



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Members  
Kenneth G. Feng  
John E. Harding  
Jorge Lozano  
A. V. Maddra  
Connie W. Seagle  
John A. Wasowicz  
Thomas Wilkins

Board of Juvenile Justice

P. O. Box 1110  
Richmond, Virginia  
23218-1110  
(804) 371-0704

## **Natural Bridge Juvenile Correctional Center Board of Juvenile Justice Meeting May 10, 2000**

**Present:** John E. Harding  
Jorge Lozano  
A. V. Maddra  
Connie Seagle  
Thomas Wilkins

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chair Connie Seagle.

### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On MOTION duly made by Mr. Wilkins, seconded by Mr. Harding, the Board approved the Agenda.

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On MOTION duly made by Mr. Maddra, seconded by Mr. Harding, the Board approved the Minutes for the April 12, 2000, meeting with corrections.

Mr. Wilkins noted that on Page II, V. Committee Reports, A. Secure Services Committee, second paragraph should read, "On MOTION duly made by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Wilkins, to continue the current certification of Barrett Juvenile Correctional Center to June **2000** pending the receipt of a corrective action plan. Motion carried."

Mr. Wilkins also noted that on Page VII, E. Classification Report, second paragraph, third sentence should read, "He stated that classification should be revisited periodically and be **uniform** across the State."

Mr. Lozano noted that Page XI, VIII. Comments of the Board, should include, "**Mr. Lozano raised an issue and concern regarding the first facility he visited. He felt that although the facility met the criteria of Life, Health, Safety standards for the State and Federal governments, the Board should be aware that there were no release mechanisms in case of fire and something should be done about it in the future.**"

#### IV. COMMENTS OF PUBLIC

There were no comments.

#### V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### A. Secure Services Committee

On MOTION duly made by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Wilkins, to certify Loudoun Juvenile Detention Center for three years. Motion carried.

##### B. Non-Secure Services Committee

On MOTION duly made by Mr. Lozano, seconded by Mr. Maddra, to certify the 31st District Court Service Unit for three years. Motion carried.

On MOTION duly made by Mr. Lozano, seconded by Mr. Harding, to certify Crisis Intervention Home for three years. Motion carried.

Mr. Maddra questioned Standard 1.16 on Page 8. He was concerned about the population being consistently over capacity and the potential for this problem to become a Life, Health, Safety issue. Mr. Muse stated that if a detention home or facility becomes overcrowded to the extent that they cannot safely hold more youth, then that superintendent needs to tell the judge that no more youth can be accommodated. The judge can only issue an order committing or detaining a youth, but cannot say where. Youth can only be detained in facilities approved by the Department and that approval encompasses how many youth are allowed at a facility. After further discussion, Mr. Peed said that the Department would advise the superintendents that the Board is concerned about overcrowding as it pertains to certification, and the Department would seek alternatives to handling court-ordered placements that cause overcrowding.

On MOTION duly made by Mr. Lozano, seconded by Mr. Harding, to certify Loudoun County Office on Youth for three years with a letter of congratulations for 100% compliance. Motion carried.

On MOTION duly made by Mr. Lozano, seconded by Mr. Harding, to certify Staunton Office on Youth for three years with an updated report in May 2001. Motion carried.

On MOTION duly made by Mr. Lozano, seconded by Mr. Harding, to certify Youth Haven I for three years. Motion carried.

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. Classification Report**

Mr. Carignan discussed the Directive issued by Director Peed implementing the new classification process. As of Wednesday, May 3, wards who are being placed from the Reception and Diagnostic Center are being assigned to a classification level that includes minimum, maximum, or two general population categories in between. The Department is in the implementation phase and will take about 90 days to reclassify all of the wards currently in custody. It will also take time to classify the various units in our facilities. While each facility will be operating at an overall security classification level, we will be making arrangements for housing units to accommodate variations so that we have flexibility in placing wards. We hope to provide the appropriate treatment, appropriate security and custody for wards and place them in circumstances where we can provide the maximum amount of treatment, supervision, and service to meet their needs by way of this new classification system. In conjunction, we are working on revamping the behavioral management programs for each one of the facilities, including an alternative to the LEADER program so that wards will have a choice of programs to select.

