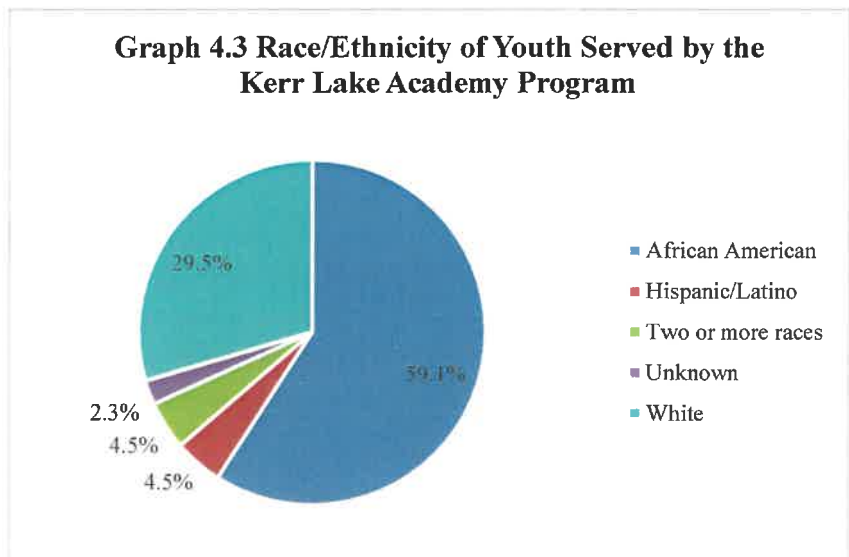
Most referrals made to these short-term residential programs are females possessing a Level II disposition. All females referred are assessed as medium or high risk and typically have high needs and exposure to severe traumatic events. These youth have had multiple adjudications for person and property offenses and have received more than one community-based intervention prior to referral. In some cases, juveniles come with a history of prior unsuccessful residential placements. A significant number of these adolescents have also experienced school discipline problems resulting in both short and long-term suspensions. Other indicators found in the referred population include trauma, substance abuse, gang involvement, mental health diagnosis, and family discord. The Eckerd Kerr Lake Program specifically addresses trauma as a needed intervention.

Table 4.6: The cost per youth comparison for the Eckerd Kerr Lake program versus youth development centers.

Program vs. Youth Development	Cost
FY 20-21 Eckerd Kerr Lake	\$35,809
FY 20-21 Youth Development Center	\$111,931

Demographics for youth served in FY 2020-2021

- A total of 44 clients were provided services.
- 100% of the youth served were under court supervision.
- 75% of youth terminated completed the program successfully.
- The average length of stay for discharged clients was 121 days.
- The average age of the population was 15.5 years.



Provider Outcome Data for Youth

Most of the youth served by Eckerd in FY 2020-2021 achieved academic progress through experiential learning. Eckerd administers the STAR Reading and Math Assessment 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 2020-2021, results show an average increase in reading scores of 1.0 grade levels and an average increase in math scores 1.4 grade levels. See the table below, which represents the youth that completed the program successfully, and who, at intake, presented below average in scoring.

Table 4.7: Provider 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	6.4	7.4	1.0
Mathematics	6.3	7.7	1.4

Recidivism

FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021 recidivism data shows that of the twenty-seven (27) youth who had been in post-discharge status from Kerr Lake for six (6) months, four (4) youth, or 15%, received a new adjudication and zero (0) youth, or 0%, received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at six (6) months post-discharge was 15%.

At twelve (12) months post-discharge, there were nine (9) youth who could be analyzed for this report. Two (2) youth, or 22%, received a new adjudication and zero (0) youth, or 0%, received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at twelve (12) months post-discharge was 22%.

Table 4.8: Eckerd Girls Academy at Kerr Lake- Recidivism

Kerr Lake Academy, 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	27	9
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	4	2
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	15%	22%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	0	0
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	0%	0%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	4	2
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	15%	22%

Conclusions

The outcome and recidivism data from the Eckerd Kerr Lake program is positive and reflects noteworthy change in youths’ adjustments, indicative of effective services addressing trauma-related issues, despite the small amount of youth who were analyzed.

