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David R. Hines, Vice Chair
Tyren Frazier, Secretary
Michael N. Herring
Scott Kizner
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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Board of Juvenile Justice

MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2018

Main Street Centre, 600 East Main Street, 12th Floor, South Conference Room
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Board Members Present: Tyren Frazier, Michael Herring, Scott Kizner, Robyn McDougle, Quwanisha Roman, Robert "Tito" Vilchez, and Jennifer Woolard

Board Members Absent: David Hines and Dana Schrad

Department of Juvenile Justice (Department) Staff Present: Diane Abato (Attorney General's Office), Ken Bailey, Andrew "Andy" K. Block, Jr., Valerie Boykin, Deidre Davis, Lisa Floyd, Christina Hall, Wendy Hoffman, Joyce Holmon, Joanna Laws, Andrea McMahan, Leah Nelson, Kristen Peterson, Deron Phipps, Lara Todd, James Towey, and Angela Valentine. Representatives from Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center and Student Government Association.

Guests Present: Kerry Chilton (disAbility Law Center of Virginia), Valerie Slater (Legal Aid Justice Center/RISE for Youth), and Amy Woolard (Legal Aid Justice Center)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jennifer Woolard called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Woolard welcomed all who were present and asked for introductions.

APPROVAL of November 8, 2017, MINUTES

The minutes of the November 8, 2017, Board meeting were provided for approval. On MOTION duly made by Robyn McDougle and seconded by Tyren Frazier, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

On behalf of the disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV), Kerry Chilton thanked the Department for taking the time to consider issues surrounding room confinement and its effects on the youth in its

care. The draft regulation governing juvenile correctional centers makes significant progress toward limiting the use of room confinement. Ms. Chilton went on to say that room confinement is a practice that has detrimental effects on both the mental and physical care of youth. The draft regulation also provides increased protections for youth in room confinement, including greater access to health care professionals. The dLCV appreciates the Department's commitment to including stakeholders such as the dLCV in the process and listening to their input. Ms. Chilton concluded by stating the dLCV looks forward to any future opportunities to collaborate with the Department.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Deputy Director of Residential Services Joyce Holmon introduced the President, Vice President, Governor for District One, and Governor for District Four from the Student Government Association (SGA). The SGA representatives delivered a presentation (attached) on the organization.

Opening comments by the SGA President

The SGA is a resident-led, self-governing organization that seeks to encourage a positive peer culture at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center (JCC). The SGA subscribes to the notion that resident role models are the most effective tool when trying to help young people get back on the right path. The SGA opened a channel of communication between residents and facility administrators that resulted in widespread cooperation and positive change. The SGA provided insight into the development of new vocational, educational, and other rehabilitative programs conducive to post-release success. The SGA encouraged residents to utilize the many opportunities offered by the Department. Department personnel have been attempting to accomplish this goal for decades, but this time the messenger is different; therefore, the message is more effective.

This presentation tells the story of their groundbreaking journey and adds to their credibility as a viable investment. The SGA thanked their advisors for their ardent belief in the organization and their indispensable support. They also thanked the Director, Deputy Directors, and the Residential Program Manager for recognizing the SGA as an asset to the Department.

Slide Two: A Brief History of the SGA

In September 2016, a group of positive resident role models met with Governor McAuliffe and his cabinet at the Patrick Henry Building to propose the idea of a self-governing resident-led organization. Between October 2016 and April 2017, residents drafted a constitution to establish the SGA. In March 2017, residents presented the finalized constitution, which Governor McAuliffe signed, at the State Capitol. Between March 2017 and the present, SGA members have worked to cultivate a positive peer culture at Bon Air, coordinated with administrators to create an effective rehabilitation program, and served as representatives to their constituents.

Slide Three

This slide shows a picture of the initial meeting with Governor McAuliffe and his cabinet in September 2016.

Slide Four: Preamble to SGA Constitution

The SGA Governor of District Four recited the preamble, "We the people of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice Student Government Association shall create this government to ensure proper representation, solutions, and opportunity for the youth within the Department."

