

David Mick, Chairperson
Montell Brown
Travis Burns
Vanessa Crawford
Christopher Francis
Laura F. O'Quinn
Celvin Richardson
Kayla Robinson
Neville Welch



Post Office Box 1110
Richmond, VA 23218-1110
804.588.3903

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Board of Juvenile Justice

MEETING AGENDA

September 14, 2026

Virginia Public Safety Training Center – Knox Hall

9:30 a.m. Board Meeting

I. Call to Order and Introductions

II. Consideration of Remote Participation

James Towey, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Department of Juvenile Justice

III. Board Elections (Page 2)

James Towey, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Department of Juvenile Justice

IV. Annual Review of Bylaws (Pages 3-10)

James Towey, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Department of Juvenile Justice

V. Public Comment

VI. Consideration of June 8, 2026, Board Minutes (Pages 11-18)

VII. New Business

Consideration of Request to Cancel Omnibus Regulatory Amendments for Regulatory Reduction (Pages 19 – 22)

Kristen Peterson, Regulatory Affairs Coordinator, Department of Juvenile Justice

Consideration of Request to Amend Board Policy 19-002, Classification of Committed Youth (Pages 23-25)

Kristen Peterson, Regulatory Affairs Coordinator, Department of Juvenile Justice

VIII. Presentation on Education Program (Pages 26-40)

Deana Williams, School Superintendent, Department of Juvenile Justice

IX. Director's Certification Actions (Pages 41-62)

Wanda Parris-Flanagan, Acting Certification Manager, Department of Juvenile Justice

X. Director Remarks and Board Comments

XI. Next Meeting: November 18, 2026, All-Virtual Public Meeting

XII. Adjournment

Regulatory Update on Pages 63-66



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Board of Juvenile Justice

§ 5.01. Officers Elected from the Board.

The Officers of the Board elected from its membership shall be the Chairperson, Vice-chairperson and Secretary, who shall each be elected by the Board at its first regular meeting of the fiscal year. Officers shall serve for a term of one year and shall be eligible for re-election. Should an Officer vacancy occur, the vacancy may be filled at the next meeting of the Board, unless such vacancy occurs within 10 days of the next meeting, in which case it may be filled at the subsequent meeting.

§ 5.02. Chairperson.

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.

§ 5.03. Vice-chairperson.

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.

§ 5.04. Secretary.

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) to 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.

STATE BOARD OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

BY-LAWS

Revised August 18, 2025

Article 1.

§ 1.01. Establishment and Composition.

The State Board of Juvenile Justice (the "Board") is established by § 66-4 of the Code of Virginia. The Board consists of nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the General Assembly if in session and, if not, at its next succeeding session. Two of the nine members shall be experienced educators.

Article 2.

§ 2.01. Term of Office.

In accordance with § 66-5 of the Code of Virginia, the term of office of Board members shall be for four years, except that appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the remainder of the unexpired terms. No person shall be eligible to serve more than two successive four-year terms, except that a person appointed to fill a vacancy may be eligible for two additional, successive four-year terms after the term of the vacancy for which the person was appointed has expired.

§ 2.02. Orientation.

In accordance with § 2.2-3702 of the Code of Virginia, within two weeks of their appointment or re-appointment, members of the Board shall (i) be furnished by the Board's administrator or legal counsel with a copy of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.), and (ii) read and become familiar with the provisions of that Act.

§ 2.03. Meetings.

Section 66-8 of the Code of Virginia requires that the Board meet at least four times each calendar year. The Board shall meet as follows:

- (a) Regular Meetings - Meet once during each calendar quarter at such times and places as it deems appropriate.
- (b) Special Meetings - Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Chairperson or, if the Chairperson is absent or disabled, by the Vice chairperson or by any four members of the Board at such dates, times and places as may be specified in the call for the meeting.

§ 2.04. Notice.

At least five days' notice in writing shall be given to a Board member of the date, time, and place of all meetings. In accordance with § 2.2-3707 of the Code of Virginia, notice including the time, date and place of each meeting shall be furnished to any citizen of the Commonwealth who requests such information. Notices for meetings shall state whether or not public comment will be received at the meeting, and, if so, the approximate points during the meeting public comment will be received. Any requests to be notified of Board meetings on a continual basis shall be made at least once a year, in writing and shall include the requester's name, address, zip code, daytime telephone number, email address (if available) and organization, if applicable. Notice to any citizen of the Commonwealth who requests such information, reasonable under the circumstance, of special or emergency meetings shall be given contemporaneously with the notice provided Board members.

§ 2.05. Board Materials.

With the exception of any materials that are exempt from public disclosure pursuant to § 2.2-3705 of the Code of Virginia, at least one copy of all agenda packets and materials furnished to Board members for a meeting shall be made available for inspection by the public at the same time such documents are furnished to the members of the Board.

§ 2.06. Cancellation or Rescheduling of Meetings.

The Chairperson may, with the concurrence of a majority of the Board, cancel or postpone a meeting. The Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice (the "Director") shall ensure that proper and immediate public notice is given. In an emergency, the Chairperson is authorized to cancel, significantly alter, or postpone the meeting time.

§ 2.07. Quorum.

In accordance with § 66-9 of the Code of Virginia, a majority of the current membership of the Board shall constitute a quorum for all purposes.

§ 2.08. Attendance.

Participation is essential to the fulfillment of the function of membership. The absence of any member impedes the business of the Board and deprives the Department of Juvenile Justice (the "Department") of the overall policy direction this Board is responsible for providing. Should any member miss three consecutive regular meetings, or a total of five or more regular meetings during a calendar year, the Chairperson, following consultation with the member, is authorized to advise the appropriate Executive Branch official(s). In accordance with § 66-5 of the Code of Virginia, members of the Board may be suspended or removed by the Governor at his pleasure.

§ 2.09. Conduct of Business

The Board actively encourages and welcomes public participation in all its public deliberations. All meetings of the Board, including meetings and work sessions during which no votes are cast or any decisions made, shall be public meetings, and shall be conducted in accordance with § 2.2-3707 of the Code of Virginia. Votes shall not be

taken by written or secret ballot in an open meeting, and minutes shall be recorded at all public meetings. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the principles of procedures prescribed in Roberts' Rules of Order.

Article 3. Powers and Duties.

§ 3.01. General Powers and Duties.

Section 66-10 of the Code of Virginia gives the Board the following general powers and duties:

- a) To establish and monitor policies for programs and facilities for which the Department is responsible by law;
- b) To ensure the development of a long-range youth services policy;
- c) To monitor the activities of the Department and its effectiveness in implementing the policies of the Board;
- d) To advise the Governor and Director on matters relating to youth services;
- e) To promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of Title 66 of the Code of Virginia and other laws of the Commonwealth;
- f) To ensure the development of programs to educate citizens and elicit public support for the activities of the Department;
- g) To establish length-of-stay guidelines for juveniles indeterminately committed to the Department and to make such guidelines available for public comment;
- h) To adopt all necessary regulations for the management and operation of the schools in the Department, provided that any such regulations do not conflict with regulations relating to security of the institutions in which the juveniles are committed; and
- i) To establish compulsory minimum entry-level, in-service, and advanced training standards, as well as the time required for completion of such training, for persons employed as juvenile correctional officers employed at a juvenile correctional facility as defined in § 66-25.3. For juvenile correctional officers who may have contact with pregnant residents, such standards shall include training on the general care of pregnant women, the impact of restraints on pregnant residents and fetuses, the impact of being placed in restrictive housing or solitary confinement on pregnant residents, and the impact of body cavity searches on pregnant residents.

§ 3.02. Additional Specific Powers and Duties.

Various sections of the Code of Virginia give the Board additional specific powers and duties, both mandatory and discretionary. Such sections of the Code of Virginia include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Section 2.2-4007.02 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board to promulgate regulations for public participation in the formation and development of regulations.

- b) Section 16.1-223 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board to promulgate regulations governing the security and confidentiality of data in the Virginia Juvenile Justice Information System.
- c) Section 16.1-233 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board to establish minimum standards for court service unit staff and related supportive personnel and to promulgate regulations pertaining to their appointment and functions to the end that uniform services, insofar as is practical, will be available to juvenile and domestic relations district courts throughout the Commonwealth.
- d) Section 16.1-284.1 of the Code of Virginia requires the standards established by the Board for secure juvenile detention centers to require separate services for the rehabilitation of juveniles placed in post-dispositional detention programs for greater than 30 calendar days.
- e) Section 16.1-293.1 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board to promulgate regulations for the planning and provision of mental health, substance abuse, or other therapeutic treatment services for persons returning to the community following commitment to a juvenile correctional center or post-dispositional detention program.
- f) Section 16.1-309.3 of the Code of Virginia authorizes the Board to approve local plans for the development, implementation, and operation of a community-based system of services under the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (Article 12.1 of Title 16.1 of the Code of Virginia). This section also requires the Board to solicit written comments on the plan from the judge or judges of the juvenile and domestic relations court, the director of the court service unit, and if applicable, the director of programs established under the Delinquency Preventions and Youth Development Act (Chapter 3 of Title 66 of the Code of Virginia).
- g) Section 16.1-309.5 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board to promulgate regulations to serve as guidelines in evaluating requests for reimbursement of one-half the cost of construction, enlargement, renovation, purchase, or rental of a secure juvenile detention center or other home and to ensure the geographically equitable distribution of state funds provided for such purpose.
- h) Section 16.1-309.9 of the Code of Virginia requires the following:
 - a. The Board to develop, promulgate, and approve standards for the development, implementation, operation, and evaluation of a range of community-based programs, services, and facilities authorized by the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (Article 12.1 of Title 16.1 of the Code of Virginia)
 - b. The Board to approve minimum standards for the construction and equipment of secure juvenile detention centers or other facilities and for the provision of food, clothing, medical attention, and supervision of juveniles to be housed in these facilities and programs.
- i) Section 16.1-309.10 of the Code of Virginia authorizes the Board to visit, inspect, and regulate any secure juvenile detention center, group home, or the residential care facility for children in need of services, delinquent, or alleged delinquent that is established by a city, county, or any combination thereof.

- j) Section 16.1-322.5 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board to approve those localities creating a Commission for the purpose of financing and constructing a regional detention or group home. This section also requires the Board to approve contracts for construction of such facilities.
- k) Section 16.1-322.7 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board to make, adopt, and promulgate regulations governing specific aspects of the private management and operation of local or regional secure juvenile detention centers or other secure facilities.
- l) Section 66-10.1 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board to promulgate regulations to effectuate the purposes of Chapter 5.1 (§32.1-162.16 et seq.) of Title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia governing any human research conducted or authorized by the Department.
- m) Section 66-10.2 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board to promulgate regulations governing the housing of youth who are detained in a juvenile correctional facility pursuant to a contract with the federal government and not committed to such juvenile correctional facility by a court of the Commonwealth.
- n) Section 66-23 authorizes the Board to promulgate regulations to govern the process by which superintendents of juvenile correctional centers consent to residents applying for driver's licenses and issue employment certificates;
- o) Section 66-24 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board to promulgate regulations for the certification of community group homes or other residential care facilities that contract with or are rented for the care of juveniles in direct state care.
- p) Section 66-25.1 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board to promulgate regulations governing the form and review process for any agreement with a public or private entity for the operation of a work program for juveniles committed to the Department.
- q) Section 66-25.6 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board to promulgate regulations governing the private management and operation of juvenile correctional facilities.
- r) Section 66-28 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board to prescribe policies governing applications for grants pursuant to the Delinquency Prevention and Youth Development Act (Chapter 3 of Title 66 of the Code of Virginia) and standards for the operation of programs developed and implemented under the grants.

Article 4. Committees.

§ 4.01.Special or Ad Hoc Committees

Special or Ad Hoc Committees may be constituted at any time by action of the Board or the Chairperson. At the time a Special Committee is created, its mission shall be specifically established by action of the Board or by the Chairperson. In creating such Special Committees, the Chairperson shall specify the time within which the Committee is to make its report to the Board

§ 4.04. Other Appointments.

The Chairperson may designate members of the Board from time to time to serve on various task forces, advisory councils, and other committees and to serve as liaison with Department functions and state organizations or associations.

Article 5.
Officers.

§ 5.01. Officers Elected from the Board.

The Officers of the Board elected from its membership shall be the Chairperson, Vice-chairperson and Secretary, who shall each be elected by the Board at its first regular meeting of the fiscal year. Officers shall serve for a term of one year and shall be eligible for re-election. Should an Officer vacancy occur, the vacancy may be filled at the next meeting of the Board, unless such vacancy occurs within 10 days of the next meeting, in which case it may be filled at the subsequent meeting.

§ 5.02. Chairperson.

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.

§ 5.03. Vice-chairperson.

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.

§ 5.04. Secretary.

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) to 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.

§5.05. Order of Succession in Absence of Officers

In the event that the Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, and Secretary all are absent from a meeting, the Board member in attendance with the longest tenure on the Board shall be authorized to preside over the meeting. In the event that two or more such members in

attendance have served identical terms, the Director shall be authorized to designate one of the two Board members to preside over the meeting.

Article 6.

Department of Juvenile Justice.

§ 6.01. Director.

§ 66-1 of the Code of Virginia establishes the Department of Juvenile Justice under the immediate supervision of a Director who is appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. In accordance with § 66-2 of the Code of Virginia, the Director is responsible for supervising the Department and for exercising such other powers and performing such other duties as may be provided by law or as may be required of the Director by the Governor and the Secretary of Public Safety. The Director shall implement such standards and goals of the Board as formulated for local and community programs and facilities. In accordance with § 16.1-234 of the Code of Virginia, it shall be the duty of the Department to ensure that minimum standards established by the Board for court service and other state-operated programs are adhered to.

§ 6.02. Relationship of the Board and Department.

In keeping with the powers and duties imposed upon the Board and upon the Director by law, the Board shall regularly meet with the Director in order that the responsibilities of each are carried out efficiently and cooperatively. The Board shall periodically assess its needs for administrative assistance and how well those needs are being met, and shall so advise the Director. In accordance with § 16.1-309.4 of the Code of Virginia, the Department shall submit to the Board on or before July 1 of odd-numbered years, a statewide plan for the establishment and maintenance of a range of institutional and community-based, diversion, predispositional and postdispositional services to be reasonably accessible to each court. The Department shall establish procedures to ensure (i) the superior quality and timeliness of materials submitted to the Board and (ii) that the Board is informed as early as possible of individuals attending Board meetings.

§ 6.03. Administrative Assistance.

The Department shall provide staff assistance to the Board in carrying out its administrative duties.

