



2024 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.

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

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 2022-23 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 and 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 December 31, 2023.

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	4/10/2023	\$460,000	\$0
Harnett	\$400,000	4/25/2022	4/10/2023	\$400,000	\$0
Haywood	\$460,000	7/12/2022	4/10/2023	\$460,000	\$0
Onslow	\$460,000	3/30/2022	4/10/2023	\$460,000	\$0
Pitt	\$200,000	2/22/2022	4/10/2023	\$200,000	\$0
Robeson	\$460,000	3/2/2022	4/10/2023	\$460,000	\$0
Wayne	\$460,000	2/22/2022	4/10/2023	\$460,000	\$0



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. Membership includes Judge Toni King, Judge Luis Olivers, Sanya Eller, William Latham, Daisy Thorne.

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.
- b. Recovering from COVID restrictions.
- c. Grant writing.
- d. Receiving raw offender data from the AOC for the VRSS VA program and formatting for submission to VRSS/VA to identify Veterans.
- e. Recruiting legally challenged Veterans for the Court.

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 has conducted 400+ consultations and 100+ 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.
- b. Continue to recover from COVID restrictions.
- c. Fully implement the VRSS Program to identify legally challenged Veterans
- d. 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.
- b. The members consist of Hon. Frank Wood Jr, Chief District Court Judge, Hon. Suzanne Matthews DA, Hon. Renee Whittenton, Clerk of Superior Courts, Zane Campbell, VTC Director, and Eric Truesdale, Harnett County Veterans Service Director.

2) What accomplishments have been achieved to date?

- a. Hired a Regional Case Manager.
- b. Met with representatives from Thermo Fischer to discuss the improvement of our drug testing program.
- c. Purchased and installed a mini lab and software to increase the accuracy of drug testing equipment.
- d. Continued to fund two case managers ensuring appropriate caseloads.
- e. Continued to provide enhanced drug testing services.
- f. Provided non-monetary awards and incentives to Veterans and staff for milestone achievements.

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.
- b. Continue to bring in new veterans into the program.
- c. Ensure every veteran and Mentor are active in the interactive journaling program.
- d. Register several staff for ALLRISE24.



Haywood County

Project Narrative: Haywood County created 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. Yes, a committee has been established, comprised of members from different aspects of our community. All the statutorily required appointments to the committee have been made. The committee last met in May 2022. A separate interview committee was formed (using members from the main recovery court committee). This committee assisted in the interviewing and hiring process of the new recovery court coordinator. A committee meeting was attempted during the 4th quarter of this year but due to scheduling issues, we were unable to get one scheduled that worked with all committee members. We are in the process of getting one scheduled for the 1st quarter of 2024.

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.
- b. Recovery Court team members have been involved in community events throughout the county. These events have allowed our court to meet other agencies and community support persons, gaining knowledge, and make contacts that we will be able to utilize in our court. We have been educating the community about the court's mission to help reduce the addiction/recidivism problem in our county by supporting and assisting our participants through recovery and beyond. The local newspaper wrote an article about the recovery court update that the RCC and Judges presented to the Haywood County Board of Commissioners during their monthly meeting in November. The recovery court was praised by the board for all the accomplishments that we have made so far and the good feedback they are receiving from the community. RCC is continuing to attend community meetings and educating the public regarding our recovery court. RCC is still working with local agencies that help with urgent needs regarding food, housing, and clothing.
- c. We were able to accept 1 new participant into our Recovery Court this quarter, bringing our total to 6 participants. We have been building alliance and support throughout our community in getting the resources to meet our participant's needs.

3) What challenges have you experienced to date?

- a. At times, working out both short-term and long-term logistics have presented various minor challenges. However, these challenges have not been overly burdensome. Most of our challenges stem from transportation challenges and treatment challenges within other agencies.

4) Did your team attend any trainings to date?



