



**Multipurpose Juvenile Homes
Annual Evaluation Report
March 2012**

**Special Provision: S.L. 2011-145
Section 17.2**

Submitted by:
Department of Public Safety
Division of Juvenile Justice

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Executive Summary

Multipurpose Juvenile Homes Program

Responding to the requirement of *Session Law 2011-145, Section 17.2, Annual Evaluation of Community Programs*, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention undertook an evaluation of the contracted provider's compliance with the requirements of the existing contract and the *Juvenile Justice Reform Act, S.L. 1998-202*. The Department also considered whether participation in the Multipurpose Juvenile Homes results in a reduction of court involvement among those youth who participate in the program.

The Department's findings document the following:

- The program has been contracted to Methodist Home for Children since 1993.
- The Homes are viewed as a valuable community resource that served 10 judicial districts.

District 1	District 6A	District 7	District 10	District 16B
District 2	District 6B	District 8	District 16A	District 30

- During FY 2010-2011, the home served the following 23 North Carolina counties:

Beaufort	Greene	Macon	Tyrrell
Bertie	Halifax	Martin	Wake
Cherokee	Haywood	Northampton	Washington
Chowan	Hertford	Pasquotank	Wayne
Currituck	Jackson	Robeson	Wilson
Dare	Lenoir	Scotland	

- The Homes utilize a model of care that is grounded in evidence-based practices.
- All youth received in the Multipurpose Juvenile Homes were referred by their local juvenile court and ranged in age from 11 to 17.
- Most residents are minority males from a single parent home.
- Upon admission, 85% of youth are enrolled in school. Of the 85% enrolled, 78% were functioning below grade level.
- Of the 62 youth admitted during FY 2010-2011, forty or 65% were referred for a crime against a person, twenty or 32% were referred for a crime against property and two or 3% were referred for a victimless crime.
- A total of 172 youth were served through the Multipurpose Juvenile Homes programs during FY 2010-2011.

- Sixty-seven percent of the youth served returned to the home of their parent(s) upon discharge.
- Of the youth discharged during FY 2010-2011, eighty-five percent (85%) of youth were enrolled back into a public school in their home community, five percent were enrolled in a GED or ABE program, 5% were expelled or had long-term suspensions, and 3% were home schooled. Two percent of youth graduated during care.
- Eighty-five percent of the youth served in continuing care (180 days of post discharge support) had no violations of their community supervision standards while receiving continuing care.
- Evaluation data show that in the six months prior to admission to a Multipurpose Juvenile Home, 117 complaints and 36 adjudications occurred, but during the six months subsequent to discharge only 36 complaints and 13 adjudications occurred. Additionally upon reevaluating of the cohort at 12 months, 53 complaints and 15 adjudications had occurred.
- Four youths received new delinquency petitions during the time they were receiving continuing care. Only fourteen youths were adjudicated for new offenses during the six month period following their release from continuing care.
- Parental accountability/involvement was improved with 71% of the youth discharged.
- Twenty-two percent of the admitted youth were functioning at grade level at the time of admission, while 64% were functioning at grade level at the time of discharge.
- Two Multipurpose Juvenile Home youth received a post-secondary scholarship through Methodist Home for Children.
- Multipurpose Juvenile Homes had a ninety-five percent utilization rate.
- The Multipurpose Juvenile Homes cost per bed per day in FY 2010 – 2011 was \$217 which compares to the Youth Development Center's cost of \$322 per bed per day.

Introduction

Responding to the requirements of *Session Law 2011-145, Section 17.2, Annual Evaluation of Community Programs*, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (hereafter the “Department”) is submitting the evaluation of its Multipurpose Juvenile Home Program for FY 2010-2011. In so doing, the Department has considered whether a youth’s participation in the Multipurpose Juvenile Home Program results in a reduction of court involvement and whether the Multipurpose Juvenile Home Program is achieving the goals and objectives of the *Juvenile Justice Reform Act, S. L. 1998-202*.

Historical Background

The Multipurpose Juvenile Home Program has been a mainstay of the Department’s early intervention and prevention strategy since 1993. This program represents a state-community partnership with ten of North Carolina’s most economically and service-deprived rural judicial districts for the provision of residential care and treatment for juvenile offenders.

