



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

Board of Juvenile Justice

**Central Office
700 Centre Building - Conference Room
Board of Juvenile Justice Meeting
May 9, 2001**

Present: Kenneth Feng
John Harding
A. V. Maddra
John Wasowicz
Thomas Wilkins

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM by Chairman Wilkins.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Wilkins noted a revision to the Agenda - deletion of **Item VII. Other Business, B. Legislative Update**. The Agenda was accepted with the noted revision.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On MOTION duly made by Mr. Feng, seconded by Mr. Maddra, the Board approved the Minutes for the March 14, 2001, meeting. Motion carried.

IV. COMMENTS OF PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

V. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

As Director Peed was called to the Secretary's Office for a meeting, Ms. Kelly Gargasz informed the Board that Chief Deputy Director Marsden was absent because he was attending the Virginia Executive Institute in Williamsburg this week. She distributed a brief listing of DJJ accomplishments since Director Peed assumed his position. On behalf of Director Peed, Ms. Gargasz recognized the hard work of all DJJ staff for helping to achieve these accomplishments.

Ms. Gargasz recognized Ms. Jackie Green, Public Relations Coordinator, who spoke on the Department's activities on behalf of Special Olympics. She said that for this first year of involvement, the goal is \$5,000 from all the fund-raising events being held. June 8 will be the date for the Torch Run at the University of Richmond. Lt. Harding said that he was running in Charlottesville for the police department.

Ms. Green announced that her husband was selected to attend the Command and General Staff College at Leavenworth, Kansas; and she will be leaving in July. Mr. Feng thanked Jackie for her work and for establishing the Public Information Office. She said that she would be leaving a manual and guidelines for her successor. Ms. Gargasz expressed appreciation on behalf of DJJ for Jackie's contributions.

Ms. Gargasz related that the ward population as of May 8 was 1,136, which is a big improvement from slightly over a year ago.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Secure Services Committee

On MOTIONS duly made by Mr. Harding, seconded by Mr. Maddra, to continue probation for Crater Detention Home until November 2001 ; certify Rappahannock Juvenile Center for one year with a modified audit in January 2002 of standards missed during this audit plus life, health, and safety standards; certify Tidewater Detention Home for three years; and grant a conditional certification to James River Juvenile Detention Center that is valid for six months. Motions carried.

B. Non-Secure Services Committee

The Board welcomed Mr. Andrew Brown, Executive Director of Crater Youth Care Commission, who expressed appreciation to the Board and DJJ for working with the Commission in addressing overcrowding and other issues experienced over the past several years. He distributed a memorandum explaining corrective actions taken to alleviate overcrowding.

Mr. Maddra requested that Mr. Brown send a copy of the consultants' report to DJJ for distribution to the Board members.

The Board also recognized David Canada, Petersburg City Manager, and Mary Jones, Sussex County Administrator, who attended on behalf of the Crater Youth Care Commission. They thanked the Board for its cooperation and patience.

On MOTIONS duly made by Mr. Feng, seconded by Mr. Wasowicz, to certify Chaplin Youth Center for three years; certify Crossroads Community Youth Home for three years with a letter of congratulations for 100% compliance and approve the program for post-dispositional and predispositional residents; certify Regional Group Home for three years; and continue certification of Fairfax Less Secure Shelter to July 2001 pending receipt of a corrective action plan. Motions carried.

On MOTION duly made by Mr. Feng, seconded by Mr. Wasowicz to amend the Norfolk VJCCA plan be approved. Motion carried.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Budget Information

Mr. Barry Green distributed a budget handout and gave an updated overview of how the budget impasse impacts DJJ. DJJ's budget reductions will be \$542,656 this fiscal year and \$720,080 next year. These savings will be generated by reducing the number of private JCC beds purchased. With decreased commitments and improved population management, DJJ will not need the number of private beds for which we were previously funded. The biggest funding issue caused by the General Assembly's budget impasse is that there is no funding beginning July 2001 for detention centers that opened this year or are scheduled to open next year. Mr. Green said it is likely that a "caboose bill" may be passed in the 2002 General Assembly to amend the existing biennial budget. He also explained how block grants are affected by the lack of salary increases. Mr. Green concluded by reporting that DJJ has been given permission by the Department of Budget and Planning to submit full budget requests for three new capital projects:

- 1) New Central Infirmary/DCE classrooms building at RDC,
- 2) New Hanover administration building, and
- 3) Expanded Beaumont treatment space.