- a. The Recovery Court Coordinator continues to attend the NC Recovery Alliance Initiative task force web team meetings and will be presenting at the NC RAI Symposium in March. The Recovery Court Coordinator continues to participate in webinar trainings from the NTCRC, NADAAC, and Reconnect. The team has continued to complete online trainings through NADCP and NDCI along with classes offered by AOC. These trainings are continuing to help team members learn their roles in the court and becoming consistent with best practices.

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. Our main goal will be to build our participant numbers. We will continue to build relationships with different agencies that support the program, and work on community involvement. We are working with Vaya Health to be able to offer detox and inpatient treatment right from the start of entering our program. We will continue trainings through online courses. We will be seeking other conferences to attend that will assist in learning new best practices that we can apply to our court.

Onslow County

Project Narrative: Onslow County continues to establish 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. This past quarter the Onslow Veterans Treatment Court arranged our processes and procedures around our new SAMSHA reporting requirements. Our grants manager has been extremely helpful and knowledgeable, and she has been a welcomed resource for us.

We continue to have a great relationship with our partners at the DA's Office and our team will continue to work together with them towards the benefit of those in our program and those that qualify and are waiting. The BJA grant award, along with the SAMSHA grant award, has given the Onslow VTC the financial foundation to reach its maximum effectiveness. We are coordinating with our partners in the Onslow County Administration to make sure each funding source is properly tracked and allocated appropriately.

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

- a. A committee has been established but has not yet met in full. The members are as follows:
 - i. A judge of the superior court. (Judge Stevens)
 - ii. A judge of the district court. (Judge Surles)
 - iii. A district attorney or assistant district attorney. (DA Ernie Lee)
 - iv. A defense attorney. (Attorney Christian Smith)
 - v. A clerk of superior court. (Cindy Casteen)
 - vi. A probation officer. (PPO Ashley Moore)
 - vii. The sheriff or sheriff's designee. (Sheriff Chris Thomas)



- viii. A representative of the treatment providers. (The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Hope For The Warriors, PORT Health Services, The Jacksonville Vet Center, Veterans Services of the Carolinas)
- ix. Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator. (VTC Coordinator Dominic Kimzey)
- x. Any other persons selected by the local management committee. (Veteran County Commissioners Walter Scott, Paul Buchannan, and Robin Knapp)

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.
- b. The Onslow VTC received notification of approval of a BJA grant that will be \$949,990 over four years.
- c. We met with the NC TBI Justice initiative to explore ways to identify and assist our participants that have experienced a traumatic brain injury.
- d. The Onslow VTC was awarded a BJA grant that will be \$949,990 over four years.

3) What challenges have you experienced to date?

- a. Our main challenge continues to be our pre-conviction hurdle with our partners at the DA's Office. We have veterans with DUI's/DWI's that were/are awaiting the disposition of their cases that qualify for our treatment program. The DA's office has been straight forward in its position that it will not agree to entering those veterans into the VTC under a pre-conviction deal – post conviction only.

4) Did your team attend any trainings to date?

- a. The court coordinator has completed some online training.
- b. VTC case manager attended "Utilizing Incentives and Sanctions to Support Successful Outcomes in Treatment Court." This was a webinar put on by SAMSHA and it explored the effectiveness of various incentives and sanctions utilized by treatment courts across the county. This training has given us positive reinforcement concerning the incentives and sanctions that the Onslow VTC have utilized in the past and will continue to use in the future.

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. Continue to identify justice-involved veterans to be screened for possible entry into the VTC.
- b. Graduate our current cadre to their next treatment phases via supportive case management and clinically proven treatment strategies.
- c. The continued refinement of our processes and procedures.
- d. Solidify budget expenditures with our Onslow County Administration partners to ensure compliance and program effectiveness in the short and long term.



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. The PCBHTC is moving forward while impacting the lives of our participants. It is our hope and desire that this program continues to grow as we endeavor to change more lives. We are doing wonderful things and we are proud of the fruits that have come forward thus far.