Slide Five: Ultimate Goals of the DJJ Youth Government

The SGA Vice President reviewed the following goals of the SGA:

- ☞ Provide a voice and proper representation for residents.
- ☞ Create a platform for residents to provide insight for new programs.
- ☞ Encourage residents to take ownership of their personal behavior and promote self-accountability.
- ☞ Raise peer expectations and improve the culture of the community as a whole.
- ☞ Maintain a safe and consistent living environment for all residents.
- ☞ Practice democracy and citizenship tangibly through a resident led model.
- ☞ Provide youth with vocational and education opportunities conducive to post-release success.

Slide Six

The SGA Governor for District One explained the pictures in slide six. The first picture captures Governor McAuliffe's attorney Carlos Hopkins and Director Block holding the first produced SGA shirts. The second picture is of the SGA constitution. The third picture shows Governor McAuliffe signing the SGA constitution. The last picture depicts the founding youth wearing the first SGA shirt displaying a hand that represents unity and diversity and the quote, "every great leader was once a follower."

Slide Seven

The SGA hierarchy consists of one president, one vice president, and four districts led by a governor and lieutenant governor representing 18 housing units. The SGA president represents one of the housing units with the other housing unit each represented by one mayor.

Slide Eight: 2017 Achievements

The SGA President reviewed the achievements of the SGA in 2017.

- ☞ Led facility tours for many organizations including the National Governors Association, judges, and legislators.
- ☞ Assisted with the peer-to-peer conflict resolution program.
- ☞ Participated on the family engagement subcommittee and brainstormed ideas pertaining to improvement of visitation. The subcommittee discussion included a new transportation system that has had a positive impact on DJJ families.
- ☞ Gave presentations at the Court Service Unit Summit, Portsmouth Summit, and Judicial Liaison Committee meeting.
- ☞ Provided input to the Division of Education on the new Positive Behavior and Interventions Support (PBIS) program.
- ☞ Held its first round of democratic elections as prescribed by the organization's constitution.
- ☞ Held routine staff appreciation socials and incentive events to recognize positive change in peer culture.
- ☞ Coordinated a Thanksgiving food drive and donated hygiene kits to the Salvation Army after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.
- ☞ Held a holiday toy drive for residents with children.
- ☞ Provided suggestions to the Quality Monitoring Implementation Team (QMIT) committee pertaining to resident clothing and implementation of the community treatment model.
- ☞ Aided the grievance process transformation and provided insight regarding room confinement regulatory provisions and procedures.

The SGA President noted that an unofficial soccer league at the facility has brought together two rival gangs. This is an important development and highlights how extracurricular activities bring people together. The SGA hopes to develop new extracurricular activities and events for 2018.

The SGA President thanked Department personnel from central office, facility management, and direct care staff who are huge advocates for their organization. The SGA also worked with outside agencies such as the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the VERA Institute of Justice, and the Missouri Youth Services Institute. Each organization has been instrumental in the overall founding of their government.

The SGA President noted that the SGA is constantly developing new strategies in order to make positive changes in the lives of its constituents. It is also worth noting that the SGA is a sustainable organization and its mission will continue long after the current executive team is gone.

The SGA representatives thanked the Board for this opportunity.

Chairperson Woolard and other Board Members thanked the SGA members for their presentation and for their hard work in developing the governing strategy.

Board Member Michael Herring asked how the other residents have reacted to the formation of the SGA.

The Governor from District One responded that residents approach him frequently about the SGA, asking how to join and commenting on how much they like the organization. The SGA special events, such as the spoken word event, the harvest festival, and face painting, have been very popular with the residents. Some youth enter the facility with behavioral issues and an SGA representative works with them as they move forward. It is amazing to see the positive influence the SGA has on residents.

The SGA Vice President followed by describing his experiences helping residents with behavioral concerns and using peer-to-peer interventions. The SGA Vice President said he provides encouragement to residents and tells them about how he has changed for the better.

Board Member Scott Kizner asked how a resident becomes a member of the SGA.

The SGA President explained that initially representatives were appointed to the SGA by advisors to ensure a proper example was set. Recently, the SGA held its first round of democratic elections. Article 2 of the SGA constitution details the process for membership in the SGA. The resident must: 1) epitomize a role model resident, 2) be free of behavior charges for 90 days, and 3) have a good standing in school. The criteria to vote are also strict.

