



2023 REPORT ON JUDICIALLY MANAGED ACCOUNTABILITY AND RECOVERY COURTS PILOT PROGRAM

S.L. 2021-180, 16.5(c)

PREPARED BY
NORTH CAROLINA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
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About the North Carolina Judicial Branch

The mission of the North Carolina Judicial Branch is to protect and preserve the rights and liberties of all the people as guaranteed by the Constitutions and laws of the United States and North Carolina by providing a fair, independent and accessible forum for the just, timely and economical resolution of their legal affairs.

About the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts

The mission of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts is to provide services to help North Carolina's unified court system operate more efficiently and effectively, taking into account each courthouse's diverse needs, caseloads, and available resources.

Introduction

Section 16.5(c) of Session Law 2021-180 requires the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) to submit a report on the results of the Judicially Managed Accountability and Recovery Court (JMARC) Pilot Programs. Specifically, S.L. 2021-180, sections 16.5(b) and (c) provide as follows:

SECTION 16.5.(b) Pilot Program. – The Administrative Office of the Courts, in coordination with the District Attorney's Offices in Cumberland County, Harnett County, Haywood County, Onslow County, Pitt County, Robeson County, and Wayne County shall establish a pilot program in each county that creates a judicially managed accountability and recovery court, as governed by Article 62 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes. The goals of each accountability and recovery court are to reduce alcoholism and other substance abuse and dependencies among offenders; to reduce recidivism; to reduce the drug-related court workload; to reduce the mental, behavioral, or medical health-related court workload; to increase the personal, familial, and societal accountability of offenders; and to promote effective interaction, collaboration, coordination, and use of resources among criminal justice personnel. The judicially managed accountability and recovery courts established in this subsection in Cumberland County and Onslow County shall prioritize participation of offenders that are veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

SECTION 16.5.(c) Report. – The Administrative Office of the Courts shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety on the results of these pilot programs no later than February 1 of each year following a year in which a pilot program receives funding from the State.
The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) respectfully submits this report pursuant to the legislative mandate.

For purposes of this report, the pilot programs authorized pursuant to Section 16.5(b) will be referred to as JMARC pilot programs. NCAOC respectfully submits this report pursuant to the legislative mandate in Section 16.5(c).

Initial Steps

When S.L. 2021-180 was enacted into law on November 18, 2021, NCAOC contacted the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) to determine the necessary steps to appropriately disburse the funds to each of the seven JMARC pilot counties as codified in the Joint Conference Committee Report on the Current Operations Appropriations Act of 2021. OSBM advised that each county document a scope of work that encompasses both the appropriated funds and an outline of a plan to continue or establish a local recovery court. From there, the scope of work was incorporated into a contract with NCAOC, and once executed, NCAOC disbursed the funds in accordance with the schedule set by S.L. 2021-180, section 15.2(b).



It is important to note that while the Conference Report designated a budget of \$1.45 million to the seven JMARC pilot counties for each fiscal year of the FY 2021-23 biennium, Section 16.5(b) of S.L. 2021-180, which established the JMARC pilot program, did not become effective until January 1, 2022. As such, there was a delay in the disbursement of the FY 2021-22 funds to the pilot counties causing a commensurate delay in the establishment and progression of the recovery courts within each county. Table one shows the FY 2021-22 appropriations to the seven counties and summarizes the timeline of the initial steps taken to disburse these funds.

Table 1

Recipient County	Initial Contact	NCAOC Sent Contract to County	NCAOC Received Signed Contract	FY2021-22 Contract Amount	First Payment Date	First Payment Amount
Cumberland	12/1/2021	2/11/2022	2/25/2022	\$230,000	3/2/2022	\$172,500
Harnett	12/1/2021	2/11/2022	4/4/2022	\$200,000	4/25/2022	\$200,000
Haywood	12/1/2021	2/11/2022	6/29/2022	\$230,000	7/12/2022	\$230,000
Onslow	12/1/2021	2/11/2022	3/25/2022	\$230,000	3/30/2022	\$172,500
Pitt	12/1/2021	2/11/2022	2/18/2022	\$100,000	2/22/2022	\$75,000
Robeson	12/1/2021	2/11/2022	2/23/2022	\$230,000	3/2/2022	\$172,500
Wayne	12/1/2021	2/11/2022	2/21/2022	\$230,000	2/22/2022	\$172,500

Table one also shows the dates, ranging from February 22 to July 12, 2022, of FY 2021-22 fund distributions to the pilot counties, which could not take place until a contract was executed. Counties attributed the delays in contract execution to several reasons, e.g., local court officials, county leadership, and other stakeholders needing to collaborate to develop a comprehensive scope of work, the time needed for contract review and approval by part-time county board of commissioners, etc.

Table two shows the most recent fund disbursement timeline as of January 1, 2023, as well as the remaining funds to be disbursed in FY 2022-23.