Originally, these facilities offered secure detention, long term treatment, and a place of safe transition between institutional confinement and a youth’s local community. Development of additional detention capacity and passage of the *Juvenile Justice Reform Act* allowed the Department to strengthen the Multipurpose Juvenile Home’s treatment component while continuing to serve as a place of safe transition between youth development centers and local communities.

During FY 2010-2011, Multipurpose Juvenile Homes were operational in Chowan, Hertford, Macon, Robeson, and Wayne Counties. Jointly, these homes served youth from Judicial Districts 1, 2, 6A, 6B, 7, 8, 10, 16A, 16B, and 30. Youth from Judicial Districts 7 and 10 are not typically served by the homes but were placed because of a critical need.

Contracted Provider

The Methodist Home for Children, Inc. (MHC) has served as the Department’s contracted provider since the Multipurpose Juvenile Homes opened. The Agency has 113 years of experience serving children, youth, and families. It employs 208 trained and professionally competent staff members and is nationally accredited. During FY 2010-2011, the Methodist Home’s service continuum included a five star child care center, six (6) group care facilities, two (2) dual diagnosed residential mental health level 3 group homes, supervisory and management services for 116 foster families, adoption services, day treatment services for dual diagnosed, outpatient services, in-home family counseling, substance abuse counseling, gang prevention education, program consultation, and staff training activities.

Scope of Services Rendered

The nature and duration of the services rendered by each of the Multipurpose Juvenile Homes are diverse. Services are provided to address the needs of court-ordered youth, their families, the court, and the community. The process begins with the development and implementation of an individualized service plan for each youth and family served.

In all of the Multipurpose Juvenile Homes, any youth known to the court for the commission of a Level II offense may be admitted to one or more of the several programs offered. For example, a youth categorized as requiring secure custody may be admitted, assessed, and provided care for a period of time before being returned to court for adjudication. Disposition may see the same youth returned to the Multipurpose Juvenile Home for treatment as a component of probation. Once residential treatment goals have been realized, the youth may be served through the Multipurpose Juvenile Home's continuing care program. Another Multipurpose Juvenile Home client may progress through treatment and be released to some other community plan of care coordinated by the Multipurpose Juvenile Home's staff and the youth's court counselor.

Each Multipurpose Juvenile Home maintains a staff of one program manager, one family service specialist, one teacher, six residential counselors, one full time overnight awake staff, and one part-time overnight awake staff. At least two staff members are always present with the group and overnight awake supervision is provided during nighttime hours.

Methodist Home for Children continues to strengthen the model of care relied upon in these facilities. The model focuses on evidence-based treatment principles¹ in its programming. The primary principles relied upon are the following:

- Addressing antisocial/pro-criminal attitudes and antisocial personality factors such as impulsiveness, risk taking, and low self-control;
- Applying effective interventions that involve behavioral, social learning, and cognitive behavioral change strategies;
- Delivering treatment and academic education in a style and mode that are consistent with the learning styles of the offenders.

The model of care 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 practice and skills focus meets the learning-style needs of the youth served and leads to an internalization of these skills and the values of honesty, respect, responsibility, empowerment, compassion, and spirituality.

¹ Howell, J.C. 2003. Preventing & Reducing Juvenile Delinquency: A Comprehensive Framework. p. 212-213. Sage Publications Inc., Thousand Oaks, California.

Admission Characteristics

During FY 2010-2011, a total of 62 youth were admitted to Multipurpose Juvenile Homes. These 62 youth joined 37 youth already in residential care and 31 in continuing care on July 1, 2010. Demographically, the diverse nature of those admitted to care is reflected in the tables and charts that follow:

Table 1 – Multipurpose Juvenile Homes: Admission Characteristics

	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>
Admissions by Referral Source:	62	Court =100%
Admissions by Age:	62	
11 Years Old		1.6%
12 Years Old		3.2%
13 Years Old		16.1%
14 Years Old		22.6%
15 Years Old		38.7%
16 Years Old		17.8%
<i>Total Percentage</i>		<i>100%</i>
Admissions by Gender:	62	
Male		79%
Female		21%
<i>Total Percentage</i>		<i>100%</i>
Admissions by Race:	62	
African American		58%
Hispanic		1.6%
Multiracial		6.5%
Native American		8.1%
White		25.8%
<i>Total Percentage</i>		<i>100%</i>
Living Arrangements Upon Admission:	62	
Both Parents		9.7%
Father & Stepmother		1.6%
Father Only		3.2%
Foster Care		1.6%
Group Home		3.2%
Institution (YDC)		6.5%
Mother & Stepfather		14.5%
Mother Only		40.3%
Other		3.2%
Relatives		9.7%
Secure Custody		6.5%
<i>Total Percentage</i>		<i>100%</i>