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

- a. A committee has been established and meets annually. When the program was in the developmental stages, we had a wide range of community participation on our PCB HTC Advisory Team. These individuals included Wendy S. Hazelton, District Court Judge, Faris Dixon, District Attorney, P. Gwynett Hilburn, Retired Chief District Court Judge, Sara Beth Fulford Rhodes, Clerk of Superior Court, Michael Cavanagh, Assistant District Attorney, Tracy Gatling, Chief Probation/Parole Officer, Rev. Dr. Rodney Coles Sr., CEO Churches Outreach Network, Keith Cooper, Executive Director, The Benevolence Corps. and President of the Eastern NC Regional Association of Black Social Workers, Keith Letchworth, Systems of Care Coordinator for Dare, Nash & Pitt Counties with Trillium Health Resources, Nancy Ray, Assistant Clerk, Megan Hartzog, Trial Court Coordinator and Pitt County Drug Court Case Manager, Christine Spencer, NAMI, Bill Woolard, Assistant District Manager of Probation and Parole, Barry Dixon, CEO Dixon Social Interactive Services and Pitt County Coalition on Substance Abuse, Gary Bass, CEO Pride In NC, and Portia Valentine, Integrated Family Services.

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.
- b. as The PCBHTC's grant writing team has been busy attending meetings related to the opioid settlement in order to provide a grant proposal to hopefully, secure funds to supplement the state grant funds. We have obtained several letters of support from various community leaders as we move forward with seeking funds. We are also in the process of working on a PSA to educate the public about this court and what it has to offer this community of individuals. We also plan to include Chief Justice Newby in a future commercial.
- c. The PCBHTC had two new participants and graduated one in December. This participant did VERY well throughout his time in the program. When he first entered the program, of course he did not want to be there. But in December, he actually referred to us as "His Family" and that in itself was a celebration. The Team is very confident that he will continue to be successful.
- d. With the assistance of Pathways to Life, we have been able to secure a call number for our participants to use for random drug testing.



- e. We continue to address the needs and concerns of our current participants.

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.
- b. We continue to try to educate attorneys and judges about this program with the hopes of getting more referrals.
- c. Also, we have not been able to connect with jail officials in the capacity we would like due to not having a Recovery Court Coordinator on staff. It is the hope that once this position has been filled, the educational piece will assist with more referrals.

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.
- b. One goal of the PCBHTC for is to secure a Recovery Court Coordinator which will lead to new participants entering the program.
- c. A second goal is to begin submitting grants on the Court's behalf.

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. The courts are beginning to work cohesively, specifically the Peer Support Specialists. They attend all three courts and share the responsibility of supporting, guiding, and encouraging each participant. The task of combining all 3 policies and procedures into one document is another step toward cohesion and working under one umbrella to better serve each participant. Consistent training is also essential if the program is going to be successful. The team looks forward to the national conference, as well as other training opportunities that will help the team develop and grow. The funding is utilized for the Recovery Courts of Robeson County, to include Adult Treatment Court (ATC), DWI Treatment Court (DWI), and Family Treatment Court (FTC). These funds do not pay for salaries. The funds are used primarily for participant support cost, treatment, and workforce development and training for team members.

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

- a. The Recovery Courts of Robeson County has established a local judicially managed accountability and recovery court committee. Committee members include the Recovery



Court Judge, District Attorney, Judicial District 16B Bar President, Chief Public Defender, Robeson Health Care Corporation Board Chair, Sheriff of Robeson County, Robeson County Commissioner (Chair). Meetings are held semi-annually.

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.
- b. The ATC had 3 graduates in September and October, the DWI had 2 graduates in September and October, and the FTC had 1 graduate in October. The Recovery Courts of Robeson County was also awarded a SAMHSA Expansion grant for up to 5 years that supports all three courts. These funds are primarily for salaries. Several current and past recovery court participants participated in a local documentary on opioids and overdose in the community entitled, "The Strength of Robeson: Breaking the Chains of Addiction". The documentary was presented on September 07, 2023.
- c. The Recovery Courts of Robeson County submitted a proposal to the county to obtain opioid settlement funding to purchase a vehicle, and to cover salaries for two Peer Support Specialists.
- d. The Gratitude Luncheon and Miracle of Recovery Christmas celebrations were successful.