Table 2

Recipient County	FY2021-23 NR Appropriations	First Payment Date	Most Recent Payment Date	Total Payments to Date	Remaining Payments
Cumberland	\$460,000	3/2/2022	10/21/2022	\$345,000	\$115,000
Harnett	\$400,000	4/25/2022	10/21/2022	\$300,000	\$100,000
Haywood	\$460,000	7/12/2022	10/21/2022	\$345,000	\$115,000
Onslow	\$460,000	3/30/2022	10/21/2022	\$345,000	\$115,000
Pitt	\$200,000	2/22/2022	10/21/2022	\$200,000	\$0
Robeson	\$460,000	3/2/2022	10/21/2022	\$345,000	\$115,000
Wayne	\$460,000	2/22/2022	10/21/2022	\$345,000	\$115,000



Expenditure Reports by County

The tables below show the total project expenditures as of December 31, 2022 by each of the seven counties. There were five budget line items delineated in the original scope of work agreements drafted by each county:

- 1) Employee Expenses – salaries and fringes,
- 2) Services and Contractual – utilities, vendors, data, and lease-related expenses,
- 3) Goods – supplies and equipment,
- 4) Administrative – overhead and project management, and
- 5) Other.

Cumberland County

Budget Line Item	Amount Budgeted	Project Expenditures to Date (12/31/22)	Remaining Balance	First Payment Date
Employee	\$124,400	\$91,500	\$32,900	3/2/2022
Serv. & Contractual	\$3,000	\$1,473	\$1,527	
Goods	\$33,000	\$8,392	\$24,608	
Administrative	\$299,600	\$22,725	\$276,875	
Other	-	\$26,743	(\$26,743)	
Total	\$460,000	\$150,833	\$309,167	

Harnett County

Budget Line Item	Amount Budgeted	Project Expenditures to Date (12/31/22)	Remaining Balance	First Payment Date
Employee	\$121,322	\$17,496	\$103,826	4/25/2022
Serv. & Contractual	\$5,300	\$2,857	\$2,443	
Goods	\$3,600	\$1,070	\$2,530	
Administrative	\$71,578	-	\$71,578	
Other	\$198,200	\$63,080	\$135,120	
Total	\$400,000	\$84,503	\$315,497	

Haywood County

Budget Line Item	Amount Budgeted	Project Expenditures to Date (12/31/22)	Remaining Balance	First Payment Date
Employee	\$124,000	-	\$124,000	7/12/2022
Serv. & Contractual	\$4,000	-	\$4,000	
Goods	\$8,500	-	\$8,500	
Administrative	\$45,000	-	\$45,000	
Other	\$278,500	-	\$278,500	
Total	\$460,000	-	\$460,000	



Onslow County

Budget Line Item	Amount Budgeted	Project Expenditures to Date (12/31/22)	Remaining Balance	First Payment Date
Employee	\$225,994	-	\$225,994	3/30/2022
Serv. & Contractual	\$4,500	-	\$4,500	
Goods	\$10,506	-	\$10,506	
Administrative	\$25,000	-	\$25,000	
Other	\$194,000	-	\$194,000	
Total	\$460,000	-	\$460,000	

Pitt County

Budget Line Item	Amount Budgeted	Project Expenditures to Date (12/31/22)	Remaining Balance	First Payment Date
Employee	-	-	-	2/22/2022
Serv. & Contractual	\$170,200	\$15,186	\$155,014	
Goods	\$9,800	-	\$9,800	
Administrative	\$10,000	-	\$10,000	
Other	\$10,000	-	\$10,000	
Total	\$200,000	-	\$184,814	

Robeson County

Budget Line Item	Amount Budgeted	Project Expenditures to Date (12/31/22)	Remaining Balance	First Payment Date
Employee	-	-	-	3/2/2022
Serv. & Contractual	\$200,000	\$2,138	\$197,862	
Goods	\$50,000	\$2,126	\$47,674	
Administrative	-	-	-	
Other	\$210,000	\$47,329	\$162,671	
Total	\$460,000	-	\$408,407	

Wayne County

Budget Line Item	Amount Budgeted	Project Expenditures to Date (12/31/22)	Remaining Balance	First Payment Date
Employee	\$87,500	-	-	2/2/2022
Serv. & Contractual	\$236,967	-	-	
Goods	\$51,533	-	-	
Administrative	\$78,000	-	-	
Other	\$6,000	-	-	
Total	\$460,000	-	-	

Performance Reports by County

To report on the current status of each pilot JMARC project, NCAOC developed a standardized performance report survey that was completed by each county. To provide general context to the



counties' responses, a narrative summary that describes the structure and purpose of the specific JMARC project within each county is also documented.