Article 7.

Amendments and Procedural Irregularities.

§ 7.01. Annual Review.

The Board shall review the By-Laws annually to ensure compliance with any amendments that may have been made to applicable sections of the Code of Virginia.

§ 7.02. Amendments.

The By-Laws may 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.

§ 7.03. Procedural Irregularities.

Failure to observe procedural provisions of the By-Laws does not affect the validity of Board actions.

§ 7.04. Effective Date.

The foregoing By-Laws are adopted by the Board and are effective as amended, August 18, 2025.

David Mick, Chairperson
Montell Brown
Travis Burns
Vanessa Crawford
Christopher Francis
Laura F. O'Quinn
Celvin Richardson
Kayla Robinson
Neville Welch



Post Office Box 1110
Richmond, VA 23218-1110
804.588.3903

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Board of Juvenile Justice

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

June 8, 2026

All-Virtual Public Meeting

Board Members Present: Montell Brown, Travis Burns, Christopher Francis, David Mick, Laura F. O'Quinn, Calvin Richardson, Kayla Robinson, and Neville Welch

Board Member Absent: Vanessa Crawford

Department of Juvenile Justice (Department) Staff: Cristina Agee (Office of the Attorney General), David Bass, Robert (Bob) Bermingham, Jr., Marilyn Brown, Ken Davis, Katherine Farmer, Michael Favale, Hannah Gee, Wendy Hoffman, Kevin Heller, Andrea McMahon, Julie Norris, Wanda Parris-Flanagan, Kristen Peterson, Lara Todd, James Towey, Christina Zember

Guests: Dave Cantor (WVTF – Virginia's Public Media Station)

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

In the absence of Chairperson Mick, Director Bermingham opened the meeting and, out of respect for the Board Members' time, asked Mr. James Towey to begin at 9:31 a.m.

Mr. Towey called for introductions. Chairperson Mick joined the meeting, thanked all members for attending, and expressed appreciation for their continued service.

ALL-VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

James Towey, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Department

This is the Board's first meeting of what may be two all-virtual public meetings this year. There are specific requirements the Board must follow, particularly regarding quorum, in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3 and the Board's policy governing all-virtual public meetings. The Board is authorized to hold up to two all-virtual meetings per year. Since the Board has not yet used an all-virtual meeting this year, today's meeting may be held virtually on the basis of convenience.

Public access is provided through electronic communication that allows the public to hear all participating Board members. It is important to note that no more than two Board members may be together in the same physical location while participating virtually. For today's meeting, no Board members are gathered together.

For quorum purposes, a Board member must be on camera to be counted. Members are asked to keep their cameras on for the duration of the meeting; otherwise, the meeting may need to pause.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Katherine Farmer, VJCCCA Supervisor, Department of Juvenile Justice

Ms. Farmer directed Board members to pages 1–4 of the Board packet, which contain the VJCCCA Fiscal Year 2027–2028 Budget Summary. These pages outline the state allocation and the required maintenance of effort for each locality, with a total budget of roughly \$16 million.

The second data set is located on pages 5–17 of the packet and provides information broken down by fiscal year and by plan. Ms. Farmer noted that some sections are incomplete and apologized, stating she will follow up with the missing information.

The final data set appears on pages 18–27 of the packet. This section includes the table of allowable VJCCCA-funded programs and services. It is organized by categories such as plan administration, public safety, accountability, competency development, group homes, and prevention programs. Under each category is a list of services that localities may choose from when developing their VJCCCA plans.

Board Member O’Quinn requested clarification regarding the Budget Summary entry for Buchanan County. Ms. Farmer explained that the \$809 listed is the county’s required local maintenance-of-effort match, and the \$67,453 represents the state allocation they receive. She added that she did not include any additional local funds in this data set, although some localities do contribute more than the required amount.

Ms. Farmer requested a motion by the Board on the 69 localities that submitted VJCCCA plans for fiscal years 2027-2028 with balanced budgets. These plans have been reviewed by DJJ staff and are recommended for approval by the Board for 2027-2028 biennium.

On motion duly made by David Mick and seconded by Neville Welch, the Board of Juvenile Justice approved the 69 listed (below) VJCCCA plans for the 2027-2028 fiscal years. All Board members present declared “aye” and the motion carried.

Accomack Combined, Alexandria, Amherst, Arlington Combined, Bedford, Campbell, Caroline, Charlotte Combined, Charlottesville Combined, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Culpeper, Dinwiddie, Emporia Combined, Fairfax Combined, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Floyd, Franklin County, Frederick Combined, Fredericksburg, Giles, Grayson Combined, Halifax, Hampton, Hanover, Henrico, Hopewell, King George, King William Combined, Lexington Combined, Louisa, Lynchburg, Manassas City, Manassas Park, Martinsville Combined, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Nelson, Newport News, Norfolk, Orange Combined, Page, Petersburg, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince George, Prince William, Radford, Rappahannock, Richmond City, Rockingham Combined, Roanoke City, Roanoke County Combined, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Tidewater Youth Services Commission (Chesapeake, Franklin City, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton, Suffolk, Virginia Beach), Washington Combined, Warren, Waynesboro Combined, Westmoreland Combined, Wythe Combined, York Combined.

Ms. Farmer requested a motion by the Board on four localities that submitted revised VJCCCA plans with a balanced budget for FY 2027. These plans have been reviewed by staff and are recommended for approval by the Board for the 2027 fiscal year of the 2027-2028 biennium.

Chairperson Mick asked whether, once the Board approves the localities for this year, an update will be provided detailing how much funding was allocated to each program. Ms. Farmer responded, “Yes, sir.”

Chairperson Mick emphasized that he wants to ensure the funds are being used as requested when the Board votes on next year's plan. Ms. Farmer stated she would be happy to provide the Board with that information.

On motion duly made by David Mick and seconded by Neville Welch, the Board of Juvenile Justice approved the Amelia, Loudoun, Nottoway, and Surry VJCCCA plans for the 2027 fiscal year. All Board members present declared "aye" and the motion carried.

Ms. Farmer requested a motion by the Board on a proposal from managers from Greene, Orange, and Madison counties, who have agreed to present a combined plan with Orange County being the fiscal agent effective July 1, 2026.

Chairperson Mick asked if those three counties were in the same judicial circuit with the same judges. Ms. Farmer responded that she was not sure about the same judge, but all three localities fall under the 16th Court Service Unit. They currently have individual plans and decided to pool their money and services together to become one combined plan.

On motion duly made by David Mick and seconded by Neville Welch, the Board of Juvenile Justice approved Greene, Orange, and Madison Counties to be a combined plan effective July 1, 2026. All Board members present declared "aye" and the motion carried.

Consideration to Rescind Two Policies: 18-001 Crisis Intervention and Use of Force and 18-004 Firearms, Stun Guns, and Other Weapons

Ken Davis, Regulatory Affairs Coordinator, Department of Juvenile Justice

Mr. Davis referred to the Board packet on page 28 and the accompanying memo outlining the background on the policy. He noted that § 66-10 of the Code of Virginia authorizes the Board to establish certain policies. In April 2022, Mr. Davis and Ms. Peterson initiated a comprehensive review of all Board policies. At that time, the Board had approximately 40 policies; today, that number is about 34. The purpose of the review was to advise the Board whether each policy should be retained, amended, or rescinded based on whether it is statutorily required, remains relevant, or has been incorporated into existing regulations—as is the case with the two policies under discussion.

Policy 18-001, *Crisis Intervention and Use of Force*, outlines requirements for staff training in crisis prevention and intervention, as well as the appropriate use of physical force. The policy states that force may be used only to control residents whose behavior poses a safety risk to themselves or others, and only as a last resort. It further requires that staff use the least amount of force necessary to eliminate the imminent risk, preserve safety, and maintain security and order.

Beginning on page 30 of the Board packet is a list of regulatory provisions for juvenile correctional centers that address the same topics covered in the policy. Page 31 contains parallel provisions for juvenile detention centers, and pages 31–32 outline additional requirements for group homes. These regulatory provisions are substantially more detailed than the policy. Because regulations carry the force and effect of law—while policies do not—the Department recommends that the Board rescind Policy 18-001, as its content has been fully incorporated into regulation.

Chairperson Mick asked whether the policy has remained unchanged since 2008. Mr. Davis confirmed that it has, explaining that many Board policies are dated and that this review initiative was launched so the Board can update review dates or take appropriate action on policies that may no longer be needed.

Chairperson Mick observed that use-of-force standards have evolved since 2008 and asked about in-service requirements for facility staff, including training on restraint holds and de-escalation. Mr. Davis explained that juvenile correctional center staff must complete 120 hours of initial training, which includes instruction in restraint techniques and Handle With Care, followed by 40 hours of annual training.

Board Member Welch asked whether the policy's requirements are fully enforced and articulated in the regulation. Mr. Davis confirmed this, noting that regulations cannot be updated without explicit Board approval. Board Member Welch then asked if additional training is being considered given the expanded regulation. Ms. Peterson responded that the regulation already requires 120 hours of initial training plus 40 hours annually, and there are no plans to add further training requirements. The Department believes the current hours are sufficient.

Chairperson Mick asked who develops the written procedures referenced in the regulation and whether they are accessible. Mr. Davis stated that the agency's Policy Division drafts these procedures and can provide copies to the Board. While the Board cannot change procedures, he emphasized that Board policies and agency procedures must align with the regulation, and the Department would not implement any procedure below the regulatory standard.

Chairperson Mick then asked whether there is a mandatory review for each use-of-force incident. Mr. Davis explained that these incidents are documented as serious incidents and reviewed by the facility administrator. If an incident raises significant concern, the Certification Unit becomes involved to determine compliance with regulations and whether further action is necessary.

Board Member Burns asked whether the Department tracks physical restraint incidents by facility. Mr. Davis responded that the agency's research unit collects such data for the juvenile correctional center, but no report is routinely provided to the Board; the Board would need to request it. Board Member Burns then asked whether the Director receives reports of these incidents. Mr. Davis said no consolidated report is provided. Director Birmingham added that he receives serious incident reports when they occur, along with other agency leaders. Some incidents are referred to Child Protective Services. Although there is no annual report, these incidents are closely monitored, have sometimes resulted in legal action, and are addressed through ongoing training. Facility management reviews use-of-force incidents with involved staff to provide feedback on their actions.

Board Member Robinson asked whether rescinding the policy would reduce monitoring of use-of-force incidents. Director Birmingham replied that it would not. Mr. Davis reiterated that rescinding the policy would not eliminate any requirements because the regulation already governs the subject matter more comprehensively. Board Member Robinson noted that rescinding the policy would improve cohesiveness, and Mr. Davis agreed, stating it would remove an unnecessary document and avoid any confusion caused by having both a policy and a regulation.

On motion duly made by David Mick and seconded by Neville Welch, the Board of Juvenile Justice approved the rescission of Board Policy 18-001 (*Crisis Intervention and Use of Force*), as proposed at the June 8, 2026, meeting to take effect immediately. All Board members present declared "aye" and the motion carried.

Policy 18-004, *Firearms, Stun Guns, and Other Weapons*, governs the possession, use, and storage of weapons within Department-operated or contracted facilities. The policy prohibits the use, storage, and possession of weapons in these facilities or on their grounds, unless specifically authorized by statute, regulation, or designated in Department procedure. Page 33 of the Board packet outlines the corresponding regulatory provisions, which are at least as comprehensive as the policy and, in several areas, considerably

more detailed. For this reason, the Department recommends that the Board rescind Policy 18-004, as the existing regulation fully and more robustly addresses the same subject matter.

On motion duly made by David Mick and seconded by Neville Welch, the Board of Juvenile Justice approved the rescission of Board Policy 18-004 (*Firearms, Stun Guns, and Other Weapons*), as proposed at the June 8, 2026, meeting, to take effect immediately. All Board members present declared “aye” and the motion carried.

PRESENTATION – Legislative Update

James Towey, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Department

Another General Assembly session has concluded, although the budget is yet to be decided. As a long session, more than 3,600 bills were introduced. The agency’s legislative team began reviewing bills in mid-December to identify those relevant to DJJ or juvenile justice. In total, the team tracked more than 500 bills that could directly or indirectly affect the agency or the broader juvenile justice system. This includes bills on new crimes or enhancing penalties, which may affect minors or otherwise be important for the Department to monitor.

Mr. Towey presented the five most impactful bills with direct implications for the Department. He also noted that the Department is close to finalizing its legislative manual, a comprehensive document covering approximately 250 to 300 bills. This manual is expected to be available by the end of June.

Mr. Towey followed his slide presentation found on page 34 of the Board packet.

HB 91 – Room Confinement

The Department has convened a balanced group of stakeholders and hired a professional facilitator to avoid any appearance of bias. Meetings are scheduled for July and August, with additional sessions planned for September and October. Many requirements outlined in HB 91 reflect practices the Department is already implementing or developing, including expanding programming and partnerships with community groups. The Department recognizes areas for improvement and is taking this legislative directive seriously. Recommendations that emerge from the room confinement collaborative may have regulatory implications relevant to the Board.

Chairperson Mick asked whether the Department is represented on the committee. Mr. Towey confirmed representation by Chief Deputy Director Marilyn Brown, who serves as chair, along with four Department staff members. The committee also includes four juvenile justice advocates, two Commonwealth’s Attorneys, two public defenders, and several other stakeholders, totaling 16 members. Chairperson Mick noted the November 1 due date for the report and asked that the Board receive a copy. Mr. Towey indicated he does not anticipate difficulty meeting the deadline.

SB 18 – Minimum Age for Delinquency

Senator Locke has pursued this legislation for several years. SB 18 moves Virginia away from common-law presumptions of criminal intent based on age. Under common law, youth age 7 and under are presumed incapable of forming criminal intent, and a rebuttable presumption applies to ages 7 to 14. Approximately half of states still follow this model.

SB 18 establishes a statutory minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) at 11, aligning Virginia with the federal standard and placing it near the national midpoint. Historically, only one to two youths per year under age 11 have been adjudicated delinquent, so the practical impact will be limited, though significant for the affected individuals. The bill also requires dismissal and expungement of any erroneously filed delinquency petitions involving children under 11. In such cases, a Commonwealth’s Attorney may instead file a Child in

Need of Services (CHINS) petition, ensuring access to appropriate services comparable to those available through a delinquency finding.

