



NEWS

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

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CULPEPER JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL CENTER TO TRANSITION TO ADULT CORRECTIONS FACILITY FOR WOMEN

Improved community programs, effective diversionary strategies attributed to recent steady decline in juvenile population; two halfway houses to close

Richmond, VA, Dec. 16 – More innovative and aggressive diversionary programs and crime prevention measures by the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and Virginia communities, has resulted in a nearly 35 percent decline in the number of juveniles housed in DJJ correctional facilities in the last eight years, allowing the agency to transfer its Culpeper Juvenile Correctional Center to the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC) to be used as a much-needed facility for female inmates.

DJJ Director Mark Gooch said the arrangement will save the DOC an estimated \$5 million that it would have cost to build a new facility for female adults. The DOC has an existing facility for adults on the same property located about seven miles south of Culpeper in the village of Mitchells.

Juveniles currently housed at the Culpeper JCC will be relocated by late June, 2014, to DJJ's remaining two juvenile correctional centers, Bon Air and Beaumont, both located in the greater Richmond area, where they will continue to receive the same services and education at accredited on-campus high schools. Most DJJ staff from the facilities will be reassigned to Bon Air and Beaumont, as well as with the DOC.

Halfway houses located in rented properties in cities of Staunton and Norfolk, which have been used minimally in recent years, also will cease operations by the end of February, 2014.

“Since 2005, the number of youths entering our system because of criminal behavior has gone from an average daily population of well over 1,000 to a current

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population of about 600," Gooch said. "We see this as a very positive trend, one that can be credited to extraordinary teamwork between our courts and our professional staff in finding creative, effective ways to provide youths a path other than incarceration to a successful future."

"Turning the Culpeper juvenile facility into a DOC facility for adult female offenders – an occasion heralded by successful alternatives to incarceration for youths – is a positive development not only for both agencies but for taxpayers," said DOC Director Harold Clarke. "This will be a much-needed resource for our adult female offenders."

To serve youths who are nearing the end of their commitments and are preparing to re-enter the community, DJJ will partner with localities. DJJ will identify, and contract with, existing locally-operated juvenile detention facilities in the Commonwealth to house approximately 40 youth to provide educational and vocational programming in proximity of youths' homes.

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