Cumberland County

Project Narrative: The Veterans Treatment Court is a deferred prosecution option for veteran clients to consider prior to adjudication. It is reserved for clients who have been cited for misdemeanors and certain felonies. The program is holistic in nature in that it provides clients with substance abuse or mental health counseling, programs to facilitate medical treatment through the VA, assistance with job placement, housing assistance, and educational options. Clients will be held accountable to the courts through substance testing, adherence to meeting schedules, possible curfews, and community service.

- 1) Have you established a JMARC committee, and has this committee met?**
 - a. A committee has been established but has not met to date.
- 2) What accomplishments have been achieved to date?**
 - a. Enhanced cooperation with internal court agencies to identify and interview potential veteran clients. Implementing computer programs VRSS, SQUARE, AND DIMS to identify and manage clients.
- 3) What challenges have you experienced to date?**
 - a. Re-establishing financial operations after four years without a budget. Recovering from COVID restrictions. Grant writing.
- 4) Did your team attend any trainings to date?**
 - a. Attended the Governor's Institute Addiction Medicine Conference, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference, and numerous Webinar/Online seminars on substance use disorder, street drug identification, and grant writing.
- 5) Do you have any data to report to date?**
 - a. This court had an average client population of 10-15 Veterans, it conducted 300+ consultations and 95+ interviews.
- 6) What goals do you hope to attain moving forward?**
 - a. Increase the number of veterans served in the recovery court and provide enhanced services for the veterans that are current clients of the court. Continue to recover from COVID restrictions and attend future conferences and training opportunities to enhance team members' knowledge.

Harnett County

Project Narrative: The District 11A Veterans Treatment Court is currently meeting all goals set forth by this grant. The funding is being utilized to not only enhance our program but increase our success rate with justice involved veterans. Staff members are attending training to increase their abilities in assisting the veterans in our program. Goals for next quarter have been established and we are on track to meet and exceed these goals. The management team is consistently meeting and looking for new ways to enhance and grow our current program.



- 1) Have you established a JMARC committee, and has this committee met?**
 - a. A committee has been established and meets monthly.
- 2) What accomplishments have been achieved to date?**
 - a. Hired a Regional Case Manager. Met with representatives from Thermo Fischer to discuss the improvement of our drug testing program. Purchased and installed a mini lab and software to increase the accuracy of drug testing equipment.
- 3) What challenges have you experienced to date?**
 - a. None.
- 4) Did your team attend any trainings to date?**
 - a. Trained staff on the new mini lab equipment. One Mentor graduated from the Mentor Boot Camp through Justice for Vets, and several staff attended the NADCP Conference.
- 5) Do you have any data to report to date?**
 - a. This court graduated six veterans from the program, reviewed 26 applications, 11 veterans entered the program, and 29 veterans are currently accepted awaiting judicial decision.
- 6) What goals do you hope to attain moving forward?**
 - a. Train staff on the operation of new case manager software. Continue to bring in new veterans into the program. Ensure every veteran and Mentor are active in the interactive journaling program.

Haywood County

Project Narrative: Haywood County will be creating an adult substance abuse recovery court. It will seek a complete transformation of those participants suffering from significant substance abuse addiction by requiring participants to engage in active and intensive court supervision of their progress regarding substance abuse and mental health treatment, along with seeking/enhancing job training opportunities.

- 1) Have you established a JMARC committee, and has this committee met?**
 - a. A committee has been established and has met.
- 2) What accomplishments have been achieved to date?**
 - a. Both recovery court judges engaged in free online training and research. A job description was formulated for the Recovery Court Coordinator position, interviews were held, and an individual was hired. A federal grant to assist participants with treatment has been obtained by the county health and human services agency.
- 3) What challenges have you experienced to date?**
 - a. No major challenges.
- 4) Did your team attend any trainings to date?**
 - a. Online trainings.
- 5) Do you have any data to report to date?**
 - a. No data is available at this time as the court has not yet started accepting participants.
- 6) What goals do you hope to attain moving forward?**
 - a. Begin accepting court participants in the first quarter of 2023.



Onslow County

Project Narrative: Onslow County is in the beginning stages of establishing a fully operational veterans treatment court and is working with NCAOC to hire key positions. This court will prioritize the participation of offenders that are veterans of the United States Armed Forces to increase accountability of offenders, promote effective interaction, collaboration and use of resources. It will reduce recidivism of offenders that are veterans, many of whom suffer from mental health and substance use disorders. We plan to have the first hearings in March of 2023.

- 1) Have you established a JMARC committee, and has this committee met?**
 - a. A committee has not yet been established.
- 2) What accomplishments have been achieved to date?**
 - a. A veterans treatment court coordinator has been hired and has developed the court's policies and procedures.
- 3) What challenges have you experienced to date?**
 - a. Getting the other job positions officially posted.
- 4) Did your team attend any trainings to date?**
 - a. The court coordinator has completed some online training.
- 5) Do you have any data to report to date?**
 - a. No data is available at this time as the court has not yet started accepting participants.
- 6) What goals do you hope to attain moving forward?**
 - a. Begin accepting court participants in the first quarter of 2023.

