Robert Vilchez, Chair
Scott Kizner, Vice Chair
Synethia White, Secretary
Lisa Cason
Eric English
Tyren Frazier
William Johnson
David Mick
Laura O'Quinn

Post Office Box 1110
Richmond, VA 23218-1110
804.588.3903

COMMONWEALTH *of* VIRGINIA
Board of Juvenile Justice

Meeting Minutes

July 31, 2024
All-Virtual Meeting

Board Members Present: Lisa Cason, Eric English, Tyren Frazier, William (Will) Johnson, Scott Kizner, David Mick, Robert (Tito) Vilchez, and Synethia White

Board Members Absent: Laura O'Quinn

Department of Juvenile Justice (Department) Staff: Ken Bailey, Brandi Fannon, Katherine Farmer, Mike Favale, Amy Floriano, Cora Heinzen, Wendy Hoffman, Deyonta Johnson, Melodie Martin, Andrea McMahon, Ashaki McNeil, Linda McWilliams, Stephanie Morton, Julie Norris, Guillermo Novo, Cassandra Sheehan (Office of the Attorney General), Lara Todd, and James Towey

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Vilchez called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and asked for introductions.

BOARD ELECTIONS

James Towey, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Department

The Board of Juvenile Justice elects officers from its membership at its first meeting of the fiscal year to include the Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, and Secretary. The officers can serve for a term of one year and are eligible for re-election each year. There are no term limits.

The Chairperson shall be the presiding officer of the Board at its meetings. Upon request of the Board, the Chairperson shall act as its spokesperson or representative and shall perform such additional duties as may be imposed on that position by an Act of the General Assembly or by direction of the Board. The Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Board.

The Board discussed and nominated Tito Vilchez as Chairperson. On motion duly made by Scott Kizner and seconded by Eric English, the Board approved the nomination of Tito Vilchez as Chairperson. All Board members present declared "aye," and the motion carried.

The Vice-chairperson is the second officer under consideration. In the absence of the Chairperson at any meeting or in the event of disability or of a vacancy in the office, all the powers and duties of the

Chairperson shall be vested in the Vice-chairperson. The Vice-chairperson shall also perform such other duties as may be imposed by the Board or the Chairperson.

The Board discussed and nominated Scott Kizner as Vice-chairperson. On motion duly made by Will Johnson and seconded by Synethia White, the Board approved the nomination of Scott Kizner as Vice-chairperson. All Board members present declared "aye," and the motion carried.

The Secretary is the third officer under consideration. The Secretary shall (1) review and recommend improvements to Board meeting procedures and other relevant Board business so as to facilitate the administrative efficiency of the Board; (2) ensure the development of appropriate resolutions, etc., which are needed by the Board from time to time; (3) serve as the Board's parliamentarian; (4) work closely with the Department staff who are assigned to provide administrative assistance to the Board to review and sign minutes and policy documents, etc.; and (5) ensure that unique or non-routine materials and equipment are available for the Board to carry out its functions. In the event that both the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson are absent at any meeting, the Secretary shall preside over the meeting.

The Board discussed and nominated Synethia White as Secretary. On motion duly made by Scott Kizner and seconded by Tito Vilchez, the Board approved the nomination of Synethia White as Secretary. All Board members present declared "aye," and the motion carried.

Chairperson Vilchez congratulated the newly elected officers, and noted the Board appointments take effect immediately with all elected members eligible for reelection.

CONSIDERATION OF BOARD MINUTES

The minutes of the May 22, 2024, Board meeting were offered for approval. On a motion duly made by Tyren Frazier and seconded by Tito Vilchez, the Board approved the minutes as presented. All Board members present declared "aye," and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA) Plans

Katherine Farmer, VJCCCA Supervisor, Department

Amelia, Nottoway, and Dinwiddie have submitted VJCCCA plans for fiscal year 2025-2026 with balanced budgets for fiscal year 2025-2026. These plans have been reviewed by DJJ staff and are recommended for approval by the Board for both fiscal years of the 2025-2026 biennium. The Board had no questions.

On motion duly made by David Mick and seconded by Tyren Frazier, the Board approved the VJCCCA plans for Amelia, Nottoway, and Dinwiddie for fiscal year 2025-2026. All Board members present declared "aye", and the motion carried.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE BOARD BYLAWS

James Towey, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Department

Pursuant to the bylaws, each year the Board is to review the bylaws to determine compliance with any amendments made to the applicable sections of the Code of Virginia during the past legislative session. The bylaws were last reviewed June 2023. Upon reviewing the amendments to the Code of Virginia from the 2024 session of the General Assembly, there were no amendments that necessitated change to the Board bylaws and, therefore, no amendments to the bylaws are recommended.

