Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Strategic Planning Meeting
DRAFT Minutes
September 28 – 29, 2026

Monday, September 28, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

13th District Court Service Unit
1600 Oliver Hill Way
Richmond, VA 23219

Members Present	**Members Absent**
Alexandria Wall	Bridgette Bowman
Arielle Mitchell	Christopher Coleman
Capriece Piper	Dana Partin
Christopher Gibbs	Gabriel Suber
David Hall	Kathryn Rowell
Demetria Davis	Olivia Saunders
Delegate Debra Gardner	Sallie Amos
Jake Petzold	Valerie Coley
Kari Savage (DBHDS Proxy)	
Kayla Enoch (on behalf of Sen. Foy)	**DCJS Staff Present**
Marilyn Brown (DJJ Proxy)	Ashaki McNeil
Mariam Elassel	Natasha Fortune
Olivia Saunders	Tony Nelson
Sarah Bazemore (DOE Proxy)	Tracey Jenkins
Samuel Perez, Chair	
Rexford Anson-Dwamene (VDH Proxy)	
Hon. Thomas Sotelo	
Teresa Berry	
Valerie Slater	

I. Call to Order

Chair Sammy Perez called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

- Welcome: Mr. Perez welcomed Committee members and attendees.
- Roll Call: Natasha Fortune conducted roll call and confirmed that a quorum was present.
- Approval of June 16, 2026, Meeting Minutes: Mr. Perez requested a motion to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2026, meeting. David Hall made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Alexandria Wall. The minutes were approved unanimously.

II. Introductions

Mr. Perez welcomed newly appointed members to the Committee.

Agency Director Ashaki McNeil provided welcoming remarks to Committee members.

III. Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Presentation

Representatives Melissa Milchman and Brock Landwehr from the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) provided an overview of the importance of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Three-Year Plan. The presentation outlined the Committee's role in the planning process and established expectations for the discussions and activities scheduled over the following day and a half.

IV. Strategic Planning Session

Committee members reviewed the current JJDP Three-Year Plan, Juvenile Justice Compliance Report, and available Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) data.

Members discussed emerging juvenile justice issues, identified areas of concern, and explored opportunities to strengthen prevention, intervention, and community-based services for youth and families throughout Virginia.

Lunch Recess

12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

V. Richmond Juvenile Detention Center Site Visit

Committee members participated in a site visit to the Richmond Juvenile Detention Center. During the visit, members toured the facility and engaged with staff and youth to gain additional insight into facility operations, available programming, and the experiences of youth in detention.

VI. Committee Reports and Grant Recommendations

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Grants Subcommittee Report

2027–2028 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Grants

Teresa Berry presented the Grants Subcommittee's funding recommendations for the 2027–2028 grant cycle. A total of twelve (12) applications were received, of which six (6) were recommended for approval.

Mr. Perez called for a motion to approve the recommended applications. David Hall [confirm motion maker] made the motion, which was seconded by Valerie Slater. Request was approved by Committee.

2027 Summer Grant Program

Ms. Berry presented the Grants Subcommittee's recommendations for the 2027 Summer Grant Program. Five (5) applications were received, and three (3) were initially recommended for approval.

Following discussion, Committee members agreed to reduce the recommendation to one (1) application for funding.

David Hall made a motion to approve the revised recommendation, which was seconded by Jake Petzold. Request was approved by Committee.

VII. Strategic Planning Workshop

Committee members participated in a facilitated strategic planning discussion focused on identifying priorities for Virginia's upcoming JJDP Three-Year Plan.

The discussion was guided by the following questions:

1. What do you believe are the most significant juvenile justice and delinquency prevention needs currently facing youth and families in Virginia?
2. Where do you see gaps in prevention, intervention, diversion, or community-based services for youth?
3. What populations, communities, or geographic areas may require additional attention or resources?

The discussion provided an opportunity for members to share perspectives, identify emerging priorities, and consider areas for future planning and investment.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned for the day at 4:00 p.m. to reconvene September 29, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at Meadowdale Library.

