

An abstract graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a dark blue background with a complex network of thick, curved lines in teal, lime green, and gold. These lines are punctuated by small circles in white, blue, orange, and green. Various white line-art icons are integrated into the design: a head with a cross inside, a heart with a pulse line, a hand, and a stethoscope.

The Katie Blessing Center Budget Amendment

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About the Katie Blessing Center

A Youth Behavioral Health Facility
5516 Central Avenue, Charlotte

Phase

1

Opens Spring 2026

48 acute inpatient beds (avg stay = 3-7 days)

6 behavioral health urgent care chairs (maximum stay = 23 hours)

Phase

2

Slated for Spring 2027 Opening

24 additional beds for flexible use- acute inpatient and/or psychiatric residential treatment facility beds (avg stay = 3-6 months)



FY25 Budget Ordinance Original Language

Original Ordinance

That there is a contingency allocation of \$2,000,000 for the Katie Blessing Center for Youth Behavioral Health, however, before any portion of the \$2,000,000 contribution is expended, the Board must approve such appropriation following confirmation that the facility's capital campaign is complete, and that an agreement has been reached between the County and the Katie Blessing Foundation which guarantees sufficient beds will be reserved at the facility for children referred by Mecklenburg County effective through the life of the facility.

Challenges to Overcome

- The ordinance is silent on the phase 1 and 2 distinctions.
- The Katie Blessing Foundation leadership expressed concern about the “life of the facility” requirement given the funding level.
- The “life of the facility” language, which does not account for differences in phases 1 and 2, requires the County to seek phase 1 acute inpatient beds, which are not a critical need.



Proposal for Updated Ordinance Language

Updated Ordinance Language

That there is an amended and revised contingency allocation of \$2,000,000 to the Katie Blessing Foundation (“KBF”) to be used by the Katie Blessing Center (“KBC”) for Youth Behavioral Health, however, before any portion of the \$2,000,000 allocation may be released, the Board must receive confirmation that KBC’s Phase 1 capital campaign is complete, and if Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility services are included in Phase 1 or Phase 2, KBF and KBC will negotiate in good faith with Mecklenburg County to execute an agreement for designated bed space and service capacity for youth in Mecklenburg County custody.

Rationale for Updates

1. “Amended and revised” acknowledges changes to the original FY25 budget contingency.
2. “Released” replaces “expended” so that the ordinance dictates when the County will release funding, not when KBF can expend funding.
3. The addition of “KBC’s Phase 1 capital campaign is complete” addresses KBF’s updated plan to build the facility in two separate phases.
4. The section starting, “if Psychiatric...” is added to create the opportunity to negotiate residential treatment bed space for youth in County custody should such beds become part of the project.





Thank You