**Table 1 (Continued) - Multipurpose Juvenile Homes:
Admission Characteristics**

Legal Status upon Admission:	62	
Probation		100%
<i>Total Percentage</i>		<i>100%</i>
Admissions by Referral Reason:	62	
Problem Behavior (Person Crime)		64.5%
Problem Behavior (Property Crime)		32.3%
Problem Behavior (Victimless Crime)		3.2%
<i>Total Percentage</i>		<i>100%</i>
Admissions by Disposition:	62	
Level I		4.8%
Level II		95.2%
<i>Total Percentage</i>		<i>100%</i>

During FY 2010-2011, Multipurpose Juvenile Homes served youth and families through the provision of residential care and continuing care. The continuing care component of each Multipurpose Juvenile Home is provided for at least 180 days following discharge. Some youth were already being served through residential and continuing care when the fiscal year began. New admissions caused the numbers of youth served to expand.

Table 2 - Total Served Characteristics

	<i>N</i>
Number of Youth Served Through All Program Components:	172
In Residence on 7/1/10	37
Admitted in 2010-2011	62
<i>Total Served in Residence 2010-2011</i>	<i>99</i>
In Continuing Care on 7/1/10	26
Admitted to Continuing Care 2010-2011	47
<i>Total Served in Continuing Care 2010-2011</i>	<i>73</i>

Each Multipurpose Juvenile Home has a capacity of eight youth. Demand varied in accord with the resources and needs of the judicial district(s) served. See Table 3 below:

Table 3 - Percent Capacity Filled During FY 2010-2011

Chowan	98.6%
Hertford	97.6%
Macon	83.7%
Robeson	99.0%
Wayne	97.0%
<i>All Homes</i>	<i>95.2%</i>

Outcomes – What are the results?

Because the timeline structure of this report is limited to twelve (12) months, multi-year results of program participation are not identified. Available short-term (single year) results are outlined below.

Youth Outcome Survey

In order to follow the progress of program-served youth, the contracted provider conducts outcome surveys at six and 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 below are data from the surveys completed during FY 2010-2011.

Table 4 – 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	82%
Maintaining a positive on-going relationship with a caring, responsible adult	69%
Maintaining optimal health functioning with needed and appropriate supports	95%
Avoiding subsequent complaints at 6 months post discharge	64%