Article 7, section 7.02 of the bylaws states that the bylaws can be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Board by an affirmative vote of the majority of the Board, provided that the proposed amendment was included in the notice of the meeting. Any member can bring forth a recommendation or suggestion of a change to the bylaws at any meeting as long as it is noted beforehand in the meeting notice.

There is no motion necessary for this annual review of the bylaws today.

RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO BOARD POLICY ON ALL-VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS AND BOARD POLICY ON REMOTE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS

James Towey, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Department

The Board enacted its policies on all-virtual meetings and remote participation in November 2023 and since then changes have been made to both governing statutes of the policies. In order to make sure these two policies are up to date and in compliance with the recent amendments to the Code of Virginia, the Board will need to amend both policies.

Mr. Towey directed the Board to page 17 of the packet for the amendments to the Policy Governing All-Virtual Public Meetings

1. Prior to the 2024 session of the General Assembly, the statute governing all-virtual public meetings limited the number of all-virtual public meetings to no more than two times per calendar year, or 25% of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. The statutory amendment increased the percentage from 25% to 50% and that change is reflected in paragraph 3(c) of the Board policy. This does not impact the Board because the Board is allowed to have two all-virtual meetings or 50%, and since the Board has four meetings per year, two meetings is 50%.

2. The statute also required when audio-visual technology is available, a member of the Board shall for the purposes of a quorum, be considered absent from any portion of the meeting during which visual communication with the member is voluntarily disconnected or otherwise fails, or during which audio communication voluntarily fails. That change is reflected in paragraph 5(h). Mr. Towey surmised that the change probably resulted from some situation that happened in another agency.

3. The last amendment to this all-virtual public meeting policy is found in paragraph 5(i): this policy shall not prohibit or restrict any individual member of the Board who is participating in an all-virtual public meeting from voting on matters before the Board. Mr. Towey surmised this change was probably introduced because another agency was not certain as to whether someone participating remotely could vote or not. Pursuant to the policy, they are not allowed to have an impact on the quorum, but can vote, so this amendment is clarifying language.

Board Member Kizner asked for clarification on the second amendment. If there is a failure to be seen on a virtual meeting, but the member can be heard, the member is not counted as being present?

Mr. Towey responded that is the language in the statute, for any portion of the meeting during which visual communication with the member is voluntarily disconnected or otherwise fails, or during which audio communication voluntarily fails. If there is visual or audio communication that fails, either of those, at least for the moment they were not seen or heard, would not qualify as a quorum.

Board Member Kizner asked, if you are on a virtual meeting and a member chooses to not be seen visually, in a sense they are not at the meeting.

Mr. Towey said for purposes of a quorum that is correct. Mr. Towey did not know why they put that language in the policy, but it ensures the member is seen rather than just being heard. The Board should make sure that if a quorum is in jeopardy all have both visual and audio connection.

Board Member White asked if the visual and audio connection is to establish a quorum or required for the duration of the meeting? Deputy Director of Policy Michael Favale explained that when the Board is voting, members should be seen and heard. Deputy Director Favale stated that at all other times during the meeting, the Board does not technically need a quorum.

Mr. Towey suggested that, in a worst-case scenario, the meeting could be paused until the communication situation could be fixed and the meeting could continue with a quorum.

On motion duly made by Scott Kizner and seconded by Tito Vilchez, the Board approved the proposed amendment to paragraph 3(c) and paragraph 5 of Board Policy 23-001, governing all-virtual public meetings, adopted on November 15, 2023. All Board members present declared “aye”, and the motion carried.

Mr. Towey directed the Board to page 20 of the packet for the amendments to the Policy Governing Remote Participation of Members.

1. Paragraph 2(b) has a new definition for “caregiver”. “Caregiver” means an adult who provides care for a person with a disability. The “caregiver” shall either be related by blood, marriage, or adoption to, or the legally appointed guardian of, the person with a disability for whom he is caring. The caregiver definition adds to the reasons a member may participate remotely.

2. Paragraph 4(a) provides that, if the Board member is a caregiver who must provide care for the person with the disability at the time the public meeting is held, thereby preventing the member’s physical attendance, they must notify the Board chair.