### **B. Legislative Update**

Mr. Phipps presented a handout of the pertinent legislation that was tracked by the Department during the recent General Assembly session. He also discussed the bills that the Department proposed and sponsored. Training sessions will be held for staff throughout the Regions for probation officers and court service unit personnel in June. Staff are being asked to submit proposed legislation or language changes for 2001 General Assembly sessions. He briefly outlined the legislative process.

Mr. Wilkins expressed interest in the Board being allowed to participate in the legislative process. Mr. Peed stated that his goal is to get input from all interested parties this summer in order to be ready for the next General Assembly session. Board members were encouraged to attend any of the training sessions scheduled for June. There was a discussion of the Governor's Working Papers, FOIA impact, and confidentiality problems.

Mr. Harding asked for a clarification of the term "occasion" vs. "court interruption" as it pertains to a ward and how he/she would be treated in addition to the impact on juvenile population. Mr. Peed explained that this type of question could be addressed in a legislative amendment.

Also discussed was transferring juveniles to DOC to serve the juvenile conviction and then start the term for the adult offense.

One legislative amendment will require development of new standards relating to post-dispositional detention. Staff will meet on May 11 to begin identifying all key issues that will need to be addressed. The information will be presented to the Board so that the administrative process can begin.

Mr. Phipps will distribute the final Legislative Update Report upon receipt from the General Assembly.

### **C. Budget Legislative Update**

Mr. Green distributed a handout and discussed the pertinent items that affected the Department's budget. The Board will receive a copy of the budget.

Mr. Harding requested a copy of VJCCCA language.

## **VII. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Peed announced the Chair of the Board, Mrs. Connie Seagle, was elected to the town council of Rural Retreat by the greatest number of votes.

Mr. Peed introduced Mr. Bill Hepler, the Superintendent of Natural Bridge Juvenile Correctional Center. Mr. Hepler provided handouts and a brief overview of the facility and Camp New Hope. He conducted a tour, which included demonstrations of activities by cadets, and provided lunch.

Mr. Peed introduced the Regional Administrator, Mrs. Becky Camache. She discussed Region I and then introduced the Court Service Unit Directors, who gave a brief description of their operations:

Bob Bradner, CSU #10; Robert Foster, CSU #21; Harry Ayer, CSU #22; Michael Lazzuri, CSU #23; Rodney Hubbard, CSU #23-A; Gary Conway, CSU # 25; John Moore, CSU #27; Randy Blevins, CSU #28; Ron Belay, CSU #29; and Wayne McClelland, CSU #30. Mr. Lynn Myers, Regional Manager, spoke on behalf of Mr. Bob Wade, CSU #24.

Mrs. Camache also introduced two Halfway House Directors:

Ms. Tammy Krall of Abraxas House and Mr. Mike Worker of Discovery House.

Mr. Maddra asked if any of the directors had used available grant money to hire police officers to work with probation officers. He said he would get some information for the directors.

#### **VIII. COMMENTS OF BOARD**

Mrs. Seagle announced that Katherine Grace Feng was born at 11:03 PM on May 9, 2000. She weighed 7 lbs. 5 ozs.

Mrs. Seagle advised the Board to be ready for elections at the June meeting. She also asked the Board members to consider only meeting every other month. She announced that the Ad Hoc Policy Committee would meet after adjournment and would give an update at the June meeting.

Mr. Wilkins expressed his desire to have a yearly meeting to encompass all parties interested in youth - Department personnel, judges, Board members, etc. He inquired if the Department issues a newsletter. Ms. Green said the next issue is due out in June and that she certainly encourages input from the Board members as well as Department personnel. Mr. Wilkins desires to have a holistic approach. Another issue he advocated was that of selfevaluation of the Department in the future to determine what is being done well and what is being done less well.

#### **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was not necessary to hold an Executive Session.

#### **X. ADJOURN, TOUR, AND DEMONSTRATION**

On MOTION duly made by Mr. Maddra, seconded by Mr. Harding, to adjourn the formal meeting at 12:15 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Patricia F. Rollston

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## AMENDMENT TO BOARD MINUTES April 12, 2000

At the Board Meeting of May 10, 2000, the Board approved the adoption of the minutes pending the following amendments:

Page II - V. Committee Reports, A. Secure Services Committee, second paragraph should read, "On MOTION duly made by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Wilkins, to continue the current certification of Barrett Juvenile Correctional Center to June **2000** pending the receipt of a corrective action plan."

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