Board Member Robyn McDougle thought it would be great if the SGA representatives could share their message. The SGA serves as the voice for other residents and is achieving an impact that is unbelievable.

The SGA President remarked that the group has credibility with the residents struggling at the facilities. The SGA President went on to say this has been a second chance for him and many other residents,

who could have ended up in prison. The SGA President said he is fortunate to have gotten into trouble early and had this opportunity, his second chance.

Board Member Tyren Frazier predicted that at some point the SGA will be recognized by other states and they might even have the opportunity to serve on the Board. Board Member Frazier expressed his appreciation of the group's candor and willingness to show their vulnerability. The group is making the very best of their situation by creating this opportunity and hopefully will transition back to the community to continue to be role models and productive citizens. Board Member Frazier congratulated the group as the founding mothers and fathers of the SGA.

Director Block asked how many SGA presidents have served.

The SGA President responded he was the third president. The two past presidents were founders and are back in the community doing well in college.

Director Block noted the SGA's first president was a young woman who has since left the facility and is currently in welding school.

Board Member Tito Vilchez said he appreciated the diversity of this organization and asked for more information on the unofficial soccer league.

The SGA President said there are about 30 kids in the unofficial soccer league. The two gangs involved have called a truce in order to participate in this extracurricular activity. This is a tangible example of how effective extracurricular activities are in the facility.

Director Block remarked on how helpful it is to have a representative body of young people to tap into their feedback in areas such as positive behavior incentive programs and room confinement. This helps inform the work of the Department in the institutions, and it is incredibly useful for the SGA to participate in the conversations on family engagement or building resilience as a response to childhood trauma. The SGA sets a high bar in terms of behavior and performance expectations and is an incentive for other young people to do well.

The Director asked the group to discuss the SGA debate and the Vice Presidential election.

The SGA Vice President described the debate as a friendly competition between two candidates for vice president. Residents who were eligible to vote, advisors, and staff attended the debate. The candidates campaigned for three days using posters to spread the word. During the debate, a facilitator posed questions about the candidates' positions, and both candidates argued good points. It was a great experience.

The Governor from District One said all authorized voters from each housing unit were able to cast their ballot, and votes were counted over several days.

The SGA President noted that the population of Bon Air is approximately 230, and about 180 residents are eligible to participate. The SGA adds to the credibility of the community treatment model,

statistically; the number of incidents have decreased, and the peer culture has changed. The community treatment model has made a positive impact.

Board Member Herring said that he hopes the SGA members will continue to have an interest in government long after their connection with the Department has ended.

Director Block said the SGA is interested in connecting with peers and hoped the Board's college associates could help with this initiative.

Board Member McDougle said she has a "to do" list started with VCU's soccer team, and political science is at the top.

Board Member Kizner encouraged the representatives to pursue teaching, noting that their personalities and experiences could benefit many young people in the school system.

Chairperson Woolard welcomed the SGA members to visit Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and thanked them for an outstanding presentation. Chairperson Woolard went on to say the SGA leadership skills should serve them incredibly well as they transition back into the community and go on to higher education or different kinds of employment.

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO INCORPORATE ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED REGULATORY FILING OF THE REGULATION GOVERNING JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL CENTERS (6VAC35-71)

Kristen Peterson, Regulatory and Policy Coordinator, Department

The proposed revisions to the Regulation Governing Juvenile Correctional Centers, set out in Chapter 71 of the Department's regulations, were presented at the November 8, 2017, Board meeting. Room confinement provisions were intentionally omitted from the proposed revisions to the regulations presented at that meeting in order to give the Department additional time to review the input from stakeholder meetings and study the issue longer.

Ms. Peterson reviewed documents found on pages 25 and 33 of the Board packet.

◆Section 10 - Definitions◆

The Department defines room confinement as a resident placed in a locked room for an extended period, typically in order to address resident behavior or facility security or safety. The resident can serve room confinement in his or her room or in another room designated for room confinement purposes.

The Department recommended adding a provision that distinguishes between lockdown and room confinement. Lockdowns are usually imposed to search for contraband or respond to tensions in or a threat to the facility and may be served in the resident's room or elsewhere in the facility. The Department has added language to define lockdowns and explicitly indicate that lockdowns are excluded from the definition of room confinement.