Multi-Purpose Group Homes

Overview

The Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention currently contracts with Methodist Home for Children to operate five (5) multi-purpose group homes that provide secure non-institutional alternatives to secure detention and youth development centers. The five homes are located in the following counties: Chowan, Hertford, Robeson, Wayne, and Macon. These eight-bed facilities feature the Model of Care program, recognized by the Federal 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. In FY 20-21 a sixth blended model program was opened in Monroe, in Union County. This blended model program has seven (7) multipurpose home program beds as part of its service array. The site also maintains two (2) transitional living beds and one (1) dedicated emergency placement bed for Union County DSS use. This unique partnership with Union County government allows for use of the home for a modest annual rental fee of \$1 per year. Since the blended model group home is funded under the Intensive Intervention Service appropriation, data on its use is reported under this section.

Each home is staffed with a program manager, residential counselors, a certified teacher, and a family services specialist that works with youth and their families. The homes serve court-ordered Level II youth in the judicial districts where the homes are located, but also offer flexibility to address the needs of juveniles from other judicial districts and counties .

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 indicators found in these youth include substance abuse, gang involvement, mental health needs, and family discord.

Service Capacity

The five (5) multi-purpose group homes combined with the additional beds at the Union County blended program can serve forty-seven (47) youth at a time and approximately one hundred (100) youth annually. The homes are located in rural judicial districts and serve as an alternative to detention and youth development centers.

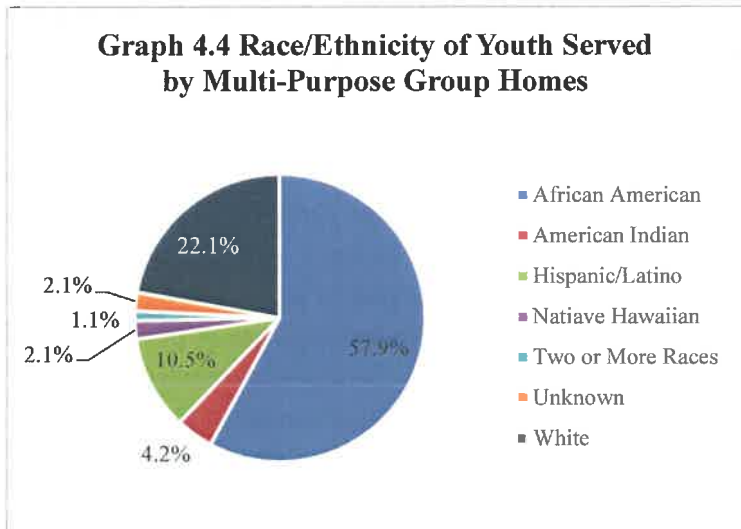
Cost Comparison

Table 4.9: The cost per youth comparison for multi-purpose group home services versus youth development centers.

Program vs. Youth Development Center	Cost
FY 20-21 MPGH Residential Program	\$36,496
FY 20-21 Youth Development Centers	\$111,931

Demographics for youth served in FY 2020-2021

- 100% of youth served were under juvenile court supervision.
 - 89 youth were served in FY 20-21.
 - 82% of youth terminated completed the program successfully or satisfactorily.
 - 15.2 was the average age of youth being served in the multi-purpose group homes.
 - 81% of youth served were male, 19% of youth served were female.



Provider’s Outcome Data for Youth Exiting in FY 2020-2021

Provider’s Academic Growth

In January 2021, Methodist Home for Children moved from administering the Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT) to the Academic Achievement Battery (AAB) in all six (6) multipurpose group homes. The AAB is more user and student-friendly while measuring the same four academic areas: word reading, spelling, reading comprehension, and math computation. The AAB scoring process significantly reduces administrator scoring issues. The PariConnect feature of the AAB process provides clear and easy-to-read reports for each youth and a growth report at discharge. This change has helped define characteristics of youth entering care and improved the overall monitoring of youth academic growth while in care.