SB 64 – Indeterminate Commitments

This legislation establishes judicial review in cases where the Department determines a youth must remain committed beyond the upper end of their length-of-stay (LOS) guideline. Extensions may be necessary when youth have behavioral challenges, unmet treatment needs, or unfinished educational or workforce programs (such as HVAC). If the Department believes remaining in care will benefit the youth, it may seek court approval to extend the commitment for up to six months.

If an extension beyond six months is necessary, the Department must file an additional petition. Initial filings beginning July 1 are expected to be around 10 to 15 cases, largely involving youth already identified as needing extra time. After this initial period, annual filings should decrease. The legislation's intent—highlighted by patron Senator Favola—is to ensure judicial oversight when extensions are required due to circumstances beyond the youth's control, such as delays caused by vacant instructional positions.

HB 438 / SB 70 – Informal Proceedings

These bills emphasize increasing the number of cases handled informally, either before petition filing or after filing when a case is referred back for diversion or informal proceedings. Mr. Towey reviewed the key points from the slides on pages 40–41 of the Board packet.

HB 123 / SB 146 – Driving Privileges

Mr. Towey summarized the major points from the slide on page 42 of the Board packet.

DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION ACTIONS

Wanda Parris-Flanagan and Kevin Heller, Certification Analysts, Department

The Board was directed to page 44 of the packet, which includes the individual audit reports and a summary of the Director's certification actions completed on May 19, 2026.

The Director certified the Northwestern Regional Juvenile Detention Center and Post-dispositional Program to April 14, 2029, issuing a letter of congratulations for achieving 100% compliance.

The First District Court Service Unit (Chesapeake) was certified to April 13, 2029, also receiving a letter of congratulations for 100% compliance. This marks their second consecutive audit with perfect compliance.

The 16th District Court Service Unit (Charlottesville and surrounding areas) received a 94.2% compliance rating on their July 2025 audit and has been certified to September 12, 2028.

The 21st District Court Service Unit (Martinsville) achieved a 98.1% compliance rating on the September 2025 audit and has been certified to December 1, 2028.

The 22nd District Court Service Unit (Rocky Mount) earned a 96.5% compliance rating on the November 2025 audit, with certification also extending to December 1, 2028.

DIRECTOR REMARKS AND BOARD COMMENTS

Director Birmingham thanked the Board for its participation and the staff for the significant work and effort that goes into making these meetings possible.

Director Bermingham and Chief Deputy Director Brown continue their listening and learning tour as they approach five months in their roles. They have visited roughly half of the Commonwealth, meeting with court service units, members of the judiciary, prosecutors, and detention homes.

Last Friday, the Department celebrated graduation at Yvonne B. Miller High School on the Bon Air campus—an exciting day for everyone. There were 39 graduates, with many family members in attendance. Several youths who had already been released had also graduated prior to leaving, bringing the total number of graduates into the 50s. Attorney General Jones served as keynote speaker and was well received. He connected deeply with the students, sharing his perspective informed by a family long involved in youth justice, his father a former Department director and circuit court judge, and his mother a juvenile court judge in Norfolk. The ceremony reflected a traditional high school graduation, complete with pomp and circumstance, excitement, and a BBQ celebration afterwards for families, graduates, and staff.

A few weeks ago, Director Bermingham presented before the Commission on Youth regarding recommendations for potential improvements and enhancements within the facility. He provided an update on the Department's ongoing progress. A key takeaway from that presentation was the Department's emphasis on keeping state-committed youth closer to home. This includes potential increased use of under-capacity detention homes, new programming, or legislative efforts aimed at reducing Bon Air's population. The Commission, comprised largely of delegates and senators, expressed strong support, and their influence may help move these initiatives forward.

The current Bon Air population is 159 youth, down from 193 in February. The Department has made a focused effort to review youth who are at or past their release dates. Legislation has recently been introduced on this, but the Department had already begun proactively working to resolve delays that were outside the youths' control. This approach is helping the Department better manage the facility's population.

Staffing challenges remain, particularly regarding required ratios, but the situation is improving. The number of juvenile correctional specialists is gradually increasing, and the Department is seeing meaningful progress.

Director Bermingham continues outreach efforts, including meeting with the newest members of the judiciary who visited Richmond for orientation. These sessions provide an overview of Department operations, particularly Bon Air.

Several internal policy changes have been implemented to address issues carried over from the prior administration. The Department is meeting with system stakeholders and advocacy groups—including prosecutors and youth advocates—to gather input, share updates, and exchange ideas regarding concerns and ongoing realities within the agency.

The summer is expected to be busy. Director Bermingham is eager to see the outcomes of the House Bill 91 workgroup. He emphasized that no one in the administration or facility wants youth confined to their rooms longer than necessary. At present, room time remains too long, with well-documented impacts on youth mental and physical well-being. Limited space continues to present challenges, and the Department is exploring options for creating more developmentally appropriate and environmentally supportive spaces. Director Bermingham invited Board members to tour Bon Air, noting that it remains a sterile, adult-like institution.

On the community side, the Department is working to enhance and improve diversion rates. There is growing interest in restorative justice, both in the community and within the facility. The Department is exploring pilot programs and internal implementation of restorative justice practices, which may help reduce tensions and conflicts. Efforts are also underway to strengthen family engagement and victim impact programming.

Director Bermingham has noted that victim impact information is often missing from special decision packet reviews for youth considered for release. He stressed the importance of ensuring youth understand the impact of their actions. While some of this work occurs through therapy, he believes the Department should require dedicated victim empathy and victim impact services before release. Advocate Valerie Slater and several faith-based organizations have offered assistance, and the Department is working to coordinate and improve service delivery.

Board Member Burns expressed interest in touring Bon Air and requested an invitation to next year's graduation, noting his experience as a high school principal. Director Bermingham welcomed both requests.

Board Member Brown also voiced interest in attending future graduations. As an educator, he believes Board representation at such events is important. He expressed strong support for the Department's restorative justice efforts, sharing his own training in Tier 1, 2, and 3 restorative practices and offering to assist. Director Bermingham agreed and will share his information with Carmen Williams, who leads restorative justice initiatives within the agency.

Chairperson Mick encouraged all Board members to tour the facility, noting it was one of the most impactful experiences he has had and provided meaningful insight into the Board's role. He added that he would have liked to attend the graduation as well, especially given his connection with Judge Jones, one of his mentors.

NEXT MEETING

September 14, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Virginia Public Safety Training Center

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Mick adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.



Robert A. Bermingham, Jr.
Director

Marilyn G. Brown
Chief Deputy Director

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department of Juvenile Justice

P.O. Box 1110
Richmond, VA 23218
(804) 371.0700
Fax: (804) 371.6497
www.djj.virginia.gov

TO: State Board of Juvenile Justice

FROM: Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

SUBJECT: Request Termination of Omnibus Regulatory Package in Furtherance of Former Governor's Regulatory Reduction Orders

DATE: September 14, 2026

I. SUMMARY OF ACTION REQUESTED

The Department of Juvenile Justice (the department) respectfully asks the State Board of Juvenile Justice (the board) to withdraw its approval granted on October 27, 2025, of the omnibus regulatory package for the amendment and repeal of several regulatory sections. The omnibus action was submitted for the primary purpose of carrying out former Governor Glenn Younkin's order that state agencies accomplish a 25% reduction in their discretionary regulatory requirements by the end of 2025 in accordance with Executive Directive 1, Executive Order 19, and Executive Order 51. These executive mandates have since been rescinded by Governor Abigail Spanberger.

II. BACKGROUND OF THE REQUEST

On October 27, 2025, the department asked the board to approve proposed amendments to various sections of the Virginia Administrative Code for submission through the fast-track regulatory process in accordance with § 2.2-4012.1 of the Code of Virginia. As of that October date, the department had come very close to, but had not yet achieved, the former governor's initial 25% regulatory reduction requirements and did not expect to reach the governor's subsequently established 35% reduction target. Through use of an AI tool mandated in the now rescinded Executive Order 51, the department identified a few additional areas for regulatory reduction that could be accomplished through the expedited fast-track process without interrupting proposed changes to regulatory chapters already underway. The department also tagged a few regulatory provisions that would benefit from minor additional changes for clarity and that were omitted from the larger comprehensive standard actions under review at the time. The sections proposed for amendment included the following:

- **Regulation Governing Juvenile Group Homes and Halfway Houses (6VAC35-41)**
 - Section 530, Internet access
 - Section 940, Outside Personnel Working in the Facility
- **Regulation Governing Juvenile Correctional Centers (6VAC35-71)**
 - Section 640, Reading materials

- **Regulation Governing Juvenile Secure Detention Centers (6VAC35-101)**
 - Section 750, Reading materials
 - Section 910, Outside personnel working in the detention center
- **Regulation for Nonresidential Services (6VAC35-150)**
 - Section 60, Organizational structure
 - Section 320, Notice of juvenile's transfer

The board approved the department's request to initiate an omnibus regulatory package reflecting the proposed additional changes in October 2025. On June 30, 2026, Governor Abigail Spanberger issued Executive Order 17, rescinding the above-named executive orders and directives from the previous administration, as well as the associated guidance pertaining to these executive requirements. Now that these previously issued orders have been rescinded, the department is no longer obligated to reduce its discretionary regulatory requirements by a specified percentage on a certain date, though agencies remain required to periodically review their regulatory provisions to ensure that only regulations necessary to interpret the law or protect the public health, safety, or welfare be promulgated. The department continues to support the proposed amendments identified for submission in October 2025 but is asking the board to withdraw its approval of the omnibus regulatory package to enable DJJ to revisit the manner for submitting these acts in light of changed regulatory priorities, the need for additional vetting by affected facilities, and the consideration of actions currently underway and their potential impact on affected facilities.

III. RECOMMENDATION TO CAPTURE PROPOSED REPEAL OF CSU REGULATORY PROVISIONS INTO COMPREHENSIVE ACTION

At the August 18, 2025, board meeting, the board heard the department's initial request to commence an action for a comprehensive review of the Regulation for Nonresidential Services (6VAC35-150) through the standard regulatory process. Department staff described in general terms its plan to remove several provisions deemed operational and unnecessary to interpret the law or protect the public health, safety, or welfare, but did not expressly identify the regulatory sections that would be repealed. Subsequently, at the October board meeting, the department identified two separate sections intended for repeal as part of the comprehensive standard process that were noncontroversial and could be expedited through a fast-track regulatory action solely for purposes of regulatory reduction. The board voted to allow the department to repeal these provisions; however, the fast-track action did not complete the review process by the December 31, 2025, deadline. Therefore, the department would like to resume its original plan to repeal these provisions as part of the larger comprehensive action currently in the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) stage of the standard regulatory process. The two provisions recommended for repeal are explained below and will be submitted back to the board for review at the Proposed Stage of the standard regulatory process.

Organizational structure (6VAC35-150-60)

The current regulation requires state and locally operated court service units to maintain a written description and organizational chart of their units showing current lines of authority, responsibility, and accountability. The department explained that it does not consider this operational provision necessary to interpret the law or protect public health, safety, or welfare, and, therefore, recommended a repeal of the entire section.

Notice of juvenile's transfer (6VAC35-150-320)

Currently, state and local CSU staff are required to notify a juvenile's parent or legal guardian within 24 hours if they become aware of a juvenile's transfer to another residential facility unless they know the juvenile's parent or legal guardian has been advised of the transfer. The provision also requires documentation of the notification in the juvenile's case record. While the department agreed with the need for parental notifications upon transferring a juvenile to a different facility, the department noted its belief that the onus for this notification should fall on the transporting residential facility, which would be expected to have additional knowledge regarding the details and terms surrounding the transfer. The department asserted that this type of notification would be appropriate as a best practice but did not require inclusion in the regulation.

IV. RECOMMENDATION TO REVISIT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES AFTER COMPREHENSIVE ACTION TAKES EFFECT

The regulations that govern juvenile group homes (6VAC35-41), juvenile correctional centers (6VAC35-71), and secure detention centers (6VAC35-101) establish minimum standards for each type of residential facility currently subject to the board's regulations. For several years, these chapters have been undergoing comprehensive amendments through the standard regulatory process. At the October 2025 board meeting, the department recommended and the board approved additional standalone amendments for submission through the fast-track regulatory process to reflect recommendations made in a report generated by an artificial intelligence tool pursuant to Executive Order 51 (AI report). The recommendations are described below:

Procedures for Internet Access – The Regulation Governing Juvenile Group Homes and Halfway Houses currently directs such facilities that give residents Internet access to have procedures in place governing Internet usage (6VAC35-41-530). Based on recommendations from the AI report and the lack of similar provisions in the regulations governing juvenile detention centers and correctional centers, the department proposed to amend this provision so that group homes would have discretion to maintain such procedures, thereby eliminating a discretionary regulatory requirement. The department asserted that the provision was not necessary to interpret the law or protect public health or safety.

Reading Materials – The regulations governing juvenile correctional centers and secure juvenile detention centers both mandate that facilities under their jurisdiction have reading materials appropriate to residents' ages and levels of competency and made available to all residents. The detention center regulation goes further by requiring the development and implementation of written procedures governing resident access to publications. Because of concerns like those addressed above regarding the necessity of such procedures, and in accordance with recommendations made by the AI report, the department initially proposed amending the detention center provision in 6VAC35-101-750(B) so that written procedures would be permitted but not required, would need to be reasonable, and would need to be authorized for adoption by appropriate facility staff. While the JCC regulation did not include similar language mandating procedures, the department also recommended minor revisions to the JCC provision for style.

Outside Workers - Both the group home and the detention center regulations contain substantively identical provisions directing staff in such facilities to monitor situations in which personnel from outside the relevant facility work in the presence of facility residents. Both sections also provide that "adult inmates" **shall not** work in the immediate presence of residents. The department had recommended a

minor style amendment clarifying that the provision denotes a ban on the act of adult inmates working in the immediate presence of residents, and not merely a restriction on the obligation to act, as the current language suggests. According to the Style Manual, the phrase, “shall not” negates the obligation, and not the permission, to act; thus, “may not” is stronger and more indicative of a ban. The department proposed amendments to these sections to reflect this ban more clearly, as well as several additional revisions to simplify the language and reduce the word count for these provisions.

The department continues to support the proposed residential amendments described above as a means of clarifying the provisions and removing unnecessary regulatory requirements. The department acknowledges, however, that due to the anticipated minor impact to the regulated facilities and the need to expedite the proposal to accomplish additional regulatory reduction, the proposed changes were not properly vetted through the impacted residential facilities. Additionally, because larger comprehensive actions to amend each of these regulatory chapters are in the Final Stage of the standard regulatory process, the department believes it is prudent to delay any additional proposed amendments until the comprehensive actions take effect, and the department has had an opportunity to implement those amendments or until the department can better assess the impact of any additionally proposed amendments.