Change in Risk & Protective Factors

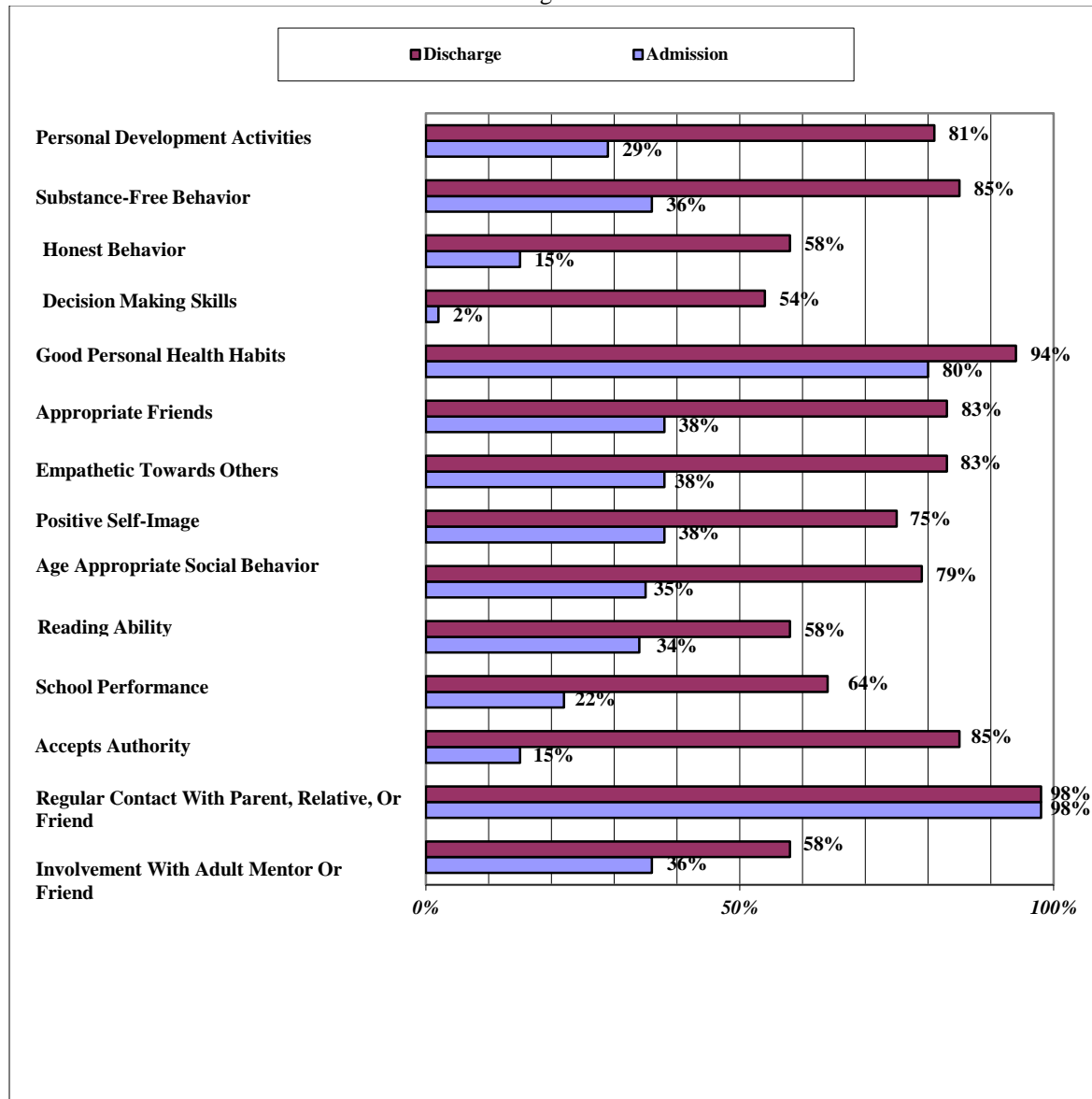
The information provided in Figure 1 below reflects data from the *Risk and Protective Factors Worksheet* for youth served during FY 2010-2011. Risk factors are evidence-based characteristics that increase the likelihood of a youth being at high risk for committing delinquent acts and, therefore, needing 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.

Figure 1: FY 2010-2011 Protective Factors

Admissions = 62

Discharges = 61



Overall Academic Functioning

Overall academic functioning showed a positive change as well. Risk and protective factor assessments showed that at admission 22% of youth were functioning at grade level, while at discharge 64% were functioning at grade level. Experience and best practice options suggest that addressing problem behavior is critical to educational success. The *Value Based Therapeutic Environment Model of Care* created and offered by the contracted provider incorporates this in their service delivery. The program focuses on identifying behavioral deficits and teaching skills to perform new, more positive behaviors. Trained staff spend considerable time helping students to see the value in engaging in appropriate school behavior and creating a living environment that promotes learning.

Table 5 below shows that a significant majority of youth resided with their family (67%) and enrolled in school (85%) following discharge from a Multipurpose Juvenile Home.

Table 5 - Multipurpose Juvenile Homes: Discharge Characteristics

	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>
Living Arrangements Upon Discharge:	61	
DSS Foster Care		1.6%
Group Home		4.9%
Multipurpose Home (Transfer)		4.9%
Parent's Home		67.2%
Institution (Child Caring)		1.6%
Therapeutic Foster Care		4.9%
Relatives		8.2%
Secure Custody (Detention Center/Jail)		1.7%
Therapeutic Wilderness Camp		1.7%
Runaway		3.3%
<i>Total Percentage</i>		<i>100%</i>
School Status Upon Discharge:	61	
Enrolled		85.3%
GED/ABE		4.9%
Graduated		1.6%
Expelled/Long Term Suspension:		4.9%
Home School		3.3%
<i>Total Percentage</i>		<i>100%</i>

The Department's ability to accumulate data regarding youth who are no longer subject to a juvenile court's jurisdiction is limited. All discharged youth are followed for 180 days post discharge by the contracted provider. Additional outcome related data are presented in Table 6 below:

Table 6 - Outcome Characteristics within Six and Twelve Months of Release

	<i>N</i>
Distinct Juveniles	93
Reduction in Subsequent Complaints:	
Number of Complaints Six Months Prior to Admission to a Multipurpose Juvenile Home	117
Number of Complaints Six Months Subsequent to Discharge from a Multipurpose Juvenile Home	36
Number of Complaints 12 Months subsequent to Discharge from a Multipurpose Juvenile Home	53
Reduction in Subsequent Adjudications:	
Number of Adjudications Six Months Prior to Admission to a Multipurpose Juvenile Home	36
Number of Adjudications Six Months Subsequent to Discharge from a Multipurpose Juvenile Home	13
Number of Adjudications 12 Months subsequent to Discharge from a Multipurpose Juvenile Home	15
Distinct Number of Juveniles with Complaints:	
Six Months Prior to Multipurpose Juvenile Home Admission	42
Six Months Subsequent to Discharge from a Multipurpose Juvenile Home	14
Twelve Months Subsequent to Discharge from a Multipurpose Juvenile Home	18
Distinct Number of Juveniles with Adjudicated Juvenile Complaints:	
Six Months Prior to Admission to a Multipurpose Juvenile Home	32
Six Months Subsequent to Discharge from a Multipurpose Juvenile Home	10
Twelve Months Subsequent to Discharge from a Multipurpose Juvenile Home	12

Table 7 below reflects findings that only one new petition was filed against a youth while in residence at a Multipurpose Home. Data show that 85.3% had no new court involvement. Motions for Review were filed on behalf of eight (8) youth in residential care for various reasons. The majority of the motions and new delinquency petitions filed were for offenses that occurred prior to admission.

Table 7

	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>
Reduction in Violations of Community Supervision of Discharged Youth While In Residence	61	
No New Problems	52	85.3%
Motion(s) for Violation of Court Order	8	13.1%
New Delinquency Petition(s)	1	1.6%
<i>Total Percentage</i>		<i>100%</i>
Increased Parental Accountability/Involvement of Discharged Youth While the Youth were in Residence:	61	
Appropriate and Acceptable Parent Child Relationship	3	4.9%
Significant Improvement	23	37.7%
Some Improvement	28	45.9%
Unchanged	6	9.9%
Unknown	1	1.6%
<i>Total Percentage</i>		<i>100%</i>

As reflected in Table 7 above, evaluation showed that of the 61 youth discharged from a Multipurpose Juvenile Home during FY 2010-2011, three sets of parents were deemed to display appropriate and acceptable involvement with their child at admission and during the period of residence. Twenty-three parents reflected *significant* positive change in their degree of involvement with their child during his/her residence at a Multipurpose Juvenile Home, and 28 parents demonstrated some improvement in involvement with their child. Six parents remained unchanged in their degree of involvement with their child, and one set of parents showed a decrease in involvement with their child. The nature of the relationship between one parent and his/her child could not be assessed.

Table 8 below shows that of the 52 youth discharged from the continuing care program during FY 2010-2011, only four or 7.7% had new delinquency petitions filed against them during the time they were receiving continuing care. Another nine or 17.3% of youth demonstrated behavior that caused the court counselor to file a motion to review or vacate their order of community supervision. Seventy-five percent successfully completed their order of community supervision without a violation. This positive outcome is likely linked to an improvement in parental accountability/involvement.

Additional analysis of the data displayed in Table 8 below showed that six parents demonstrated acceptable and appropriate involvement with their child at the time that he/she was admitted to continuing care. During the time that continuing care was offered, 14 parents were rated as showing significant improvement in involvement with their child and 23 parents were deemed to demonstrate some improvement in involvement with their child. Six parents remained unchanged in the degree of involvement demonstrated during the period of continuing care, and two parents were viewed as having a decrease in involvement with their child. The status of the relationship between parent and child was not rated in only one case at the time of termination.

