

JUVENILE OFFENDER RE-ENTRY STUDY PLAN

Study Mandate

Direct the Commission on Youth to study juvenile offender re-entry in Virginia and report findings and recommendations to the Commission prior to the 2011 General Assembly Session.

Identified Issues

- The majority of juveniles entering Virginia's juvenile justice system have complex needs, including mental health and substance abuse, and are frequently involved in multiple service systems, including child welfare, special education, mental health and juvenile justice.
- In Fiscal Year 2009, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) received 85,578 intake complaints, 16,626 new probation cases and 17,202 pre-dispositional placements. In addition, 2,677 juveniles were committed to DJJ.
- Virginia spends over \$100,000 per year to incarcerate one youth in a juvenile correctional center.
- Of the juveniles committed to DJJ, 65% have a diagnosed mental health disorder. Over half of the juveniles admitted also have a history of prescription psychotropic medication use.
- There are challenges posed by these juveniles as they are returned to their communities. The primary goal of successful community reintegration is for the juvenile to begin building a foundation for a successful and productive future for and to not reoffend.
- In 2007, at 12-months, 41.5% of juveniles released by DJJ from a juvenile correction center and slightly over 26% of juveniles placed on probation recidivated. (DJJ defines a juvenile recidivist as a juvenile who is found by a court to have committed, after being placed on probation or released from confinement, a delinquent or criminal act other than violation of probation or parole.) In addition, 27% of these juveniles were reincarcerated.

Study Activities

- Conduct extensive background and literature reviews
 - Other states' initiatives and policies
 - Best-practices in juvenile offender re-entry
- Review federal legislation/statutes
 - *The Second Chance Act of 2007*
 - *The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2008*
 - *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*
- Review Virginia laws and regulations
 - Virginia's mandatory outpatient statutes
 - Re-enrollment planning regulations
 - Mental health transition planning regulations
 - Juvenile confidentiality statutes

➤ Convene Work Group to assist in study effort.

- Invite representatives from the groups identified below:

Secretary of Public Safety
Secretary of Education
Secretary of Health and Human Resources
Virginia's Prisoner Re-Entry Coordinator
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court
Department of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Services
Parent Representatives
Virginia Alternative Educators Association
Local School Officials
Commonwealth Attorneys' Services
Council
Detention Center representatives
Virginia Association of Community
Services Boards
Department of Juvenile Justice

Virginia Council on Juvenile Detention
Department of Criminal Justice Services
Department of Correctional Education
Court Service Unit representatives
School Resource Officers
Public Defenders
Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Business/Industry representatives
Advocacy Organizations
Community Organizations
Higher Education Representatives
Virginia Association of Counties/Virginia
Municipal League
Chiefs of Police
Virginia Sheriffs' Association
Faith-Based Community representatives

➤ Form subcommittees to look at specific issues of entry:

- Female Offenders
- Education
- Mental Health
- Community/Family

➤ Interview impacted stakeholders

- Youth, their parents and/or caregivers
- Probation/Parole Officers
- Detention Center representatives
- School Superintendents
- Juvenile Court Judges

➤ Analyze Virginia practices

- Receive information on Virginia's re-enrollment efforts in public schools
- Assess barriers to re-enrollment
- Receive information on various pathways to re-entry
- Review DJJ's memoranda of agreement
- Assess Virginia's existing aftercare services

➤ Examine potential funding sources

➤ Synthesize findings of literature review and workgroup recommendations

➤ Solicit feedback to recommendations from constituents and Secretary of Public Safety

➤ Coordinate efforts with the Secretary of Public Safety's Prisoner Re-entry Coordinator

➤ Refine findings and recommendations

➤ Present findings and recommendations to the Commission on Youth

➤ Prepare final report