3. Paragraph 4(c) states that there is no limit to the number of times that a member may participate remotely for the authorized purposes listed in 4(a) (i)-(iii), which includes the caretaker provision. If a Board member is a caregiver, they have no limit on the number of times they are allowed to participate remotely, as long as they satisfy the definition of caregiver.

   The new statute also provides that, for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is physically assembled, an individual member of the Board who is a person with a disability and uses remote participation counts towards the quorum as if the member were physically present. Further, an individual member of the Board, who is a caregiver for a person with a disability and uses remote participation, also counts toward the quorum as if the individual were physically present.

4. Paragraph 3(c) states this policy shall not prohibit or restrict an individual member of the Board who is using remote participation from voting on matters before the Board. Again, as with the all-virtual meeting policy, Mr. Towey surmised that some agencies had confusion over whether someone participating remotely was allowed to vote, this clarifies that they are allowed to vote.

On motion duly made by Will Johnson and seconded by Eric English, the Board approved the proposed amendments to paragraph 2(b), paragraph 3, and paragraph 4(a) of Board Policy 23-002, governing remote participation of members, adopted on November 15, 2023. All Board members present declared "aye", and the motion carried.

PRESENTATION ON THE GANG AND VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Dr. Deyonta Johnson, Violence Intervention Manager, Department

Dr. Johnson presented on ASPIRE, the gang and violence intervention program currently implemented at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center.

The program started as a pilot sanctioned by Deputy Director of Reentry, Education, and Intervention Ashaki McNeil. In the facility, there is a good deal of gang involvement with no real intervention to address it or provide staff with the skills and tools necessary to combat this type of risky behavior. DJJ wanted to be proactive and put something in place that was effective to work with the young people on this big issue.

Research was done on what other states implemented for gangs and intervention. Staff then designed a program to fit within the framework of Bon Air. Dr. Johnson believes the agency has developed a good program that so far has seen good results with its young people. He hopes the agency will continue to foster and grow the program and be highly effective moving forward.

About two years ago, the facility had several issues with assaults, gang involvement, and an inability to merge residents across the campus to do basic activities and even schooling. As a result, the agency needed something that would foster a collaborative effort to bring the youth together. That is how the ASPIRE program began. The Violence Intervention Unit (VIU), which Dr. Johnson manages, is a new unit developed by the agency director. One of its tasks was making sure programming was implemented in the community and the correctional center to address gangs and violence across the Commonwealth.

There are several reasons why juveniles and residents join gangs. The VIU needed to gain an understanding of why youth join gangs and to address the best and most effective intervention to move forward. Dr. Johnson directed the Board to page 27 of the packet that provides reference to the many risk factors associated with why youth join gangs. Coupled with that, the strategies recommended by the National Gang Center to address gang and violence in the communities, include community engagement and collaboration, education, social intervention, suppression, and organizational change and development. Each of these aspects were used to begin fostering and developing the ASPIRE program.

The VIU kept in mind the spectrum of how to intervene with youth and gangs using a preventative, intervention, or suppression stance. It is a challenge dealing with gang-involved youth especially when youth have not been identified as such; and with the new generation of youth involved in hybrid gangs and neighborhood gangs, it is more difficult for the youth to be identified as gang-involved. Nonetheless, all of this creates complexities when trying to address the need and determine where the youth is on the spectrum of involvement. The VIU had to be strategic in the implementation of the program to make sure all these multiple lines were addressed.

The VIU also considered the basics of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (page 30 of the packet). There are several different things that need to be provided in order to obtain a level of self-actualization. As the program was being developed, it needed to ensure other things were met first before getting to the point where interventions were going to be effective. This is how ASPIRE was born. It took all those different facets into consideration to develop a comprehensive program that will address and meet the needs of young people.

The program has three phases. Phase one is the Program, phase two is the Circle Up, and phase three is the newest addition The Unit. The Unit, also known as the housing unit, has been open for five months.

The ASPIRE Program admissions criteria are youth who have suspected association, affiliation, or validation as a gang member by the agency's Bureau of Investigative Operations, VIU, Division of Education or residential staff. The reason for the different agency departments is because sometimes intelligence is given or collected by different units in the agency. A system is in place for reporting, but sometimes validating a youth as a gang member is not enough; it is basically a suspicion. The program admissions also wanted to focus on youth who are ambivalent to change and amenable to intensive gang intervention services that require significant support for change behavior.