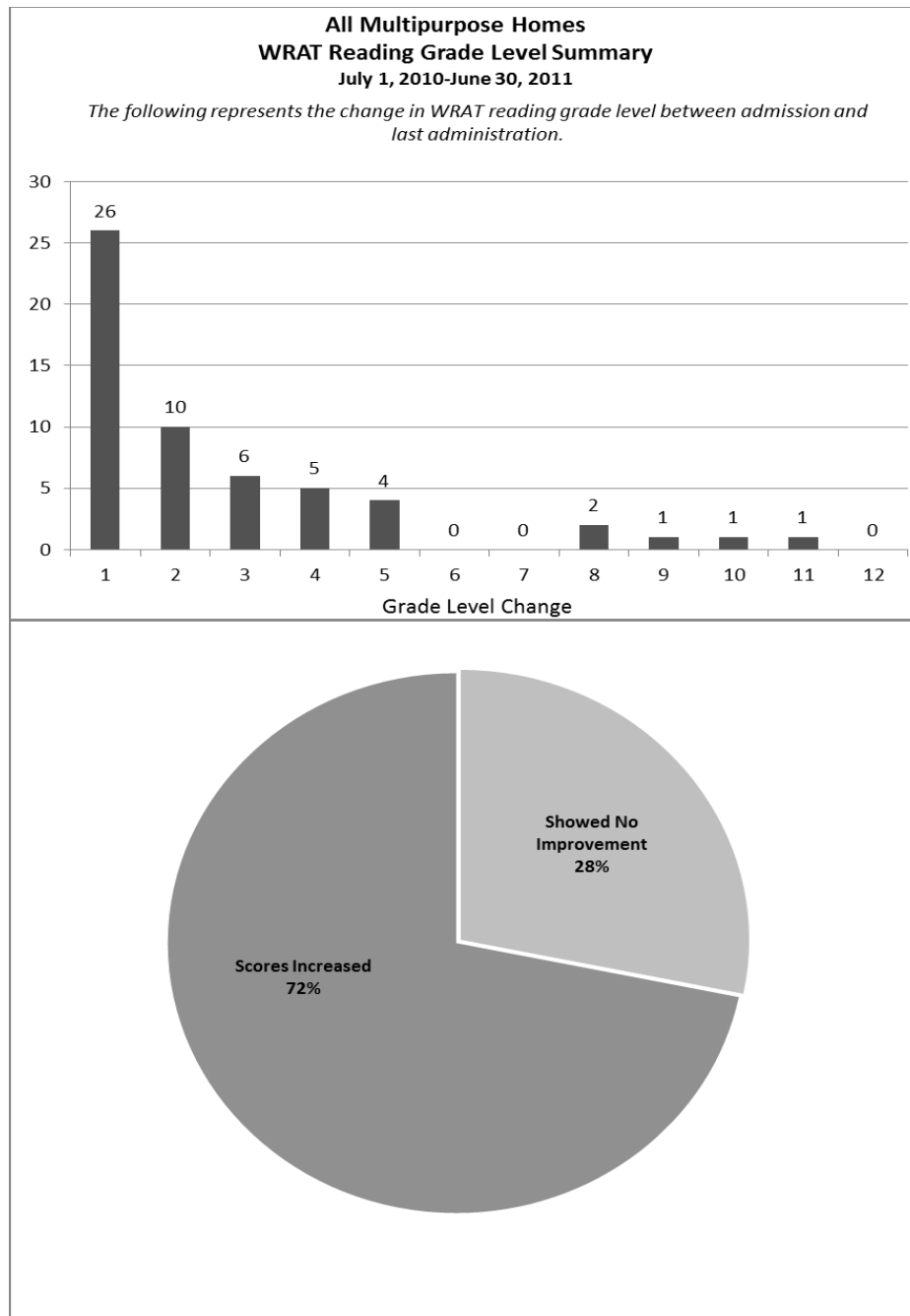
Table 8 - Outcome Characteristics during Continuing Care

	N	%
Reduction in Violations of Community Supervision Standards of Youth Completing Continuing Care:	52	
No New Problems	39	75%
Motion(s) for Review of Court Order	9	17.3%
New Delinquency Petition(s)	4	7.7%
<i>Total Percentage</i>		100%
Increased Parental Accountability/Involvement of Youth Completing Continuing Care:	52	
No Problems at Referral or Since	6	11.5%
Significant Improvement	14	26.9%
Some Improvement	23	44.2%
Unchanged	6	11.5%
Decreased	2	3.9%
Not Rated	1	1.9%
<i>Total Percentage</i>		100%

Reading Ability

Youth continue to improve in reading ability 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 2010-2011, the *Wide Range Achievement Test* was administered to 56 youth. See Figure 2 below for the gains individual youth were able to make.