◆Section 545 - Lockdown◆

A number of the provisions for lockdown mirror the room confinement provisions. The Department is recommending changing the frequency of visual checks of residents confined during lockdown from every 30 minutes to every 15 minutes. In addition, if residents exhibit self-injurious behavior during lockdown, the Department is recommending language to clarify that staff must *first* respond to try to abate the incident before contacting the qualified mental health professional.

◆Section 1150 - Isolation◆

The Department refers to isolation as disciplinary segregation. Generally, staff imposes disciplinary segregation after a resident has received a formal charge, is afforded due process, and is determined guilty of the particular charge. Under the existing regulation, the Department may impose disciplinary room confinement for up to five days. The Department's goal is to abolish room confinement as a disciplinary sanction in the next few years using a gradual approach. The Department recommended adding language to the regulation that specifically repeals the isolation provision.

◆Section 1110 – Disciplinary Process◆

The Department is not proposing to do away with room confinement in its entirety and will continue authorizing room confinement in order to address the following situations: (a) if a resident's actions threaten facility security, (b) to protect the safety and security of residents, staff, or others in the facility, and (c) in order to prevent property damage. Property damage consists of threats to facility security or the safety of residents. For example, if a resident smashes a window and uses the shards to self-injure, staff would address this incident through room confinement due to the need to separate the resident from the situation in order to protect the resident or others. The resident would be released from room confinement and returned to a less restrictive environment once the threat is eliminated.

◆Delayed Effective Date for Room Confinement Provisions◆

In recent years, the Department has made strides in reducing disciplinary segregation. In 2017, the Department amended its procedure to reduce the types of infractions that result in disciplinary room confinement. The Department will need time to phase out room confinement as a disciplinary measure and to implement the other provisions of the regulation related to room confinement. A section in the regulation speaks to a delayed effective date.

The Department cannot predict when the regulation will take effect. An executive level review will take place after the Board approves the regulation and it advances to the Proposed Stage of the regulatory process. This review includes several steps: the Governor's office has the opportunity to review and propose revisions with no time limit, the Department of Planning and Budget has 45 days to conduct an economic impact analysis, and the Cabinet secretary has fourteen-days to review the regulation. There is uncertainty built into the process and it is difficult to determine the effective date for the regulation.

The Department recommends delaying the effective date for the room confinement provisions in order to give the facility staff additional time to implement the provisions. When the Chapter 71 regulatory package completes the entire process and the regulatory package takes effect, the room confinement provisions will be delayed until the first day of January that falls at least nine months after the remainder of the regulation takes effect.

◆Section 1140 - Room Confinement◆

Next, Ms. Peterson focused on additional proposed language that would seek to further enhance safety and security in the facility while residents are in room confinement. The Department wants to ensure staff are conducting frequent visual checks to monitor residents in room confinement. The existing regulation requires staff to conduct visual checks every 30 minutes. The Department proposed changing the requirement to every 15 minutes. This is consistent with the Department's current operational procedures and the American Correctional Association's (ACA) minimum standards.

The workgroup also recommended required daily visits from a qualified mental health professional or qualified medical professional for residents in room confinement. This is consistent with the requirement set out in the ACA standards.

The Department believes residents in room confinement need additional meaningful opportunities for engagement with staff. Under the existing regulation, the Superintendent is the only staff required to make daily visits to residents in room confinement. One of the concerns with residents in room confinement for long periods is that the resident does not interact with others. The Department proposed new language requiring additional staff to conduct visits. One designated staff member will visit a confined resident within three hours of the resident's assignment to room confinement to discuss release from confinement, facility expectations, and reasons the resident is serving confinement. The Department is also recommending an additional employee visit to residents confined six or fewer hours in order to interact with the resident and at least two daily visits if the resident is confined for more than six hours.

Under the existing regulation, facility staff must notify the Superintendent if the confinement period extends beyond 24 hours. If the confinement extends beyond 72 hours, notice must be provided to the Residential Program Manager, a position one level above the Superintendent. The Department recommended changing these requirements to mandate that the Superintendent be notified and provide written approval for residents confined beyond 24 hours. If the confinement period extends for 48 hours, required notification and written approval by the Residential Program Manager is needed. If the confinement period for a resident extends beyond 72 hours, a written report is required by the resident's treatment team, along with written approval by the administrator two positions above the Superintendent. The written report will explain if the resident needs to be confined for that additional period.

