

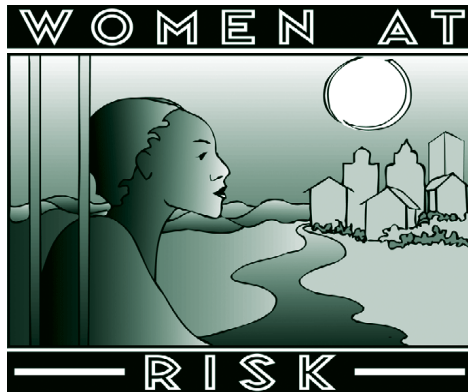
The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

sponsored by

Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc.

Report to the NC General Assembly

February 1, 2004



***Women At Risk_{SM} is a community-based treatment alternative
for women at risk of going to jail or prison.***

Ellen Clarke, Executive Director
Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc.

Brenda Carleton, Program Director
Women At Risk

**PO Box 7472
Asheville, NC 28802
828.252.2485
www.wccj.org**

The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

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WESTERN CAROLINIANS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE, INC.
The Women At Risk Program
PO Box 7472 , Asheville, NC 28802 www.wccj.org

February 1, 2004

TO: The Speakers of the NC House of Representatives
The President Pro Tempore of the NC Senate
Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

FROM: Ellen Clarke, Executive Director, Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc.

Please find attached a **Report to the NC General Assembly** from the Women At Risk Program, sponsored by Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc. This Report contains information about the activities of the Women At Risk Program from July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003.

The Women At Risk Program is a community-based treatment program serving female offenders as a special condition of regular or intensive probation. Women At Risk works to reduce recidivism among female offenders, as well as the necessity to imprison them, by providing a comprehensive treatment alternative to prison.

We are delighted to send you another strong report of Women At Risk Program activities for FY 02-03, drawing your attention to an **increase in active clients over FY00-01** and a **reduction in the number of Program graduates with probation revoked/sentenced to active time.**

This year's Legislative Report contains additional background information about the mental health, addiction and criminal justice histories of our clients upon entering the Women At Risk Program. The level of trauma and violence (including physical and sexual abuse) in their lives is shocking (e.g. **88% experienced domestic violence in adult relationships; 48% were sexually abused as children**). At intake, **82% of Women At Risk clients reported a family history of drug and alcohol abuse**. Without treatment, such as found in the Women At Risk Program, these women are destined to re-offend, perpetuating a cycle of violence and crime for themselves and their children.

Having obtained licensure from the NC Department of Health and Human Services, as an outpatient mental health/substance abuse treatment facility, the Women At Risk Program has expanded our treatment model to include a state-approved abuser treatment component (*Deciding Against Violence*) and a three-tier substance abuse treatment strategy. Addressing the dearth of available community-based mental health services for indigent offenders, Women At Risk has added the services of an on-site psychiatrist to our treatment team at Women At Risk. The multifaceted approach of the Women At Risk Program is illustrated in the client profile found at the conclusion of this Report.

Once again, we are delighted to report on the cost effectiveness of the Women At Risk Program. The average daily state cost of prison incarceration is over 3 times greater than the average daily cost of Women At Risk, even coupled with Intensive Probation, the most expensive form of probation supervision. With every successful client at Women At Risk, the state is saving precious tax dollars.

Thank you again for the opportunity to partner with the state of North Carolina in this important work of restorative justice through community-based treatment alternatives to incarceration. We appreciate the support and confidence the Legislature has given to the Women At Risk Program, and we look forward to sharing our good news with your colleagues.

THE WOMEN AT RISKSM PROGRAM

Fact Sheet

MISSION	Women At Risk (WAR) is a community-based treatment program serving female offenders as a special condition of regular or Intensive probation. The program is sponsored by Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc. (WCCJ) .
PURPOSE	Women At Risk works to reduce recidivism among female offenders, as well as the necessity to imprison them by providing a comprehensive treatment alternative to prison.
GOAL	Women At Risk assists women to remain out of custody, to succeed on probation and to overcome self -destructive and abusive behaviors that brought them to the court's attention and the risk of imprisonment.
TARGET	Women At Risk screens the court and jail rosters for eligible defendants who may receive either a Community or intermediate Punishment as defined by Structured Sentencing. Women At Risk may serve as a component of a Sentencing Services Plan and may be suitable for probation violations.
SERVICES	Women At Risk services include weekly two-hour intensive group sessions; abuser treatment; substance abuse treatment; psychiatric consults; intensive individual case management and court advocacy. Women At Risk monitors the attendance and participation of each client and provides individual written reports to probation, the court and other referral sources.
OUTCOME	The desired treatment outcome for Women At Risk is to reduce the degree of self-destructive attitudes and negative personal choices that shape a woman's criminal activity and court involvement. The desired correctional outcome is to lower recidivism among this offender population.

The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

Glossary of Terms

Referrals: Referrals are recorded when a potential client or her referral source calls us to set up an intake.

Cases Opened: We consider a case opened when we have finished the intake process. This means we have conducted case management, mental health and substance abuse assessments.

Clients Served: This is the cumulative number of all clients active in the program for the entire fiscal year.

BC Jail Screening: Staff from Women At Risk/Buncombe County conducts weekly screenings at the Buncombe County Detention Facility. Some of these contacts result in referrals at a later date.

Terminations: A case is terminated when we close the file because of lack of contact with a client, non-compliance with our requirements, incarceration or referral to another program.

Graduates: To graduate from Women At Risk clients must attend a minimum of 16 Women At Risk group sessions, pay the \$20 fee and complete any other individualized program requirements. Most clients also attend on-site abuser treatment, substance abuse treatment and/or psychiatric appointments.

Active Clients: Active clients are clients who have completed intake and are “on schedule” with our program on the last day of the fiscal year. (This is not a cumulative number.)