The selection process requires the youth to complete an application, and must be endorsed by their treatment team, which is comprised of their housing unit coordinator, behavioral services unit therapist, and their counselor, in addition to a member of the Division of Education. The treatment team should have a good working knowledge of the young person and are asked to endorse their application set forth by that young person.

After the youth has completed the application and it has been endorsed by the treatment team, the youth's interview is scheduled. The youth will be invited to participate in an interview and its sole purpose is to assess their ambivalence to change. The VIU makes sure this young person wants to be a part of the program and is committed to needing that extra support. If the resident is selected for the program, they

will receive a written letter of acceptance. If they are not accepted into the program, a notice is provided letting the youth know they did not get in this time but are encouraged to try again.

ASPIRE is embedded in the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) framework. If the youth is not accepted into the program, they will be offered 40 PBIS points to soften the blow of not getting in the program. There are not an unlimited number of slots in the program. The program can accommodate 24 youth at a time and is conducted three times a year, at a minimum, in spring, summer, and winter. The program can choose only 24 youth at a time because of staffing and to ensure that the needs of the young people are being met and are given the program's undivided attention.

The program runs approximately 10 days with sessions not on holidays. The first week the residents are separated into three different teams: two eight-member male teams and an eight-member female team. Typically, residents are grouped together with other residents with whom they get along and have a good relationship. The sessions are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a set curriculum. The staff work with the young people to address their risky thinking, their gang associations, and their deviant behavior. The staff work hard to reshape and refocus.

Week two of the program, the male youth are merged to become 16 and the female population continue to remain separate unless there is an incentive event, and they will all come together. The staff prepare the youth for the merge. The youth need to be separated because many residents do not get along and may know each other from the street. It is a huge task to bring youth together, and the staff have many conversations to prepare them mentally for the merge and to reassure them it is safe. The staff assesses the safety of the situation and make sure youth are comfortable. The group spends the entire second week together as one unit and we have seen good results. Four cohorts have been completed and many residents have expressed their enjoyment being a part of the program.

The group has a mantra (page 36 of the packet) that every youth is required to memorize and encouraged to use when the youth is having difficulty and needs positive affirmations for themselves. Youth with learning disabilities are provided resources to ensure they can commit the mantra to memory, and so far, all have and are excited to recite this together as a group.

Residents are afforded peer support during this process. Residents who have completed the various phases come back and support the youth in phases one and two. This has seen good results and great feedback in the peer support initiative. Phase one is very intense with a lot of work assignments, and peer support helps them during this key moment of the ASPIRE program.

Youth must maintain a high level of behavioral expectations in the program as well as outside the program. The VIU wants to produce model residents across the facility and when they wear the ASPIRE shirt, the youth understand and know they are held to a standard. The youth must adhere to these behavior standards. If they fail, they will be removed from the program. The staff make sure the youth are amenable to the services and if the resident is removed from the program, they can reapply and go through the process again.

Phase one is comprised of various activities, events, and material. The program utilizes an evidence-based curriculum. The Violence Intervention Specialists are certified and have completed intense online training supervised by the Horizon Company. They receive their certification in gang and violence intervention

and life skills curriculum. In addition, they learn about positive youth leadership development. There is a whole session about what it means to be a positive leader, followership, helping youth know who to follow, and following the correct people that will lead them in a positive manner.

The program works with the Division of Education on collaborative education. There are art projects, science experiments, recreation at the end of both weeks, and typically a meal social that wraps up the program. Collaborative education has the youth working together in teams on recreational activities and team engagement exercises. Pages 41 to 44 of the packet (slides 18-20 of the presentation) show pictures of gingerbread house construction and a meal social that takes place at the conclusion of the first week of the program.

The next phase is the Circle Up. After the youth successfully completes phase one of the program, staff realized they needed continuous support. Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., the staff continue to bring the residents together and continue psycho-educational groups to reinforce the program concepts, utilizing the ARISE curriculum. The youth continue to come back together to work as one unit and have the support of the VIU and all the other resources currently provided at Bon Air.

The group does require accountability, and positive reinforcements are provided to the young people while in the program, especially when the youth are on the right track. The program staff follow the residents, monitor their behavior, and respond to incidents to provide additional support.