Tuesday, September 29, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meadowdale Library- Chesterfield Public Library
4301 Meadowdale Boulevard
North Chesterfield, VA 23234

Members Present	**Members Absent**
Alexandria Wall	Bridgette Bowman
Arielle Mitchell	Capriece Piper
Christopher Gibbs	Christopher Coleman
David Hall	Dana Partin
Demetria Davis	Gabriel Suber
Delegate Debra Gardner	Kathryn Rowell
Jake Petzold	Olivia Saunders
Kari Savage (DBHDS Proxy)	Sallie Amos
Kayla Enoch (on behalf of Sen. Foy)	Valerie Coley
Marilyn Brown (DJJ Proxy)	
Mariam Elassel	**Staff Present**
Olivia Saunders	Natasha Fortune
Sarah Bazemore (DOE Proxy)	Tony Nelson
Samuel Perez, Chair	Tracey Jenkins
Rexford Anson-Dwamene (VDH Proxy)	
Hon. Thomas Sotelo	
Teresa Berry	
Valerie Slater	

I. Call to Order

Chair Sammy Perez reconvened the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

II. Additional Grant Funding Requests

A. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) – Professional Development and Training

Ms. Fortune presented a funding request totaling $45,500 to support travel-related expenses for up to 100 DJJ staff members to attend the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association (VJJA) conference.

Valerie Slater made a motion to approve the funding request, which was seconded by David Hall. The motion carried, and the funding request was approved by the Committee.

Ms. Fortune agreed to distribute the conference agenda to Committee members who may be interested in attending.

B. Intensive Training and Professional Certification Funding Opportunity

Ms. Fortune presented a proposed annual funding opportunity to support eligible Virginia localities seeking intensive training and professional certification opportunities.

The proposed program would provide up to $200,000 annually in reimbursement-based grant funding to support eligible localities whose teams are accepted into approved training and certification programs.

One example of an eligible program is Georgetown University's *Diversion in Youth Justice Certificate Program*. Funding would assist with eligible expenses, including program tuition and hotel accommodations.

Delegate Debra Gardner made a motion to approve the proposed funding opportunity, which was seconded by Teresa Berry. The motion carried, and the funding opportunity was approved by the Committee.

C. Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Training – Grants Subcommittee

Committee members discussed an anticipated DJJ funding request to support Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) training for clinical staff.

Members agreed to establish a Grants Subcommittee to review the forthcoming proposal and provide funding recommendations.

The following members were identified to serve on the subcommittee:

- Sammy Perez
- Valerie Slater
- Alexandria Wall
- Jake Petzold
- Teresa Berry
- Thomas Sotelo

Kari Savage made a motion to approve the establishment of the subcommittee, which was seconded by Demetria Davis. The motion carried, and the establishment of the subcommittee was approved by the Committee.

III. Strategic Planning Workshop

Committee members and staff reviewed and discussed the responses to the three strategic planning questions presented during the previous day's session:

1. What do you believe are the most significant juvenile justice and delinquency prevention needs currently facing youth and families in Virginia?
2. Where do you see gaps in prevention, intervention, diversion, or community-based services for youth?
3. What populations, communities, or geographic areas may require additional attention or resources?

Based on the responses and subsequent discussions, Committee members identified overarching priority areas and corresponding focus areas to guide the development of Virginia's 2027–2029 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Three-Year Plan.

These priorities will serve as the foundation for further planning, refinement, and development of the upcoming Three-Year Plan.

IV. Action Items

A. Establishment of the Three-Year Planning Subcommittee

The Committee established a Three-Year Planning Subcommittee to assist with the development and review of the 2027–2029 JJDP Three-Year Plan.

The subcommittee will review and refine the proposed plan in preparation for presentation to the full Committee in January 2027.

The following members were identified to serve on the subcommittee:

- Valerie Slater
- Alexandria Wall
- Jake Petzold
- Sarah Bazemore
- Arielle Mitchell
- Mariam Elassal
- Olivia Saunders
- Demetria Davis

Ms. Fortune will coordinate and schedule subcommittee meetings separately to facilitate the planning and review process.

V. New Business

A. Bylaws Review Subcommittee

The Committee established a Bylaws Review Subcommittee to review the proposed revisions to the Committee's bylaws, which will be prepared by Ms. Fortune.

The subcommittee will review the documents and present its recommendations to the full Committee by January 2027.

The following members were identified to serve on the subcommittee:

- Valerie Slater
- Jake Petzold
- Arielle Mitchell

VI. Upcoming 2027 Committee Meetings

Committee members agreed to hold the next meeting virtually on January 11, 2027, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Committee will discuss and determine the remaining 2027 meeting schedule during the January meeting.

VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.