Successful Clients: This is the total number of Graduates plus Active Clients.

The Women At RiskSM Program

28th Judicial District

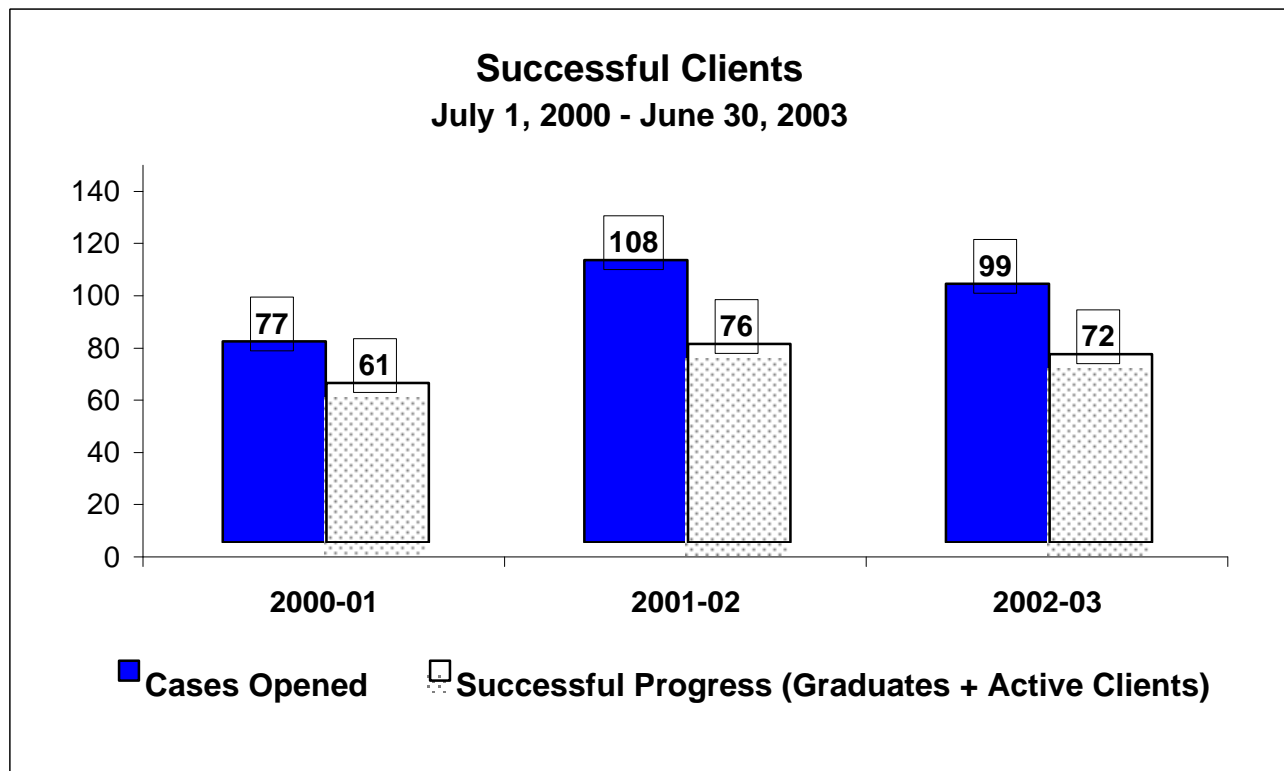
Buncombe County

ACTIVITY

(See Women At Risk Glossary of Terms)

	FY <u>2000-01</u>	FY <u>2001-02</u>	FY <u>2002-03</u>
Referrals	152	188	175
Cases Opened	77	108	99
Clients Served	105	143	142
BC Jail Screening	148	152	135
Terminations	51	60	67
Graduates	26	33	26
Active Clients (On Schedule at end of FY)	35	43	46
Successful Progress (Graduates + Active Clients)	61	76	72
Graduates with Probation Revoked/Sentenced to Active Time**	2	4	0
Terminations with Probation Revoked/Sentenced to Active Time**	21	13	5

