

## **Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is a Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center (JCAC)?**

Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers are non-secure residential facilities that provide evidenced based services, crisis care, assessment, and therapeutic residential services for youth who require temporary out of home placement to assess and/or stabilize their behaviors. The centers provide an opportunity to determine and recommend the most appropriate interventions through the development of comprehensive assessments.

### **When did the JCACs become operational?**

The Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers are the newest addition to the juvenile justice continuum of service. Insight Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center opened in November 2015; Bridges Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center opened in March of 2016; and the Western Area Multi-Purpose Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center opened in October 2016.

### **Where are the JCACs located?**

#### **1. Eastern and Central Catchment Areas**

Insight Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center  
100 Dillon Drive, Butner, NC 27509

- Ages of youth served: Primarily 10-17 years old, but the facility can serve younger juveniles on a case by case basis
- Student Capacity: 12
- Length of stay: 14 to 30 days

#### **2. Piedmont Catchment Area**

Bridges Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center  
5550 Sturmer Park Circle, Winston-Salem, NC 27105

- Ages of youth served: Primarily 10-17 years old, but the facility can serve younger juveniles on a case by case basis
- Student Capacity: 8
- Length of stay: 14 to 30 days

#### **3. Western Catchment Area**

Western Area Multi-Purpose Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center  
20 Lees Creek Road, Asheville, NC 28806

- Ages of youth Served: Primarily 10-17 years old, but the facility can serve younger juveniles on a case by case basis
- Student Capacity: 9 (5 Crisis Beds and 4 Secure Custody Beds)
- Length of stay: 14 to 30 days

### **What are the purposes of the JCACs?**

The services at the JCACs are targeted for Level II and Level I high risk/high needs juveniles ranging from 10 to 17 years old. The overall scope of work at the facility is to provide a 24 hour, non-secure, therapeutic short-term residential setting delivering crisis care and assessment services, all of which includes wide-range service planning for juveniles who require a temporary out of home placement to stabilize their behaviors. Assessment and observational findings are used to determine effective interventions for each juvenile with a comprehensive plan of care. The facility integrates temporary crisis care and assessment services into a comprehensive clinical program model within a non-secure residential setting. The scope of work includes crisis care, assessments, education, health, counseling, and individual and group activities, in addition to

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recreational services. The Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center develops assessments through a two-tier process. The first tier consists of four major domains: Psychosocial, Personality, Intelligence, and Achievement. The second tier is issue-focused and identifies Trauma, Negative School Behavior, Memory, Criminality/Risk behavior, Family Structure, Chemical Abuse/Dependency and Pathology.

The goal of the two-tiered process is to initially develop a solid, accurate image of the client, and then use the information gathered to present a depiction of the client's strengths, weaknesses, support systems, needs and potential while also developing a comprehensive recommendation for the juvenile.

### **At what point in juvenile proceedings may the JCACs be utilized?**

The JCACs provide a crisis and assessment component that may be used at any point of involvement in the juvenile justice system. While there are specific criteria for admission to the program, youth that have already penetrated the juvenile justice system with a Level II disposition or Level I disposition youth with high risk/ needs are those that are appropriate for services. There are, however, situations that have called for use of the center services for those youth that are not yet adjudicated but ordered to detention. The crisis and assessment centers have been useful in these cases, particularly for very young youth that come to the attention of juvenile services and are ordered to detention. The crisis component has been used for these youth in lieu of detention.

### **What requirements need to be met for a juvenile to be placed at a JCAC?**

Juveniles in need of the assessment component must have a Level II designation from court or a Level I designation with a high risk/high needs score.

### **How long do juveniles usually stay at a JCAC?**

The length of stay is usually approximately 30 days for the Assessment component and five to seven days for the Crisis component; however, some lengths of stay have exceeded 30 days in order to assist with delays with appropriate treatment/placement options. This strategy is taken to create fewer moves and disruptions for a youth.

### **What services does a juvenile receive at a JCAC?**

Services received at the JCACs include: Educational Services, Recreational Services, Health Services, and Assessment Services. The following are Specialized Assessment Tools that are available at the JCACs:

<b>Specialized Psychometric Tools</b>	<b>Domain</b>
Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT)	Education
Woodcock-Johnson IV (WCJ-IV)	Educational Persistence Achievement/Intelligence
Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol	Sexual Behavior
Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism (ERASOR)	Sexual Behavior

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Juvenile Sex Offender Risk of Recidivism Tool	Sexual Behavior
Wechsler IQ – WAIS IV, WISC IV	Intelligence- child, adolescent, or adult
Wide Range Intelligence Test (WRIT)	Intelligence
Adolescent and Child Urgent Threat Evaluation (ACUTE)	Risk – Violence – Homicide/Suicide
Adolescent Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI-A)	Substance Abuse
Parent Adolescent Relationship Questionnaire	Interpersonal/Family/Living
Substance Use Disorders Diagnostic Schedule (SUDDS-IV)	Substance Abuse
<b>Global Assessments</b>	<b>Domain</b>
Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)	Multi-domain
Juvenile Assessment Information System (JAIS)	Multi-domain

**If a juvenile is being placed in a JCAC prior to adjudication, is that information kept only with the court counselor, or is it being shared with the court pre-adjudication?**

The Assessment that a juvenile would receive is only used during the dispositional process of juvenile court, and is not used in the adjudicatory process. The Assessment is utilized to assist the court with making the most appropriate referral for treatment or other services.