The third and final phase of the ASPIRE program is The Unit, which opened February 26, 2024, for residents who have completed phase one and two and are now eligible for phase three. The residents must have completed 12 Circle Up groups, which take place on Wednesdays, before they are eligible to move forward to The Unit unless there is a special or extenuating circumstance. If the youth advances to phase three, they will remain in phase three as long as they desire or until they transition out of the facility. If the youth does not make it through the first two phases to The Unit, it does not mean the youth are out of the program. They continue to remain in phase two until they transition out of the facility. Some residents do not want to come to The Unit, which is fine. There is limited space in the unit with 16 beds. These youth can stay in phase two or elevate to phase three; it is not a negative if the youth does not make it to phase three of the program. The program fosters an environment where the resident can continue to strengthen their skills, be positive role models to others and successfully transition out of the correctional center without any distractions.

Page 47 of the Board packet lists the VIU staff The Unit is currently recruiting for one additional specialist to support their work with approximately 42 residents across the Bon Air campus.

Dr. Johnson concluded his presentation and asked for questions.

Cassandra Sheehan said she used to do juvenile work as a prosecutor and finds this program very interesting. Ms. Sheehan asked approximately how many residents apply that are not getting into the program? How long has the program been in place? Dr. Johnson responded that, on average, there are 60 residents that apply, and 24 are accepted, but many of the residents who do not get in the first time have the opportunity to apply again. The program has been in place for a year.

Board Member Mick asked if any data has been collected on this program with regard to recidivism rates and showing the success rate of the youth in the program. Dr. Johnson replied that the BADGE system (the information system used by DJJ) is being updated to reflect ASPIRE and documentation should be entered into the system soon. The behavior analytic team are gathering preliminary research on the program and its efforts. Dr. Johnson shared that only four fights have occurred among the ASPIRE residents. Those youth in the program are typically not engaging in assaults against each other. Board Member Mick would like to see the data on how the program has influenced the recidivism rates and lowering fighting. Board Member Mick said if the program shows a high success rate, then maybe more youth can be accepted into the program.

Board Member English asked whether, upon release, do the VIU still keep in touch those youth that were part of the program. Following Board Member Mick's point, being able to track the data is important, not only while in the program, but outside the facility to see if these youth are continuing the effort.

Dr. Johnson responded that the VIU also oversees the community program known as GREAT. Typically, youth referred to the GREAT program are in the court service unit. If warranted, and depending on their age, they do get continuous support if they transition out. The ASPIRE Program is only for the facility. Typically, youth will be turned over to the Reentry Advocate and the reentry process will work with them as they transition out. The ASPIRE program is designed to address the concerns within the facility.

Chairperson Vilchez asked about the population of Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center. Superintendent Stephanie Morton answered that there are currently 166 youth at Bon Air (15 females and 151 males). Chairperson Vilchez asked how many of those 166 are affiliated with a gang. Dr. Johnson replied the exact number is difficult to place because not all residents have been identified as gang-related. There are certain behaviors that put them at risk and that is why the scope of the program has been expanded to capture them early before validation. The threshold for validation is high; VIU are unable to say if the youth are getting involved unless they are validated. VIU can say if youth are suspected to be gang involved but cannot label them as a validated gang member unless the youth meet the threshold set by statute.

Chairperson Vilchez congratulated Dr. Johnson on completing four cohorts in the last year. Chairperson Vilchez is interested in what gang affiliations are in Bon Air, and whether the youth are being recruited while there. Dr. Johnson responded that within any institution there are probably institutional gangs. He does not think Bon Air is any different. Dr. Johnson sees a lot of Bloods and Crips normally, a few Gangster Disciples and MS13. However, most residents that come through ASPIRE have failed in Bloods and Crips. That is because of the institution. Typically, a side is chosen when the youth come into a correctional facility. VIU is trying to combat that and bring them together. For the most part, the youth do come together, and they get along and have a mutual respect through the program. Now outside the program, that creates some challenges.

Board Member Mick learned a lot about gangs from Director Floriano as she was a gang prosecutor. Board Member Mick thinks it almost seems like a sliding scale between those residents known to be affiliated and those that are not known. Some youths are more involved than others. Board Member Mick thinks it is important to have this program, but it requires buy in by the juveniles. How much encouragement does the resident receive to apply for the program? Board Member Mick imagines that some of the gang members try to dissuade youth from applying to the program. Are there any mechanisms in place to try and combat this type of behavior?

