

Briefing for Virginia Task Force on Juvenile Correctional Centers

Richmond, VA
August 23, 2016

THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION



Transformation of DJJ is well underway

- Since we were invited to do our assessment in July 2014, DJJ has made remarkable progress on all three elements of its transformation strategy:
 - Reduce
 - Reform
 - Replace
- These gains are a testament to the dedication and professionalism of DJJ staff, as well as strong leadership
- Much remains to be done, but the direction is clear and the progress to date bodes well for the future

PROGRESS ON THE CORE ELEMENTS OF THE TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY

REDUCE: DJJ has made smart, targeted reductions in the direct care population

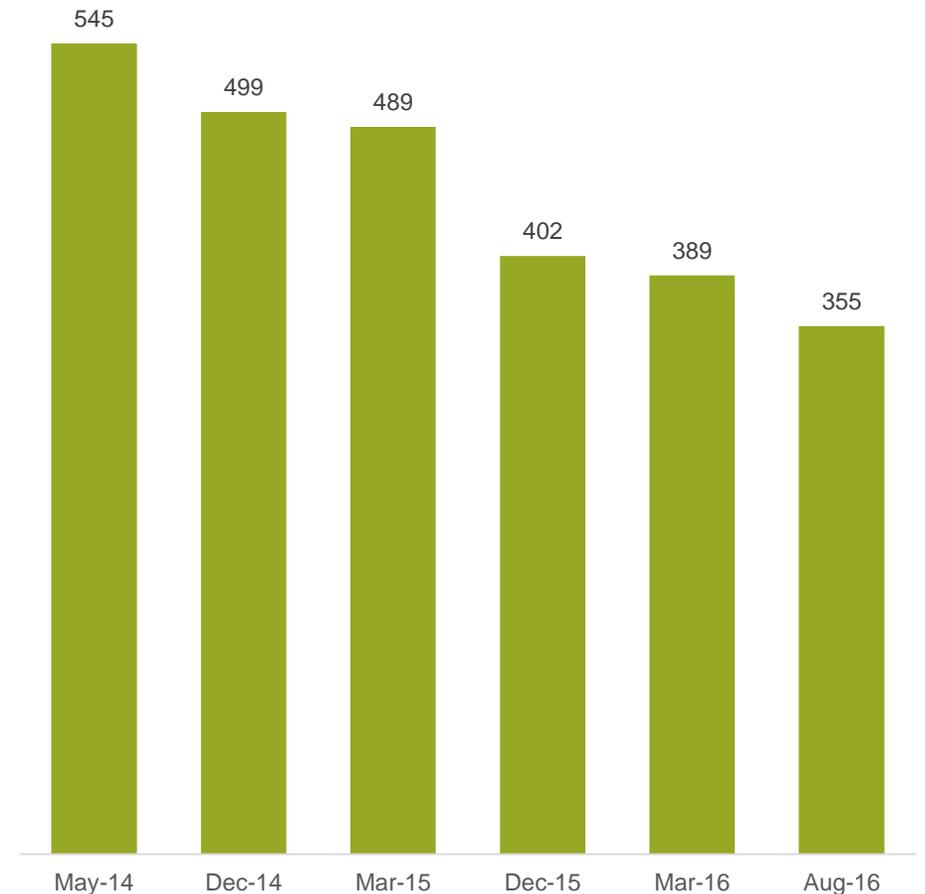
Since we were invited to do our assessment in July 2014:

- Total population down by more than one-third
- Population in alternative placements has more than tripled
- JCC population down by nearly half

Total population in direct care down by more than one-third

- Contributors include:
 - Continued decreases in delinquency cases and commitments
 - The first significant decrease in average length of stay since the 1990s
- Re-entry planning is being streamlined and enhanced, with families and youth themselves taking their rightful place at the center of that process