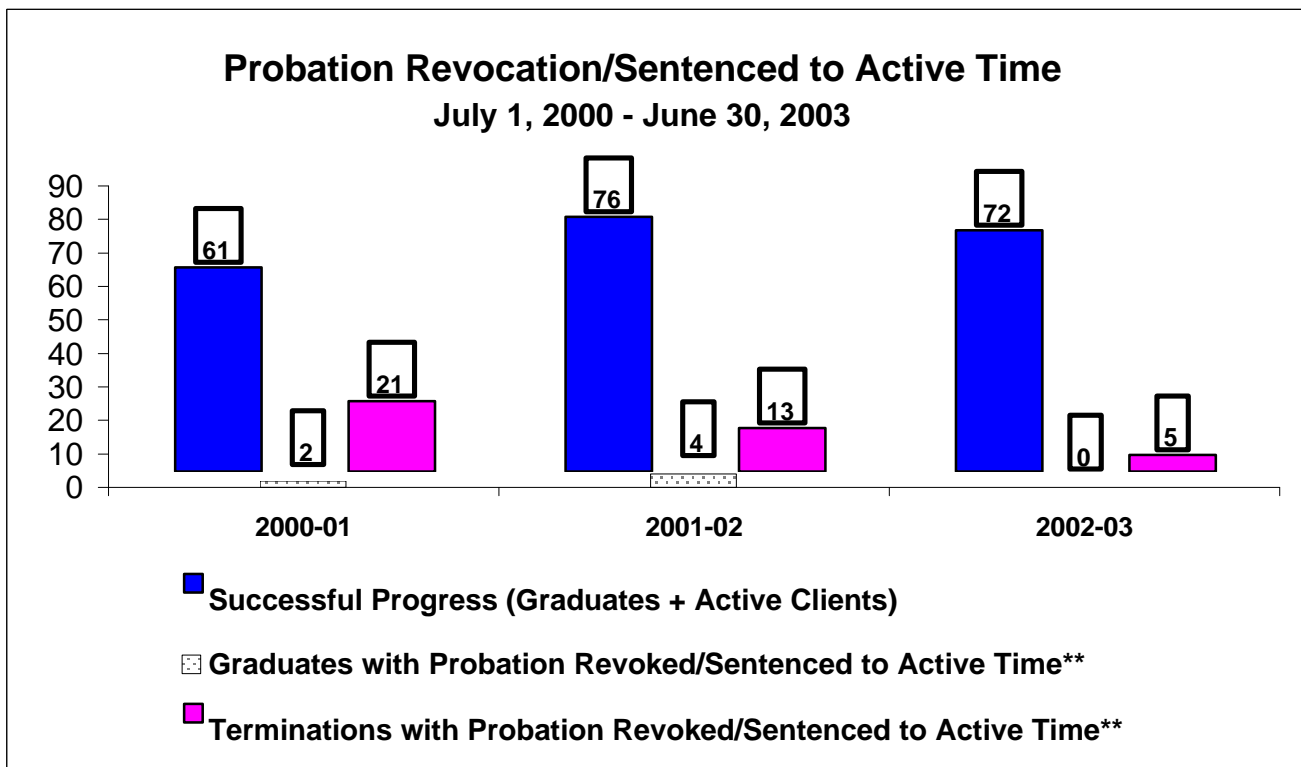
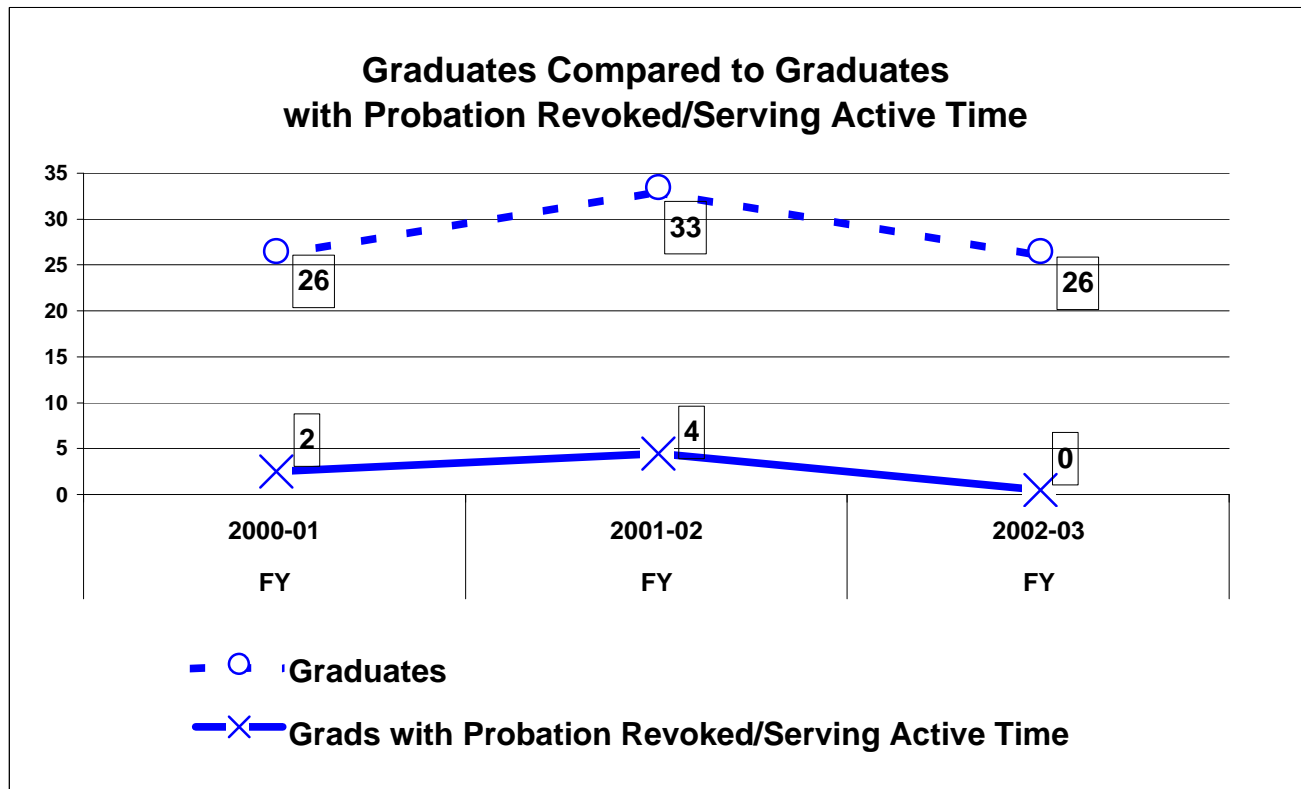
**Data for Probation Revocation obtained 6/30/03



The Women At RiskSM Program

28th Judicial District

Buncombe County



The Women At RiskSM Program

28th Judicial District

Buncombe County

Referral Sources July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2003

<u>Referral Source</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>	<u>FY 2002-03</u>
Attorneys/Public Defenders	20	22	30
District Attorney's Office	2	2	0
Buncombe Alternatives/S.S.	5	2	2
Bench	16	16	17
Probation	13	7	15
HELPMATE	5	9	6
Jail	15	9	10
Pretrial Release	1	3	5
D.S.S.	8	38	12
Health Dept.	2	3	0
Self	23	28	30
MAPSAP	3	1	2
Blue Ridge Center/MBH/De-tox	1	2	1
H.O.P.E.	1	1	0
W.C.C.J./S.S./W.A.R.	4	10	6
D.R.C.	1	0	1
Another Client/Friend	14	21	17
Other	<u>18</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>21</u>
TOTAL	152	188	175

