Department Updates

October 20, 2026

Director Robert "Bob" Bermingham

Today's Presentation

1. **House Bill 91 Update**
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   - Highlights of Anticipated Recommendations
   - Report and Next Steps
2. **Senate Bill 64 Update**
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About House Bill 91

Introduced by Delegate Seibold due to concerns of Bon Air residents spending excessive time in their rooms, HB91 directed DJJ, in collaboration with juvenile justice advocates, public defenders, attorneys for the Commonwealth, and other relevant stakeholders, to establish clear standards for maximizing the time that residents serving a period of commitment in a juvenile correctional facility spend out of the confinement of their rooms.

HB 91 Stakeholders

FACILITATOR: Julie Thacker, M.Ed., Agate Strategies

CHAIR: Marilyn Brown, Chief Deputy, Department of Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Justice Advocates	Public Defenders	Attorneys for the Commonwealth	Other Stakeholders
Valerie Slater, Executive Director RISE for Youth	**My'Chael Jefferson-Reese** Chesterfield Public Defender	**Mackenzie Babichenko** Commonwealth's Attorney for the County of Hanover	**Carla White, Director** Rappahannock Juvenile Center
Julie McConnell, Director and Jeanette Lipman Children's Defense Clinic, University of Richmond School of Law	**Maggie Pitts** City of Richmond Public Defender	**Elizabeth Lancaster** Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for the County of Loudoun	**Jeffrey Aaron, Ph.D., Juvenile Justice and Behavioral Health Program Manager** Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
Amy Walters, Associate Director Legal Aid Justice Center			**Senator Mike Jones** Senate of Virginia
Rebecca Herbig, Legal Director Disability Law Center			**Delegate Charlie Schimdt** House of Delegates

Department of Juvenile Justice: **Lara Todd,** Deputy Director of Education and Rehabilitative Care; **Dr. Deyonta Johnson**, Director of Service Programs and Violence Intervention; **Angela Haule**, Superintendent; **Rukiya Bellamy,** Assistant Superintendent

HB91 Meeting Process

Workgroup met four times to:

1. Establish shared values around maximizing out of room time for Bon Air residents
2. Receive presentations from DJJ staff on operations, staffing, resident schedule, Behavioral Services Unit (BSU) array of treatment programs, current volunteer and business partnerships, staff training, and data collection efforts
3. Engage in meaningful and transparent conversations around factors that impact adherence to the daily schedule and out of room time
4. Make recommendations in accordance with the mandates of HB91

Highlights of Anticipated Recommendations

- Adhere to intentional schedule which provides for 13 hours of out-of-room time for education, treatment, recreation, meals, and other structured activities (engagement with volunteers, mutual help groups, and special events)
- Prohibit the use of disciplinary room restriction
- Enhance clinical treatment services with the addition of Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (TF-CBT)
- Continue recent population management strategies of utilizing contracted detention center beds (CPP and IBP) and ensuring residents are released within assigned lengths of stay
- Expand partnerships with volunteers and business community

Report and Next Steps

- Submit report of data collected to Commission on Youth, the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services, and House Committees on Health and Human Services and Public Safety by November 1, 2026
- Present to Commission on Youth at future meeting to discuss recommendations
- Continue to engage with HB91 workgroup stakeholders on progress and challenges

About Senate Bill 64

Introduced by Senator Favola due to concerns with incarcerated state-committed youth staying beyond their assigned length of stay, SB64 amended the Code of Virginia Sections 16.1-278.7 (Commitment to Department of Juvenile Justice) and 16.1-285.3 (Petition to extend duration of commitment to Department; hearing) to require that if any juvenile's indeterminate commitment should exceed the high end of the length of stay range as determined by the State Board, the Department shall petition the court that ordered the juvenile's indeterminate commitment for a review.

State Committed Youth Statuses

Indeterminate Commitments § 16.1-285

- DJJ determines the Length of Stay (LOS) according to the Guidelines, establishing an Early Release Date and a Late Release Date
- Commitments limited to 36 continuous months or the youth's 21st birthday, whichever occurs first
- 36-month limitation does not apply for murder or manslaughter cases

Determinate Commitments/Serious Offenders § 16.1-285.1

- Committing court specifies the commitment period.
- Commitment limited to seven years or juvenile's 21st birthday, whichever occurs first.
- Committing court has continuing jurisdiction over the juvenile throughout the commitment.

In accordance with Code of Virginia § 16.1-278.7 Criteria for commitment to DJJ - Only a juvenile who is (i) adjudicated delinquent of an act enumerated in subsection B or C of § 16.1-269.1 and is 11 years of age or older or (ii) 14 years of age or older may be committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

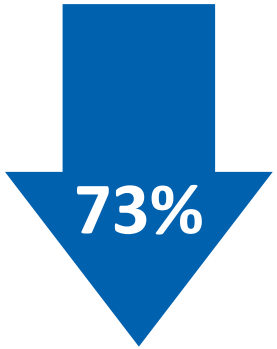
The Board of Juvenile Justice is directed to establish Length of Stay Guidelines for juveniles indeterminately committed to the department. (Code of Virginia § 66-10(7)).

