



Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

In this section:

- [Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice \(Overview and Foster Care Information\)](#)

Facts about DJJ

- The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) provides services to youth and families by operating 32 Court Service Units (CSUs) and the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center (JCC).
- DJJ audits and certifies the following:
 - ▶ 34 CSUs, including two locally-operated units;
 - ▶ 24 juvenile detention centers (JDCs);
 - ▶ Bon Air JCC;
 - ▶ 9 community placement programs (CPPs);
 - ▶ 13 detention reentry programs; and
 - ▶ 15 group homes, shelters, and independent living programs.
- DJJ's Mission: To protect the public by preparing court-involved youth to be successful citizens using an integrated approach to juvenile justice, including current research and best practices to:
 - ▶ modify delinquent behavior;
 - ▶ meet the needs of offenders, victims, and communities; and
 - ▶ manage activities and resources in a responsible and proactive manner.
- DJJ responds to court-involved juveniles using a balanced approach that provides:
 - ▶ protection of public safety;
 - ▶ community supervision and secure confinement;
 - ▶ incentives and graduated sanctions;
 - ▶ accountability for juveniles' actions;
 - ▶ opportunities for skill- and competence-building;
 - ▶ substance abuse and aggression management treatment; and
 - ▶ support for academic and career readiness education.

- Efforts are focused on the juveniles with the highest risk of reoffending and addressing the individual criminogenic risk factors.
- DJJ uses a set of research and consensus-based instruments at decision points within the juvenile justice system.
- Successful outcomes require services that are individualized to the strengths and needs of juveniles, families, and communities. Positive incentives matched to the individual's situation include early release from supervision, extended curfew, and recreational outings with volunteers.
- Electronic monitoring, drug screening, and various levels of supervision encourage long-term behavior change.
- Some youth under DJJ supervision are "dual system" youth involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.
- Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA): DJJ is working collaboratively with DSS and serving on inter-agency workgroups.

DJJ and the Foster Care System

- DJJ provides services to youth in foster care, including processing intake complaints and petitions for the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court (e.g., support, family abuse, determination of custody, abuse and neglect, termination of parental rights, visitation rights, paternity, and emancipation), and provides probation, parole and direct care supervision.
- DJJ and DSS MOA - Collaborative Re-Entry Planning for foster care youth: Assigned foster care worker serves as the legal guardian and participates in reentry planning meetings throughout the youth's direct care length of stay with DJJ and support youth who age out of foster care while in commitment through Fostering Futures.
- DJJ, DSS and DMAS Collaborate to Ensure Medicaid Eligibility: Pre-Medicaid applications are completed for all qualifying youth, including youth who were in foster care at time of their commitment.

Contact Information

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

Main Street Centre, 20th Floor • PO Box 1110 • Richmond, VA 23218-1110

804-371-6497 • <http://www.djj.virginia.gov>

Director – Valerie Boykin



Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) provides services to youth and families by operating 32 court service units (CSUs) and Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center (JCC). DJJ audits and certifies 34 CSUs, including two locally-operated units; 24 juvenile detention centers (JDCs); Bon Air JCC; nine community placement programs (CPPs); 13 detention reentry programs; and 15 group homes, shelters, and independent living programs.

DJJ's mission is to protect the public by preparing court-involved youth to be successful citizens. To accomplish this mission, DJJ uses an integrated approach to juvenile justice. It brings together current research and best practices to better understand and modify delinquent behavior; to meet the needs of offenders, victims, and communities; and to manage activities and resources in a responsible and proactive manner.

DJJ responds to court-involved juveniles using a balanced approach that provides (i) protection of public safety by control of juveniles' liberty through community supervision and secure confinement, (ii) a structured system of incentives and graduated sanctions in both community and direct care settings to ensure accountability for juveniles' actions, and (iii) a variety of services and programs that build skills and competencies (e.g., substance abuse and aggression management treatment, support for academic and career readiness education) to enable juveniles to become law-abiding members of the community during and upon release from DJJ's supervision.

DJJ is committed to the principle that the greatest impact on juvenile offending may be realized by focusing resources on those juveniles with the highest risk of reoffending and by addressing the individual criminogenic risk factors that contribute to the initiation and continuation of delinquent behavior. DJJ uses a set of research and consensus-based instruments at decision points within the juvenile justice system, including the initial decision to detain and the assignment to various levels of community probation or parole supervision.

In addition to matching the most intensive resources to those juveniles with the highest risk, DJJ recognizes that successful outcomes require services that are individualized to the strengths and needs of juveniles, families, and communities. Case-specific risk factors are identified and addressed to increase the likelihood of successful outcomes. The application of appropriate public safety strategies such as electronic monitoring, drug screening, and various levels of supervision also are matched to juveniles' individualized circumstances. Incentives such as early release from supervision, extended curfew, and recreational outings with volunteers are used to reward success and improve the chances of long-term behavior change.

FY 2018 Data:

- Intake complaints 183,046
 - Domestic Relations and Child Welfare complaints 132,097
 - Juvenile Intake complaints 50,949
- Juvenile Detention Center detainments 7,293
- Probation / Parole Supervision average daily population 3,129
- Direct Care average daily population 368

<http://www.djj.virginia.gov>

Information for COY Foster Care Seminar - May 6, 2019

Does DJJ work with or provide services to youth involved in foster care? DJJ processes intake complaints and petitions for the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court. Those intakes include domestic relations and child welfare petitions (e.g., support, family abuse, determination of custody, abuse and neglect, termination of parental rights, visitation rights, paternity, and emancipation). DJJ also provides probation, parole and direct care supervision. Some youth under DJJ supervision are “dual system” youth involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Some youth are status offenders who have not committed a delinquent offense, but rather are open to probation supervision as the result of a Child in Need of Supervision (CHINS) petition. For youth on direct care or parole status, some youth were being served by the Department of Social Services and/or in the foster care system at the time of commitment. Youth who were in DSS custody at the time of commitment to DJJ and who are under age 18 at time of release from direct care status are released to the custody of DSS. Youth who were in DSS custody at the time of commitment to DJJ and are released from DJJ after age 18 and prior to turning 21, may elect to remain in foster care through *Fostering Futures*. Youth benefit from the on-going financial and social support of DSS as they transition into adulthood and DJJ staff encourage youth to voluntarily remain in care.

Family First Prevention Services Act: DJJ is working collaboratively with the DSS and serving on a number of inter-agency workgroups in support of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). As the FFPSA is implemented and Title IV-E funding is expanded and made available for prevention cases, it is hoped that youth and families can access services earlier and without entering the foster care or juvenile justice systems.

DJJ and DSS MOA - Collaborative Re-Entry Planning: Historically there had been challenges with direct care reentry planning for youth in foster care at time of their commitment to DJJ. Those challenges included housing, employment, education and career planning, and medical / mental health coverage. As a result, the Children’s Cabinet that operated during Governor McAuliffe’s administration, developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DJJ and DSS. The MOA supports reentry planning for foster care youth. The assigned foster care worker serves as the legal guardian and participates in reentry planning meetings throughout the youth’s direct care length of stay with DJJ. DJJ committed youth who age out of foster care while in commitment are also supported through *Fostering Futures*.

DJJ, DSS and DMAS Collaborate To Ensure Medicaid Eligibility: DJJ partners with DSS and DMAS to complete pre-Medicaid applications for DJJ youth in direct care status who are over the age of 17 and returning to the community on parole. These pre-Medicaid applications are completed for all qualifying youth, including youth who were in foster care at the time of their commitment.