Figure 2



*Data is available on 56 of the 99 youth served in Multipurpose Homes.

Scholarship Program

Methodist Home for Children continues to offer a scholarship program for post-secondary education or vocational training as a benevolent contribution to the future of these youth. All youth served by the program are eligible for this scholarship. Methodist Home for Children funds this program independent of this contract and bears all of the financial responsibility. Two Multipurpose Juvenile Home youth benefited from this program during FY 2010-2011.

Staff Enhancement

Of the eligible staff members, 13 earned their resident counselor certification during FY 2010-2011. The Department and contracted provider continue to view the certification process as an ongoing method for verifying staff competency that creates additional incentive, recognition, and reward for excellence.

Compliance with the Goals of the *Juvenile Justice Reform Act S. L. 1998-202*

The Juvenile Justice Reform Act supports change from earlier operational processes found throughout Juvenile Justice in North Carolina. Its authors foresaw the need for different outcomes and provided a road map to achieve the envisioned ends. Prominent among the established goals are:

- Development of a sound admission and intake program to juvenile facilities
- Creation and operation of programs that meet the needs of juveniles receiving services
- Adoption of rules and regulations that implement the various provisions of the Act
- Development and coordination of comprehensive multidisciplinary services and programs for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, along with early intervention, and a focus on the rehabilitation of juveniles
- Collection of data
- Assisting private agencies in the development of juvenile prevention services
- Purchase of services from private agencies
- The development of community-based alternatives to YDC commitment
- Working with communities to provide services and treatment options to meet the physical, emotional, and mental health needs of juveniles and families including group homes with psychological treatment and programs

The Department and its contracted provider expend considerable effort in support of achieving compliance with the requirements of this legislation. Since their creation with 1989 Prison Bond Referendum funds, Multipurpose Juvenile Homes have consistently operated as evolving rather than static entities. Physical structures have been maintained and updated as funds have been available. Positive community relations have been enhanced, and the community partnerships that have been developed have expanded access to medical, dental, clinical, educational and recreational resources. Within the Multipurpose Juvenile Home's program, service outreach has been broadened to embrace the client's family. Staff training has been strengthened and an evidence-based model of

care has been adopted. Outcome data are being amassed and utilized to guide treatment and programmatic decisions. The Department's evaluation of the Multipurpose Juvenile Home's compliance with the requirements and tenor of the *Juvenile Justice Reform Act* has resulted in a determination that the compliance rating is "high."

Program Cost

During FY 2010-2011, the Multipurpose Juvenile Home program operated at 95% of capacity. The cost per bed per day was \$217 which compares to the Youth Development Center's cost of \$322 per bed per day.

Summary

February 2012 marked the Department's 18th year of experience in the operation of Multipurpose Juvenile Homes. Each Annual Evaluation Report has shown the program to be an effective means of interrupting placement in a detention facility and commitment to a youth development center. This accomplishment occurs while serving a youth and his/her family in their home community. Over the years the five original Multipurpose Juvenile Homes accumulated a long history of acceptance by, and cooperation with, the communities and judicial districts served. This achievement has been due to the quality of the services rendered, the physical location of the Homes, the community's appreciation of the resource, and the desire of staff to maintain and promote positive relationships.

At the request of the Department, independent researchers have reviewed the Multipurpose Juvenile Home Program Model and determined that it is sound, progressive, and effective. It relies on specific counseling approaches that include cognitive-behavioral interventions. The model emphasizes the values of compassion, honesty, empowerment, respect, responsibility, and spirituality. The program model supplements these interventions and values with services such as mentoring, academic tutoring, and the improvement of interpersonal skills. Together, these options serve to provide effective treatment ingredients within a comprehensive program structure. This conclusion is supported by the nationally recognized meta-analysis research of Drs. Mark Lipsey and Buddy Howell, consultants to numerous state juvenile justice systems.

The program's emphasis on empowering youth to stay connected with and reintegrate back into their home community on discharge has caused Multipurpose Juvenile Homes to be viewed as an integral part of the Department's habilitation strategy in the underserved communities and judicial districts where they are located. Outcome data show that the program structure of the Multipurpose Juvenile Homes allows youth to acquire the skills and values they need to be successful upon return to their local communities.