V. IMPACT OF PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

If the board votes to approve the department’s request to cancel the omnibus regulatory package previously approved at the October 2025 board meeting, the CSU-related amendments in 6VAC35-150 will be incorporated into the action currently underway and submitted for subsequent board approval at the Proposed Stage of the process. The proposed amendments to the residential regulations described herein will be withdrawn and reconsidered after allowing for greater input by the affected residential facilities, either after the comprehensive regulatory amendments have taken effect or as part of a subsequent review.



Robert A. Bermingham, Jr.
Director

Marilyn G. Brown
Chief Deputy Director

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department of Juvenile Justice

P.O. Box 1110
Richmond, VA 23218
(804) 371.0700
Fax: (804) 371.6497
www.djj.virginia.gov

TO: State Board of Juvenile Justice

FROM: Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

SUBJECT: Request Rescission of Board Policy 19-002 (Classification of Committed Youth)

DATE: September 14, 2026

I. SUMMARY OF ACTION REQUESTED

The Department of Juvenile Justice (the department) respectfully requests that the State Board of Juvenile Justice (the board) approve the rescission of Board Policy 19-002 (Classification of Committed Youth) pursuant to the authority established in *Code of Virginia* § 66-10.

II. BACKGROUND OF THE REQUEST

Code of Virginia § 66-10 contains three provisions that empower the board to establish certain policies and give rise to duties related to policies. The statute provides in pertinent part:

The board shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To establish and monitor policies for the programs and facilities for which the Department is responsible under this law;
2. To ensure the development of a long-range youth services policy; and
3. To monitor the activities of the Department and its effectiveness in implementing the policies developed by the Board.

Pursuant to this statutory authority, the board currently has 32 active policies in place ranging in subject matter from overall administration of the department to operations within facilities and programs regulated by the department. Many of these policies were established in the early 1990s and were last reviewed or updated more than ten years ago.

At the April 2022 board meeting, the department informed the board of its intent to conduct a comprehensive review of each existing board policy and to make a formal recommendation to the board to retain, amend, or rescind each one based upon that review. The department described its plan to recommend retaining or amending those policies that are mandated by statute or that provide guidance above and beyond what is required by regulation and to recommend rescinding those policies that have been subsumed into regulation, that duplicate existing law, or that are obsolete.

To date, the department has made recommendations and the board has acted on 32 of the 39 policies in existence when the department commenced this project. The department is now recommending action on an additional policy. A summary of the existing policy and proposed recommendation for action are contained in Part IV of this memorandum.

III. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BOARD POLICIES AND BOARD REGULATIONS

Code of Virginia § 2.2-4001, which provides definitions for terms used in the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et. seq.) (the Act), defines the term “rule” or “regulation” as “any statement of general application, having the force of law, affecting the rights or conduct of any person, adopted by an agency in accordance with the authority conferred on it by applicable basic laws.” The Act makes it clear that all regulations are subject to the requirements contained in the Act unless an exception or exemption applies.

In contrast, policies are neither defined nor expressly explained in the Act. Furthermore, while policies may be enforced by the authorized body to the extent that they do not collide with a law or regulation, they do not have the same force and effect of law afforded to regulations.¹ It is the department’s understanding, therefore, that policies are not regulations subject to the requirements of the Act. This means that the authority to establish, amend, and rescind board policies rests solely with the board, and additional involvement or approval by other executive branch agencies is not required, nor must the board consider any public comments before taking action to amend or rescind such policies.

IV. POLICIES IDENTIFIED FOR AMENDMENT OR RETENTION

Current Policy

19-002 Classification of Committed Youth

The Department shall utilize an objective classification system that will enable staff to assess residents’ appropriate security and custody levels, determine the most appropriate services and programs for all residents, assign residents to appropriate housing placements within a facility or institution, and assess residents for placement in community transition programs and for special needs. The classification system shall provide for periodic reviews of security, custody, and program placement in light of residents’ needs and progress and for the re-classification of residents as appropriate.

Effective Date: September 9, 2009

Most Recent Review: September 9, 2009

Recommendation: Rescind.

¹ 2011 O. Va. Att’y Gen. 99, 102

Rationale for Recommendation:

Currently, both the Regulation Governing Juvenile Correctional Centers (6VAC35-71), and the board's policies contain provisions addressing the classification of committed youth. 6VAC35-71-700 currently sets out the regulatory requirements for classifying youth in juvenile correctional centers. Specifically, 6VAC35-71-700 provides:

6VAC35-71-700. Classification plan.

A. A JCC shall utilize an objective classification system for determining appropriate security levels, the needs, and the most appropriate services of the residents and for assigning them to living units according to their needs and existing resources.

B. Residents shall be placed according to their classification levels. Such classification shall be reviewed as necessary in light of (i) the facility's safety and security and (ii) the resident's needs and progress.

The department believes that, through this regulatory provision, the board has spoken regarding the minimum requirements for classifying juveniles in juvenile correctional centers. The regulation sets out specific requirements regarding the use of an objective classification system, placement levels, and review of such classification. In the face of these specific regulatory requirements, the department believes that a policy regarding classification that imposes many of the same requirements contained in the regulation is unnecessary and creates a burden on administrative staff in the juvenile correctional center, who must keep up with the existing regulatory requirements as well as any minor deviations in language contained in the Board Policy. The department could certainly amend the Board Policy so that it is more closely aligned with the regulation, but such changes would result in a policy that duplicates the regulation, and would therefore be unnecessary.

Rather than retaining or amending a board policy, the topic for which is sufficiently covered in a regulation, the department recommends rescinding this policy and letting the regulation, which has the force and effect of law, stand on its own.

V. IMPACT AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF BOARD ACTION

If the board votes in support of the department's recommendations to rescind the Board Policy, as explained in Part IV of this memorandum, the rescission will take effect immediately. Adopting the department's recommendations will eliminate an unnecessary board policy, the requirements of which already are addressed in regulation. The current regulation ensures that there is a system in place for classifying and reviewing classifications for all committed youth and that these classifications inform decisions around the resident's security and safety. Accordingly, the department recommends that the board vote to rescind Board Policy 19-002.



YBM

Yvonne B. Miller

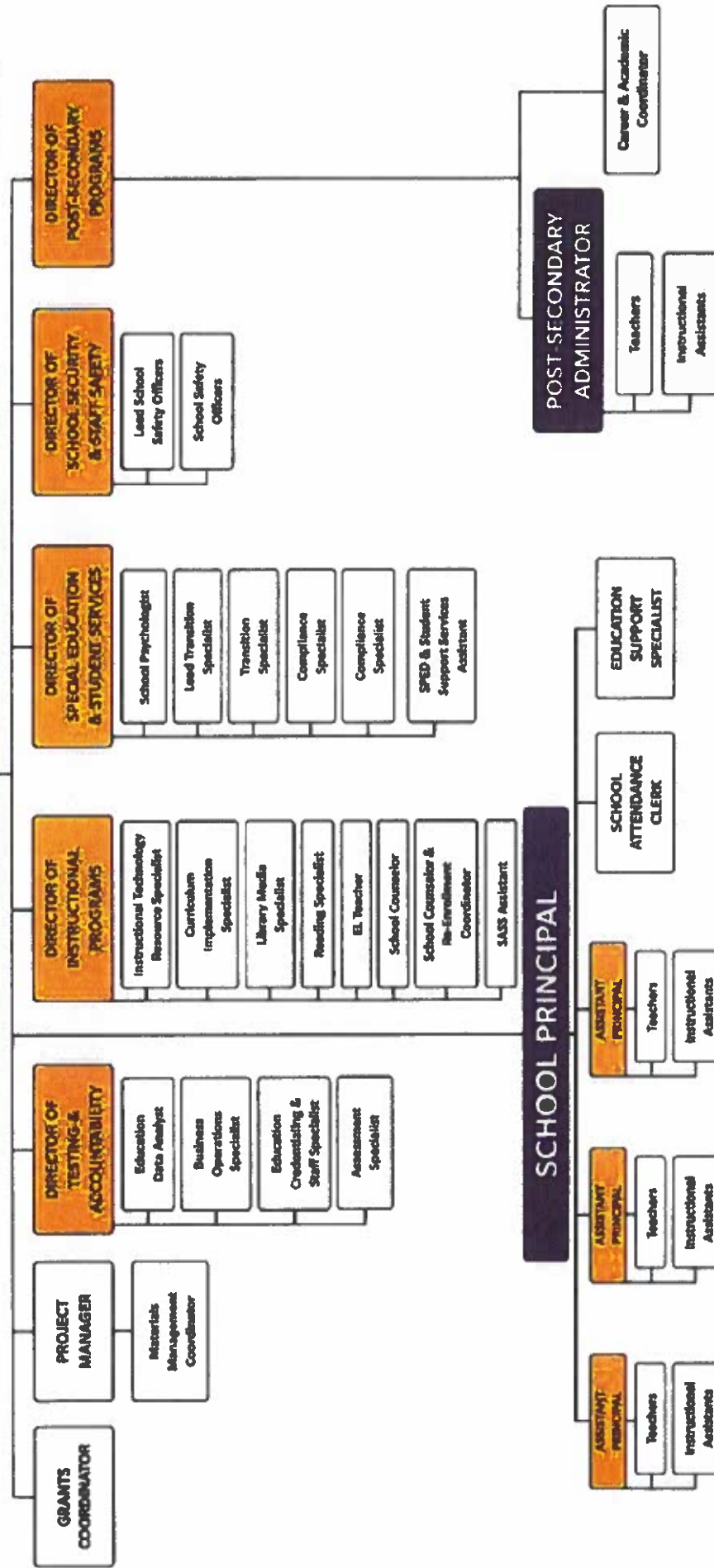
DIVISION OF EDUCATION

DEANA WILLIAMS

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT



SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT





YBM

Yvonne B. Miller

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

2026-2030

Our North Star

Every young person successfully transitions beyond the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice and builds a productive life with clear direction.

Our Mission

We provide exceptional education and support that empower students to achieve their potential and become contributing members of their communities.

Our Vision

To be a national model of correctional education where every student graduates prepared for college, careers, and life.

Our Strategic Priorities



Strategic Priority #1

BUILD A STABLE, TRUSTING CULTURE

We cultivate a safe, supportive, and respectful environment where students and staff feel valued, connected, and empowered to grow.



Strategic Priority #2

SCHOOL-REHABILITATIVE CARE ALIGNMENT

We strengthen collaboration between education and care teams to ensure every student receives aligned support for success inside and beyond our facility.



Strategic Priority #3

STRENGTHEN TEACHING AND LEARNING

We deliver high-quality instruction and innovative learning experiences that engage students and promote academic excellence.



Strategic Priority #4

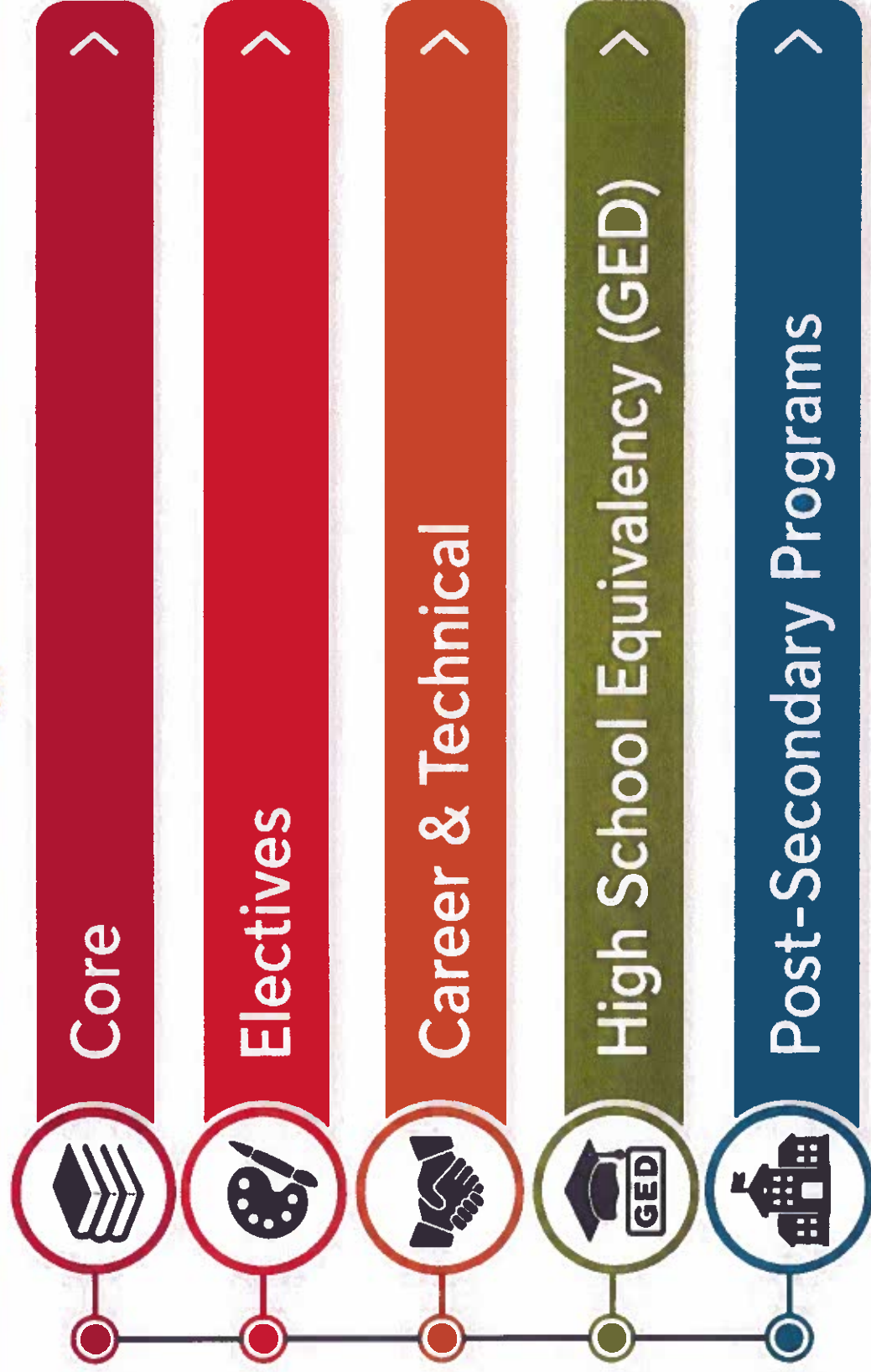
BUILD CLEAR PATHWAYS FOR EVERY STUDENT

We provide individualized academic, career, and life skills pathways that prepare every student for a successful transition to the next chapter.



