Date: 2/26/25 Time: 2pm-3:15pm

Stakeholder Name/Primary Contact: Heather Taraska, ADA, Juv Court Supervisor

Stakeholder Agency: DA’s Office/ NC Courts

Attendees:

Facilitator(s): Dave, Susan, Holly

#### Stakeholder Interview Questions

#### Background

Mecklenburg County wants to enhance the experiences of youth and families within the juvenile justice system, particularly in accessing quality behavioral health services and interventions. To achieve this, the county has partnered with Empower Community Care and Alliance Health to conduct a system assessment to understand current practices better. We are interviewing individuals impacted by the system and those responsible for providing services. Additionally, we will review data and visit programs to gain insights into operations and perspectives.

This interview will last approximately 60 minutes. The information gathered will be used to identify common themes, but individual comments will remain anonymous. Any transcript or notes captured during the interview will only be shared internally to prepare our report. You are encouraged to discuss topics outside of the questions if you believe it will help us better understand the system's needs.

1. (For background) Tell me a bit about yourself, your organization, and how your work intersects with youth in the juvenile justice system and youth on probation.
2. What part(s) of the juvenile justice process works well for youth and families to access needed services and/or supports?
3. What part(s) of the juvenile justice process is not working well (e.g., causing barriers or challenges for you or families) when youth need services?
4. Do you believe there are sufficient resources within Mecklenburg County to effectively address the needs of the youth and families involved in court?
   1. If yes, which resource(s) do you use most frequently? Why do you choose them?
   2. If not, what type(s) of service(s) or program(s) do you think the county needs to see better outcomes for court-involved youth and their families?
5. Do you believe that there is an efficient assessment process in place to help identify youth/family needs and the types of services that are most relevant?
   1. If no, what is the primary method used to determine what services/resources are most appropriate for clients?
   2. If an assessment process is in place, do you believe there is a structured process for reviewing assessment results and determining the service priorities from those results?
6. Do you believe that the current process of referring youth/families to services or interventions in Mecklenburg County is effective (i.e., timely referral that results in successful engagement)?
   1. If no, what do you believe are the barriers to the process?
   2. If no, how do you think the county should address the barriers to ensure successful access to care?
7. How would you rate the quality of the services currently available to youth and families in Mecklenburg County?
   1. Highly qualified, professional, effective, highly satisfied
   2. Mostly effective- generally satisfied with the results
   3. Average quality- results vary
   4. Poor quality- concerns about professionalism, clinical skills, staff need more training
   5. Very poor-no engagement, services are not being provide
8. How would you rate the level of communication and cooperation between juvenile justice authorities, stakeholders, and service partners in Mecklenburg County?
   1. Very good: High level and quality and consistency in communication and cooperation between juvenile justice entities, stakeholders, and service partners
   2. Good: Strong and consistent communication and cooperation between some (but not all) entities
   3. Fair: Communication and cooperation exist but need some improvement
   4. Poor: Communication and cooperation exist but need considerable improvement
   5. Very Poor: Communication and cooperation rarely occur- entities tend to operate in silos
9. If communication and cooperation is inadequate, what steps need to be taken to improve functioning in this area?
10. What would you select if you could pick two things for the county to focus on in the next 2 to 5 years to serve youth and families better and reduce unlawful behavior and gun violence?
11. What barriers may hinder the juvenile justice system from making the changes and improvements you suggest?
12. Is there anything else you would like to add to our discussion that would help inform the recommendations to the county?