The existing regulation addresses residents confined for 72 hours but does not speak to any review process beyond that 72-hour period. The Department is recommending a case management review by the Department's Institutional Classification Review Committee (ICRC) and the Central Classification Review Committee (CCRC). Once a resident has been confined for five-days, this will generate a facility-level review by the ICRC. The ICRC meets weekly to determine if residents should remain in confinement and what interventions are needed. After the ICRC conducts their initial analysis to determine if the resident remains in confinement after a five-day period, then the CCRC looks at the issues and determines if the resident needs to stay confined.

◆Section 1160 – Administrative Segregation◆

Historically, the Department has used administrative segregation units to house residents with maladaptive issues or who need additional interventions because they are not able to function in the

general population. Given the consolidation, the Department is no longer able to operate these special units, and there is no expectation that the Department will use these units in the near future. As a result, the Department recommends repealing this language.

◆Section 1110 – Disciplinary Process◆

Under the existing regulation, the Department is authorized to place residents in pre-hearing detention (detention while the resident awaits a due process hearing) for a period up to 24 hours. Confinement for longer than 24 hours requires certain approvals. The Department recommends striking the existing subsection E in its entirety because of the proposed removal of room confinement as a disciplinary sanction.

Chairperson Woolard acknowledged the Department's hard work on room confinement issues. Chairperson Woolard stated she participated in stakeholder meetings, and continued to be impressed with the process. The procedure was well done, and staff at all levels of the facility were open to hearing comments, concerns, and questions from those not employed by the Department. Chairperson Woolard commented that, in her opinion, the proposed changes are incredibly positive and responsive to the concerns of the stakeholders and consistent with, if not better than, the national best practice standards. Chairperson Woolard believes by the time the disciplinary confinement regulation goes into effect, the issue will be moot because the Department is moving away from that practice. Chairperson Woolard concluded that she is supportive of the proposed changes.

SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES FROM NOVEMBER 8, 2017, BOARD MEETING

Kristen Peterson, Regulatory and Policy Coordinator, Department

Ms. Peterson reviewed issues that were outstanding from the November 8, 2017, Board meeting.

◆Sleeping Areas◆

The original recommendation of the workgroup was to remove the language that male and female residents are required to have separate sleeping areas. The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) contains a provision requiring a separate case-by-case analysis be conducted for transgender and intersex residents to determine whether the placement would ensure the resident's safety and security or pose other security problems. The Department brought this to the Board at the November 8 meeting and proposed to strike the language. However, at that meeting, the Board conveyed concern that if the language was deleted without imposing any limitations or restrictions, the Department would be perceived as having authority to allow male and female residents to reside together, which was not the intention. The Department proposed to add language indicating male and female residents are required to have separate sleeping areas; however, that does not preclude the Department from conducting the PREA's case-by-case analysis. This is already a requirement in Section 555 (vulnerable population) of the regulation. The fact that males and females sleep in separate areas does not preclude the Department from conducting the case-by-case analysis and making different determinations based upon whether a resident is assessed as vulnerable.

◆Searches of Residents◆

At the November 8 Board meeting, the Department recommended that JCCs not conduct body cavity searches in the JCC facilities. Rather, the Department recommended these types of searches be conducted by a local medical facility off campus. However, Board Member Herring raised concerns with

exigent circumstances that create the need for the Department to conduct the searches in house. The Department has added language that authorizes the Department to perform the search in house for exigent circumstances that might involve a threat to the resident and has removed the language from the proposed regulation that required search warrants for these searches.