3) What challenges have you experienced to date?

- a. The challenge for our community, and for this program is transportation. It is extremely difficult to operate the program as required without reliable transportation. For example, a participant is required to take a drug test at random, 2-3 times per week. The program does not have 1 vehicle to transport participants. We are currently relying on transportation from our treatment provider, Robeson Health Care Corporation, and it is very limited as they utilize those vehicles for their residential sites.
- b. BJA funding ended for ATC, and we are unable to access innovative funds at this time.

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 held trauma training in February 2023.
- b. The FTC coordinator and the treatment provider attended the Rural Communities Opioid Response training in Washington DC, July 10-13. Innovative funds were not used for this training; however, the courts will benefit from the knowledge obtained and shared by the attendees.

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.
- b. The court would like to continue transitioning as a court of programs under one umbrella. We would also work on achieving the deliverables of the SAMHSA grant. As always, during the holidays we will organize sober activities for our participants, such as our "Gratitude Luncheon", and the "Miracle of Recovery Christmas Celebration".



Wayne County

Project Narrative: The 9th Judicial District JMARC are strong, vibrant nationally recognized courts led by Judge Beth Heath. These Recovery Courts assist persons who have committed criminal offenses or who risk losing custody of their children due to substance use. JMARC give participants the option to choose treatment over incarceration, to choose families over separation. The JMARC require hard work by the participants. Participants must engage in weekly contact with program coordinators and other team members including, probation officers, treatment providers, case managers and peer support specialists, just to name a few. Participants appear in court every two weeks for most of the programs' duration. Participants are randomly drug screened twice a week and are held accountable for their behaviors through a system of sanctions and incentives. The JMARC teams work together to provide pro social opportunities including, group activities, vocational assistance, housing, transportation, and many other resources. Additionally, the JMARC are working to establish the Recovery Together ENC Coalition to provide resources, education, harm reduction and to reduce stigma throughout the District and State. The work of the coalition will work to insure that JMARC participants will have a place to live and work that is healthy, supportive, encouraging, and productive.

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

- a. The 9th Judicial District Accountability and Recovery Courts (JMARC) have established a Local Management Committee (LMC). The LMC is comprised of stakeholders who are instrumental to recovery including, funders, treatment providers, housing representatives, political influencers, business community representatives, vocational rehabilitation, community college representatives, re-entry council members, judicial team members, department of correction members and other allies from the recovery world. The LMC meets bi-monthly and reviews the progress in both Recovery Courts, as well as needs, goals and any evaluation reports. Two LMC meetings were held this past quarter, one on September 18th, 2023 and one on November 13th, 2023.

2) What accomplishments have been achieved to date?

- a. There JMARC continue to actively accept pleas and referrals. During this past quarter, 7 new referrals were made and the current number of participants is 23. We will reach our goal of 25 participants by our year anniversary in January. FARC has also been extremely busy screening referrals this quarter. FARC received 14 referrals that were screened and have a total of 23 participants. The ARCs continue to develop strong community partnerships that have established the AARC as a go to when the community needs resources related to recovery. The ARC continues to develop strong community partnerships which have assisted participants in building recovery capitol, an essential to long term recovery, This legislative funding has allowed ARC to develop support activities including therapeutic groups, housing support, art classes, transportation and a Yoga program, that is helping improve the lives of the participants in both of the Recovery Courts. All of these programs have promoted building of recovery capitol. The ARC has established and continues to develop a nonprofit, Recovery Together ENC, which is a coalition that is designed to provide education, harm reduction and public awareness about the need to reduce stigma and to support recovery. Recovery together ENC and the AARC



has worked with CINC, Eastpointe, CALM and numerous other community agencies to provide NARCAN administration training for Wayne, Lenoir and Greene Counties . By the end of December AARC had provided training in NARCAN administration to over 200 people and had been chosen by Eastpointe and CINC- Community Impact North Carolina to be the distributor of Harm Reduction tools in the 9th Judicial District. NARCAN, Detera bags and Medication Lock Boxes have been provided for Community Awareness programs. Every person trained receives a package of NARCAN. These Harm Reduction efforts were highlighted in the December Eastpointe MCO Annual Report distributed statewide.

