

North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice

Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice June Clips

TREC's monthly newsletter highlights progress on some of our [recommendations](#) across North Carolina

Clips

Respond more appropriately to situations concerning mental illness, autism, intellectual disabilities, substance abuse, homelessness, and other nonemergency situations (Rec. 1)

WNCN: [Suicide, crisis number "988" to activate nationally](#)

Starting Saturday, the number will be available nationwide and will direct callers to the national suicide prevention line. The hotline will take any mental health crisis a caller may be experiencing.

Develop violence prevention programs (Rec. 4)

NC Policy Watch: [Monday numbers: Gun violence in North Carolina, and one county's efforts to address the crisis](#)

The New Hanover County Board of Commissioners and the New Hanover County Board of Education held joint meetings in the aftermath, listening to viewpoints from a variety of community members and devising ways to address the gun violence that had come to a tipping point in the shooting at the high school.

Encourage better connections to communities served (Rec. 8)

WNCN: [Raleigh police, residents open communication lines to combat violent crimes](#)

The Raleigh Police Department is working to build better relationships between the department and the community.

KAIT: ['You and Five-O' launches new pilot program for community policing](#)

You and Five-O, LLC (YFO) presenters implemented a new law enforcement training program for 46 officers sworn to duty at the Kinston Police Department in Kinston, North Carolina.

Treat Addiction as a Public Health Crisis (Rec. 17)

WLOS: [NC attorney general impressed by Buncombe County opioid addiction treatment program](#)

During his tour, Stein was briefed on the jail's 'MAT' program. The "Medication-Assisted Treatment" program is an effort to help detainees recover from opioid addiction.

Jacksonville Daily News: [Dix Crisis Center saved more than 1,500 lives last year across Eastern North Carolina](#)

A local crisis center is saving hundreds of lives, and keeping the pressure off the emergency room while doing it.

WITN: [Pitt Co. inmate substance abuse program recognized nationally](#)

The Pitt County Sheriff's Office is being recognized for its efforts to help inmates struggling with drug use.

Hire behavioral health professionals in schools (Rec. 19)

Establish and fund restorative justice programs (Rec. 61)

News & Observer: [Wake schools are suspending fewer students. But racial disparities still remain.](#)

The school system has made multiple changes in recent years, such as expanded use of restorative justice programs and encouraging other consequences for misbehavior, such as in-school suspensions or loss of privileges. Wake has also expanded the use of social-emotional learning through hiring more counselors and social workers to help students.

Strengthen use of force practices (Rec. 31)

Smoky Mountain News: [Police reform inches forward in WNC](#)

The conversation around police reform has cooled down slightly over the last year, but that doesn't mean law enforcement agencies around the state aren't quietly implementing new policies — policies that came on the heels of the movement that gained steam after George Floyd was murdered by Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin on May 25, 2020.

Change juvenile life sentencing (Rec. 69)

NC Policy Watch: [PW special report: Two recent state Supreme Court decisions could alter NC's juvenile justice landscape](#)

But because of two recent decisions by the North Carolina Supreme Court, Kelliher could be among the first of the imprisoned whose cases are reviewed for parole after receiving a “de facto life sentence” for crimes they committed when they were kids.

Expand voting rights (Rec. 119)

AP News: [Thousands of North Carolina felons can now register and vote](#)

Tens of thousands of people serving punishments for felony convictions in North Carolina but who aren't behind bars can now register to vote and cast ballots following an appeals court ruling.

Educational Opportunities

[Strengthening the Sixth: Roadmap to a Representative Jury \(NC\)](#)

In this free comprehensive fair cross-section training we will cover some of the factors that contribute to racial and ethnic disparities, why diverse juries matter, how the fair cross section requirement differs from equal protection, as well as some model practices for improving jury diversity.

August 19 from 12:00-1:30 ET

[MAT in Jails: Legal, Medical, Security, and Community Considerations](#)

During this three-part series, participants will hear from USDOJ Attorneys based in NC and Medical and Facility experts as they describe the legal, medical, and operational basics of providing MAT in NC facilities.

August 17, 24, and 31.

TREC Meetings

For access to TREC meetings click [here](#) and for TREC events click [here](#). Upcoming meetings:

- August 11 at 11 a.m.: Prosecutor Advisory Group Meeting
- August 18 at 8 a.m.: Judicial Committee Meeting
- August 23 at 2 p.m.: Executive Committee Meeting
- August 24 at 8 a.m.: Local Policy Committee Meeting
- August 31 at 10 a.m.: Law Enforcement Advisory Group Meeting

Previous TREC clips can be found at ncdoj.gov/trec/modelpolicies/. For more information, please visit ncdoj.gov/trec or email TREC at criminaljustice@ncdoj.gov.