



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Criminal Justice Services

Ashaki McNeil
Director

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MINUTES

Criminal Justice Services Board

May 7, 2026

Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
East Reading Room

Members Present

Senator Lamont Bagby
Chief Travis Christian
Ms. Jae K. Davenport for The
Hon. Jay Jones
Sheriff Jeremy Falls
Chief Deputy Dir. Jerry Fitz for Dir.
Joseph Walters
Sheriff Brian Hieatt
Ms. Maria Jankowski
Chief Stephen Keatts
Mr. D. Bradley Marshall, Esq.
Judge John Marshall
Ms. Corinne Mastronardi
Ms. Renee Maxey
The Hon. Mr. Russell McGuire

Members Present (Cont'd)

Ms. Alisa Padden for the Hon.
Karl Hade
Lt. Colonel Keenon Hook for
COL Jeffrey Katz
The Hon. Krystyn Reid, Vice-Chair
Delegate Briana Sewell
Sheriff Bradford "Chip" Shuler, Chairman
Hon. Mr. Chuck Slemple, III
Superintendent William Smith
Mr. James Towey for Mr. Bob
Birmingham
Mr. Sherard Tisdale
Mr. John Vithoukas
Hon. Mr. Anthony Williams
Delegate Phil Hernandez

Members Absent

Mr. Adam Blevins
Ms. Shannon Dion
Sheriff Mike Miller
Senator Mark Peake
Chief Carl Rowan, Jr.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Chip Shuler called the meeting of the Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB) to order at 11:00 a.m. A quorum of the board was present.

Sheriff Jeremy Falls participated through electronic communication pursuant to *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3708.2(A)(1)(b) due to his principal residence location being further than 60 miles from the meeting location.

Judge John Marshall participated through electronic communication pursuant to *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3708.2(A)(1)(b) due to his current location being further than 60 miles from the meeting location.

Hon. Mr. Russell “Rusty” McGuire participated through electronic communication pursuant to *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3708.2(A)(1)(b) due to his principal residence location being further than 60 miles from the meeting location.

Hon. Ms. Kristen Reid participated through electronic communication pursuant to *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3708.2(A)(1)(b) due to her principal residence location being further than 60 miles from the meeting location.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. D. Bradley Marshall, Esq made the motion, seconded by Mr. Sherard Tisdale, to accept the minutes of March 19, 2026, meeting of the CJSB. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Director’s Report

DCJS Director, Ms. Ashaki McNeil, welcomed Delegate Leslie Chambers Mehta and newly appointed member representing the House Judiciary Committee. Director McNeil acknowledged Delegate Briana Sewell’s reappointment to the board. Director McNeil requested that CJSB members with terms ending June 30, 2026, continue to serve on the board until notification of replacement or reappointment from the Secretary of the Commonwealths’ Office.

Director McNeil then gave updates from the agency:

Division of Law Enforcement

The 2026 Virginia Association of Directors of Criminal Justice Training Academy Directors’ and Instructors’ Conference held in Virginia Beach April 21st – April 23rd was a tremendous success, it brought together law enforcement training professionals, subject-matter experts, and agency leaders from across the Commonwealth to collaborate and share innovative ideas. The conference offered educational opportunities and fostered professional networking and partnership-building among attendees. Attendance this year was higher than it’s ever been- 114 people attended not including DCJS staff, representing 37 of the 38 academies. DCJS has committed to sponsoring this event for the next four years.

Division of Licensure and Regulatory Services

- As a direct response to feedback from private security professionals, the division recently completed a reorganization to strengthen communications with constituents and improve management of training needs.
- The division has seen a record volume of applications across all five security programs, with approved applications exceeding the previous high by five percent. The total number of active credentials across these programs is nearly 70,000, the highest level on record.

- Tow truck
 - Private securities
 - Bail bondsmen
 - Bail enforcements
 - Special conservators
- In the division call center, overall call volume continues to decline, reflecting improved system stability and more effective communication with credential holders and applicants. To ensure we offer the best customer service possible, we continue to make improvements in the call center, adding additional wage positions to support the ongoing service calls.
 - In April, the International Association of Security and Investigative Regulators (IASIR) launched a bi-monthly forum for private security industry regulators. Division staff participated in the inaugural session, where regulators from the United States and Canada discussed emerging regulatory and legislative trends impacting private security. This forum will strengthen the division's regulatory approach and service delivery while fostering relationships and best practices with peer regulators.

Division of Programs and Services

The Division of Programs and Services has been busy with grant solicitations and reviews, with the majority of program funding recommendations being presented this month or next for your consideration.

The Division has also been developing funding applications to the federal government for the remaining Federal Fiscal Year 2025 awards; it is typical for federal grant awards to be behind by a year.

