



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION
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Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Linda Wheeler Hayes
Secretary

Justice and Public Safety Department Overview

February 10th, 2011

Thank you for the opportunity to review our Department with you this morning. We are very interested in helping the Members understand our core mission as well as the wonderful results achieved by the Department over the years. I have several of my staff with me today to help answer any questions that you may have going forward. We all expect to help you with a very productive session working together as we endeavor to maintain a high quality, effective juvenile justice system in North Carolina. Also, we have appreciated the opportunity to work with the Fiscal Research team as they have come over and learned a great deal about all of our services in the interim; they've even made trips across the state to several of our field locations, programs and facilities to learn about the Department.

Mission Statement: To reduce and prevent juvenile delinquency by effectively intervening, educating, and treating youth in order to strengthen families and increase public safety

The NC statutes that established our Department created a comprehensive, integrated and effective system for administering juvenile justice and public safety. Our **core mission** as outlined in North Carolina General Statute **House Bill 1804v6** (from the 1999-2000 Session) mandated the following core duties, expectations and components of the North Carolina juvenile justice system:

<i>Core Function As Defined by Statute:</i>	<i>Component or Division Responsible:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevention of juvenile delinquency and earliest possible intervention where risk factors emerge• Risk and needs assessments, substance abuse and mental health screening, diversion and consultation services, Intake, protective supervision, probation and court supervision, placement, and aftercare/re-entry services for those youth adjudicated as delinquent – and Interstate Compact Supervision of juveniles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Programs through Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils; Court Services; miscellaneous contracts (served over 40,000 children in 2008-09 in Community Programs) (see <u>Attachment A</u> for examples)• Court Services; JCPC programs (provide diversion and sanctions); miscellaneous contractors (Methodist Homes, Eckerd) – processed 40,432 complaints involving 20,714 distinct juveniles

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term detention (including education, health/mental health, substance abuse, nutrition, recreation, etc.) services • Long-term commitment services (includes health/mental health, substance abuse, pro-social skills development, education [we are our own LEA and provide NC Standard Course of Study], specialized treatment [sex offender, etc.] • Re-entry and Aftercare services for youths returning to their communities from Youth Development Centers • Adopt administrative rules, set policy, evaluate programs, perform cost-benefit analysis, manage and train the workforce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility Services—Detention (9 state-owned; 3 county-owned that we purchase beds from) – (194 standard bed capacity) – 6604 Detention admissions involving 4342 youths • Facility Services – Youth Development Centers (8 of them across the state; 387 funded bed capacity after Swannanoa closes and positions transfer) – 365 new commitments occurred last year – Currently have commitment responsibility for 390 youths • YDC’s and Court Counselors, Community Programs and others all work together to re-integrate youths back into their communities • Administrative Services Division and the Office of the Secretary
<p>Other statutorily mandated core / required functions: provide funding and technical assistance to all 100 counties for community-based prevention of delinquency; Assist local governments and private service agencies in the development of juvenile court services and delinquency prevention services; Plan, develop, and coordinate comprehensive multidisciplinary services and programs statewide for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, early intervention, and rehabilitation of juveniles</p>	

Since the Department was formed, a combination of effective juvenile statutes in addition to our comprehensive programming that involves hundreds of local and state partnerships across each of your districts has led to dramatic reductions in youths committed to institutions and statewide juvenile crime rates. Our success is well documented by the numbers. Youth Development Center commitments have dropped 54% in the last decade (73% since 1998!), and youth crime rates have fallen 21% --- despite dramatic resource challenges in recent years (see graphics below for reference). While **our budget has lost \$28 million dollars in General Fund appropriations in the past 2 years** – this represents **16.4% of our General Fund budget**, we continue to achieve good results as evidenced by the numbers I just told you about. Yet, we cannot sustain such losses. If we were to lose even 5% more, **our entire operating budget will have been cut by 21% in three years – cuts that are substantially disproportionate to both the overall rates of reductions in the General Fund of the State budget, as well as the rates of cuts to many other agencies.** Losing 20-25% of public safety capacity is of grave concern and we must think very carefully about this. We cannot provide our core mission in these circumstances – and, public safety would be most likely be significantly harmed with deeper cuts. To help with becoming more efficient and to **manage the current reversion targets**, we have already begun making cuts and streamlining our operations – as we speak, we are closing Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center and Camp Woodson to save over \$1 million dollars in future years; cutting contracts and services; eliminating some positions, eliminating the purchase of



much needed equipment and vehicles; we've held back 1% of our allotment to meet the Governor's needs, and are also reverting additional dollars on top of that to help meet her statewide total reversion target. In terms of **budget priorities and needs**, we have expenses in our system that were not planned in (or were removed from) the last Continuation Budget (for example, medical costs, workers compensation and unemployment costs that are escalating, unrealized detention receipts, information and technology expenses that we do not control) ---- and we continue to operate at an annual general revenue loss due to rising costs and mandated holdbacks/reversions.

We understand that everyone will have to work hard to find solutions to the budget challenges; yet current budget compared to the demands on our system show how lean and efficient we already are. We cannot tell judges to stop sending youth to Detention Centers and Youth Development Centers – and must plan for some variation in our system of facilities when these numbers go up and down. And we cannot tell local law enforcement to stop investigating or charging juveniles when crimes occur.