Table 4.9 is a snapshot of the data gathered from the administered AABs from January 2021 to June 2021. The first row shows the average grade level of youth entering care in three of the four subtest areas (spelling has been removed due to relevance). The second row shows the average of

grades below the youths’ actual assigned grade levels. And the third provides the average grade level at discharge, showing the academic growth over time.

Overall, this data represents the significant academic growth youth achieved while in care.

Table 4.9: Provider’s Academic Growth - Wide Range Achievement Test

	Word Reading Grade Equivalent	Reading Comprehension Grade Equivalent	Math Computation Grade Equivalent
Average grade level of youth at admission	6.9	2.8	5
Average grade level below appropriate grade level at admission	2.3	6.2	3.9
Average grade level at discharge	8.5	3.25	5.6

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 2020-2021. 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.

Table 4.10: Provider’s Change in Risk & Protective Factors

Category	Admission	Discharge
Involvement with mentor or caregiver	30.26%	42.11%
Regular contact with parent, relative, or caregiver	93.42%	93.42%
Acceptance of authority	34.21%	61.16%
No involvement with legal system	9.21%	17.11%
School performance (at grade level)	39.47%	86.84%
Reading ability	60.53%	86.84%
Age-Appropriate social behavior	50.00%	89.47%

Positive self-image	47.37%	84.21%
Empathetic towards others	47.37%	80.26%
Appropriate friends	5.26%	57.89%
Positive goal oriented	48.68%	73.68%
School/community activity involvement	18.42%	38.16%
Religious community involvement	11.84%	32.89%
Good personal health habits	73.68%	96.05%
Decision making	11.84%	48.68%
Honesty behavior	15.79%	46.05%
Substance-free behavior	51.32%	73.68%
Personal development activities	51.32%	80.26%

Youth Outcome Survey

In order to follow the progress of program-served youth, the contracted provider conducts outcome surveys up to twelve (12) months post discharge from the continuing care program. These surveys help all parties understand the success of post-discharged youth served through a multi-purpose group home. Listed in Table 4.7 below are data from the surveys that were able to be completed during FY 2020-2021.

Table 4.11: Provider’s Outcome Survey

Measure	% Reported
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	95%
Maintaining a positive on-going relationship with a caring, responsible adult	95%
Attending School/Work regularly	91%
Engaged in Positive Development Activities	73%
Attended Routine Health Appointments	73%
Attending MH apt or Participating in Treatment	59%
Following substance abuse recovery plan	72%
Regularly participating in pro-social community activities	74%

Recidivism

FY 2019-2020 and FY 2020-2021 recidivism data shows that of the 118 youth who had been in post-discharged status from multi-purpose group homes for six (6) months, nineteen (19) youth, or 16%, received a new adjudication and zero (0) youth, or 0%, received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at six (6) months post-discharge was 16%.

At twelve (12) months post-discharge, there were ninety-two (92) youth who could be analyzed for this report. Nineteen (19) youth, or 21%, received a new adjudication and zero (0) youth, or

0%, received a new adult conviction. The total recidivism rate at twelve (12) months post-discharge was 21%.

Table 4.12: Multi-purpose Group Home Recidivism

Multipurpose Group 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	118	92
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	19	19
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	16%	21%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	0	0
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	0%	0%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	19	19
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	16%	21%

Conclusions

Multi-purpose group homes continue to be an invaluable resource to judicial districts and local communities serving as an alternative to committing youth to a youth development center.