The Women At RiskSM Program

28th Judicial District

Buncombe County

Client Demographics

July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2003

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>FY</u> <u>2000-01</u>	<u>FY</u> <u>2001-02</u>	<u>FY</u> <u>2002-03</u>
<u>Cases Opened</u>	77	108	99
<u>Principle Charge</u>			
Drugs	11	22	19
Motor Vehicle Offenses (including DWLR/DWI)	7	12	17
Assault (including Child Abuse)	3	19	16
Fraud, Forgery (including Worthless Checks, Forgery & Uttering)	24	16	15
Probation Violation	5	1	11
Larceny, Embezzlement, Shoplifting	12	13	11
Prostitution, Crime Against Nature	2	4	3
Trespass and Property Damage	2	0	1
Weapons Offenses	0	0	0
Arson, Burning Offenses	2	1	2
Burglary and Breaking & Entering	1	1	0
Child Sexual Assault	0	1	0
Crimes Against the Administration of Justice	0	3	0
Robbery	3	1	2
DSS (Termination of Parental Rights, Non-support of Child)	3	8	2
<u>Race</u>			
White	57	81	72
African American	17	24	22
Hispanic	1	1	0
Asian	1	1	1
Native American	1	1	4
<u>Employed</u>	36	48	38
<u>Income Source</u>			
Wages	36	48	38
Food Stamps	17	27	26
Disability	10	12	11
Work First (Public Assistance)	0	6	6
<u>Highest Grade Completed (HS)</u>	11th	11th	11th
<u>Clients who are Mothers</u>	65	92	84
<u>Clients with Children</u>			
Average Number per Client	2.4	2.2	2.1
Average Age of Client (at Birth of 1st Child)	20.4	20.0	19.6
Average Age of Client's Mother (at Birth of 1st)	19.3	19.6	19.5
<u>Clients who are Pregnant</u>	2	5	5