SB64 Implementation

Effective July 1, 2026, Senate Bill 64 allows the Department of Juvenile Justice to formally petition a court to extend a youth's indeterminate commitment.

Total Petitions Filed For Extension

12



Petitions Filed Since July 1

7



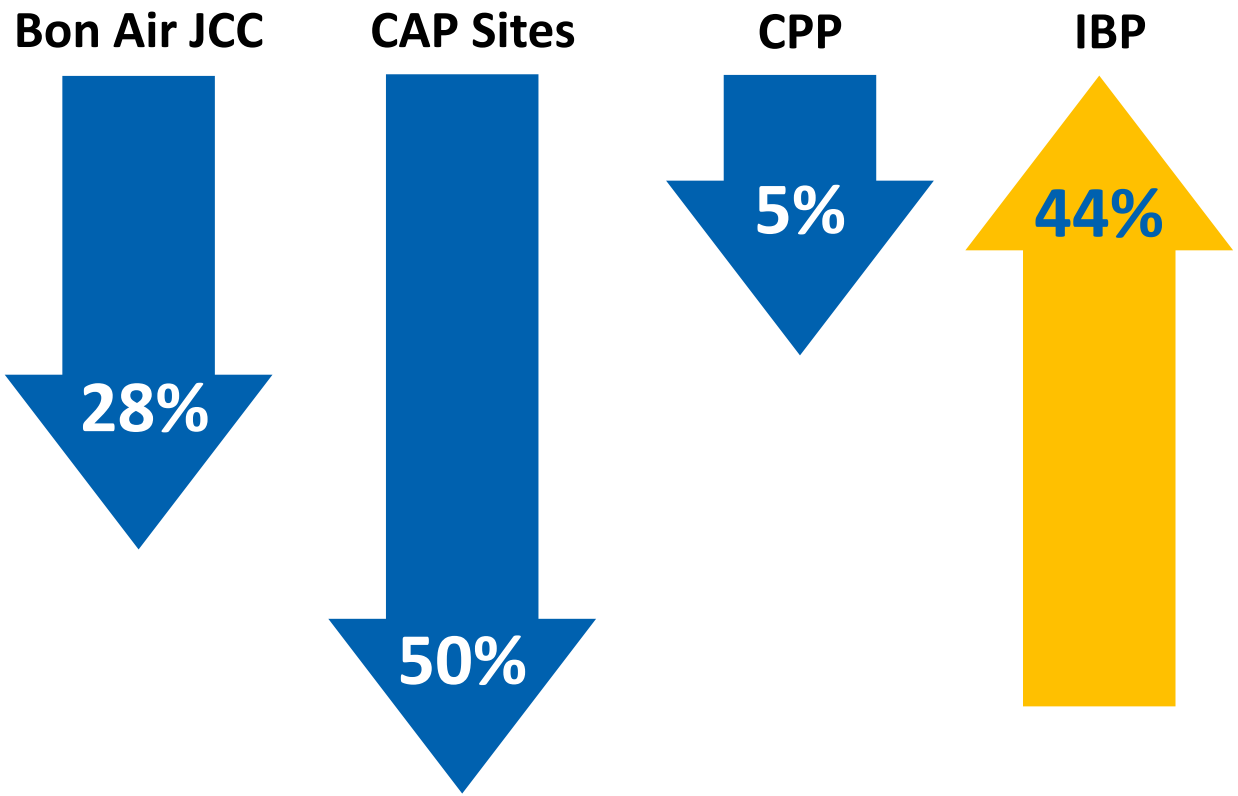
REQUIRED

Committed Youth Placement Options

- Bon Air is the only state-operated Juvenile Correctional Center
- Currently we have contractual partnerships with our local and regional juvenile detention centers that include:
    - 19 Central Admission and Placement (CAP) Intake Sites
    - 5 Community Placement Programs (CPP)
    - 8 Individual Bed Placement Facilities (IBP)
    - 4 Detention Reentry Programs
- DJJ continues to engage in discussions about partnering with JDCs for additional CAP, IBP, CPP, and Detention Reentry beds

Average Daily Population

Between January and July total committed youth decreased by 19%



Total Releases from DIRECT CARE

164

Policy Change Highlights

- Diversion
- Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI)
- Special Decision Cases
- Global Outings
- Family Engagement
- Victim Empathy Focus and Programming
- Continue to Review
  - Data
  - Best Practices
  - Objective Decision-Making
  - Screening Tools

Recruitment and Retention Efforts

Recruitment Events

- HR staff hosts large, on-the-spot hiring events
- Continue to schedule and attend community college fairs and other career events throughout the Commonwealth
- Planning virtual open house on October 28 to recruit education staff for Yvonne B. Miller High School

Retention Efforts

- Retention Review conducted to understand employee experiences, engagement, communication, and the factors that influence employees to stay with the organization
- Training for JCS staff increased from five weeks to eleven weeks to improve workplace readiness and employee retention

Capital Outlay Improvements

Oak Ridge Renovation
Continuing to move project toward construction phase

Bon Air Security Updates
Upgrades to units, fences, and CCTV

Possible Future Projects at Bon Air
- Expand lobby
- Increase vocational classrooms
- Roof replacements
- Generator upgrades
- Boiler, plumbing, and bathroom upgrades