Section V

Transitional Services

Transitional Living Homes

Overview

For ten years, Methodist Home for Children has operated transitional living programs. Currently, there are three transitional living programs statewide and an additional two beds in a blended model program. The initial and longest standing of the transitional programs is Craven Transitional Living Program in New Bern. Additionally, there is North Hills Transitional Living Program for females in Raleigh and Forsyth Transitional Living Program in Winston-Salem. In FY 20-21, the Union County Blended Multi-Purpose Home Model Program opened, which includes two transitional living beds as part of its blended model service array. Transitional living programs are six (6) to twelve (12)-month residential programs that help youth leaving a youth development center or a Level II residential program build the skill sets they need to transition back to the community and live independently. Programs can also serve youth who are designated as in need of intensive intervention services. The Craven and Forsyth Transitional Living Programs can serve six (6) male youth at a time, North Hills Transitional Living Program can serve five (5) female youth at a time, and the Union County Blended Model program can serve two (2) youth, male or female, at a time.

Major program components of the transition homes include education, vocational training, 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 transitional living programs are under post-release supervision or on 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 youth comparison for Craven and North Hills Transitional Homes versus youth development centers.

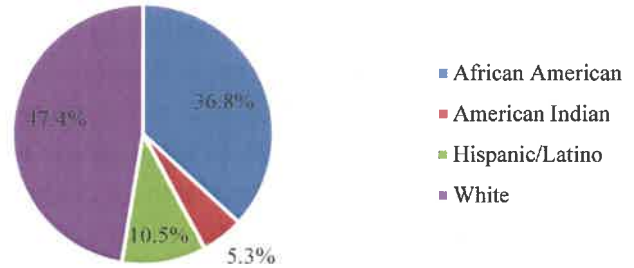
Program vs. Youth Development Center	Cost
FY 20-21 Craven, Forsyth, and North Hills Transitional Home	\$34,594
FY 20-21 Youth Development Center	\$111,931

Demographics of youth served during FY 2020-2021

Craven

- In FY 20-21, a total of 19 youth were served.
- 100% were males.
- 16.7 was the average age of youth being served.

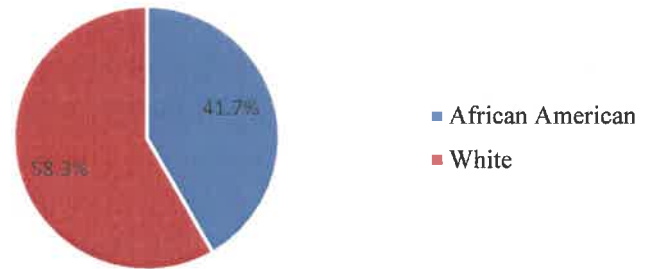
Graph 5.1 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by Craven Transitional Independent Living Program



North Hills

- In FY 20-21, a total of 12 youth served were served.
- 100% were females.
- 16.5 was the average age of youth being served.

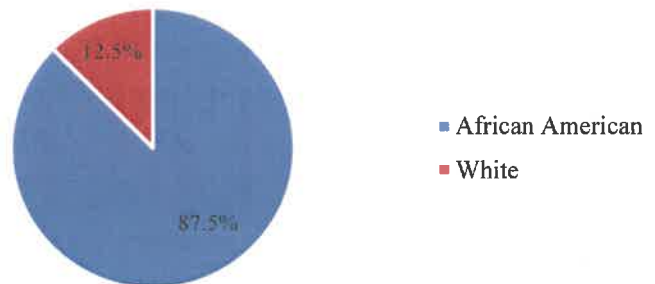
Graph 5.2 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by North Hills Transitional Independent Living Program



Forsyth

- In FY 20-21, a total of 16 youth served were served.
- 100% were males.
- 16.4 was the average age of youth being served.