On MOTION duly made by Michael Herring and seconded by Scott Kizner, the Board of Juvenile Justice approved the proposed amendments to Sections 10, 360, 480, 1110, 1140, 1150, and 1160 and the proposed addition of Section 545, as agreed upon at the January 9, 2018, meeting and granted the Department of Juvenile Justice permission to incorporate these amendments into the comprehensive amendments to Chapter 71 of 6VAC35, as originally approved at the November 8, 2017, meeting, for submission to the Proposed Stage in the standard regulatory process.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Andrew K. Block, Jr. Director, Department

It is important to remember that Bon Air is down to 213 residents doing incredible things. It is easy to assume that these residents are the worst of the worst, but the Department is doing everything it can to give them an opportunity to be successful. When you do not have a ceiling on growth and success, you see what happens and how capable these residents are of presenting, communicating, and leading and how seriously they take the work. As the Department focuses on better rehabilitation, the cost per resident has grown and is now more than \$200,000 per resident. Some legislators have concerns about this increase. The Department believes that if you make big investments, you get better returns on residents and staff. The Department's investment on the residential side has decreased overall since the closure of Beaumont, but the costs per resident have increased due to additional staff and expanded treatment.

The Board will review the Juvenile Detention Center regulations at the next Board meeting. Those regulations will have some parallel to what the Department is doing, but will vary in some ways as detention centers operate differently than JCCs.

Governor Northam has reappointed the Director and Chief Deputy Director of the Department. This has not been the case in the Department's history, but continuity of leadership is incredibly helpful and has a big impact on the Department's work and on staff retention.

One way to sustain the Department's work is to ensure that it is the right kind of work. State money is now funding non-state entities, whether local detention programs or treatment programs. It is important that the Department remain a good steward of the Commonwealth's money. As part of the transformation, the Department has created a Quality Assurance Unit to monitor all the programs in which the Department has invested money. Director Block introduced the Quality Assurance Unit, which consists of Andrea McMahon, the team leader, Christina Hall, Deidre Davis, Leah Nelson, and Nina Joyner (who was not present at today's meeting). The Director explained that the Department is responsible for 126 youth in local detention centers. The Department's Certification Team ensures the health and safety requirements are met in the detention centers, and the Quality Assurance Unit ensures other requirements are satisfied, such as availability of evidence-based programs, family engagement, and additional educational programs.

Chairperson Woolard expressed her delight in having this team in place and hoped that this will allow for data assessment over time that can help the Department and help the providers determine what is working, what is not, and what needs to be aligned.

The Director invited the Board to offer issues and topics that they would like discussed at future meetings.

Board Member Kizner would like to have opportunities to participate in stakeholder meetings. This will allow the Board to gain a better understanding of what people are thinking to help in the Board's decision-making. The Director agreed to provide a list of opportunities and will be mindful of the FOIA notices.

BOARD COMMENTS

There were no comments by the Board.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 25 at the Main Street Centre, 600 East Main Street, Richmond.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Woolard adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Student Government Association

Department of Juvenile Justice



DJJ Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 9, 2018

A brief history of the SGA

- ▶ (September 2016) A group of handpicked positive role model residents met with Governor McAuliffe and his cabinet at the Patrick Henry Building to propose the idea of a self-governing, resident-led organization.
- ▶ (October 2016 - April 2017) Residents drafted a constitution to establish a DJJ Student Government Association.
- ▶ (March 2017) Residents presented a finalized constitution at the Capitol Building; Governor McAuliffe signs.
- ▶ (March 2017 - Present) SGA Members work to cultivate positive peer culture at Bon Air JCC, coordinate with administrators to create effective rehabilitation programs, and serve as representatives of their constituents.