- b. This program is changing lives. Of the 23 active participants in the AARC program, 23 have been assessed as high risk/high need and diagnosed with a substance use disorder. Each participant is currently substance free, engaged in treatment and repairing the issues that brought them into the court system. Additionally, by utilizing AARC, the justice system has saved weeks, if not months, of trial time prosecuting these cases. Our participants represent mothers, fathers, veterans, sons, daughters and grandparents. As a result of becoming substance free our participants are able to become employed. In fact, of our 23 participants 16 are working, while they are getting the help they need to become contributing, active citizens our communities need.
- c. Participation in FARC greatly reduces the risk of children growing up in the foster care system. Currently, it costs \$650-\$1200 a month to place a child in foster care. FARC currently impacts 67 children. During this quarter FARC graduated 3 parents, who have been reunited with their children. It is truly saving lives, reuniting families and making our communities safer.

3) What challenges have you experienced to date?

- a. AARC and FARC continue to struggle with the need for transportation. The need for residential placements has significantly increased. These placements are difficult to find and fund. Our staff spends an inordinate amount of time assisting participants in obtaining these placements. This may soon begin to impact their ability to also conduct the case management services our other participants need. Placements can be difficult to find. Participants are faced with long waiting lists and may be turned away because of health conditions. Placement in private facilities is cost prohibitive for our population, especially for those without health insurance. Another struggle is the sheer number of over-the-counter drugs and supplements available at vape shops and gas stations. Products such as Kratom, Delta 8, and Tianeptine (gas station heroin) are flooding our communities. This has been an area that has required additional education and training as well as policy development for our Recovery Courts.

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. We also hosted the first annual Recovery Together ENC Conference at Wayne Community College where both the FARC and AARC teams attended, as did over 250 community members. From October through December, team members attended multiple trainings, call-ins, workshops, and webinars covering topics such as transportation initiatives,



community resource exchanges, employment and housing opportunities, local crime trends, and participant reentry programs.

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

- a. In the Wayne County AARC, there were 7 referrals but none were admitted. Three are scheduled to be admitted in January, which will fill the program to maximum capacity. Currently AARC has two participants from Greene County, eleven participants from Wayne County and ten participants from Lenoir County, totaling 23 participants. Of that number, only 5 are struggling with compliance. The program will have its first graduations in early spring. Although the program focuses on persons with criminal charges, 25 children are impacted by their parents' involvement in the program.
- b. In FARC there were 10 referrals this quarter. FARC runs two tracks depending on the status of the needs of the participants. Currently, there are 21 participants in track 1 and 2 participants in track 2. Track 2 is an innovative program which provides a recovery court option to individuals before a DSS petition is filed. The program graduated 3 people this quarter helping these parents reunite with their children. The program currently is active in the lives of parents with a total of 67 children. The cost savings to the State of North Carolina by keeping these children out of foster care is significant.

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

- a. The JMARC programs will continue to build and expand its caseload to serve the maximum numbers and provide resources to those served. The JMARC will work to further establish the coalition, Recovery Together ENC, with the goal to expand education, harm reduction, recovery capital resources and to reduce stigma in the 9th Judicial District. Recovery Together ENC will begin planning our second Recovery Together ENC Conference. In May the program will be taking a group of team members to the national ALLRISE conference in Anaheim, California. Federal funding from the awarded BJA grant will be used to continue to expand the program since legislative funding began.

Summary

NCAOC has disbursed all 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 continue to monitor their performance as these Judicially Managed Accountability and Recovery Courts progress.



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