YVONNE B. MILLER

HIGH SCHOOL AND POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS





STUDENT SUPPORTS

SUPPORT SERVICES



Special Education



Section 504



English Language (EL)



Reading Program



Gifted Programs



SUPPORT PERSONNEL



✓ School Counselors

✓ School Psychologist

✓ Reenrollment Coordinator

✓ Transition Specialists

✓ Compliance Specialists

✓ Assessment Specialist

✓ Instructional Technology Resource Specialist

✓ Library Media Specialist

✓ Reading Specialist

YBM-TSS: IDENTIFY, SUPPORT, GROW

A Continuous Cycle of Support for Every Student

1. UNIVERSAL SCREENING & DATA COLLECTION (All Students)

We use multiple data sources to understand each student's academic and behavioral needs.

STAR Reading & Math	Course Assessments	Home Language Survey	Gifted Screener	Career Assessments	Behavior Data	Attendance Data	Program Participation
------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------------	--------------------	-----------------------	------------------	--------------------	--------------------------

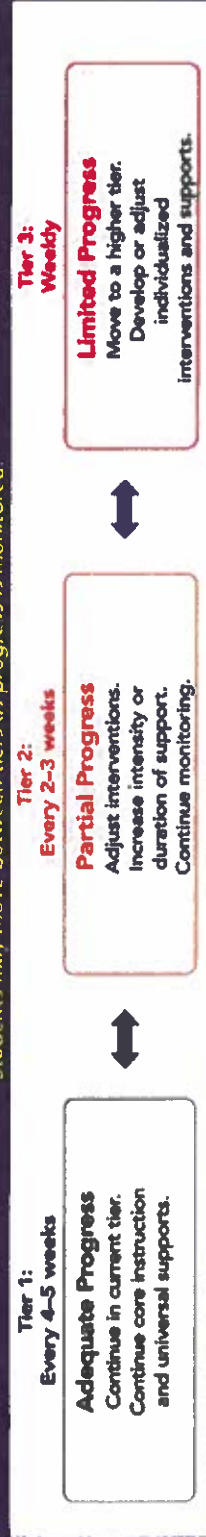
2. DATA REVIEW & STUDENT IDENTIFICATION

Teams meet regularly to review data and identify students who may need additional support.



3. PROGRESS MONITORING & REVIEW

We monitor student progress and review data regularly. Students may move between tiers as progress is monitored.



*YBM-TSS grounded in MTSS and VTSS research



DOE CAREER DEVELOPMENT & TRANSITION SYSTEM



Overview: This system ensures students move from early assessment and exploration to structured preparation, real-world experience, and finally employment and retention, providing continuous goal monitoring and barrier removal throughout the entire process.

	Career Assessment	Career Exploration	Career Preparation	Career Experience	Career Implementation
Focus	Understand Student	Build Direction	Build Readiness	Real-World Exposure	Employment & Retention
Support Activities	• Self-assessments • Interest surveys • Skills & aptitude • Academic Career Plans	• Connect results to industries • Explore pathways • Identify specific job types • Guest speakers • Job shadowing opportunities • DARS Pre-ETS	• Relevant courses • Earn credentials • Resume & cover letter • Professional skills • Mock interviews • Mentorships	• Mentorships • Internships • Apprenticeships	• Job search • Application • Interviews • Job site visits • Job retention support
Assigned Staff	• Transition Specialists • School Counselor • Work-Based Learning Coordinator	• Transition Specialists • School Counselor • Work-Based Learning Coordinator	• Transition Specialists • School Counselor • Work-Based Learning Coordinator • Teachers	• Work-Based Learning Coordinator • Transition Specialists (support)	• Transition Specialists • Work-Based Learning Coordinator • Career Development Coaches
Timeframe	Entry to 120 Days Before Release	Entry to 120 Days Before Release	120 Days to 30 Before Release	Ongoing (as available)	90 Days to 30 Days Before Release





YBM
Yvonne B. Miller

DIVISION OF EDUCATION

OUR KEY INITIATIVE

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



National
PTA



Back-To-School
Event



Career Exploration
Event



Spring Field
Event



Graduation



FEDERAL EDUCATION GRANTS

NAME OF GRANT	AMOUNT AWARDED
Title I Part A (Improving Basic Programs)	\$247,927.31
Title I Part D (Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk)	\$203,599.25
Title II Part A (High-Quality Teachers & Principals)	\$6,939.36
Title III Part A (English Learners & Immigrant Students)	\$1,326.57
Title IV Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment)	\$11,301.18
IDEA (Special Education)	\$179,445.00
Perkins (Strengthening Career and Technical)	\$62,304.00
TOTAL	\$717,842.67



YVONNE B. MILLER

HIGH SCHOOL AND POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS

STUDENT COUNT
HS

59

STUDENT COUNT
GED

14

STUDENT COUNT
PSP

57



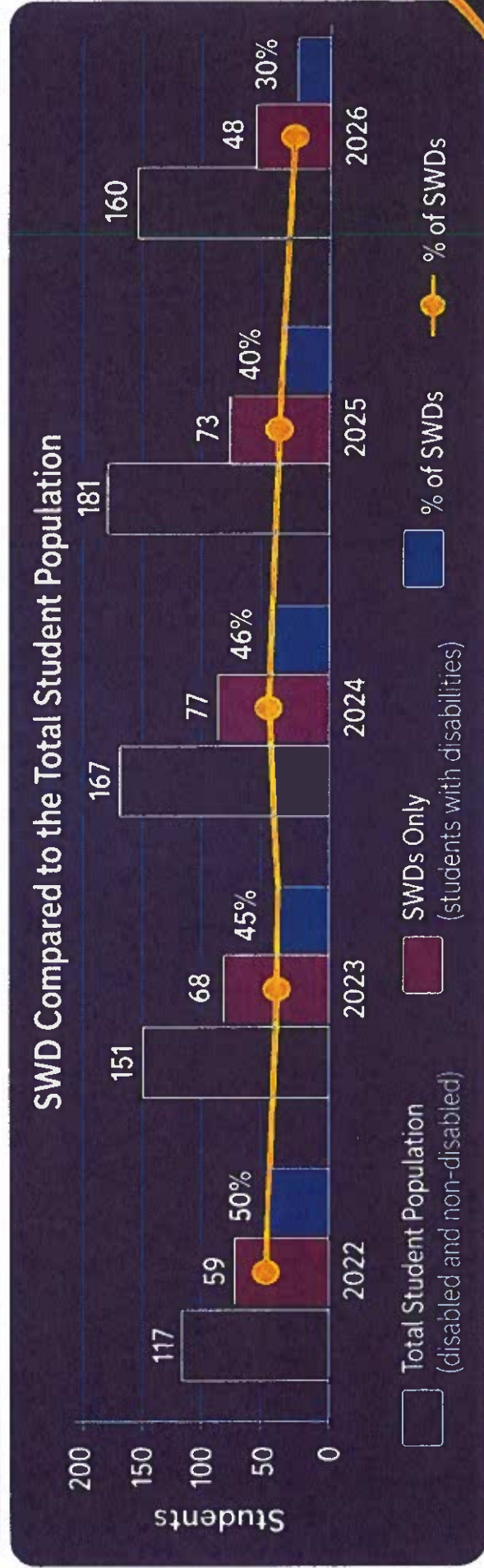
Data extracted from PowerSchool
September 1, 2026



SWD COMPARED TO THE TOTAL STUDENT POPULATION

Based on total population – disabled and non-disabled students

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Total student count (disabled and non-disabled)	117	151	167	181	160
Total students with disabilities	59	68	77	73	48
Percentage of students with disabilities (State average is around 14%)	50% (35% SPED 15% 504)	45% (40% SPED 5% 504)	46% (33% SPED 13% 504)	40% (35% SPED 5% 504)	30% (24% SPED 6% 504)
Data as of	15-Jul-22	15-Jun-23	15-Jun-24	06-Jun-25	01-Jun-26





PRIMARY DISABILITY CATEGORIES

Based on total number of disabled students

CATEGORY	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
 Emotional Disability (ED)	26%	31%	47%	30%	19%
 Other Health Impairment (OHI)	32%	34%	29%	33%	38%
 Specific Learning Disability (SLD)	21%	18%	9%	21%	14%
 Intellectual Disability (ID)	3%	3%	0%	4%	8%
 Hearing Impaired	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%
 Autism (AUT)	3%	2%	1%	0%	0%
 Section 504 Disability	15%	10%	13%	12%	21%
 Speech Language Only	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
 * Speech Language as a Related Service	0%	9%	1%	7%	8%

 * Speech Language is a related service and is not included in the SWD primary disability count.



YBMHS THREE-YEAR GRADUATION RATE

YVONNE B. MILLER HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION					
CREDENTIAL EARNED	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
 Advanced Studies Diploma	1	0	0	0	1
 Standard Diploma	7	23	25	26	36
 Applied Studies Diploma	2	1	1	0	3
 GED® Certificate	12	9	16	16	14
 TOTAL NUMBER OF GRADUATES	22	33	42	42	54



Data extracted: 06/10/26



JUVENILE DETENTION CENTERS

The Division of Education provides financial support to students in Community Placement Programs (CPPs) and Individual Bed Placements (IBPs). This funding supports enrollment in college courses and credentialing programs, as well as implementing hands-on programs with vendors. Beyond tuition, this support covers essential learning tools, including technology, textbooks, academic supplies, and vocational equipment. Additionally, the Division provides funding for high school and GED students to enroll in credentialing coursework when their local school divisions do not cover those costs.

Individual Bed Placement (IBPs)	Community Placement Programs (CPPs)
✓ Chesterfield	✓ Blue Ridge
✓ Crater	✓ Chesterfield
✓ Highlands	✓ Newport News
✓ Merrimac	✓ Shenandoah Valley
✓ Northern Virginia	✓ Virginia Beach
✓ Piedmont	
✓ Prince Williams	
✓ Rappahannock	



Questions?

SUMMARY
RECOMMENDED DIRECTOR'S CERTIFICATION ACTIONS
September 2, 2026

CERTIFICATION ACTION: Certify the 30th District Court Service Unit (Gate City) to June 17, 2029, with a letter of congratulations for 100% compliance.

CERTIFICATION ACTION: Certify Crater Juvenile Detention Center to May 8, 2029, with a letter of congratulations for 100% compliance.

CERTIFICATION ACTION: Certify Sheltercare of Northern Virginia to April 13, 2029, with a letter of congratulations for 100% compliance rating.

CERTIFICATION ACTION: Certify Stepping Stones to July 14, 2029, with a letter of congratulations for 100% compliance.

CERTIFICATION ACTION: Certify Virginia Beach Crisis Intervention Home to May 12, 2029.

CERTIFICATION ACTION: Certify the Westhaven Boys' Home to July 9, 2029, with a letter of congratulations for 100% compliance.

**CERTIFICATION AUDIT REPORT
TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

PROGRAM AUDITED:

30th District Court Service Unit (Gate City)
190 Beech Street, Suite 203
Gate City, Virginia 24251
(276) 386-9561
Mark E. Thompson, Director
mark.thompson@djj.virginia.gov

AUDIT DATES:

May 21, 2026

CERTIFICATION ANALYST:

Kevin T. Heller

CURRENT TERM OF CERTIFICATION:

June 18, 2023 – June 17, 2026

REGULATIONS AUDITED:

6VAC35-150 Regulations for Nonresidential Services Available to Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts

PREVIOUS AUDIT FINDINGS – January 30, 2023:

100% Compliance Rating

CURRENT AUDIT FINDINGS – May 21, 2026:

100% Compliance Rating

CERTIFICATION ACTION: Certify the 30th District Court Service Unit (Gate City) to June 17, 2029, with a letter of congratulations for 100% compliance.

Pursuant to 6VAC35-20-100C.1, if the certification audit finds the program or facility in 100% compliance with all regulatory requirements, the director or designee shall certify the facility for three years.

TEAM MEMBERS:

Kevin T. Heller, Lead Analyst
Wanda Parris-Flanagan, Certification Analyst
Sherron Key, Certification Analyst
Ronnie Moore, Certification Analyst

POPULATION SERVED:

The 30th District Court Service Unit serves the City of Norton and the counties of Lee, Scott and Wise.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED:

Mandated Services: *(Include description of services)*

The 30th District CSU provides intake services 24 hours a day for law enforcement agencies and during regular business hours for the public. Both civil and criminal complaints are processed during this time. Services include diversion programs or unofficial supervision, family assessment and planning team referrals, informational/educational assignments and referrals to other community agencies, determining probable cause when necessary and issuing petitions for formal Court action and/or detention orders when deemed appropriate by Intake Officer.

Emphasis is placed on assisting the complainant in the most expedient and professional manner possible while considering the safety of the public and the best interest of the child and family. Probation and Parole services are provided by trained staff, which supervise and counsel juveniles and families prior to, following, and in lieu of commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice. Services include social history investigations, treatment planning based on clients' needs and level of risk, individual counseling, coordination of treatment with outside providers and monitoring youth in residential placements and non-residential treatment programs.

Primary Community Referrals:

The Alternatives Program with Appalachian Juvenile Commission is the 30th CSU's primary referral source. The program is funded by 11 counties including the counties in the 30th District. Services offered by the Alternative Program with Appalachian Juvenile Commission are:

- 30th District Juvenile Recovery Court:

It is the mission of the 30th District Juvenile Recovery Court Program to intervene as early as possible in the life of a young person who is experiencing problems with alcohol and drugs. The Juvenile Recovery Court requires a commitment on the part of the juvenile, the family, the court, and the community. Through the use of comprehensive treatment, education, rehabilitation programs, and accountability, it is the goal of the 30th District Juvenile Recovery Court to serve the communities and promote public safety by reducing the criminal recidivism rate of juveniles who commit crimes as a result of their alcohol and/or drug use. The program structure utilized by the court includes: (1) judicial supervision of a structured community based treatment; (2) timely identification of defendants in need of treatment and referral to treatment as soon as possible; (3) regular review hearings before the judge to monitor treatment progress and compliance with the program and court orders; (4) increased accountability for juveniles through a series of graduated sanctions and incentives; and (5) mandatory periodic and random drug testing. Parents and/or legal guardians involvement is required for the program.