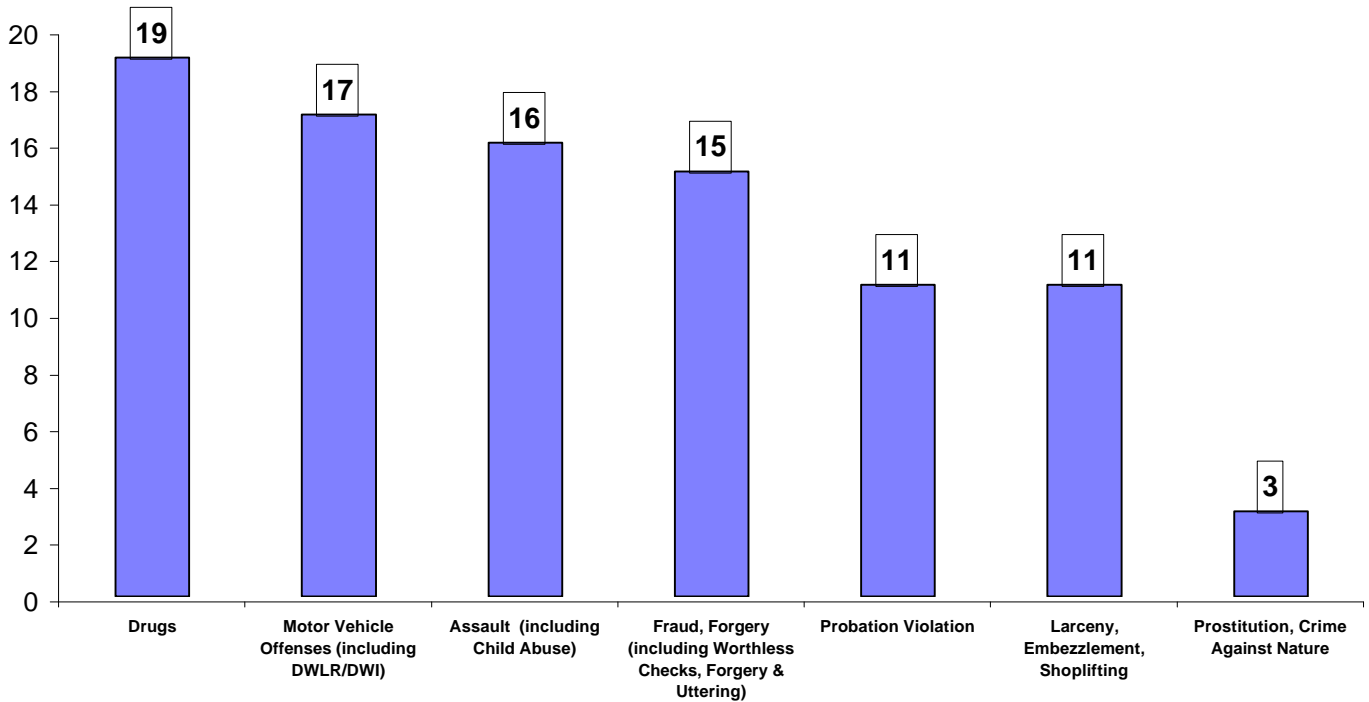
The Women At RiskSM Program

28th Judicial District

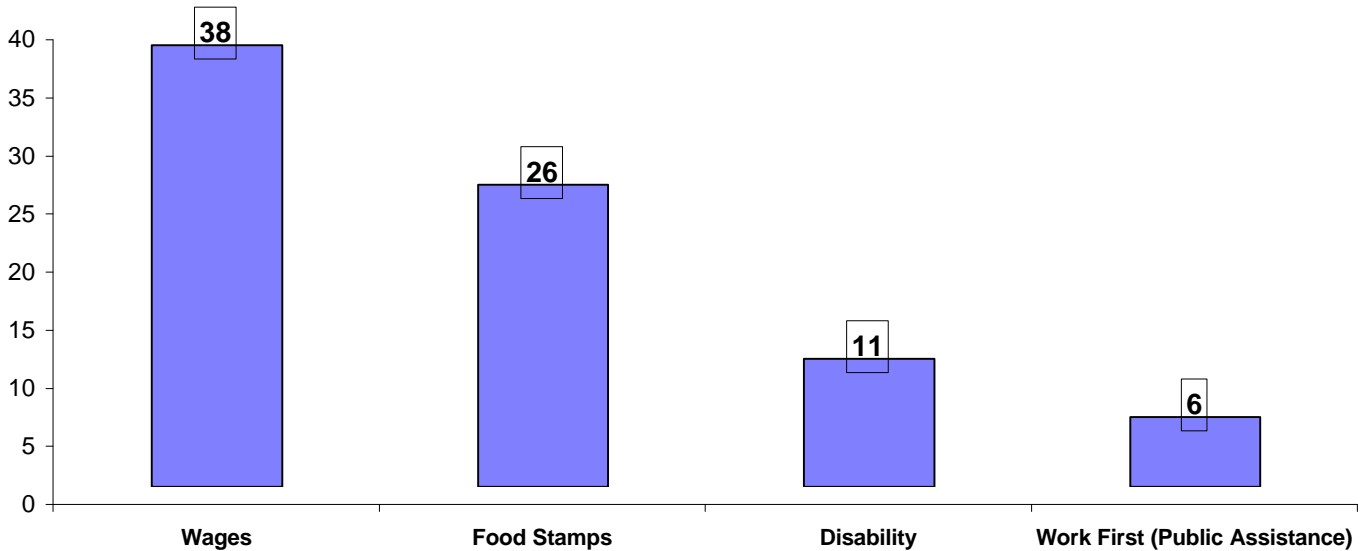
Buncombe County

Client Demographics
July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2003

Top 7 Principle Charges of Cases Opened 2002-2003



Income Sources of Cases Opened 2002-2003



The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

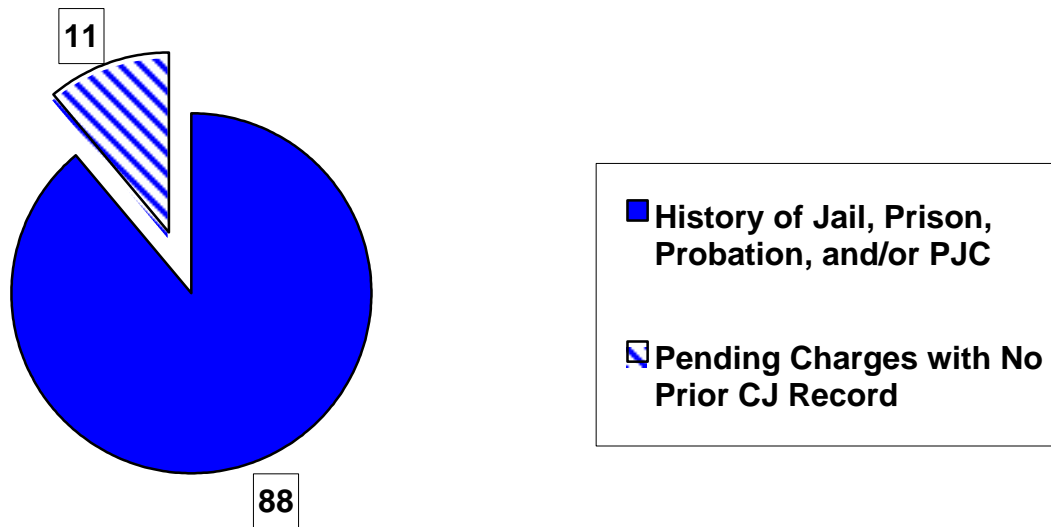
28th Judicial District

Buncombe County

Criminal Justice Status of Women At Risk Clients at Intake

FY 2002-03

Total Cases Opened (Unduplicated) = 99



Analysis of Criminal Justice History of Women At Risk Clients at Intake

FY 2002-03

Probation	70%
Probation 5 or more times	3%
Prison	19%
Jail 5 or more times	23%
Jail 10 or more times	11%
Jail 20 or more times	4%
Prayer for Judgment Continued	4%

The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

28th Judicial District

Buncombe County

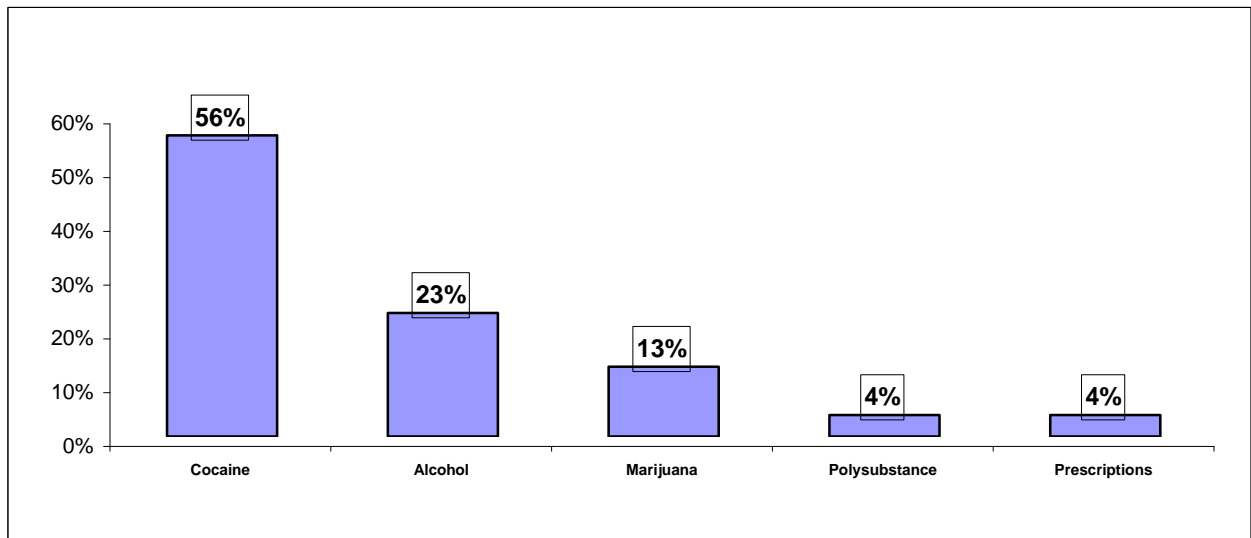
Mental Health Status of Women At Risk Clients at Intake

