



North Carolina Task Force
for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice

Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice September & October Clips

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

Clips

Encourage better connections to communities served (Rec. 8)

Elon News Network: [Behind the badge: A look into Burlington Police Department's role in reform, officer training](#)

The police department created a Community Police Advisory Team in 2020, which is a platform to allow community members to have direct connections to making change. Dejuana Bigelow is in charge of the team and grew up in Burlington. She said when she was younger, her view of law enforcement was negative because of how people of color were treated. Now, she said there is a better connection between the police and the community.

Prioritize traffic stops that improve traffic safety (Rec. 13)

WBTV: [Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office changes traffic stop policy](#)

McFadden said he adopted the new policy after a presentation from advocates and groups that showed black drivers are stopped more often for these types of offenses.

Establish and expand access to diversion programs (Rec. 16)

Gaston Gazette: [Gaston County Police start law enforcement assisted diversion program](#)

Earlier this year, police told Attorney General Josh Stein that 28 of 49 participants in the program, or 57%, did not reoffend.

Treat addiction as a public health crisis (Rec. 17)

NC Health News: [Momentum building for MAT in jails across N.C.](#)

During his 20 years in the field of substance use disorders, Eric Morse has seen countless patients forced off their medication-assisted treatment (MAT) — a treatment that's often working — while incarcerated.

WITN: [Pitt County Sheriff's Office awarded \\$1.3 million in federal grants](#)

Sheriff Paula Dance was told by the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance that the sheriff's office is receiving federal grants to expand her Sheriff's Heroin Addiction Recovery Program (SHARP) and Women's Empowerment Recovery Program (WEAR).

Strengthen use of force practices (Rec. 31)

Police Mag: [The Case for De-Escalation Training: Doing Right by Officers and Communities](#)

Currently, the organization includes the following four regional centers: 1) northern region at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan; 2) central region at Fort Hays State University in Hays, KS; 3) mid-Atlantic region consisting of a partnership between the North Carolina Justice Academy and Western Carolina University; 4) northeast region, a partnership between the University of New Haven and Yale University.

Establish and fund restorative justice programs (Rec. 61)

NC Policy Watch: [Congressional panel debates federal role in preventing youth incarceration](#)

Members of a U.S. House Education and Labor Committee panel on Thursday questioned experts and leaders of youth rehabilitation programs about how the federal government could invest in programs to prevent kids from becoming incarcerated.

Education NC: [Students belong in class, so this school redesigned discipline to honor that](#)

In-school suspension looks a lot different now. Not only is it less utilized, but when it is used, its purpose is to restore students to the classroom with new tools.

Neuse News: [North Carolina Community Programs Recognized as National Examples](#)

Rural community leaders from all over the United States traveled to Lenoir, Wayne, and Greene Counties this week to learn how to improve justice systems in their own communities.

Decriminalize the possession of up to 1.5 ounces of marijuana (Rec. 72)

News & Observer: ['A watershed moment': NC Democrats applaud Biden's pardons on marijuana, seek state action](#)

North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein expressed support Thursday for President Joe Biden's decision to pardon people convicted of simple marijuana possession under federal law, and said North Carolinians with similar charges at the state level should have their records expunged.

Center Square: [North Carolina's Cooper wants to decriminalize marijuana possession](#)

The task force is chaired by North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein, who laid out what he envisions as the appropriate path for decriminalization in a post to Twitter on Thursday.

Expand use of restorative justice and rehabilitation programming (Rec. 110)

National Association of Counties: [Social worker program helps inmates with mental health, opioid use disorders](#)

Pitt County, N.C. hired a social worker to work at the jail to give justice-involved individuals the tools they need to succeed upon release.

Salisbury Post: [County commissioners approve initial plan for opioid settlement funds](#)

Included in requirements are items like collaborative strategic planning, early intervention, Naloxone distribution, addiction treatment for incarcerated people, and re-entry programs, to name a few.

[Support the State Reentry Council Collaborative's recommendations \(Rec. 123\)](#)

Q City Metro: [Sheriff's office partners with nonprofit to help inmates become entrepreneurs](#)

Peace4Poverty will provide training in financial literacy, mental health support, and practical tools to aid them in becoming business owners.

[TREC Extension](#)

WNCN: [Gov. Cooper to extend task force addressing racial inequity in NC criminal justice system](#)

North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper announced Friday that he plans to extend the North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice.

TREC Meetings

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

- None scheduled for the rest of this month.

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.