Graph 5.3 Race/Ethnicity of Youth Served by Forsyth Transitional Independent Living Program



Outcome Data for Youth Exiting in FY 2020-2021

Provider Academic Achievement

During their stay at the Craven, North Hills, and Forsyth Transitional Living Programs, youth have a choice of four educational tracks that include community college classes, vocational trade, GED, or high school. During FY 20-21, the Union Blended Model Home was opened and the two transitional beds include programming which aligns with other stand-alone transition home models. Youth who are participating in a vocational trade can also complete their GED/HiSET or high school curriculum at the same time. The education track is determined after interviewing youth to determine their career goals and interests and assessment of the 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 Transitional Living Program and Craven Community College (CCC) have developed an effective relationship by allowing the youth partner with CCC in certain trades while obtaining their GED or high school diploma. For North Hills, effective partnerships have been established with Sanderson High School as well as Wake Technical College. Forsyth and Union County have started to form relationships with the local community colleges and all programs have access to Edgenuity and Penn Foster online programs.

Provider Education Participation:

Craven

All 19 youth served at Craven last year participated in educational programming. Some youth completed more than one.

- 7 youth completed HiSET Equivalent program
- 3 youth enrolled and continuing HiSET Equivalent program
- 5 youth completed and Graduated from Penn Foster
- 3 youth enrolled and continuing Penn Foster
- 1 youth graduated high school prior to admission

Craven has a partnership with Craven Community College's VOLT Center (vocational training center).

- 19 youth participated in the Core Curriculum Class
- 10 youth graduated the Core Curriculum Class
- 6 youth currently taking the Core Curriculum Class when data was captured
- 9 youth took trade courses
- 7 youth completed the Forklift Class and earned a certificate
- 2 youth completed the Welding Level 2 Course
- 1 youth enrolled in Diesel Engine and Diesel Systems Technology

North Hills

Of the 12 youth that were served, 11 participated in educational programming. Some youth completed more than one. One youth was not in care long enough to obtain credits toward participation.

- 7 obtained their high school diploma while in the program through Penn Foster
- 1 participated in online public high school
- 1 completed HiSET Equivalent program prior to admission
- 3 youth graduated prior to admission
- 2 youth attended Wake Tech Community college. Of the 2, 1 youth received a Hotel & Lodging Certification
- 1 youth enrolled online at Southwestern Community College
- 1 youth obtained a ServSafe certification

Forsyth

Out of the 16 youth served, 14 participated in educational programming. Some youth completed more than one. Two youth were not in care long enough to participate in educational programming.

- 1 youth completed and graduated through Penn Foster
- 6 youth participated in the GED track
- 7 youth were enrolled in Penn Foster
- 2 youth graduated high school before admission

Union

All 3 youth served participated in educational programming.

- 2 youth participated in the GED track
- 1 youth was enrolled in Penn Foster

Table 5.2: Graduation Data

<u>Graduation Data of Program Completed Youth</u>	<u>All Graduation Programs</u>	<u>Penn Foster Graduation Program</u>	<u>HiSET Equivalent Graduation Program</u>	<u>GED or Traditional High School</u>
Transitional Living Group Homes	84.21%	84.61%	100.00%	50.00%
Craven: Eligible Youth with Achievement	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	N/A
<i>Graduated Program</i>	8	4	4	N/A
<i>Enrolled in Program</i>	8	4	4	0
Forsyth: Eligible Youth with Achievement	40.00%	33.33%	N/A	50.00%
<i>Graduated Program</i>	2	1	N/A	1
<i>Enrolled in Program</i>	5	3	0	2
North Hills: Eligible Youth with Achievement	100.00%	100.00%	N/A	N/A
<i>Graduated Program</i>	6	6	N/A	N/A

<i>Enrolled in Program</i>	6	6	0	0
Union TLH: Eligible Youth with Achievement	N/A	Union opened during this current FY and has not been open long enough to report an eligible youth graduation rate.		
<i>Graduated Program</i>				
<i>Enrolled in Program</i>				

*Craven: Of their 10 successfully discharged youth, 2 already graduated before admission

*Forsyth: Of their 5 successfully discharged youth, 1 already graduated before admission

*North Hills: Of their 8 successfully discharged youth, 2 already graduated before admission

Employment

The Craven, North Hills, and Forsyth Transitional Homes strive to have every youth employed during their residency in 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 learn how to search for appropriate job placements. The Transitional Living Specialist actively engage with each youth to foster skills needed to navigate search engines, build resumes, complete online applications, and understand business etiquette and appropriate attire for local employment opportunities. The Specialist facilitates mock interviews to assist youth enhance interview skills and ask pertinent questions about the work environment and salary negotiations.