- Outreach Detention/Electronic Monitoring:

The Outreach Detention program provides Outreach workers to meet with youth at home, school, employment and in the community for up to six days a week to ensure compliance with court orders. They also work with the youth and their families in an effort to prevent the youth from having additional court involvement. Most all of the youth ordered by the Court to participate with the Outreach program have offenses for which they could have been placed in secure detention. The Electronic Monitoring program monitors youths ordered by the Court to home confinement through the use of an electronic device attached to the youth's ankle. Staff monitors the youth's activity daily.

- Community Service:

This program is for youth who are ordered by the Court to complete community service hours. Detention Alternative Program (DAP) staff arrange a community service site for the youth, monitor the youth's progress through regular contact with the site and report any problems or completions to the Court.

- Intensive Supervision:

This program offers the same basic services as the Outreach Detention program but is designed to work with youth returning home from State care or other special placements.

- Mental Health Initiative

With the Mental Health Initiative, Frontier Health/CSB 1, provides a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) to work 40 hours per week in the CSU to provide services to juveniles and their families referred by the CSU.

Services delivered:

- Assessments
- Individual and family counseling
- Group counseling
- Relapse prevention counseling
- Educational group/brief motivational intervention
- Crisis intervention
- Substance abuse evaluations and treatment
- SASSI Assessments
- Trauma assessments

Also, as needed, the QMHP will identify and arrange for the continuation of services through CSB or other community-based agency after the juveniles' release from supervision or involvement with the juvenile justice system.

**CERTIFICATION AUDIT REPORT
TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

PROGRAM AUDITED:

Crater Juvenile Detention Center
6102 County Drive
Disputanta, Virginia 23842
(804) 732-3803
Rodney Baskerville, Superintendent
rodney.baskerville@cyc.virginia.gov

AUDIT DATES:

June 25, 2026

CERTIFICATION ANALYST:

Ronnie Moore

CURRENT TERM OF CERTIFICATION:

May 9, 2023 - May 8, 2026

REGULATIONS AUDITED:

6VAC35-101 Regulation Governing Juvenile Secure Detention Centers

PREVIOUS AUDIT FINDINGS - December 6, 2022:

100% Compliance Rating

CURRENT AUDIT FINDINGS – June 25, 2026:

100% Compliance Rating

DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION ACTION: Certify the Crater Juvenile Detention Center to May 8, 2029, with a letter of congratulations for 100% compliance.

Pursuant to 6VAC35-20-100C.1, if the certification audit finds the program or facility in 100% compliance with all regulatory requirements, the director or designee shall certify the facility for three years.

TEAM MEMBERS:

Ronnie Moore, Team Leader
Wanda Parris-Flanagan, Central Office
Zatoria Frierson, Central Office
Christopher Moon, Central Office

POPULATION SERVED:

The Crater Juvenile Detention Center is a secure custody facility operated by the Crater Youth Care Commission. The Crater Secure Detention Home provides services for the Cities of Petersburg, Hopewell, and Emporia, and the counties of Prince George, Sussex, Surry and Dinwiddie. The facility serves a pre-dispositional and post-dispositional population of 22 male and female residents' ages 10 through 17. The physical plant consists of one main building with two wings, and one separate school building.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED:

In addition to all mandated services, Crater Juvenile Detention Center provides the following:

- Educational Services are available Monday-Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with six (6) teachers assigned to the educational program; five and a half hours daily.
- Recreation, both indoor and outdoor, is an integral part of the daily schedule.

- Large muscle group activities are offered twice daily.
- Special guests/visitors and speakers are an active part of the program. They include bible study groups, and presentations from the community.
- Crisis counseling is also available as needed through the District 19 Community Services Board. These services include intensive one-to-one counseling, substance abuse counseling, and family counseling. A mental health clinician is assigned to the facility in addition to a contractual psychiatrist.
- Parents and Guardians visit youth on Thursdays from 7:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. and on Sundays from 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Special visitations are on an as needed basis IAW our Visitation Policy.
- The Department of Juvenile Justice Re-Entry Program as needed.
- The James House provides off-site emergency emotional support and confidential counseling and interpreter services in person and by telephone.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES SINCE LAST AUDIT:

Mr. Rodney Baskerville is the new Executive Director for Crater Juvenile Detention Center.

**CERTIFICATION AUDIT REPORT
TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

PROGRAM AUDITED:

Sheltercare of Northern Virginia
5920 Stevenson Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22304
(703) 408-6647
Annie Reiney, Director of Sheltercare
ereiney@jdcnv.org

AUDIT DATES:

February 25, 2026

CERTIFICATION ANALYST:

Ronnie Moore

CURRENT TERM OF CERTIFICATION:

April 14, 2023 - April 13, 2026

REGULATIONS AUDITED:

6VAC35-41 Regulation Governing Juvenile Group Homes

PREVIOUS AUDIT FINDINGS November 1, 2022:

100% Compliance Rating

CURRENT AUDIT FINDINGS – February 25, 2026:

100% Compliance Rating

RECOMMENDED CERTIFICATION ACTION: Certify Sheltercare of Northern Virginia to April 13, 2029, with a letter of congratulations for 100% compliance.

Pursuant to 6VAC35-20-100C.1, if the certification audit finds the program or facility in 100% compliance with all regulatory requirements, the director or designee shall certify the facility for three years.

TEAM MEMBERS:

Ronnie Moore – Team Leader
Wanda Parris-Flanagan – Team Member
Dr. Christopher Moon – Team Member
Jessyca C. Holmes – Group Home Manager & Team Member

POPULATION SERVED:

- Service Area: Youth from Alexandria and Arlington Ages 10-17
- Certified Capacity: 14
- Age Range: 10-17

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED:

The Sheltercare Program of Northern Virginia was established in 1988 as a short-term group home to provide services and stabilization for youth. The program's mission is to provide a safe, structured, nurturing and supportive environment to the culturally diverse at-risk adolescent population in the community. We are committed to positively impacting the lives of our youth and promoting lasting change for their futures. The Sheltercare Program is administered by the Juvenile Detention Commission of Northern Virginia. The program is licensed by the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and is funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the City of Alexandria.

In addition to all mandated services, Sheltercare of Northern Virginia provides the following at the facility:

- George Washington Art Therapy Program
- Balanced and Restorative Justice Circles (BARJ)
- Casey Life Skills Inventory
- One Circle Foundation:
 - Boys' Council
 - Girls' Circle
 - Mitigating Gender and Racial Bias Circles
- Change Companies, Interactive Journaling Program
 - Anger Management Program
 - Keeping It Direct and Simple (KIDS) Addiction Treatment
 - Financial Literacy
 - Career Readiness Program
 - Forward Thinking Program
 - Getting it Right Re-Entry Program
 - Transition Skills Program
 - Traumatic Stress and Resilience Program (Boys)
 - What about Marijuana Program
 - My Recovery Song Program
 - Navigating the Road Ahead
 - Voices (Girls)
 - Co-Occurring Conditions Program
 - MEE: Marijuana
 - MEE: Opioids
 - Daily Mindfulness Program
 - Helping Children Thrive
- Certification Programs
- Financial Literacy
- Career Readiness
- Mindfulness for Teen Anger
- Individual Therapy Group Counseling
- Overcoming Obstacles Program
- Let's Talk Runaway Prevention Program
- Virginia Project Life
- Virginia Rules Program
- Stanford Medicine: Tobacco Toolkit
- Stanford Medicine: Marijuana Prevention Program

Each resident at Sheltercare is required to have a minimum of four individualized treatment goals, tailored to their specific needs. These goals encompass a range of areas, including substance use, anger management, coping skills, self-esteem, communication skills, and stress management. To address these goals, residents actively participate in one scheduled activity per day.

Also, each resident is assigned two counselors who provide counseling work to address their individual needs. As part of the treatment process, residents are obligated to complete various assessments and engage in individualized treatment work, utilizing evidence-based interactive journals.

Education and Life Skills are essential treatment goals for all residents. For the education goal, each resident must attend school. Regarding the life skills treatment goal, residents are required to participate in one life skills group per day. These sessions cover a variety of topics, including daily living skills, employability skills, health and nutrition, housing, financial literacy, personal hygiene, home management, culinary skills, and career readiness.

All residents participate in (2) two community meetings a day, (1) one life skills group a day, (1) one scheduled activity, and (1) one recreation activity each day.

Community: (Services offered by community agencies and resources)

- All residents are afforded individual therapy. Services are provided through Alexandria Court Services Unit or Alexandria Community Services Board. The Alexandria Community Services Board also facilitates group therapy workshops.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES SINCE LAST AUDIT: (Include significant events, changes in mission, client population, programs or staff)

Change in age range served: Expanded from ages 13-17 to 10-17, increasing the complexity of developmental needs.

Staffing pattern changes: Transitioned from reliance on relief staff to a permanent 10-hour shift model, improving consistency, coverage, and continuity of care.

Increased daily programming: Implemented a structured daily schedule with a minimum of four facilitated groups per day (two community meetings, one life-skills group, and one scheduled activity).

Safety and security enhancements: Updated drug testing procedures and protocols.

Change in counselor assignment ratio: Adopted a 2:1 counselor -to-youth assignment model to enhance case support, supervision, and individualized attention.

Expanded case management system: Increased frequency and intensity of case management, and adopted digital case management software to enhance documentation, tracking, and service coordination.

**CERTIFICATION AUDIT REPORT
TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

PROGRAM AUDITED:

Stepping Stones
10650 Page Avenue
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Misty Zdanski, Program Director
misty.zdanski@fairfaxcounty.gov

AUDIT DATES:

May 12, 2026

CERTIFICATION ANALYST:

Wanda Parris-Flanagan

CURRENT TERM OF CERTIFICATION:

July 14, 2023 – July 13, 2026

REGULATIONS AUDITED:

6VAC35-41 Regulation Governing Juvenile Group Homes

PREVIOUS AUDIT FINDINGS: May 9, 2023

100% Compliance Rating

CURRENT AUDIT FINDINGS – May 12, 2026:

100% Compliance Rating

DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION ACTION: Certify Stepping Stones to July 14, 2029, with a letter of congratulations for 100% compliance.

Pursuant to 6VAC35-20-100C.1, if the certification audit finds the program or facility in 100% compliance with all regulatory requirements, the director or designee shall certify the facility for three years.

TEAM MEMBERS:

Wanda Parris-Flanagan, Team Leader
Jessyca Cabrera Holmes, Argus House Group Home
Dr. Christopher Moon, DJJ Central Office
Ronnie Moore, DJJ Central Office
Emily Anne Reiney, Northern Virginia ShelterCare

POPULATION SERVED:

- Service Area: Fairfax County
- Certified Capacity: 12 residents
- Gender: Male
- Age Range: 14-18 years of age

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Services offered by facility and staff:
 - Weekly Individual and Family therapy sessions facilitated by clinical staff
 - Skill building
 - Education – school is onsite with two Fairfax County Public Teachers
 - Community service projects

- Individual, group, and family counseling designed to decrease criminogenic risk while increasing functional strengths
 - Case Management
 - Individualized Treatment Team and Service Planning
 - Individualized Education Services
 - Basic Food Preparation and Sanitation Skills
 - Recreational Programming
 - Community/Home Based Counseling and Case Management
 - Various groups on topics such as but not limited to Life Skills; Prosocial Skills
 - Training; Gender Specific Psychoeducation
 - Supplemental Mental Health and Substance Abuse Counseling by staff who hold appropriate certifications, licensure, or are under licensure supervision
 - Community supervision on outings, home passes, and transition phase
- Services offered by community agencies and resources:
 - Community Services Board – provides weekly ADS group counseling services.
 - Venture Scouts – provides weekly life skills and plans 2-3 camping trips per year.
 - Mental Health Services
 - Summer Reading Program
 - Summer Academy
 - Therapeutic Recreational Programming
 - Caring Angels Therapy Dogs

The Program's Philosophy of Positive Youth Development consisting of 8 "Core Philosophical Principles," called the "8 C's" emphasizes our primary reliance on rehabilitation through relational based change processes, which promote the internalizations needed for lasting changes beyond our Program. We believe in promoting positive youth outcomes through fostering the following:

- **Competence:** When we notice what young people are doing right and give them opportunities to develop important skills, they feel competent. We undermine competence when we don't allow young people to recover themselves after a fall.
- **Confidence:** Young people need confidence to be able to navigate the world, think outside the box, and recover from challenges.
- **Connection:** Connections with other people, schools, and communities offer young people the security that allows them to stand on their own and develop creative solutions.
- **Character:** Young people need a clear sense of right and wrong and a commitment to integrity.
- **Contribution:** Young people who contribute to the well-being of others will receive gratitude rather than condemnation. They will learn that contributing feels good and may therefore more easily turn to others and do so without shame.
- **Caring:** Having a sense of sympathy and empathy for others; commitment to social justice.
- **Coping:** Young people who possess a variety of healthy coping strategies will be less likely to turn to dangerous quick fixes when stressed.
- **Control:** Young people who understand privileges and respect are earned through demonstrated responsibility will learn to make wise choices and feel a sense of control.

Holistically, these Core Philosophical Principles teach our Youth to internalize and exhibit skills in interpersonal functioning, self-management, decision-making, and conflict-resolution, especially in the absence of external reinforcements/consequences for positive or negative behaviors. Furthermore, these Core Philosophical Principles strengthen family relationships,

enhances natural supports, and assist with successful integration back into homes, schools, and communities.

To achieve these results, the Program consists of a Residential Phase (3-6 months, or 6-9 months), followed by a 60-90 day Transitional Phase. Based on an initial clinical assessment of individual and family strengths, needs, and risks, and in collaboration with the Youth and family, the Youth's Individual Therapist develops a comprehensive service plan.

