



CABARRUS COUNTY JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

Regular Meeting held August 19, 2026

Governmental Center, Concord NC

MINUTES

MEMBERS ATTENDING IN PERSON:

Gayle Alston	Natalie Atwell	Steven Ayers	Megan Baumgardner
Sonja Bohannon Thacker	Travis Burke	Carolyn Carpenter	April Clark
Holly Edwards Thrift	Steve Grossman	Amy Jewell	Meghan Kabat Newcomer
Eshan Korat	Heather Mobley	Aalece Pugh	Malisha Ross
Ashlie Shanley	Lakesha Steele		

MEMBERS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Adrian Attaway, Taylor Holman White, Megan Huffman, Rekita McDuffie, Alvarys Santanna Chisholm, Eric Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Henrietta Jackson, Jeff Jones

VACANT COUNCIL SEATS: None

JCPC ASSOCIATES PRESENT: Stephen Horton, Daniel Seigny, Joanie Bischer

GUESTS ATTENDING IN PERSON: Quanitta Brooks (TYM), Erin Buell (DJJ), Amy Caudill (CRC), John Craven (DJJ), Rebecca Efird (DJJ), Shalaya Green (DJJ), Nicole Jenkins (Aspire), Heather Jones (TYM), Kristen McEvoy (CRC), Sarimar Miller (DJJ), Kim Olige (YSF), Selena Sifontes (CCS Recovery HS), Sandy Ward (CCS), Shemika Wood (DJJ), Parnell Woods (DJJ)

GUESTS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY: Heather Aguilera (Camino), Kristen Estepp (RCYSB), Shanique Parker (Families First), Karen South Jones (RCYSB), Laquesha B Wilkins (Reset Academy)

CALL TO ORDER and ATTENDANCE

Chairperson Megan Baumgardner called the meeting to order at 7:37 AM. Quorum was confirmed with 24 of 26 members in attendance. Eighteen members were seated in person and six members joined virtually. Megan welcomed everyone and introduced newly-appointed members Natalie Atwell and April Clark. The Chair and Vice Chair then expressed appreciation to former JCPC member Michelle Wilson who served 16 years. The floor was then opened to conduct the following routine business:

- Discussion or a motion was requested regarding the June 17 meeting minutes. When no comments were heard, Heather motioned to approve the minutes as written. Ashlie Shanley and April Clark seconded simultaneously. Motion passed without opposition.
- A motion to approve or amend the agenda was requested. When no comments were heard, Carolyn Carpenter motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Holly Edwards Thrift seconded. Motion passed without opposition.

UPDATES FROM DPS AREA CONSULTANT and CHIEF COURT COUNSELOR

The Chair yielded the floor to Stephen Horton. He advised that the deadline for final accounting passed with no late submissions from Cabarrus programs. Programs that are required to submit refunds to the state will be notified by September 30. Stephen provided upcoming virtual training dates in September and October. He also advised that the DPS seeks JCPC news for its website and encouraged all to share photos of people and events with Webmaster Matt Debnam. Stephen and Daniel Seigny commented on the upcoming NCJSA Fall Conference in October. Stephen mentioned the NC S.A.F.E campaign is ongoing and swag is available for distribution.

The Chair yielded the floor to Chief Court Counselor Gayle Alston who announced her retirement effective September 1. Gayle expressed appreciation for the dedication of this council and its successful youth programs. The council applauded her service.

YOUTH PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

The floor was opened for presentations from two programs representatives. Selena Sifontes, Learning Facilitator for the CCS Recovery High School program, went first. Next was Dr. Laquesha Wilkins, Director and Founder of RESET Academy (Reflect, Engage, Strategize, Empower, Thrive). Each representative provided details of their program's origins, purpose, services, and success stories. Ms. Sifontes and Dr. Wilkins responded to questions and comments from council members.

NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

The Chair opened the floor to Kristen McEvoy who discussed CRC's Teen Court budget revision. Line item adjustments totaling \$650 were requested to increase allocations for taxes and office supplies. The Chair opened the floor for discussion or a motion. When no comments were heard, Heather Mobley motioned to approve the budget revision as presented. Malisha Ross seconded. Motion passed without opposition.

The Chair next opened the floor to discuss member resignations and term renewals as follows:

- CCS Superintendent Designee Amy Jewell submitted her resignation effective September 30. She advised that Amy Lowder, CCS Director of Student Safety and Well Being, was selected as the new Designee. Ms. Jewell described Ms. Lowder's credentials which include recently winning the NC School Safety Director of the Year. After thanking Amy Jewell for her service, the Chair called for a motion or discussion. Heather Mobley motioned to accept the resignation. Malisha Ross seconded. Motion passed without opposition.
- Regarding Gayle Alston's resignation, Megan noted that the Chief Court Counselor seat will remain vacant until DJJDP names her successor. After thanking Gayle for her service, the Chair called for a motion or discussion. Heather Mobley motioned to accept the resignation. Amy Jewell seconded. Motion passed without opposition. Gayle advised that Richard Griffin was tapped to serve as District 19's interim Chief Court Counselor.
- A motion or discussion was requested regarding Amy Lowder's recommendation as CCS Superintendent's Designee. Ashlie Shanley motioned to recommend her appointment to the BOC. Carolyn Carpenter seconded. Motion passed without opposition.
- Discussion was held regarding terms expiring September 30 for Travis Burke (Sheriff's Designee), Heather Mobley (At Large), Megan Kabat Newcomer (Active Living & Parks Representative), Malisha Ross (LME/MCO Director), and Eric Young (At Large). After confirming that each member wished to continue to serve for another term, the Chair suggested the renewals be presented as a slate. There was no opposition to this suggestion. Megan called for comments or a motion. Holly Edwards Thrift motioned to recommend the member reappointments to the BOC. April Clark seconded. Motion passed without opposition.

Megan advised that Michelle Wilson's departure created vacant chairperson seats on the By Laws committee and YSF Monitoring committee. She encouraged members to sign up for committees and explained the duties associated with onsite program monitoring and other JCPC committees. Members can contact Megan, Heather, or Joanie with questions. It was noted that new members April Clark and Natalie Atwell volunteered for several committees. Heather volunteered to chair the By Laws committee. Holly Edwards Thrift volunteered to chair the YSF Monitoring committee.

The Chair next reminded members that they are required to sign new COIs at the beginning of each FY. Blank COIs were provided in the meeting packet and were available for members attending in person. Megan reiterated the importance of disclosing conflicts that are actual or may be perceived. Signed COIs must be on file in order for members to vote on JCPC action items.

Megan advised that funds from the Admin's budget were allocated to update and replenish JCPC outreach brochures. The brochures were last updated in FY 24-25. Megan called for discussion or a motion. Malisha Ross motioned to approve the replenishment. Aalece Pugh seconded. Motion passed without opposition.

PROGRAM MONTHLY REPORTS

The Chair opened the floor for program reports. Agency representatives spoke in the following order: Heather Jones for TYM Transforming Futures-Community Service/Career Exploration; Nicole Jenkins for Aspire-Kids at Work; Shanique Parker for Families First-Strengthening Families; Kristen McEvoy for CRC-Teen Court/Truancy Court Mediation; Karen South Jones for RCYSB SOSE; and Kim Olige for YSF-Holistic Fitness. Heather Jones discussed TYM's financial challenges when a significant number of youth are served above FY estimates. She explained that TYM expects to over-serve again this year and may have to cap enrollment. Other information included number of youth served last FY and to date this FY, referral sources, community partnerships, fund-raiser events, youth volunteers, staffing updates, culinary camps, recent graduations, expenditures, and success stories.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

The Chair opened the floor and multiple members commented as follows:

- Malisha Ross provided details of a merger between Partners Health Management and Vaya Health effective October 1. The merger will create *Vaya Partners*, the largest publicly-governed behavioral health organization in North Carolina. Director Ross also announced the launch of "Happy to Chat," a suicide prevention program in Union County.
- Amy Jewell provided clarification regarding eligibility for referrals to the CCS Recovery High School program.
- Gayle Alston expressed appreciation to Cabarrus youth programs and their collaboration. She encouraged them to communicate funding challenges to Deputy Secretary Lassister and other DPS decision makers.
- Eshan Korat spoke about developing a program to assist disadvantaged students with college admissions applications. He described a Harvard organization for Prison Education & Advocacy that he hopes to join and then share ideas with Cabarrus youth programs.
- Alvarys Santana Chisholm advised that she was appointed by Governor Stein to the state's Juvenile Justice Planning Committee which serves as an advisor to DJJDP programs. Her work with the Committee gives her an opportunity to observe other JCPCs. She plans to share resources, ideas, and lessons learned from those observations.

- Lakesha Steele spoke about a young black community activist found hanged in the Harris Depot park in June. Law enforcement officials ruled the death a suicide. Lakesha stated she was contacted by friends, family, and other Harrisburg residents to discuss the incident with the JCPC regarding concerns expressed over park security and the investigation. The Chair and DA Shanley responded to those concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair noted JCPC's next meeting date and mentioned that anyone who wants to share *Need to Know* events can add them to the agenda by contacting Joanie. She reminded members to complete and return their COIs. With no further comments being heard, the meeting adjourned with no objections at 9:09 AM.

-Submitted by Joanie Bischer

Acronyms

1. BOC = Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners
2. CCS = Cabarrus County Schools
3. CRC = Conflict Resolution Center Inc. of Cabarrus County
4. DJJDP = Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
5. FY = Fiscal Year (JCPC's fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30)
6. LME/MCO = Local Managed Entity/Managed Care Organization
7. NCJSA = NC Juvenile Services Association
8. NC S.A.F.E. = Governor's statewide **Secure All Firearms Effectively** campaign
9. RCYSB = Rowan County Youth Services Bureau
10. SOSE = Sex Offense Specific Evaluations
11. TYM = Transforming Youth Movement Inc.
12. YSF = Youth Style Fitness Inc.