After a youth becomes gainfully employed, staff provide ongoing individual sessions to ensure they are utilizing the skills acquired during their participation in the program. Employment is a core component of the transitional home as it empowers the youth by giving them confidence and improves their self-esteem as well as allowing them to be a positive contributor to the community and workforce.

Provider Employment Results:

Transitional living programs utilize a phased approach toward youth employment, designed to teach and enhance job seeking skills. 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.

Craven

Of the 19 youth served, 13 were employed. 6 did not due to length of stay.

- 11 youth worked in the Food service industry
- 2 youth worked retail

North Hills

Of the 12 youth served, 7 of the youth obtained employment. Five did not due to length of stay.

- 4 youth worked in the family dining/food service industry
- 1 youth worked in the grocery industry
- 2 youth worked in retail

Forsyth

Of the 16 youth served, 3 of the youth obtained employment. Twelve did not due to length of stay and 1 youth was ineligible due to length of stay.

- 2 youth worked in the food service industry
- 1 youth worked at a car wash

Union

Of the 3 youth served in Transitional Living, 1 youth obtained employment and two others were not yet eligible.

- 1 youth worked in the food service industry

Provider Youth Outcome Survey

In order to follow the progress of program-served youth, the contracted provider conducts outcome surveys up to twelve (12) months post-discharge from the aftercare program. These surveys help all parties understand the success of post-discharged youth served through a transitional living program. Union County was not included due to limited time in operation. Listed in Table 5.3 below is data from the surveys completed during FY 2020-2021.

Table 5.3: Provider's Outcome Survey

Measure	% Reported
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	90%
Maintaining a positive on-going relationship with a caring, responsible adult	90%
Attending School/Work regularly	73%
Engaged in Positive Development Activities	70%
Attended Routine Health Appointments	79%
Attending MH apt or Participating in Treatment	81%
Following substance abuse recovery plan	100%
Regularly participating in pro-social community activities	70%
Obtained or maintained employment	77%

Recidivism

The data provided in Table 5.4 below represents promising results. For the 51 youth served, six (6)-month recidivism studies show that 8% of youth recidivated with juvenile adjudications and 2% obtained an adult conviction (1 youth). Overall, recidivism at twelve (12) months post-

discharge show that only two (2) juveniles or 6% had a juvenile adjudication and one (1) youth had an adult conviction. The total recidivism rate twelve (12) months post-discharge for juvenile adjudications and adult convictions was 10%, or three (3) juveniles of the thirty-one (31) juveniles studied.

Table 5.4: Transitional Homes Recidivism

Craven, Forsyth 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	51	31
Distinct Juveniles with Complaints Adjudicated	4	2
Distinct Juveniles Adjudication Recidivism	8%	6%
Adult Convictions (Distinct Juveniles)	1	1
Adult Recidivism (% of Distinct Juveniles Convicted)	2%	3%
Distinct Juveniles with Adjudications or Convictions	5	3
Recidivism - Juvenile Adjudications + Adult Convictions	10%	10%

Conclusions

The Transitional Living Homes are a four-level program based on the Teaching-Family Model used in some youth development centers. These residential programs help youth build the skill sets they need to live independently. When youth start the program, each day is highly structured, but as they take on new responsibilities and demonstrate positive behavior change, they earn their independence and develop the skills necessary to sustain independence. Youth who are internally motivated and goal-orientated are successful candidates for this model, one which significantly reduces the likelihood of recidivism. Additionally, the outcome data for academic achievement and employment placement demonstrates the program model’s success, significantly improving opportunities and leading to skill development for youth to become productive members of society.