In addition to preparing grant funding, the Division has been holding a number of training and collaboration events. A few recent examples include:

- Week-long training for those working with human trafficking victims.
- Training on effectively responding to domestic and sexual violence cases.
- A day-long convening of grantees involved in addressing community violence.
 - We were fortunate to have Secretary Meador join us for this event and speak to our subgrantees.
 - We were also joined by Newport News Police Chief Drew and the CA Shannon Jones to talk about collaboration between Law Enforcement and Community Based Organizations.
 - Billy Moffett with The Henrico County Police Department's Crime Prevention and Planning Unit to speak to crime prevention through environmental design.
 - It was the beginning of many conversations to support partnerships between Law Enforcement and Community Based Organizations.

In the next few weeks, the Division will host a number of virtual trainings open to victims' advocates, law enforcement, and prosecutors. These events are currently posted on the DCJS website for registration.

Other upcoming events include:

- Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Program Professional Standards Committee, which will be May 27th; meeting announcements are posted on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall.
- Intensive cohort training for local probation and pretrial services on the new case management and reporting system in August.
- A forum for Community Criminal Justice Boards, similar local Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils, and Criminal Justice Planners in September.

Our VCART team continues to work with ODU in the aftermath of the campus shooting event in March. This is where DCJS finds itself in a direct service capacity. We are fortunate to have a cadre of approximately 300 volunteers to pull from during these events. During the first few weeks of the ODU response, VCART: led 20 group crisis intervention sessions with 167 participants; held 130 individual crisis intervention sessions with faculty, staff and students; and conducted 8 training sessions on trauma-informed care for faculty and staff. Staff will continue to work with ODU and bring in volunteers as needed as ODU winds down its semester. We expect to provide support at their ROTC Commissioning Ceremony, the Advanced Spring Commencement, and the Regular Spring Commencement.

Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety and Public Safety Training

- **Conference on Violent Crime:** DCJS, in partnership with our state agency partners, is convening the Conference on Violent Crime from June 2 – 4 in Norfolk, VA. The event will bring together criminal justice and first responder professionals from across Virginia and the nation to share data-driven strategies, emerging trends, and collaborative approaches to reduce violent crime, with sessions that address targeted violence, community engagement, and prevention.
- **2026 School Safety Training Forum and Executive Forum:** DCJS will be hosting the 2026 School Safety Training Forum and Executive Forum from July 20 – 22 in Hampton, VA. The Forum will bring together nationally recognized experts and multidisciplinary leaders to address the full continuum of school safety, from prevention and threat assessment to response and recovery, equipping schools and partners with practical, evidence-informed strategies to keep communities safe.
- **Critical Incident Preparedness & Response:** DCJS continues statewide delivery of critical incident preparedness and response training, including upcoming law enforcement active attack response training in Prince George (May) and civilian response and casualty care training in Charles City (June). These trainings will equip both first responders and community members with standardized, lifesaving skills to improve readiness and response across the Commonwealth.

IV. Committee Reports

Committee on Training (COT)

The COT met at 10:00 a.m. on May 7, 2026. COT Chair, Superintendent William Smith gave the report.

Certification of a Certified Crime Prevention Community-City of Roanoke

A motion was made by Superintendent William Smith and seconded by Ms. Renee Maxey, that the Board approves the Certification for the City of Roanoke as a Certified Crime Prevention Community. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration and Vote on Compulsory Minimum Training Standards Directive

A motion was made by Superintendent Smith and seconded by Chief Stephen Keatts that the Board approve the Compulsory Minimum Training Standards Directive. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on April 16, 2026, and heard the decertification appeals of:

- **Mr. Carter Cash**, formerly of the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office. The executive committee voted to REINSTATE the eligibility for Mr. Cash to be certified as a Law-Enforcement Officer.
- **Mr. Berry B. Baker**, formerly of the Emporia Police Department. The executive committee voted to REINSTATE the eligibility for Mr. Baker to be certified as a Law-Enforcement Officer.
- **Mr. Marlon Ramirez**, formerly of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office. The executive committee voted to SUSTAIN the Decertification for Mr. Ramirez.

Grants Committee

The Grants Committee met on April 23, 2026, at 11am, and made the following recommendations:

Lindsay Burton DCJS Division Director presented an update on changes to the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) Program. With the availability of additional funding DCJS is able to fund 29 more Byrne Justice Assistance Grant equipment and training grant awards.

- **Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) Program - Equipment and Training:** DCJS recommends approved funding in the amount of **\$1,787,707** comprised of federal funds and subrecipient provided match, for **63 awards**.

A motion was made by Mr. D. Bradley Marshall, Esq and seconded by Colonel William C. Smith, to approve Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) Program. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff Brian Hieatt presented on the following grants. The grants below were approved by majority vote by the Grants Committee.

- **Combating Hate Crime Grant Program (HCGP):** The Grants Committee recommends funding in the amount of **\$503,392** in state funds, for **6 awards**.
- **Drive to Work Grant Program (DTWP):** The Grants Subcommittee recommends funding in the amount of **\$150,000**, using state general funds and federal funds, for **1 award**.