**Can a JCAC be utilized in lieu of a juvenile being placed in secure custody?**

Due to the facilities being non-secure, a juvenile entering the assessment or crisis component cannot be admitted with a secure custody order. However, the Western Multi-Purpose JCAC, which serves the western region of the state, offers four secure custody beds for juveniles needing secure custody.

**What happens if a juvenile displays behavior dangerous to self or others?**

The clinical staff will decide if the juvenile’s behavior merits evaluation for an Involuntary Commitment by a mobile crisis provider within the mental health local management entity(LME)/managed care organization (MCO). Supervisory staff will decide on the most effective intervention for the juvenile until an evaluation has been scheduled. All staff members are trained in MHFC’s Unarmed Self-Defense Techniques, which prioritize the juvenile’s safety and the safety of the staff.

**How does it benefit a juvenile to be placed in a Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Center for approximately 30 days when the research clearly indicates that juveniles respond better to interventions provided to them in their home or community?**

The centers are developed to evaluate the needs of the youth and to limit or deter longer term unnecessary placements in out of home locations. While placement in the center does represent an “out of home” placement, youth referred to the crisis and assessment centers are already on a clear path to deeper involvement in the court system and likely a forced placement at a detention center or youth development center. This placement protects communities while assessing needs. Additionally, other community based interventions may have been ineffective

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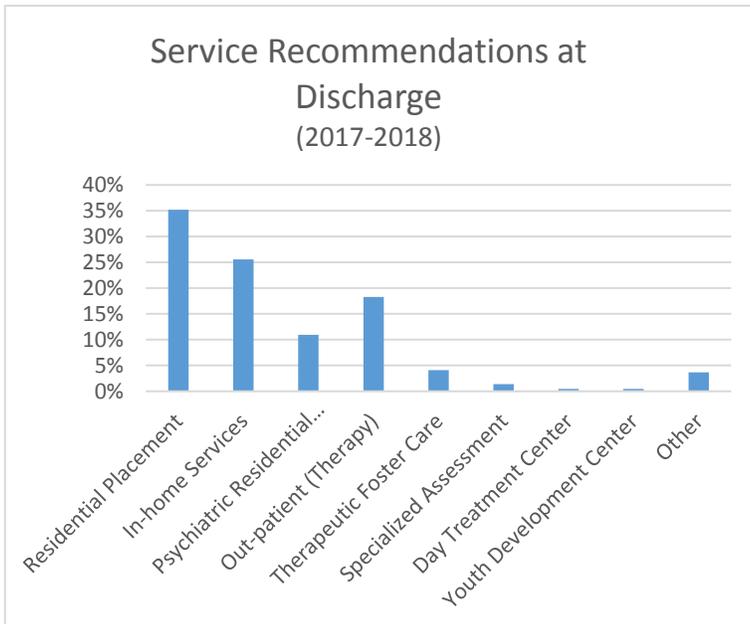
because a thorough assessment was not used to match the intervention with the youth's need. While typically youths placed at the assessment centers may initially be resistant to the placement, many thrive and participate fully within the program due to its non-punitive, supportive, safe, and informative environment.

**What are the educational benefits that the Crisis and Assessment Centers offer? Are there problems that occur with juveniles reentering the school setting due to missed days, unexcused absences, or transfer of academic credit for coursework completed during their time in the Juvenile Crisis and Assessment Centers?**

The educational benefits:

- Continuation in school with certified teacher during the 30 day stay
- Certified teachers provide grade appropriate instruction to the youth and works with the youth's home school to keep the student up to date with their coursework and assist with any educational gaps that may become apparent.
- The youth's time at the center is understood and counted by their home school.
- Educational testing and intelligence testing occur and are evaluated in the context of classroom performance. This promotes an individualized and comprehensive strategy for educational progress and informs future recommendations.

**What kind of services are recommended as a result of the comprehensive assessments performed at the centers?**



Residential services account for the most recommended service type for youth exiting the crisis and assessment centers. Residential services include both Level II and Level III mental health facilities and juvenile justice residential facilities provided by the Department of Public Safety (multi-purpose group homes or transitional homes). A Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) is the third highest most recommended service but due to their limited capacity and waiting lists, admission to this type of treatment service is often delayed. It must be noted that the Crisis and Assessment Centers often extend the assessment

center length of stay to accommodate a residential placement to avoid multiple transitions for the child and family before reaching the needed and recommended service. However, in some cases, youth are stable enough to go home to await the recommended placement at a psychiatric residential treatment facility.