VIII. COMMENTS OF BOARD

Messrs. Harding and Feng had no comments.

Mr. Wasowicz commented positively on the news clipping handouts that Ms. Green compiled and distributed. All the Board members found the information helpful and useful.

Mr. Maddra asked if DJJ staff could do a comparative analysis on recidivism information. Mr. Steve Pullen said his unit has been gathering recidivism rates for boot camps, JCCs, and

probationers for the last three to four years as part of performance measures for the Department of Planning and Budget. He will prepare a graph for the Board.

Mr. Maddra discussed the importance of holding monthly meetings (with the exceptions of July/August and December) for continuity and getting work done. He said that matters needing to be discussed shouldn't go two months without being addressed. Mr. Maddra said he realized that monthly meetings presented an extra burden on the staff. Mr. Feng supported the motion and said he needed the continuity, too. He said that he wants to be more proactive in particular areas - training and performance evaluation. Mr. Wilkins said the Board can determine when and where to meet.

On MOTION duly made by Mr. Maddra, seconded by Mr. Feng, that the Board resumes holding monthly meetings beginning June 2001. Board members discussed the need for a motion as the Board could determine when and where to hold meetings. Mr. Wilkins said that Mr. Maddra, as Board Secretary, has the authority to determine whether, when, or where the Board meets and the number of times it meets. Mr. Maddra, representing the policy end, is to work closely with Ms. Gargas, representing the operations end, to develop Board meetings. Mr. Maddra withdrew his motion.

The Board agreed to hold the June 13 meeting at or near the Crater Detention facility. Mr. Brown, Director of Crater, and Ms. Gargas will work out the logistics of where to hold the meeting, which will culminate with a tour of the facility.

Mr. Feng requested that the Director and staff, to the maximum extent possible, help solve the overcrowding problem at Crater as soon as possible using any creative methods available.

Mr. Wilkins said he met with Congressman Frank Wolf (new subcommittee chair of commerce, justice, state judiciary, and related agencies) to discuss juvenile justice issues in Virginia. Congressman Wolf represents the 10th District of Virginia. He said that he was in the process of hiring an individual to work in the area of juvenile justice and wanted us to contact that person. Mr. Wilkins also met with people on the appropriations side at the Capital. He said that he was pleasantly surprised to see a statement in the budget regarding juvenile justice. He left a budget packet with Director Peed. Mr. Wilkins reported that the Congressman's staff persons would intervene on behalf of DJJ with regard to the grant proposal sent to Department of Labor. He said he (as an ex-employee of DOL) has also contacted that Department on DJJ's behalf. Mr. Wilkins asked to be kept abreast of any contact DJJ has with this new channel of contact. Mr. Peed will give Mr. Wilkins some dates to arrange for a meeting with Congressman Wolf to discuss DJJ's needs in relation to the budget shortfall. Mr. Wilkins also talked to Congressman Tom Davis who is supportive as well as his Democratic counterpart in the 8th District.

Mr. Wilkins discussed the upcoming Juvenile Family Court Judge Association Conference in Alexandria. Messrs. Wasowicz and Feng will attend with Mr. Wilkins. Mr. Wasowicz mentioned that on the first day of the Conference the juvenile court of Fairfax has planned daylong activities for their First Annual Family Day. He will get an agenda to each Board

member. Messrs. Feng and Wasowicz will report on the Conference to the Board at the June meeting.

Mr. Muse had no items to bring before the Board.

DJJ's video, "The Female Perspective," about females incarcerated in our JCCs was shown during lunch, which preceded the tour of the Governor's Mansion.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

X. ADJOURN

On MOTION duly made by Mr. Feng, seconded by Mr. Harding, to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Patricia F. Rollston

Patricia F. Rollston