Dr. Johnson responded that the youth's treatment team are encouraged to advocate for their young people and can complete the application on their behalf. The treatment team will notify the ASPIRE program staff of their actions and the youth will be taken into consideration. In addition, VIU has tried to build incentives within the program to make it "catchier" for the youth to be a part, because gangs and violence are heavily entrenched in young people's lives and there is a slippery slope when working with them. The staff ensures their safety, the specialist checks on them and can provide additional support. Milestones are built into the program for motivation.

Board Member White thanked Dr. Johnson for this good information and said he understood the limitations of being in a facility. Board Member White talked about the importance of partnering with community-based organizations and encouraging the connection of other individuals with similar lived experience who have successfully come through programs like this one and have returned to the community to live a more productive and healthier lifestyle. These individuals have credibility and lived experience, which is often helpful for the young people and their families. Board Member White talked about being a sidewalk kid and her experiences. There are a growing number of both men and women who are relevant citizens who have gone through this experience. How powerful would it be if those who are still at home like mom, dad, or other loved ones can encourage them to take advantage of the program as well.

Dr. Johnson said that Board Member White brought up excellent points and he asked if she was talking about a credible messenger type program. Board Member White responded that she was not necessarily thinking of that, because the credible messenger market in the area is somewhat watered down. There are some that do not understand the difference between credible messenger, outreach workers, and interventionist. What Board Member White was advocating was people who are not interested in the title but have started to do this type of work in the community to help other adults returning that might be good partners. It would be an additional commitment to find credible messengers that are appropriately trained and have the safety protocols. Board Member White believes in casting a wider net with folks who have that lived experience, who would advocate and speak with the young people and their families to make sure they are aware of the program. They can be an asset for family members and loved ones of the young people in the program and have that outside encouragement.

Dr. Johnson will be in touch with Board Member White to discuss further.

Board Member Frazier thanked Dr. Johnson for his presentation and congratulated him on getting ASPIRE started at Bon Air. Board Member Frazier believes it will make a difference. Board Member Frazier wanted verification that he heard correctly that Dr. Johnson's unit oversees the community-based program as well. Dr. Johnson responded that was correct. Board Member Frazier asked if Dr. Johnson could provide a presentation to the Board at a future meeting on the community-based program. Dr. Johnson agreed.

Board Member Frazier asked if there is any potential to do a pilot program at the detention centers? Dr. Johnson responded that he did provide a presentation at the Virginia Juvenile Detention Association last month, so conversations have been started but there is a need to figure out the logistics of how the program would function.

DIRECTOR'S CERTIFICATIONS

Ken Bailey, Certification Manager, Department

Mr. Bailey directed the Board to the packet, which contained the individual audit reports and a summary of the Director's certification actions completed up to July 9, 2024.

The 5th District Court Service Unit was certified to June 13, 2027, with 100% compliance and a letter of congratulations for that accomplishment.

The audit for the 25th District Court Service Unit had two areas of non-compliance. A follow up visit determined that one area still needed further improvement, and the recommendation was to certify the unit to March 18, 2027, with referral to the regional program manager for monitoring of that one area of continued non-compliance. This audit point was about documentation of supervision plans.

The Foundations Group Home was certified to March 15, 2027, with 100% compliance and a letter of congratulations for that accomplishment.

The audit for the Fairfax Juvenile Detention Center and Post-dispositional Detention Program found three areas of non-compliance. A follow up visit was performed to ensure they have met the requirements of their corrective action plan. The status visit revealed the facility was brought back into compliance with regulations and the program was certified to January 13, 2027.

The Virginia Beach Juvenile Detention Center and Post-dispositional Detention Program had their second consecutive 100% compliance rating and was certified to April 20, 2027, with a letter of congratulations for their accomplishment.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Michael Favale on behalf of Director Amy Floriano, Department

Mr. Favale told the group that he oversees the Training Unit and speaks to the incoming staff for Bon Air. One of the things that Mr. Favale encourages, in addition to all their other jobs and duties, is for these staff to take the opportunity to be role models to these youth. The youth at Bon Air desperately need a positive adult role model, and Mr. Favale is confident there are several staff who encourage the youth to participate in the ASPIRE and GREAT programs. The staff motivates the youth to behave, excel in schooling and training, and to participate meaningfully in the programs. Mr. Favale assured the Board that there are many staff who take any and all opportunities to genuinely invest in the youth.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board Member Kizner requested at a future meeting a presentation on the academic program at Bon Air to include how the students are doing, and provision of teacher training. Board Member Kizner also would like a tour of Bon Air. Mr. Favale agreed that a tour can be arranged.

NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Board is still pending.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Vilchez adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.