Pitt County

Project Narrative: The mission of the Pitt County Behavioral Health Treatment Court (PCBHTC) is to encourage enrolled participants to manage their mental wellness by becoming medication compliant, thereby eliminating criminal behavior and leading productive and successful lives in our community. The parties further understand that a lack of mental health wellness may be a direct cause, and in some cases, the cause, for participants' interaction with the criminal justice system.

- 1) Have you established a JMARC committee, and has this committee met?**
 - a. A committee has been established and meets annually.
- 2) What accomplishments have been achieved to date?**
 - a. Maintained contact with graduates from July 2022, who are doing well. Met with nurses regarding the aftercare program. Established partnerships with various non-profit organizations that supplement the recovery court project with wraparound services. We have subsequently met clients through our relationships with these non-profits.
- 3) What challenges have you experienced to date?**
 - a. Seeking financial means to further support the court and aftercare program. The purpose of the aftercare program is to provide an extended support to our participants as they learn to utilize the coping and accountability skills they learned in the program.



4) Did your team attend any trainings to date?

- a. No, due to the amount of funding provided to the program, and the need to use these funds for participant treatment, the team has not been able to participate in any training programs.

5) Do you have any data to report to date?

- a. No quantitative data is available at this time.

6) What goals do you hope to attain moving forward?

- a. The court hopes to have additional program graduates, finalize our aftercare program, and locate funds to sustain the program and its efforts.

Robeson County

Project Narrative: Robeson County utilizes the JMARC funds to enhance its Family Treatment Court, Adult Treatment Court, DWI Treatment Court, and the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program, with the goal of reducing criminal recidivism, reuniting families, promoting interaction and usage of all available resources of the court and applicable agencies.

1) Have you established a JMARC committee, and has this committee met?

- a. A formal committee has not been established at this time, however, the chief district court judge, recovery court judges, and the district attorney serve as the committee.

2) What accomplishments have been achieved to date?

- a. There have been several program graduations, legal and physical custody of children have been returned to parent participants, housing has been secured and necessary medications have been supplied for several participants.

3) What challenges have you experienced to date?

- a. COVID illnesses still present a challenge for the recovery courts, with several team members and participants absent. We also continue to struggle with meeting the needs of participants due to limited resources available for those prescribed MOUD. Many detox and inpatient treatment facilities will not accept participants unless they are not taking MOUD.

4) Did your team attend any trainings to date?

- a. The team attended the NADCP conference and a training retreat in Raleigh. Additionally, the team will hold trauma training in February 2023.

5) Do you have any data to report to date?

- a. No quantitative data is available at this time.

6) What goals do you hope to attain moving forward?

- a. The court hopes to have additional program participants as well as obtain further training as a team.

Wayne County

Project Narrative: Wayne County has now established a new Adult Accountability and Recovery Court where participants will have been identified as having both high risks and high needs. They will have misdemeanor charges related to their substance use or non-violent H or I felony



and they will have a significant substance use disorder. Based upon the model developed, we will be able to serve 25 participants minimum per year.

1) Have you established a JMARC committee, and has this committee met?

- a. A committee has been established and meets quarterly.

2) What accomplishments have been achieved to date?

- a. There have been several program graduations, legal and physical custody of children have been returned to parent participants, housing has been secured and necessary medications have been supplied for several participants.

3) What challenges have you experienced to date?

- a. We applied for and were awarded a federal grant to expand the AARC into the entire 8th Judicial District. We presented to the county commissioners and civic organizations to promote and advocate for the new court. We hired a recovery court coordinator, who began accepting participant referrals.

4) Did your team attend any trainings to date?

- a. The team attended the NADCP conference, the Recovery Alliance workshop, the Prescription and Illicit Drug Conference, grant writing training, telehealth training, the NC Gang Conference, Recovery in Native American Culture training, and Trauma training.

5) Do you have any data to report to date?

- a. As no participants have been admitted, there is no formal data to report. However, 19 referrals have been made. Data as to AARC participants will be reported in the next quarter. Court is now actively running in Lenoir and Wayne Counties.

6) What goals do you hope to attain moving forward?

- a. Actively admit clients and begin tracking data. Continue to work with the community to expand recovery resources. Expand Recovery Together ENC coalition to support the work of ARCs. Have at least 12 active AARC participants by the end of next quarter.

Summary

NCAOC will disburse the remaining funds appropriated to these seven pilot counties in accordance with the schedule set by S.L. 2021-180, section 15.2(b). NCAOC will also continue to monitor and report on their expenditures and performance as these Judicially Managed Accountability and Recovery Courts progress.



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