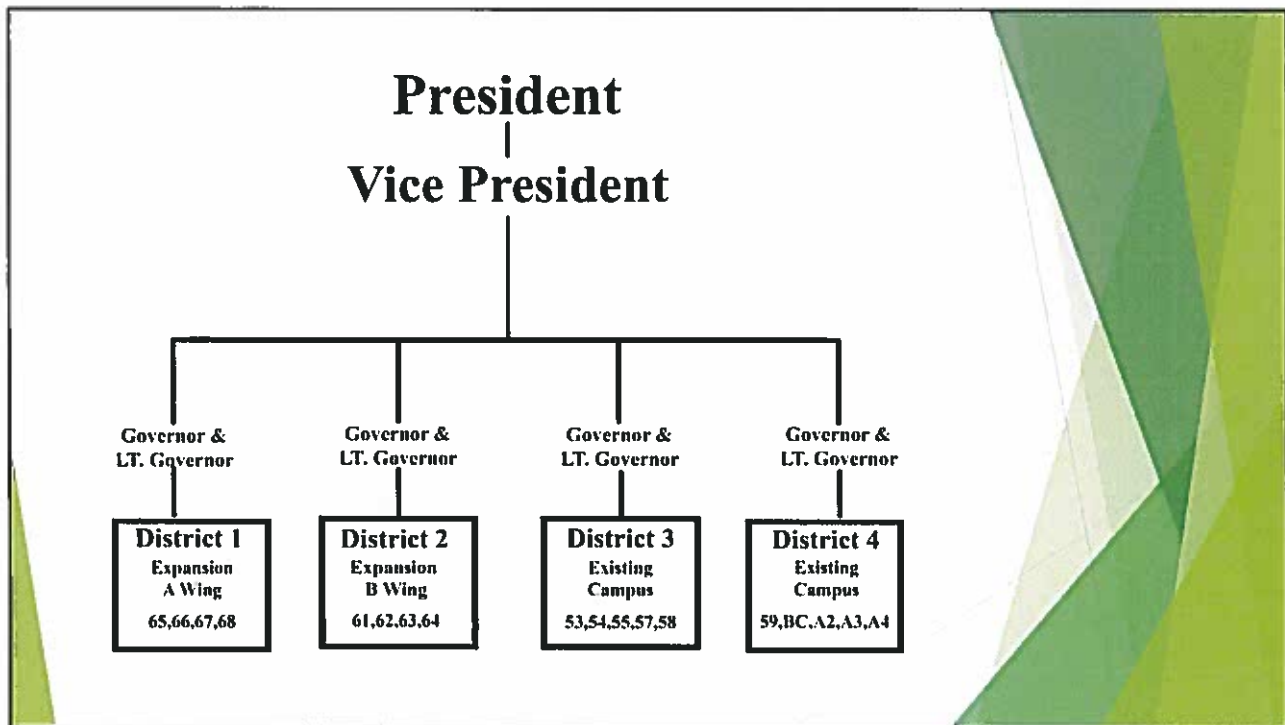
Preamble to SGA Constitution

- ▶ We the people of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice Student Government Association shall create this government to ensure proper representation, solutions, and opportunity for the youth within the Department.

► Ultimate Goals of the DJJ Youth Government:

- Provide a voice and proper representation for DJJ Residents
- Create a platform for residents to provide insight for new programs
- Encourage residents to take ownership of their personal behavior and promote self-accountability
- Raise peer expectations, improve the culture of the community as a whole
- Maintain a safe and consistent living environment for all residents
- Tangible practice of democracy and citizenship through resident led model
- Provide youth with vocational and educational opportunities conducive to post-release success.





2017 Achievements

- ▶ Led host of facility tours with National Governors Association, Judges, and Legislators.
- ▶ Assisted with peer-to-peer conflict resolution program
- ▶ Participated in Family Engagement Sub-Committee
- ▶ Presentation at CSU Summit, Portsmouth Summit, and Judicial Liaison Meeting.
- ▶ Solicited ideas for PBIS Incentive program
- ▶ Held debate and elections for vacant offices
- ▶ Held staff appreciation popcorn social
- ▶ Held numerous incentive events to recognize positive changes in peer culture
- ▶ Held Thanksgiving food drive
- ▶ Donated hygiene kits to Salvation Army after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma
- ▶ Held Toy Drive for residents with children
- ▶ Provided suggestions to QMIT Committee
- ▶ Aided grievance process transformation
- ▶ Provided insight pertaining to isolation procedure

Student Government Association

Department of Juvenile Justice



DJJ Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 9, 2018



Constitution

We the people of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice Student Government Association shall create this government to ensure proper representation, solutions and opportunity for the youth within the Department.

Article I

The name of this body shall be the Student Government Association (SGA) of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

This government will be created by DJJ youth to provide representation, solutions, and opportunity for the youth under its authority. This government is approved by the following regulations: (SOP VOL. IV-4-1-07) Statutory Authority (Title 66 code of Virginia)

Article II

Membership within the SGA will be determined through a voting process. However, the initial youth representatives will be appointed by the founders of this government. This will ensure that the proper example will be set and all articles and policies are carried out.

