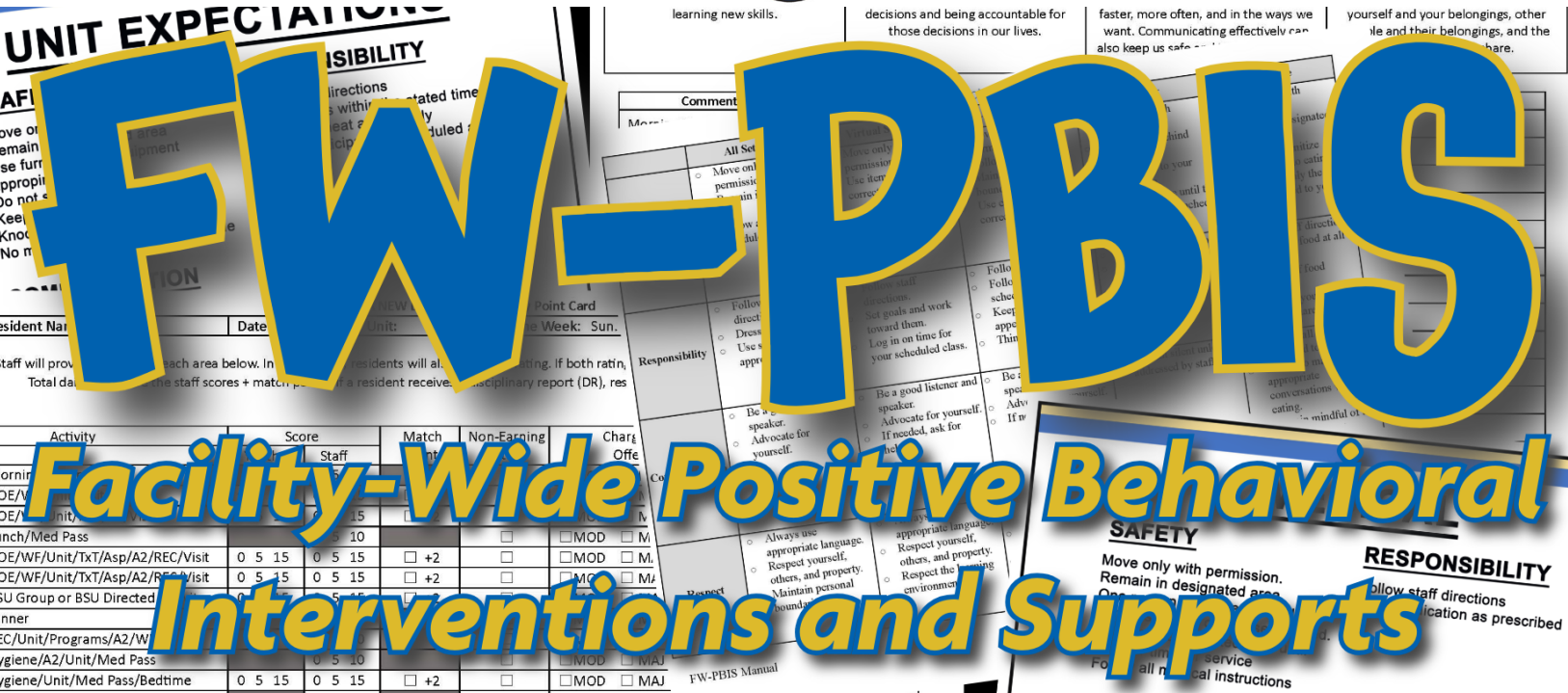


DJJ NEWS



Facility-Wide PBIS Begins at Bon Air JCC

After many months of preparation, Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center began its implementation of Facility-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, or FW-PBIS, on April 1.

During academic spring break, the facility's five specialized housing units were the first to go online with the data- and evidence-based program designed to improve academic, social and behavioral outcomes for youth. The facility's remaining units are expected to be on board at the end of April, making Virginia the 15th state in the nation to fully implement PBIS in a juvenile correctional setting.

The Facility-Wide Leadership Team worked together to begin aligning all of Bon Air JCC with the FW-PBIS framework. The effort included all areas of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice, including research, policy, residential services, information technology, training,

procurement, the education division, interventions, and maintenance. Ongoing support and coaching will be needed to ensure all staff and residents are successful.

Throughout a typical day under the FW-PBIS framework, residents carry a daily point card on which staff – and, in some cases, the residents themselves – provide ratings of meeting behavioral expectations across all areas of the facility. Self-ratings are an opportunity for residents to be accountable for their behavior, and staff to provide clear feedback to them.

The card also has space to note chargeable disciplinary offenses on a scale of Moderate, Major, or Maximum, and placement into a non-point earning status for a specified length of time. Residents automatically lose all their points for any assault on a non-resident.

Residents who remain free of chargeable offenses can use earned PBIS points to choose from a menu of incentives such as name-brand toiletries, snack foods and time in a soon-to-be-open incentive area, where each housing unit will be scheduled one hour a week. While there, residents can relax, play video games, and enjoy food and drink purchased with earned points. Points can also be used to attend special activities and events, such as an art show planned for later in the month. Additionally, staff at Bon Air JCC can be recognized and rewarded for their efforts as part of the FW-PBIS implementation.

The use of PBIS at DJJ began in February 2018 across its Division of Education. In the first year of implementation, a 77% decrease occurred in student removals from class due to disruptive behavior. Using a proactive approach, the data- and evidence-based framework has been applied in juvenile justice settings, including at maximum-security facilities, across the country. In Texas, where state law mandates the use of PBIS across its juvenile justice departments, there was a 46% reduction in incident rates within the first 100 days of introducing the program in its maximum-security facilities.