

Meeting Minutes

Commission on Youth Meeting

June 17, 2020, 1:00 to 3:00

(virtual meeting)

Attending:

Senators: Dave Marsden, Barbara Favola, David Suetterlein

Delegates: Emily Brewer, Rob Bell, Joshua Cole, Karrie Delaney, Elizabeth Guzman, Jay Jones

Citizen Members: Dede Goldsmith, Chris Rehak

Not Attending:

Citizen Member: Avohom Carpenter

Staff Attending:

Amy Atkinson, Will Egen

I. Welcome and Introductions

Senator Dave Marsden, Chair

Senator Marsden welcomed Commissioners and the public and asked members of the Commission to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Commission on Youth 2020 Study Plans

Senator Dave Marsden, Chair

Amy Atkinson, Executive Director, briefly summarized the study plans. The 2020 study plans under consideration are:

- Education in Local Juvenile Detention Centers
- Legal Guardianship of a Minor by Court Petition
- Collection of Evidence-Based Practices for Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Treatment Needs

Delegate Brewer moved that the study plans be adopted. The motion was adopted unanimously.

III. Overview of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

Valerie Boykin, Director, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

Dr. Melinda Boone, Interim Superintendent/Education Consultant, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

Senator Marsden introduced Valerie Boykin, Director of Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

Ms. Boykin presented on the role of DJJ and its recent and ongoing transformation. Ms. Boykin noted that transformation was necessitated by budget cuts as well as to make facilities smaller and safer and to address issues of trauma, racial inequities, a lack of a continuum of placements, and inadequate planning for reentry.

Ms. Boykin highlighted that over the past decade the average daily population at juvenile correction centers has decreased and there has been a greater focus on alternative placements. The focus going ahead will be on reducing recidivism.

This presentation can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the meetings tab.

IV. Overview of Juvenile Detention in Virginia

Marilyn Brown, Director of Chesterfield Juvenile Justice Services and President of the Virginia Juvenile Detention Association

Senator Marsden next introduced Marilyn Brown, President of the Virginia Juvenile Detention Association, to present an overview of juvenile detention in Virginia. Ms. Brown gave a presentation on a juvenile detention center's (JDC) role in relation to DJJ including what types of children (status) come to these facilities. She also covered what state and federal regulations must be followed at JDCs. Ms. Brown briefly introduced the topic of delivery of education in a JDC.

Following her presentation Ms. Brown answered several questions from Commission members.

This presentation can be accessed on the Commission's webpage under the meetings tab.

V. State Operated Programs

Laurie Cooper, State Operated Programs, Virginia Department of Education

Senator Marsden introduced the final presenter, Laurie Cooper from Virginia Department of Education.

Ms. Cooper explained that a state operated program (SOP) is in the *Code of Virginia* and the role of a SOP is defined as "each state board, agency, and institution having children in residence or in custody shall provide education and training to such children which are at least comparable to that which would be provided to such children in the public school system." SOPs include JDCs as well as hospital programs, juvenile and adult mental health facilities, and the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center.

Ms. Cooper explained that education in a JDC could best be described as a “one room schoolhouse” model and that ages of students vary greatly. Students in an SOP can earn their GED or high school diploma at a SOP. Students in a SOP also undergo appropriate SOL testing.

Following this presentation Commission members asked several questions including on student success and potential ways to follow up with students.

Senator Marsden noted that there is now a reduction in youth in detention and that the Commission will be looking at how we can provide quality education in a more efficient manner.

This presentation can be accessed on the Commission’s webpage under the meetings tab.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

The video of this meeting can be found at the following link: [Meeting Video Archive](#).