The voting process will be carried out by the Executive Team. The Executive Team shall produce a ballot to be distributed to all youth with voting rights. The ballot shall contain information on each eligible candidate.

This information shall include the following:

- Name
- Potential Office
- Campaign slogans/promises

Upon the release of a youth who holds office and was appointed by the founders, an election will be held to fill the open position. A Lieutenant Governor or Vice President shall temporarily maintain the office until a proper election is held. A governor shall temporarily fill the office of vice president in the event they are released, impeached, or is unable to fulfill their duties and therefore resigns.

Any resident with voting rights may participate in the election. Voting rights are based on behavior standing.

Behavior Standing is defined as maintaining a 45 day charge/offense free record and holding a 2 or higher phase level.

Candidate eligibility is based on both behavior standing and academic performance.

Academic Performance is defined as maintaining a minimum of a "C" average letter grade. Candidates must maintain a 90 day charge/offense free record. Candidates who have obtained a General Equivalency Diploma or standard high school diploma are exempt from the academic requirement.

Article III

The SGA Executive Team shall meet weekly for a minimum of one hour. The Executive Team shall meet with DJJ Administrators monthly. Mayors shall meet monthly with the Executive Team every third Thursday at 5:30pm.

SGA Executive Team:

- President
- Vice President
- District Governors

Offices and their Duties

The President shall represent the department at all events, functions, meetings, and official visits. They shall provide leadership, representation, and solutions to the best of their ability. The president may serve for a term of one year, with the opportunity to be reelected for an additional two terms.

The Vice President shall represent the President in their absence. They shall support and shadow the President in carrying out their duties effectively as possible. The Vice President may serve for a term of one year, with the opportunity to be reelected for an additional two terms.

Governors shall represent their districts and provide leadership, solutions, and voice any issues and concerns within the districts they govern. Governors may serve for a term of one year, with the opportunity to be reelected for an additional two terms.

Lieutenant Governors shall shadow and support their Governor. They shall represent their district in the absence of the Governor. Lieutenant Governors may serve for a term of one year, with the opportunity to be reelected for an additional two terms.

Mayors shall represent their units and express any issues or concerns to their District's Governor. Mayors may serve for a term of 6 months, with the opportunity to be reelected for an additional three terms.

Youth members of the Executive Team may not hold the position of Mayor simultaneously with the duties of their primary office.

Intake and Isolation units will be represented by the President.

Article II

Resignation

Youth may resign from their office at any time. They must first notify the President by letter prior to the weekly SGA Executive Team Meeting.

Release

Youth in a Vice or Lieutenant Position shall fill the position they shadow in the event that youth is released.

Impedement and Removal from Office

If a youth is neglecting their duties and/or has incurred more than one major infraction throughout the course of their term, they shall stand before the Executive Honor Council. A majority vote (two-thirds) will remove the youth from their office. They may not run for office again until a period of 90 days has passed without any infractions.

Article IV

The Honor Council shall act as the Supreme Court within the SGA. It shall make recommendations regarding behavioral issues and disagreements. All decisions will be decided by a two-thirds majority vote.

Each district shall maintain an Honor Council to serve the youth within that district. This will include Peer Interventions approved by the youth's treatment team. Peer Interventions shall not breach the confidentiality of the youth. District Honor Councils that fail to reach a proper recommendation or solution by two-thirds majority vote will then forward the case to the Executive Honor Council. The youth may choose their representative.

District Honor Councils shall have the following officials present:

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Mayors within that district
- Representative of the youth

The Executive Honor Council shall receive cases that are not closed by the District Honor Councils. Youth who hold office shall be received by the Executive Honor Council.

Executive Honor Councils shall have the following officials present:

- President
- Vice President
- District Governors
- Representative of the youth

Article V

Amendments may be proposed by any Governor, the Vice President, or the President and must be approved by the Executive Honor Council (two-thirds majority vote). Any and all articles within the Constitution may be amended at any time.

Article VIII

All youth within the SGA are entitled to freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of press, domestic tranquility, and the right to a representative, advocate, or witness in defending oneself in a case against them. None shall be discriminated against due to their race, ethnicity, color, gender, sexual orientation, impairment, disability, political disposition, mental handicap, or physical appearance.