FY 2002-03

	%
Addiction Diagnosis at Intake	71%
Mental Health Diagnosis at Intake	82%
Dual Diagnosis of Addiction and Mental Health at Intake	59% (99 cases)

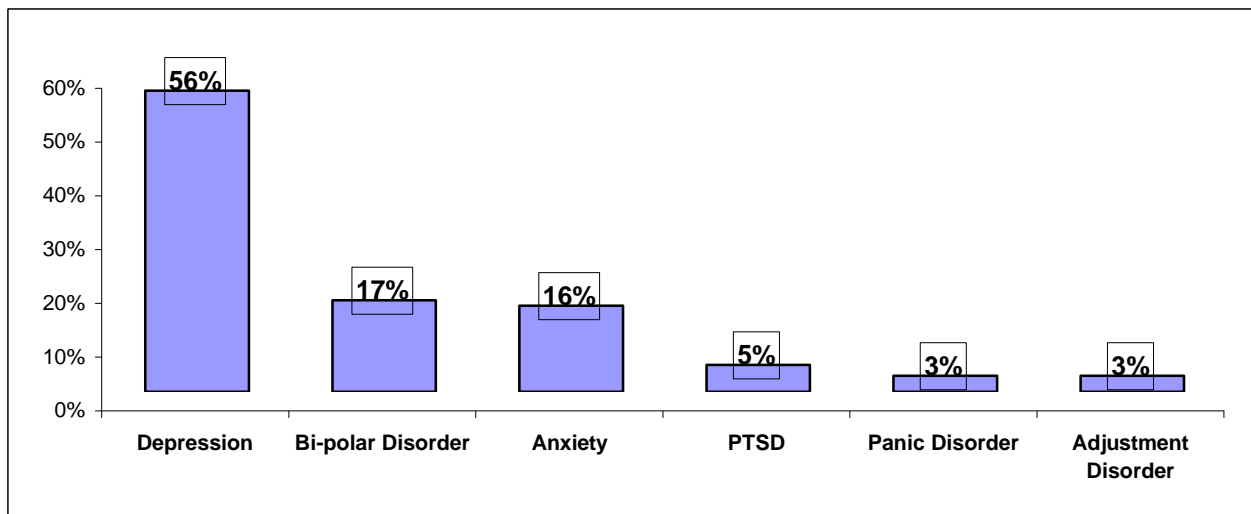
Analysis Addiction History of Women At Risk Clients at Intake