The **Residential Phase** includes but is not limited to the following:

- Initial Mental Health and Substance Abuse Assessment and Supplemental Clinical Counseling by Staff holding appropriate clinical certifications, licensure, or are under clinical licensure supervision
 - Youth and Family Centered Treatment Teams and Service Planning
 - Make restitution payment agreement when applicable
 - Family and Natural Support Engagement
 - Individual, group, and family counseling
 - Case Management
 - Weekly groups on topics such as Prosocial Skills Training; Values Clarification; Healthy Masculinity; Creative Changes/Relapse Prevention; Substance Use Prevention; Healthy Intimate Relationships
 - Individualized Education Services
 - Summer Credit Recovery (when available)
 - Summer Enrichment: for academic skills retention
 - Therapeutic Recreational Programming
 - Physical/Recreational Health
 - Independent Readiness Track for those eligible
 - Boy Scouts
 - Animal Assisted Therapy (either in the group or individual setting)
 - Basic Food Preparation and Sanitation Skills
 - Community supervision on Outings and Home Passes
- When a Youth moves to the **Transition Phase** of the Program, the following applies:
 - Community/Home Based Counseling and Case Management
 - He is still a part of the Program; this means that we reserve a bed for the Youth
 - He continues to have a service plan, which his Treatment Team reviews on a regular basis, and is relevant to his Transition goals
 - If identified on the service plan, he will continue to attend various groups and activities at Stepping Stones.
 - There will continue to be treatment team meetings for the full team. These meetings will take place at Stepping Stones or in the community.
 - The family continues participation in Family Counseling in the home or Fairfax County offices nearby.
 - The assigned Individual Therapist will meet with the Resident in person a minimum of once a week; there may be exceptions to this.
 - The Youth will continue to have goals and expectations to complete while in the community, at home, and in school.
 - There may be periodic drug testing.
 - Stepping Stones Staff will track the progress the Youth is making toward reaching goals and expectations.

- We continue to Staff the Youth in Staff meetings.
 - The Family Therapist will continue to send a weekly update to the Treatment Team.
 - If the Youth's whereabouts are unknown; if he obtains new charges; if he violates his Rules of Probation; or he is having an overall difficult time transitioning; the case will be Staffed with the Treatment Team, and this could result in the Youth being returned to the Program for a period of time, or a Violation of Probation (VOP).
 - Within reason, we still expect the Youth to follow the values of the Stepping Stones Program.
-

**CERTIFICATION AUDIT REPORT
TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

PROGRAM AUDITED:

Virginia Beach Crisis Intervention Home
811 13th Street
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451
(757) 422-4521
Sheray Holloman, Program Director
sholloman@tyscommission.org

AUDIT DATES:

March 31, 2026

CERTIFICATION ANALYST:

Sherron Key

William Wimbish, Deputy Director of TYS
wwimbish@tyscommission.org

CURRENT TERM OF CERTIFICATION:

May 13, 2024 – May 12, 2026

REGULATIONS AUDITED:

6VAC35-41 Regulation Governing Juvenile Group Homes and Halfway Houses

PREVIOUS AUDIT FINDINGS March 13, 2024

89.4% Compliance Rating

6VAC35-41-110 (A). Grievance procedure.

6VAC35-41-490 (I). Emergency and evacuation procedures. **CRITICAL**

6VAC35-41-860 (A). Individual service plans.

6VAC35-41-1210 (A). Tuberculosis screening. **CRITICAL**

6VAC35-41-1280 (H). Medication. **CRITICAL**

6VAC35-41-1300 (B). Behavior support.

6VAC35-41-1320 (D). Physical restraint.

CURRENT AUDIT FINDINGS – March 31, 2026

98.9% Compliance Rating

6VAC35-41-350 (B). Buildings and Inspections. **CRITICAL**

RECOMMENDED DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION ACTION: **Certify the Virginia Beach Crisis Intervention Home to May 12, 2029.**

Pursuant to 6VAC35-20-100C.3, if the certification audit finds the program or facility in less than 100% compliance with all critical regulatory requirements or less than 90% on all noncritical regulatory requirements or both, and a subsequent status report, completed prior to the certification action, finds 100% compliance on all critical regulatory requirements and 90% or greater compliance on all noncritical regulatory requirements, the program or facility shall be certified for a specified period of time, up to three years.

TEAM MEMBERS:

Sherron Key, Certification Analyst, Central Office
Christopher Moon, Central Office
Romilda Smith, Central Office

POPULATION SERVED:

- Service Area: Court-referred or court-ordered from Chesapeake, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach. On a space-available basis, referrals from Hampton and Newport News Juvenile Courts are also accepted.
- Certified Capacity: Not specified in manual
- Gender: Males and Females (ages 13-17), though the program description indicates it primarily serves boys aged 13-17
- Age Range: 13-17 years old (minimum seventh-grade level in school unless special circumstances exist)

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED:

Crisis Intervention Home is a 24-hour residential group home that has been in operation since 1986. The program provides advocacy and assistance to youth and their families as they transition to adulthood, serving youth who are unable to remain in their homes without risk of detention, commitment, or removal by Child Protective Services.

The program serves a dual function as: 1) An alternative to secure detention or an emergency placement for foster children, and 2) A three-to-six-month treatment program for teens with behavioral/emotional/mental health issues.

The program provides a restorative process that ensures youth receive their second chance through structured behavioral management, family counseling (required in all cases except those in DSS custody), positive experiences, and development of valuable life skills. The program maintains a structured environment using daily point sheets and comprehensive tracking systems to evaluate resident progress across multiple domains including independent work, behavioral compliance, family contacts, therapy participation, and school success.

Eligibility Requirements:

- No discrimination based on race, creed, or national origin
- Not accepting those needing immediate medical attention that would prohibit participation
- Families must be willing to sign a contract to cooperate with the treatment program, attend counseling sessions, provide transportation for home visits and appointments, and supervise children during home visits

SERVICES PROVIDED:

Facility: (Services offered by facility and staff)

24-hour residential supervision with staff-to-resident ratios of 1:8 during waking hours and 1:10 during sleeping hours (12:00 PM - 8:00 AM)

- Daily behavioral evaluations using point sheets tracking three key areas: working independently, working with minimal redirection, and level of program engagement
- Weekly shift reports covering family contacts, home passes, therapy and medical appointments, program group participation, school success, and problematic areas
- Family counseling (required component except for DSS custody cases)
- Structured daily routines with clear expectations for all areas (staff office, living room, bathroom, dining room, bedroom, van/travel, group activities, game room)
- Study Hour/Merit Points educational system for expelled students, providing educational packets tailored to grade and age level requirements Monday through Friday
- Crisis intervention services and emergency placement capacity
- Supervision during all activities with sight and sound requirements
- Preliminary health screenings during admission
- Transportation services to work, appointments, and activities

- Therapeutic outings (non-negotiable programming component)
- CPR, First Aid, medication administration, and management of infectious/communicable diseases (all staff certified)

Community: (Services offered by community agencies and resources)

- Collaboration with local school systems for educational support
- Public school attendance for eligible residents
- Coordination with substance abuse treatment services when needs exceed the home's capabilities
- Medical and therapy appointments through community providers
- Department of Social Services coordination for youth in DSS custody

Staff Training and Safety Requirements:

- All staff undergo police checks and protective services reports before supervising children
- Orientation includes supervisory techniques, emergency procedures, and on-the-job training with experienced staff
- Relief staff must complete 40 hours of double coverage before assuming sole responsibility
- Visual checks of residents conducted at random intervals not exceeding 20 minutes
- Bed checks during midnight shift at intervals not exceeding 20 minutes
- Residents on Suicidal Watch status monitored at 10-minute intervals
- Daily safety inspections completed by day shift
- Background checks completed at hiring, upon promotion, and at five-year intervals

Significant Changes/Challenges Since Last Audit:

Virginia Beach Crisis has experienced turnover and staffing challenges since last audit. The former Program Director along with several other staff members are no longer with the Commission. The program has successfully recruited and filled both Assistant Director positions and the Program Director position at Crisis Intervention Home, strengthening their leadership team. Additionally, Crisis was granted approval to expand their residential capacity to accommodate more youth from 12 to 16 beds. Tidewater Youth Services Commission administration is working tirelessly to ensure operations remain safe and in compliance with regulations.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

FACILITY/PROGRAM: Virginia Beach Crisis

SUBMITTED BY: William Wimbish, Deputy Director

CERTIFICATION AUDIT DATES: March 31, 2026

CERTIFICATION ANALYST: Sherron Key

Under Planned Corrective Action indicate; 1) The cause of the identified area of non-compliance. 2) The effect on the program. 3) Action that has been taken/will be taken to correct the standard cited. 4) Action that will be taken to ensure that the problem does not recur.

6VAC35-41-350 (B). Buildings and inspections. CRITICAL

B. A current copy of the facility's annual inspection by fire prevention authorities indicating that all buildings and equipment are maintained in accordance with the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (13VAC5-51) shall be maintained. If the fire prevention authorities have failed to timely inspect the facility's buildings and equipment, documentation of the facility's request to schedule the annual inspection as well as documentation of any necessary follow-up with fire prevention authorities shall be maintained.

Audit Finding: Noncompliant

On 2/20/2026 the City of Virginia Beach Fire Department Fire Inspector conducted an annual facility re-inspection that resulted in an Open Violation for a failed Sprinkler System inspection conducted by Hiller (Servicing Company) in June of 2025. The report concluded that the current system was old and outdated and required the system to be capped off and a new system installed. Crisis has been working continuously to secure a contractor to install the system as soon as possible and is updating on developments and progress.

Program Response

Cause:

The noncompliance cited in the February 20, 2026, re-inspection by the Virginia Beach Fire Department arose from the condition of the existing automatic sprinkler system at the Virginia Beach Crisis Intervention Home. During the June 2025 annual inspection performed by Hiller, our contracted servicing company, the system was identified as aged and outdated, and the inspecting authority determined that ongoing servicing of the existing system was no longer sufficient to bring it into compliance with the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (13VAC5-51). The inspection report concluded that the existing system would need to be capped off and a new system installed in its entirety. Because this represented a full system replacement (rather than a routine repair), the corrective work could not be completed within the standard re-inspection window, which produced the open violation noted by Assistant Fire Marshal Jeremy Stanton during the February 20, 2026, re-inspection.

Effect on Program:

An open fire code violation at a residential juvenile facility carries serious implications for both regulatory standing and resident safety. While the existing sprinkler system has remained operational and functional throughout this period, the open status of the violation places the program out of strict compliance with 6VAC35-41-350 (B) and creates the risk that the facility's annual fire inspection documentation cannot be maintained in fully current form. This in turn affects the program's certification posture with the Department of Juvenile Justice, the confidence of placing agencies and stakeholders in our compliance practices, and the overall regulatory standing of the Tidewater Youth Services Commission. Beyond the regulatory implications, the underlying conditions (an aged sprinkler system requiring full replacement) raised legitimate concerns regarding life safety, the welfare of the residents in our care, and the working conditions for our staff. The program took these concerns seriously from the moment the violation was issued and treated the matter as a priority compliance and safety issue rather than a routine maintenance request.

Planned Corrective Action:

From the moment the Notice of Violation was received, the Tidewater Youth Services Commission moved to correct the cited deficiency through a coordinated, documented effort that addressed both the technical fire code requirement and the additional resident-safety expectations of the Department of Juvenile Justice. Within hours of receipt of the Notice of Violation on February 20, 2026, Deputy Director William Wimbish forwarded the matter to Executive Administrative Assistant Altreese Allmond, who immediately began identifying and contacting qualified fire protection contractors. Allmond contacted three firms (VSC Fire and Security, Veterans Fire Protection, and Precision Fire Protection), summarized their initial responses for internal staff, and on February 23, 2026, introduced herself directly to Assistant Fire Marshal Jeremy Stanton to demonstrate that the program was actively engaged in resolving the violation. On March 10, 2026, the list of contacted contractors was provided to Stanton, who confirmed he had no objection to any of them.

VSC Fire and Security was selected as the contractor of record. In parallel, Deputy Director Wimbish inquired with the Fire Department regarding the availability of an appeal process, given the program's concern that the open status of the violation might affect the upcoming DJJ certification audit. On March 16, 2026, DJJ Certification Analyst Sherron Key formally raised three resident-safety questions: whether the home could remain safely open and occupied during installation, whether exposed piping would be installed in resident bedrooms (and, if so, the weight capacity of the piping in light of self-harm and ligature concerns), and whether the existing sprinkler system would remain active until the new system was switched over. Mr. Wimbish forwarded each of these questions to Allmond and to VSC for written response, recognizing that DJJ's concerns went beyond the fire code citation and required a documented execution plan.

On April 6, 2026, Joe Slagle, Special Projects Manager at VSC Fire and Security, transmitted to Mark Dumbauld and Deputy Director Wimbish a PDF drawing of the new sprinkler system and confirmed in writing that piping would be installed two and one-half inches below the ceilings, a configuration that meaningfully addresses the ligature and self-harm concerns DJJ had raised. Mr. Wimbish forwarded the VSC drawings to Sherron Key the same day for review. On April 14, 2026, after Assistant Fire Marshal Stanton requested a progress update, VSC confirmed that the City of Virginia Beach had issued the permit, that no supply chain problems were anticipated, and that the project was advancing into material procurement, fabrication, and field scheduling.

Physical installation began on May 4, 2026, with a two-person VSC crew working in a deliberately staged manner designed to minimize any contact between the contractors and the residents: work on the boys' side commenced while the sole resident on that side was out of the house seeking

employment, common areas were addressed when residents were not occupying those spaces, and the girls' side was begun while that population was at school. Throughout the project, the existing sprinkler system has remained in service and will continue to do so until the new system is fully operational and switched over, consistent with the contractor's written assurance and DJJ's explicit safety expectation.

To prevent recurrence, the Tidewater Youth Services Commission will maintain three ongoing practices going forward. First, the program will retain documented records of every annual fire inspection, every contractor servicing report, and every Notice of Violation in a single compliance file accessible to executive leadership and the program director, so that any deficiency identified by fire prevention authorities can be immediately tracked, escalated, and corrected within the required time frame. Second, when any inspection report indicates that an existing system is approaching end of life or will require replacement (rather than ordinary repair), program administration will notify the Executive Director and DJJ certification staff at the earliest practical point, so that any installation can be planned in coordination with the Department's resident-safety expectations rather than reactively. Third, upon completion of the sprinkler system installation, the program will request a final re-inspection from the Virginia Beach Fire Department and will provide DJJ with the closed Notice of Violation, the contractor's sign-off, and a final operational safety plan documenting the cutover from the existing system to the new system.

Completion Date: Physical installation of the new sprinkler system began on May 4, 2026 and is anticipated to be completed within the contractor's scheduled time frame. Final completion, including system cutover, fire department re-inspection, closure of the Notice of Violation, and submission of the final safety plan to DJJ, is targeted for July 31, 2026, contingent upon the Virginia Beach Fire Department's re-inspection schedule. The program will provide a written progress update to the Department of Juvenile Justice upon closure of the violation.

Person Responsible: William Wimbish, Deputy Director of the Tidewater Youth Services Commission, holds primary responsibility for closure of this corrective action plan and for ongoing communication with both the Virginia Beach Fire Department and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Executive Administrative Assistant Altreese Allmond is responsible for day-to-day coordination with VSC Fire and Security, contractor and permit document management, and internal scheduling. Mark Dumbauld is responsible for facility-side construction coordination. The Virginia Beach Crisis Intervention Home programming staff and program middle level management are responsible for ensuring resident routines and supervision practices accommodate the staged installation, with overview from the executive leadership team of the Tidewater Youth Services Commission.