- **Peer-Supported Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Grant Program:** The Grants Committee recommends funding in the amount of **\$300,000** in state funds, for **2 awards**.
- **Pre-Release and Post-Incarceration Services (PAPIS) Grant Program:** There was discussion on the timeline of how long after release that participants are eligible to receive services, how funds are broken down in the applicants' budgets to document personnel and programming costs, and what status reporting is required from subrecipients. The Grants Committee recommends funding in the amount of **\$3,596,429**, using state general funds, for **9 awards**.
- **Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for Prisoners (RSAT) Grant Program - Supplemental:** The Grants Committee recommends supplemental awards of \$113,000 each in federal funds with a required local match of \$37,667 each for an extended 15-month period. The total revised amount recommended for the **5 awards** is **\$1,309,515 (including subrecipient provided match)**.
- **School Resource Officer (SRO) Grant Program - Continuation:** The Grants Committee recommends funding in the amount of **\$21,200,745** comprised of state funds and subrecipient provided match, for **100 awards**.
 - **School Resource Officer (SRO) Grant Program - New:** There was discussion on the eligibility requirement to be considered a new application and the trend for new position requests in elementary schools. The Grants Committee recommends funding in the amount of **\$1,401,952** comprised of state funds and subrecipient provided match, for **10 awards**.
- **School Safety Officer (SSO) Grant Program - Continuation:** The Grants Committee recommends funding in the amount of **\$7,264,740** comprised of state funds and subrecipient provided match, for **44 awards**.
- **School Safety Personnel and Programming (SSP) Grant Program - Continuation:** There was discussion confirming that the Behavioral Interventionist positions are school employees. The Grants Committee recommends funding in the amount of **\$1,146,976**, comprised of state funds and subrecipient provided match, for **9 awards**.
 - **School Safety Personnel and Programming (SSP) Grant Program - New** The Grants Committee recommends funding in the amount of **\$3,677,871**, comprised of state funds and subrecipient provided match, for **19 awards**.
- **Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Grant Program (SADVGP):** There was discussion on how requested funds are broken down in applicants' budgets to document personnel and programmatic costs. The Grants Committee recommends funding in the amount of **\$20,737,569**, using state general funds and federal funds, for **54 awards**. Additional funds may be appropriated by the General Assembly and added proportionately to approved recipients' award amounts.
- **Victims Services Grant Program (VSGP):** The Grants Committee recommends funding in the amount of **\$5,163,982** using state general funds and federal funds, for **32 awards**.

A motion was made by Chief Stephen Keatts and seconded by Ms. Corinne Mastronardi to approve these grants as recommended by the Grants Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

***School Safety Officer (SSO) Grant Program - New:** There was discussion on SSOs being requested for Pre-Kindergarten Centers. Ms. Jankowski abstained from the vote. The Grants Committee recommends funding in the amount of **\$1,758,853**, comprised of state funds and subrecipient provided match, for **10 awards**.

- Grant removed from the block vote, proposed to review separately at the next meeting June 11, 2026.
- A motion was made by Mr. D. Bradley Marshall, Esq, second by Ms. Corinne Mastronardi to vote on the grant at the June 11, 2026, meeting.
- The motion passed unanimously.

Recusals: Sheriff Jeremy Falls for Fauquier, County on the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) Program-Equipment and Training 568349 \$0.00

Sheriff Bradford “Chip” Shuler Smyth, County on the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) Program-Equipment and Training 568874 \$0.00.

Chief Stephen Keatts for Poquoson City on the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) Program-Equipment and Training 568234 \$33,333.00

Chief Stephen Keatts for Poquoson City on the School Resource Officer (SRO) Grant Program-Continuation 568064 \$107,090.00

Chief Stephen Keatts for Poquoson City on the School Safety Officer SSO Program – Continuation 568815 \$182,301.00

Sheriff Bradford “Chip” Shuler Smyth, County on the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) Program-Equipment and Training 568874 \$0.00.

Sheriff Bradford “Chip” Shuler Smyth, County on the School Resource Office (SRO) Grant Program-Continuation 568449 \$79,175.00 **and** 568579 \$79,175.

Sheriff Bradford “Chip” Shuler Smyth, County on the School Safety Personnel and Programming (SSP Grant Program -New 568961 \$98,652.00

Mr. Anthony C. Williams for Petersburg City abstained from deliberations on the following grants; Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) Program-Equipment and Training 568729 \$0.00, 568933 \$0.00 and School Safety Officer (SSO) Grant Program Continuation 568372 \$218,800.00 as Mr. Williams is an employee of the applicant.

V. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

VI. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

VII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB) Meeting will take place in the East Reading Room of the Patrick Henry Building on June 11, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 p.m.