FY 2002-03



Analysis Mental Health History of Women At Risk Clients at Intake

FY 2002-03

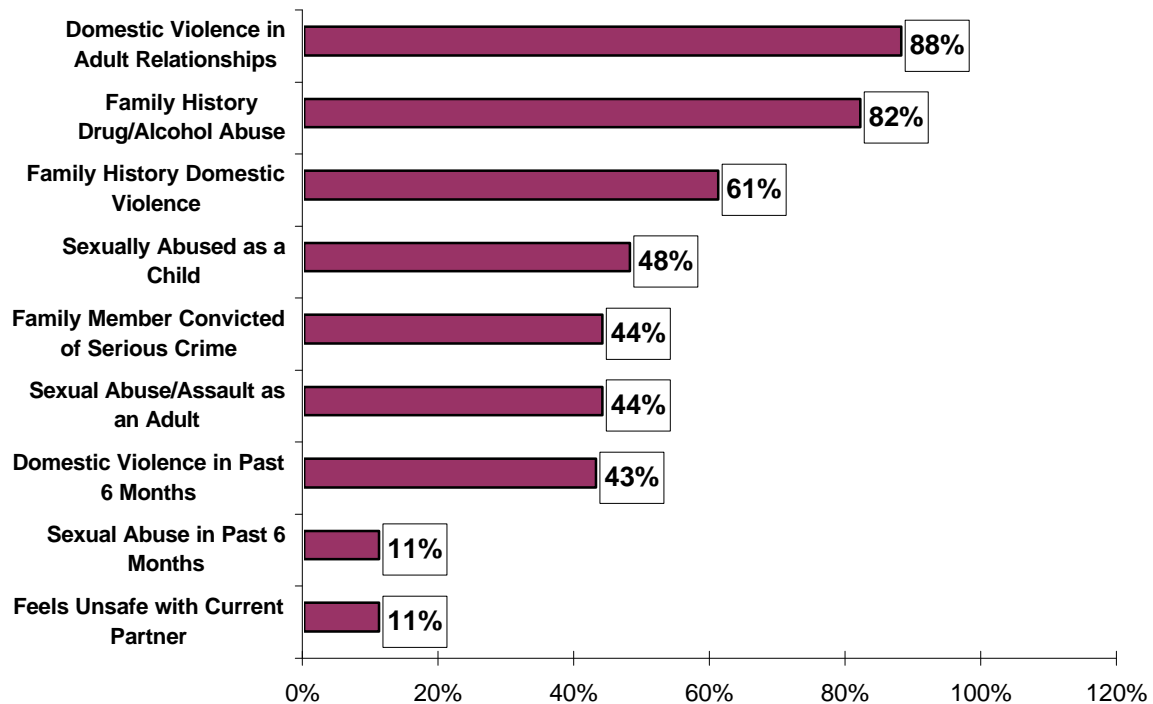


The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

28th Judicial District

Buncombe County

Clients Self-Report History of Abuse and Addiction at Intake FY 2002-03



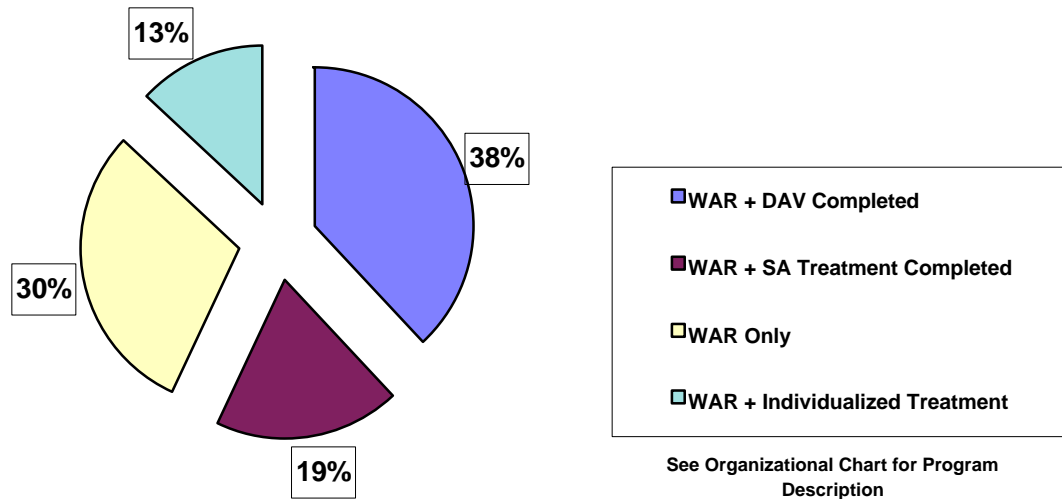
The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

28th Judicial District

Buncombe County

26 Graduates for FY 2002-03

Average of 31.27 Weeks of Treatment



The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

28th Judicial District

Buncombe County

FY 2002-03 Operating Budget

Income (7/1/02-6/30/03)

<u>Source</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
NC General Assembly	\$225,000.00	94.6%
Churches	\$8,266.00	3.5%
Fundraising	\$4,094.00	1.7%
Client Fees	\$528.00	0.2%
TOTAL	\$237,888.00	100.0%

Expenses (7/1/02-6/30/03)

<u>Source</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Personnel	\$188,481.00	79.2%
Operating Expenses	\$35,956.00	15.1%
Contractual	\$11,456.00	4.8%
Travel	\$521.00	0.2%
Supplies & Equipment	\$1,474.00	0.6%
TOTAL	\$237,888.00	100.0%

The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

28th Judicial District
Buncombe County

FY 2002-2003

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	FY 2000-01	FY 2001-02	FY 2002-03
(See Women At Risk Glossary of Terms)			
Referrals	152	188	175
Clients Served	105	143	142
Successful Progress (Graduates + Active Clients)	61	76	72
Graduates	26	33	26
Terminations with Probation Revoked/Sentenced to Active Time	21	13	5

Average Daily Cost of Women At Risk Program

(Based on Total Operating Budget)

[Total Operating Budget/365 days = Daily Basis/# Cases Opened = Average Daily Cost(ADC)]

Clients Served	\$237,888.00	365	\$651.75	142	\$4.59
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[Total Operating Budget/365 days = Daily Basis/# Successful Progress Cases = Average Daily Cost(ADC)]

Successful Progress	\$237,888.00	365	\$651.75	72	\$9.05
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Average Daily Cost of Women At Risk Program

(Based on State Appropriation)

[State Appropriation/365 days = Daily Basis/# Cases Opened = Average Daily Cost(ADC)]

Clients Served	\$225,000.00	365	\$616.44	142	\$4.34
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[State Appropriation/365 days = Daily Basis/# Successful Progress Cases = Average Daily Cost(ADC)]

Successful Progress	\$225,000.00	365	\$616.44	72	\$8.56
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Average Daily State Correctional Cost of Women At Risk Program and Probation

WAR Successful Progress (\$ 8.56) + Community/Intermediate Supervision (\$1.75) =	\$10.31
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WAR Successful Progress (\$ 8.56) + Electronic House Arrest (\$6.65) =	\$15.21
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WAR Successful Progress (\$ 8.56) + Intensive Probation (\$10.06) =	\$18.62
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Average Daily State Cost of Prison Incarceration