On behalf of our entire staff and the vulnerable youth and families impacted by our agency, we again thank you. I hope that we, along with Kristine and her staff, have helped you to better understand the Department as well as our successful impacts in public safety despite the economic challenges --- thank you very much for what you're doing to help North Carolina and to strengthen our state.

I will be happy to answer questions (or my staff will as well) -----



ATTACHMENT A: Successful JCPC Programs in Various Districts Around the State

New Hanover County

Program: Youth Empowerment Services

Sponsoring Agency: New Hanover County Government

Provides avenue to meet court-obligated service by engaging in civic, community and social responsibilities for court referred youth.

Program is located in the same facility as the Juvenile Courtroom and the Juvenile Court Counselor's Office and youth/parents needing services are literally walked from the courtroom or the court counselor's office to the intake worker for the program, reducing the time delay in receiving services and reducing the potential for no-shows.

Onslow County

Program: Restitution Program

Sponsoring Agency: Onslow County Government

This program provides community worksites whereby a means and an opportunity for juveniles to perform community service work to repay the victim(s) of their crime(s) as well as offering an opportunity to learn quality job skills and training that could benefit them in the future.

The program served 291 youth in fiscal year 2009-2010 by placing them in community worksites in cooperation with a number of agencies and non profit organizations.

Transylvania County

Program: Project Rebound

Sponsoring Agency: Davidson River School

Provide high school students who are recommended for long-term suspension, who are at risk of dropping out of school due to previous failures and high risk behaviors, individualized instruction, pro-social behavior support, education and counseling services.

Main focus of programming keeps youth in school and off the street due from being expelled. Focus on homework assignments while receiving interpersonal skills; strongly supported by the primary referral source (juvenile court services). This program reflects strong collaboration of DJJDP, program provider and school system working together.

Henderson

Program: After-School Education and Social Development

Sponsoring Agency: Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County

After-school and summer youth development program providing life enhancing programs and character development experiences to at-risk youth.

Program is located in low income residential area that provides after-school academic enhancement for at-risk youth. Highly utilized and valued by the community.



Polk

Program: C.S.T.O.P. (Community Short Term Opportunities Program)

Sponsoring Agency: Polk County School System

Provides a supervised structured environment for students who are suspended from school or that demonstrate significant elevated risk factors of future delinquency.

School sponsored program using a research based model to provide services to suspended youth with behavior problems; area with limited resources to provide this type of service.

Wilkes

Program: Juvenile Mediation Program

Sponsoring Agency: Mediation & Restorative Justice Center

The Juvenile Mediation Program provides mediation services to juveniles for truancy, crimes against persons, crimes against property, and family discord.

Staff delivers excellent mediations between youth, youth and victims and between youth and parents. She is organized, personable and has excellent communication skills. Having the right staff for the particular job frequently is what puts programs over the top in being outstanding in terms of how well they deliver services to their clients.

Johnston County

Program: Structured Day

Sponsoring Agency: Johnston County Youth Services

Provides academic services and life skills to short and long term suspended youth.

In a community with limited resources, this program provides youth an opportunity to receive structure activities and homework assistance during the course of the day when they are suspended from school. They do great work and are highly collaborative.





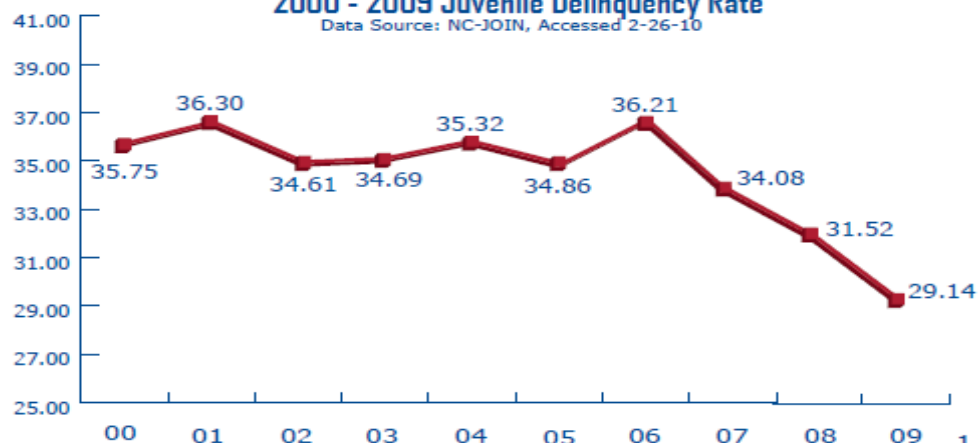
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

Overview

For the fourth straight year, the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reports that the total number of juvenile delinquency complaints filed statewide has decreased and the rate of delinquency complaints filed per 1,000 youth ages 6 – 15 has dropped to a 10 year low. This continued decline may be attributed to the hard work of all the Department's state and local partners and the innovative approach taken by legislators through the passage of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 1998. This landmark legislation that created the Department led to 73% fewer youth being committed to the Department's Youth Development Centers, (the State's long-term secure custody facilities).

2000 - 2009 Juvenile Delinquency Rate

Data Source: NC-JOIN, Accessed 2-26-10



A juvenile delinquent complaint is the charging of an offense that would be a crime under state law or under an ordinance of local government, including violation of motor vehicle laws if committed by an adult.

Juvenile delinquency rate is defined as the number of delinquent complaints received by court services offices per 1,000 youth ages 6-15 years old.

Youth Development Center Commitments

Data Source: NC-JOIN, Accessed 2-26-10

