

Virginia's Juvenile Detention Centers

OVERVIEW FOR COMMISSION ON YOUTH MEMBERS

JUNE 17, 2020

Detention: What is it?

- ▶ National definition (National Juvenile Detention Association and American Correctional Association):
 - ▶ *Temporary and safe custody of juveniles who are accused of conduct subject to the jurisdiction of the court who require a restricted environment for their own or the community's protection while pending legal action; provides wide range of helpful services and a system of clinical observation and assessment that complements the helpful services and reports findings*

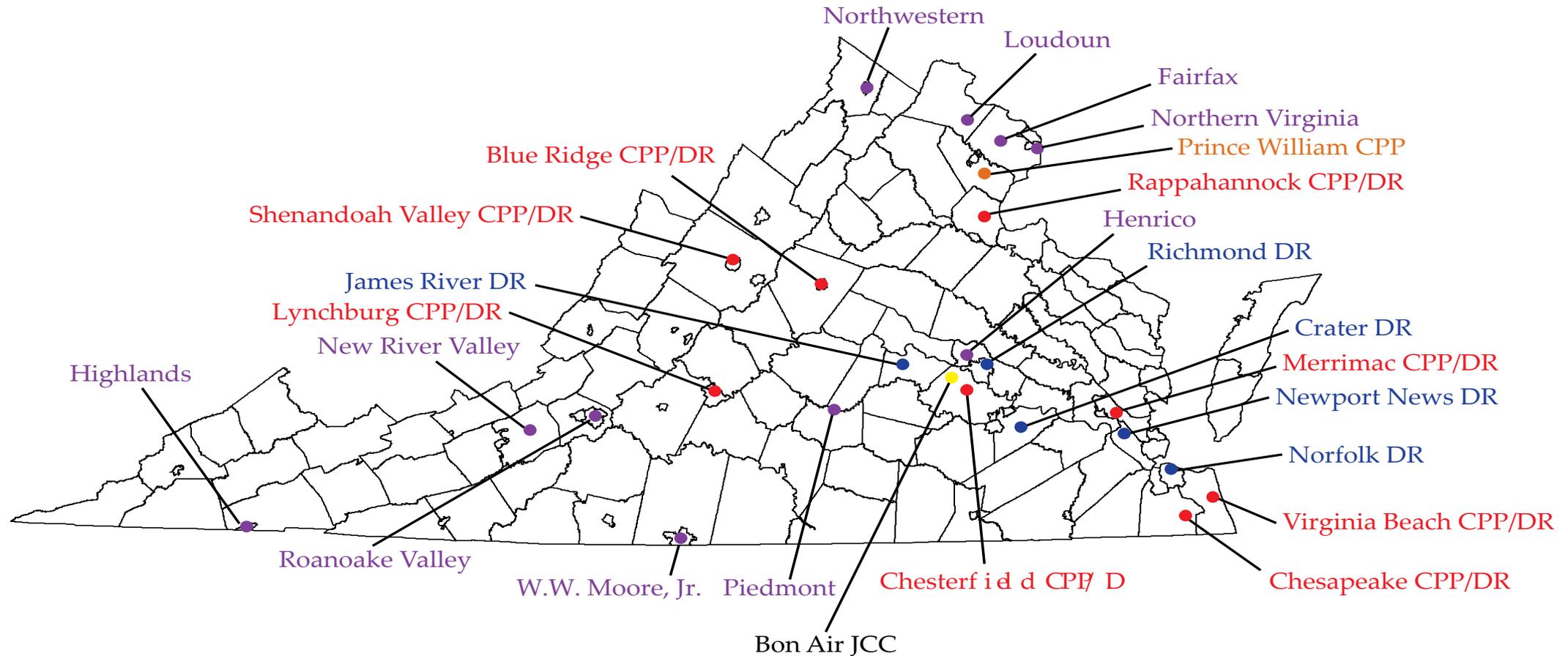
Virginia's Multi-Faceted Detention Population

- ▶ Children awaiting court action or placement:
 - ▶ Pre-dispositional
 - ▶ Awaiting Special Placement
 - ▶ Circuit Court Transfers
 - ▶ Appeals
 - ▶ Restoration of Mental Competency
 - ▶ DJJ Assessment and Evaluation

Length of Stay can range from 1 day to more than a year

- ▶ Children serving their disposition in detention:
 - ▶ Short-term Post-dispositional sentences of 1 to 30 days
 - ▶ Post-dispositional Program sentences (6 months) – Local treatment programs in lieu of state commitment (19 programs)
 - ▶ Community Placement Program (3 months to several years) – contractual programs (10 facilities) with DJJ to hold committed youth
 - ▶ Re-Entry (up to 60 days) – contractual relationship with DJJ to transition committed youth back to local detention to prepare for community transition

Detention Partnerships with DJJ



Detention Operations

- ▶ Over 500 state and federal regulations we must comply with (DJJ, PREA, USDA)
- ▶ 1:8 staff to resident ratio
- ▶ Structured daily schedule including
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Recreation
 - ▶ Evidence-Based Treatment Services (CPP and Post-d)
 - ▶ Volunteer Programs
 - ▶ Many creative ways in which to engage kids

How Detention is Different from State Facilities

- ▶ Constant stream of intakes
 - ▶ Little to no information
 - ▶ Cross-jurisdictions
 - ▶ Classification (varied depending on age, educational need, gender, court orders – i.e., separation of co-defendants)
 - ▶ Adjustment to structured schedule and restricted environment
- ▶ Limited mental health staff and support
- ▶ Varied lengths of stay (1 day to many years)
- ▶ Varied facility design and layout (i.e. loaded corridor versus pods)
- ▶ Diverse ages, grade levels, and cognitive functioning

Delivery of Education in Detention



- ▶ Multiple grade levels (5th grade to post-graduate) and multiple home school districts in the same class
- ▶ Varied requirements (i.e., books, classes)
- ▶ Facility Design and Operational Differences
- ▶ Resident Engagement
- ▶ Ultimate goal is to get kids re-engaged and back in school in the community