\$57.92

Range \$46.23 - \$74.56

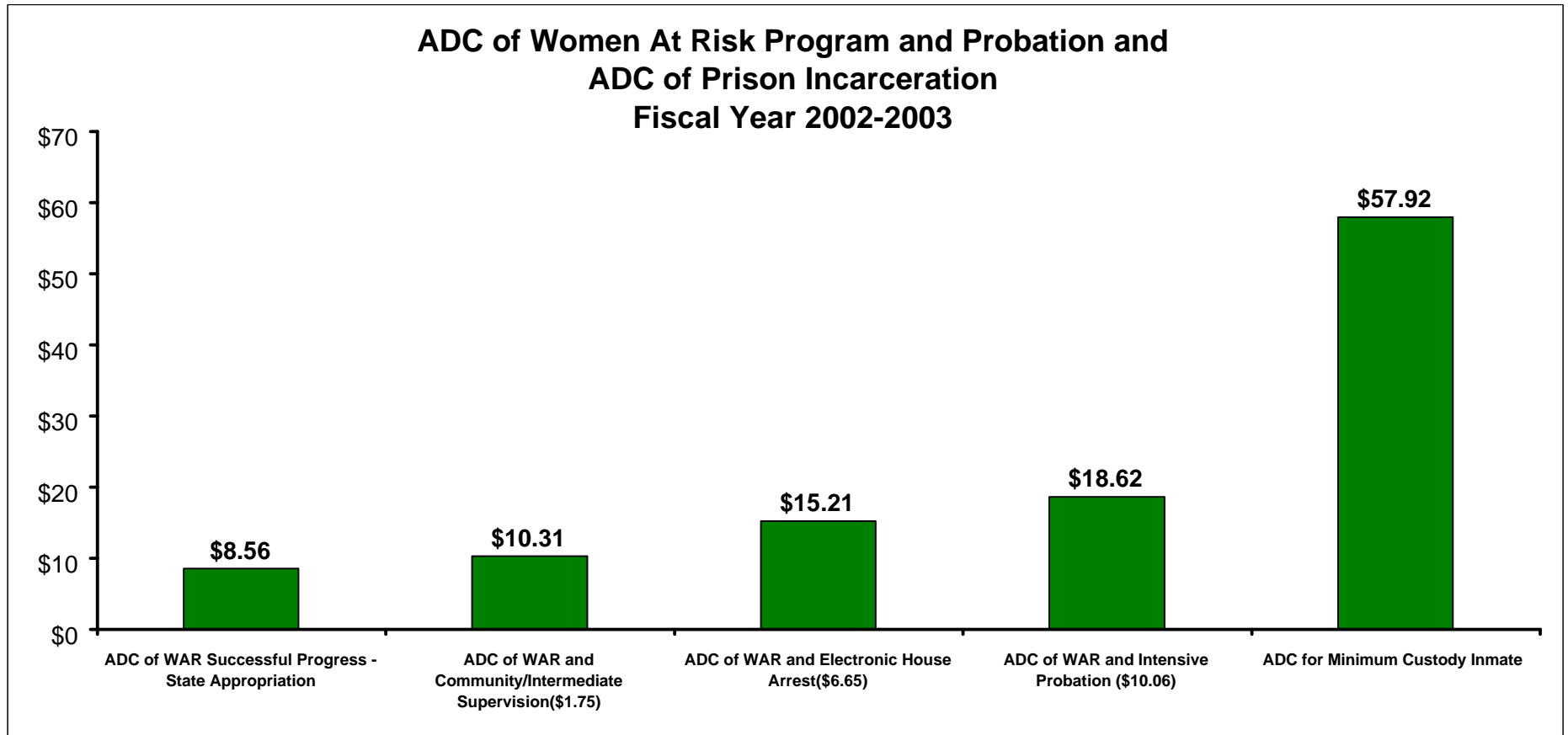
The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

28th Judicial District
Buncombe County

FY 2002-2003

ADC of Women At Risk Program and Probation and ADC of Prison Incarceration

ADC of WAR Successful Progress - State Appropriation	\$8.56
ADC of WAR and Community/Intermediate Supervision(\$1.75)	\$10.31
ADC of WAR and Electronic House Arrest(\$6.65)	\$15.21
ADC of WAR and Intensive Probation (\$10.06)	\$18.62
ADC for Minimum Custody Inmate	\$57.92



The Women At Risk_{SM} Program

28th Judicial District

Buncombe County

CLIENT PROFILE -- FY 02-03

Terry doesn't look like a "woman at risk" but she certainly is. Terry was 27 years old, well-spoken, well educated, single and four months pregnant at intake. About two years ago she was placed on probation for writing and cashing checks on her employer's account. She says, "They (her employers) were paying me extra money for overtime work. When the overtime ended I just keep paying myself like before. I don't know why."

Paying back the over \$6,000.00 she owed was difficult, but Terry was fortunate enough to find a great job managing a small business. Unfortunately, Terry found herself in trouble again: "I did the same thing again! I took money and wrote checks to myself. I am so scared...I don't know why I keep doing these things."

Terry was referred to Women At Risk by her attorney. After intake assessment by the Women At Risk staff, Terry was placed in the core Women At Risk therapy group, as well as assigned to individual therapy, where she explored the addiction-like sources of her behavior. Her Women At Risk Case Manager monitored her prenatal care and provided assistance in obtaining the benefits Terry needed to support herself and her unborn child. Attending group therapy provided Terry with feedback from other group members and education about risk factors specific to women. During group she discussed the sexual and emotional abuse she experienced as a child. She was able to connect this abuse to her current situation and her persistent feelings of low self-esteem.

The court process frightened Terry. The Women At Risk Court Liaison guided Terry through her court experiences and communicated extensively with the probation officer and public defender involved in the case. In addition, the Court Liaison located an appropriate sheltered placement for Terry and her child. As a result of these pretrial services, and Terry's efforts and motivation to change, Terry was court ordered to continue Women At Risk and live in a supportive placement. During her extended period of probation, Terry will work to repay her employers and support and mother her newborn child.

This client profile illustrates the multi-faceted approach that makes the Women At Risk program so successful. During 26 weeks of treatment, Terry received therapy in both group and individual sessions that helped her identify and address the underlying experiences and feelings that were related to her repeated criminal behavior. The Women At Risk Court Liaison helped her to understand the court process, as well as providing pertinent information to Terry's public defender and probation officer. With the assistance of her Case Manager, Terry followed through on pre-natal care and was able to access needed services in her time of transition. At her graduation, Terry said, "You've all seen me through an intense period of trial, tribulation, but most of all, growth. I will hold a special place in my heart for every woman who has the courage to go through her own healing process within this program – and for the staff who hold the safe space for them to do so."

Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Inc.
The Women At Risk_{SM} (WAR) Program
Organizational Chart