Current Status on June 23, 2026: Compliant

On June 23, 2026 after onsite review of the newly installed sprinkler system with preventative safety measures to prevent tampering or manipulation, as well as, the review of a passed City of Virginia Beach Fire Re-inspection Report conducted on June 18, 2026 with no open violations, it was concluded that Virginia Beach Crisis is now in full compliance with the noted critical regulatory requirement **6VAC35-41-350 (B)**.

**CERTIFICATION AUDIT REPORT
TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

PROGRAM AUDITED:

Westhaven Boys' Home
3515 Race Street
Portsmouth, Virginia 23707
(757) 397-5371
Carlos Hooker, Director
chooker@tyscommission.org

AUDIT DATE:

May 5, 2026

CERTIFICATION ANALYST:

Sherron Key

CURRENT TERM OF CERTIFICATION:

July 10, 2023 – July 9, 2026

REGULATIONS AUDITED:

6VAC35-41 Regulation Governing Juvenile Group Homes and Halfway Houses

PREVIOUS AUDIT FINDINGS – February 7, 2023

98.93% Compliance Rating

6VAC35-41-90 (A). Serious incident reports. CRITICAL

***6VAC35-41-1210 (A). Tuberculosis screening. CRITICAL**

CURRENT AUDIT FINDINGS – May 5, 2026

100% Compliance Rating

RECOMMENDED DIRECTOR'S CERTIFICATION ACTION: Certify Westhaven Boys' Home to July 9, 2029, with a letter of congratulations for 100% compliance.

Pursuant to 6VAC35-20-100C.1, if the certification audit finds the program or facility in 100% compliance with all regulatory requirements, the director or designee shall certify the facility for three years.

TEAM MEMBERS:

Sherron Key, Team Leader,
Christopher Moon, Central Office
Romilda Smith, Central Office

POPULATION SERVED:

- Service Area: The cities of Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, Suffolk, Franklin, and the counties of Isle of Wight County and Southampton.
- Certified Capacity: 15 residents
- Licensed Population: 12 Residents
- Gender: Male
- Age Range: 12 – 17, a resident can stay pass his eighteenth birthday.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION: Two story brick building. Sleeping quarters are located upstairs. The kitchen, dining area, TV lounge, recreation room, administration offices and laundry facilities are located downstairs. There are two bathrooms consisting of a sink, toilet and shower upstairs and two bathrooms consisting of a sink and toilet downstairs.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Westhaven Boys' Home is a 12-bed residential facility that serves both pre-dispositional and post-dispositional males 12 to 17 years of age who are referred by the Juvenile Court and/or Social Services. Westhaven Boys' Home is a community-based program where the residents live, attend school and work in the community just as they would if they were living at home. Westhaven Boys' Home provides a structured environment where immediate feedback and counseling is provided to encourage growth in the areas of social skills and positive behavior. We utilize a point sheet which is broken down in time frames that corresponds to Westhaven's daily schedule. This provides the resident with the opportunity to turn his behavior around without it affecting his entire day. Residents earning 90 out of a hundred daily points, earn extra privileges such as playing video games and having extra phone privileges. Our merit system rewards noted effort on the residents' part to exhibit appropriate and helpful behavior. The primary focus of the program is to provide a safe and secure setting for youth awaiting a court hearing and to help them learn to control and accept responsibility for their behavior. The program is also designed to provide supervision and individualized treatment that address the individual needs of each resident.

Westhaven Boys' Home's educational component is provided by the Portsmouth Public Schools. Most of the youth are allowed to stay in their assigned school district if it is within a twenty-mile radius of the group home. They will be enrolled in the Portsmouth Public School system if they are outside of that radius. Westhaven provides transportation to and from school. Any resident who has been suspended from school is required to do assigned homework and community projects.

The facility has a strong recreational program that includes educational, cultural, recreational and therapeutic components. Activities can range from going to the museum to taking first aid and CPR classes to going ziplining and indoor rock climbing.

Upon completion of the Westhaven Boys' Home program, the residents are prepared for reunification with family or placed in a less restrictive setting such as a foster home or independent living program.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

Facility: (Services offered by facility staff)

- Case Management
- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling
- Education
- Community/Volunteer Service
- Independent Living Skills
- Aggression Replacement Training
- Skill-streaming
- Anger Control Training
- Moral Reasoning Training
- Community Group
- Book Club
- Therapeutic Recreation

Community: (Services offered by community agencies and resources)

- Music Theory Group
- Muse Writing Group

Westhaven Boys' Home also utilizes community resources such as recreation centers, museums, and local festivals for recreational, cultural and educational growth. Westhaven has a therapeutic summer program which encompasses educational, cultural, recreational, outdoor activities and exposure to new experiences for our residents. We also transport residents to private therapist appointments, medical appointments and extracurricular activities.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES SINCE LAST AUDIT:

In 2025, Westhaven Boys' Home hired a new midnight group home worker (Michael Privott). Tidewater Youth Services Commission (TYSC) is currently working to secure a new group home for Westhaven Boys Home. Additionally, Westhaven's major project in 2025 was to put a new privacy fence in our backyard, so our youth have privacy when they are outside playing.

Every year during the month of August, Westhaven nominates a past or current resident for Youth Recognition Night award for continuing to demonstrate the values and mission of the Commission.

**DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE
REGULATORY AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENT UPDATE**

September 14, 2026

6VAC35-20 Regulation Governing the Monitoring, Approval, and Certification of Juvenile Justice Programs and Facilities

Stage: Proposed (Standard Regulatory Process)

Status: The department completed a periodic review in May of 2019 and recommended that the regulation be amended. This action makes the recommended amendments as well as other changes recommended by the work group assembled to work on this chapter. The NOIRA was submitted on December 20, 2024, and completed Executive Branch Review on April 1, 2025. It was published in the *Virginia Register* on April 21, 2025, at which time the 30-day public comment period began. The public comment period ended on May 21, 2025, with no comments submitted. The board approved the proposed amendments and authorized the department to proceed to the Proposed Stage at its October 27, 2025, meeting. The department initiated the Proposed Stage and submitted it to the Office of the Attorney General on November 20, 2025. This action is undergoing Executive Branch Review.

6VAC35-30 Regulation Governing State Reimbursement of Local Juvenile Residential Facility Costs

6VAC35-35 Regulation Governing the Process for Planning, Designing, and Constructing Locally Funded Juvenile Residential Facilities (*New)

Stage: Proposed (Standard Regulatory Process)

Status: This action involves a comprehensive overhaul of the process localities follow to obtain state reimbursement for local facility construction and renovation projects and proposes a new process for localities that have no plans to seek reimbursement for such projects. The NOIRA completed Executive Branch review on January 7, 2021, and was published in the *Virginia Register* on February 1, 2021. The 30-day public comment period generated no comments. The department initiated the Proposed stage on September 29, 2023. OAG completed their review on March 20, 2025. DPB completed their review on May 20, 2025. SPSHS completed their review on January 6, 2026. ORM and the Governor's Office completed their review on January 13, 2026. The Proposed stage was published in the *Virginia Register* on April 6, 2026, and a 60-day public comment period began, ending on June 5, 2026; the department received one comment. At a future board meeting, the department will request the board's approval to advance the action to Final Stage.

6VAC35-41 Regulation Governing Juvenile Group Homes and Halfway Houses

Stage: Final (Standard Regulatory Process)

Status: The action involves a comprehensive review of the regulatory requirements governing juvenile group homes and other nonsecure juvenile residential facilities. The

NOIRA completed Executive Branch review on October 7, 2016, and was published in the *Virginia Register* on October 31, 2016, yielding no public comments. The action was submitted through the Proposed stage on April 17, 2020, completed Executive Branch review on April 21, 2021, and was published in the *Virginia Register* on May 24, 2021. The 60-day public comment period ended on July 23, 2021, yielding no public comments. On March 22, 2023, the board approved additional proposed amendments, and on April 28, 2023, the department submitted the amendments for Executive Branch review at the Final stage. The action has completed review by the OAG, DPB, and the SPSHS, and was in the Governor's office at the end of the previous administration. The SPSHS is currently conducting another review at the Final stage.

6VAC35-71 Regulation Governing Juvenile Correctional Centers

Stage: Final (Standard Regulatory Process).

Status: This action involves a comprehensive review of the regulatory requirements governing juvenile correctional centers. The NOIRA was published in the *Virginia Register* on October 3, 2016. At the NOIRA stage, no public comments were submitted. The Proposed action completed Executive Branch review on September 5, 2019, and was published in the *Virginia Register* on September 30, 2019. The 60-day public comment period ended on November 29, 2019, yielding no public comment. Because numerous significant changes were made after the Proposed stage, the action was advanced through a Revised Proposed stage submitted on August 31, 2021, which completed Executive Branch review on January 4, 2022, was published in the *Virginia Register* on February 14, 2022, and subjected to a 30-day public comment period ending on March 16, 2022. The board approved additional amendments on September 21, 2022, for advancement to the Final stage of the standard regulatory process, and the department submitted the amendments for Executive Branch review on December 20, 2022. On November 1, 2024, the department asked the OAG to return the action to the department to address concerns regarding regulatory overreach. On August 18, 2025, the board approved additional amendments to address these concerns. The updated action was resubmitted for review at the Final stage on April 24, 2026, and is currently with the SPSHS.

6VAC35-101 Regulation Governing Juvenile Secure Detention Centers

Stage: Final (Standard Regulatory Process)

Status: This action involves a comprehensive review of the regulatory requirements governing secure juvenile detention centers. The NOIRA completed Executive Branch review on September 23, 2016, and was published in the *Virginia Register* on October 17, 2016, yielding no public comments. The action was submitted through the Proposed stage on September 3, 2019, completed Executive Branch review on April 21, 2021, and was published in the *Virginia Register of Regulations* on May 24, 2021. The 60-day public comment period ended on July 23, 2021, and resulted in two public comments. The Final stage was submitted on June 16, 2022. The action has completed review by the OAG, DPB, and the SPSHS, and was at ORM at the end of the previous administration. In May 2026, the SPSHS requested that the department withdraw the Final stage and submit a Revised Proposed stage in order to receive additional public comment. The department is working to complete the necessary documents to file the Revised Proposed stage.

6VAC35-101 Regulation Governing Juvenile Secure Detention Centers

Stage: Proposed (Standard Regulatory Process)

Status: This action creates a new Part X in 6VAC35-101 pertaining to Community Placement Programs (CPPs). The NOIRA was published in the *Virginia Register* on June 17, 2024, and the department received no public comment. The Proposed stage was submitted on December 4, 2024. The OAG completed their review on March 20, 2025. DPB completed their review on May 12, 2025. The SPSHS completed their review on January 6, 2026. The Governor's office completed their review on May 12, 2026, and the action was published in the *Virginia Register* on August 10, 2026. The 60-day public comment period is underway.

6VAC35-150 Regulation for Nonresidential Services

Stage: NOIRA (Standard Regulatory Process)

Status: This action seeks to make comprehensive amendments to the Regulations for Nonresidential Services, the chapter that governs court service units and other nonresidential programs. The board authorized the department to initiate the NOIRA stage on August 18, 2025. DPB completed their review of the NOIRA on September 16, 2025. The SPSHS completed their review on January 6, 2026, and the Governor's office completed their review on April 22, 2026. The action was published in the *Virginia Register* on May 18, 2026, triggering a 30-day public comment period that ended on June 17, 2026, and yielded no comments. At a future board meeting, the department will request the board's approval to advance the action to the Proposed Stage.

6VAC35-160 Regulation Governing Juvenile Record Information and the Virginia Juvenile Justice Information System

Stage: NOIRA (Standard Regulatory Process)

Status: This action involves a comprehensive overhaul of the chapter addressing the requirements for participating agencies authorized to use the Virginia Juvenile Justice Information System (VJJIS), a system tasked with receiving, classifying, and filing certain data maintained by the department and related entities. The chapter also addresses requirements for maintaining, storing, preserving, and expunging juvenile record information. The board authorized the initiation of the NOIRA on October 27, 2025, and DPB completed their review on May 21, 2026. The action is currently under review with the SPSHS.

6VAC35-170 Regulation Governing Juvenile Data Requests and Research Involving Human Subjects

Stage: Final (Standard Regulatory Process)

Status: This action involves a comprehensive overhaul of the chapter addressing the process individuals must follow when they submit a request for data or seek to perform research involving individuals under the care or supervision of the department or board-regulated facilities. The NOIRA completed Executive Branch review on March 15, 2024,

and was published in the *Virginia Register* on April 8, 2024. The 30-day public comment period yielded no comments. The department initiated the Proposed stage on March 10, 2025. The Proposed action completed Executive Branch review on September 30, 2025, and was published in the *Virginia Register* on November 3, 2025, initiating a 60-day public comment period. The public comment period concluded on January 2, 2026, and yielded no comments. The department made additional minor amendments, which the board approved on March 27, 2026. The department submitted the action for Executive Branch review at the Final Stage on April 17, 2026, and the action has completed OAG and DPB review. The action is currently being reviewed by the SPSHS.

6VAC35-180 Regulations Governing Mental Health Services Transition Plans for Incarcerated Juveniles

Stage: Proposed (Standard Regulatory Process)

Status: This action involves a comprehensive overhaul of the regulatory requirements to ensure the continued provision of post-release services for incarcerated juveniles with a substance abuse, mental health, or other therapeutic need. The NOIRA completed Executive Branch review on January 4, 2022, and was published in the *Virginia Register* on February 14, 2022. The required 30-day public comment period ended on March 16, 2022, and yielded no comments. The department initiated the Proposed stage of the standard regulatory process on July 21, 2023. This action has completed review by the OAG and DPB. It is currently under review by the SPSHS.

6VAC35-200 Regulations Governing Youth Detained Pursuant to Federal Contracts (*New)

Stage: Proposed (Standard Regulatory Process)

Status: This action seeks to establish new regulations applicable to programs for youth detained in juvenile correctional facilities pursuant to contracts with the federal government. The action is intended to carry out the legislative directive in Chapter 599 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly. The NOIRA completed Executive Branch review on January 30, 2021, and was published in the *Virginia Register* on March 1, 2021, yielding no public comment. The Proposed stage was submitted on December 20, 2022. The OAG and DPB completed their reviews, and the action is now under review at the SPSHS.