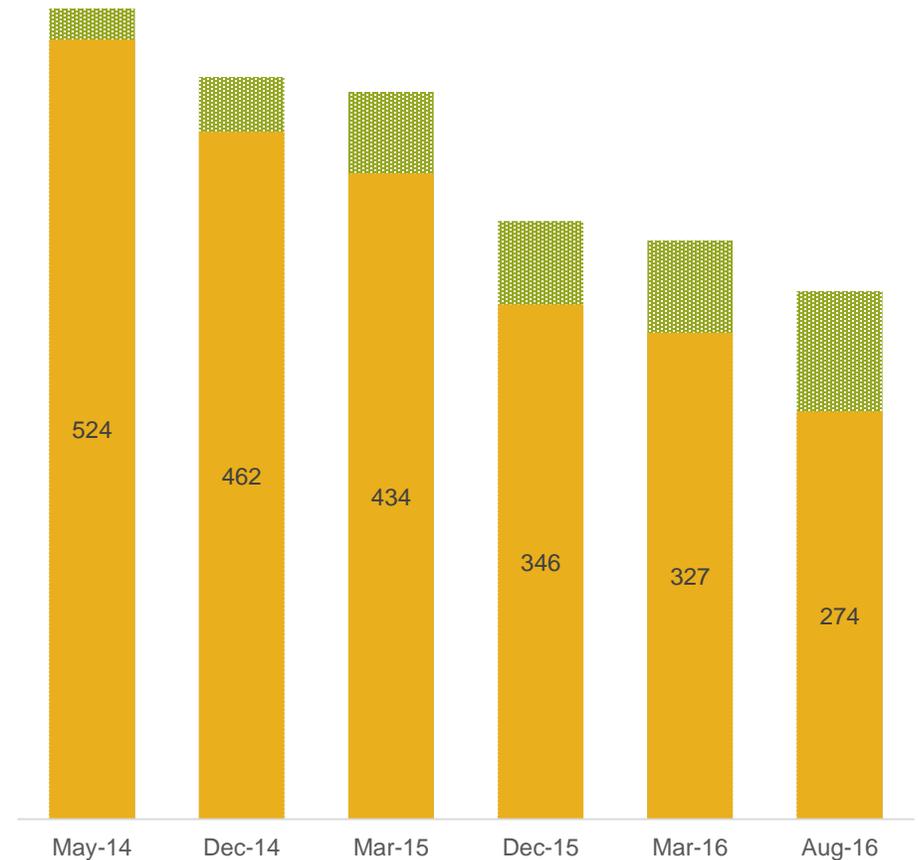
Total population in direct care
(selected dates, May 2014 - August 2016)



JCC population down by nearly half

- Two years ago, Beaumont and Bon Air averaged more than 240 residents each – today that number is fewer than 140
- This decrease by itself may have contributed to improvements in safety indicators over the past 12-18 months
 - Number and share of youth placed in special housing units has fallen
 - Number and rate of aggressive behaviors reported has fallen over the past 12 months

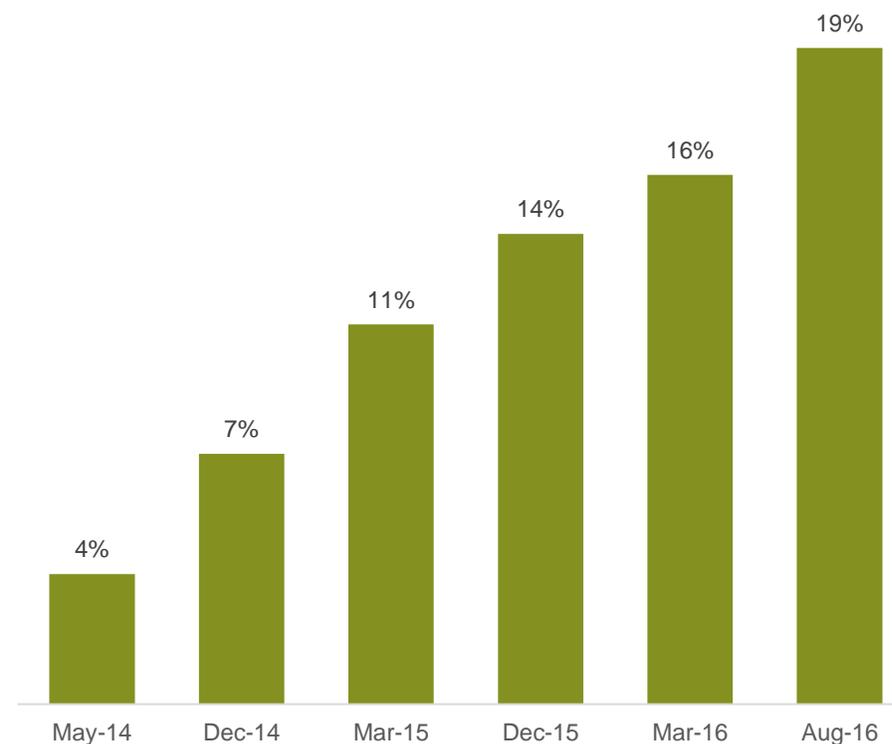
Total population in JCCs
(selected dates, May 2014 - August 2016)



Population in alternative placements has more than tripled

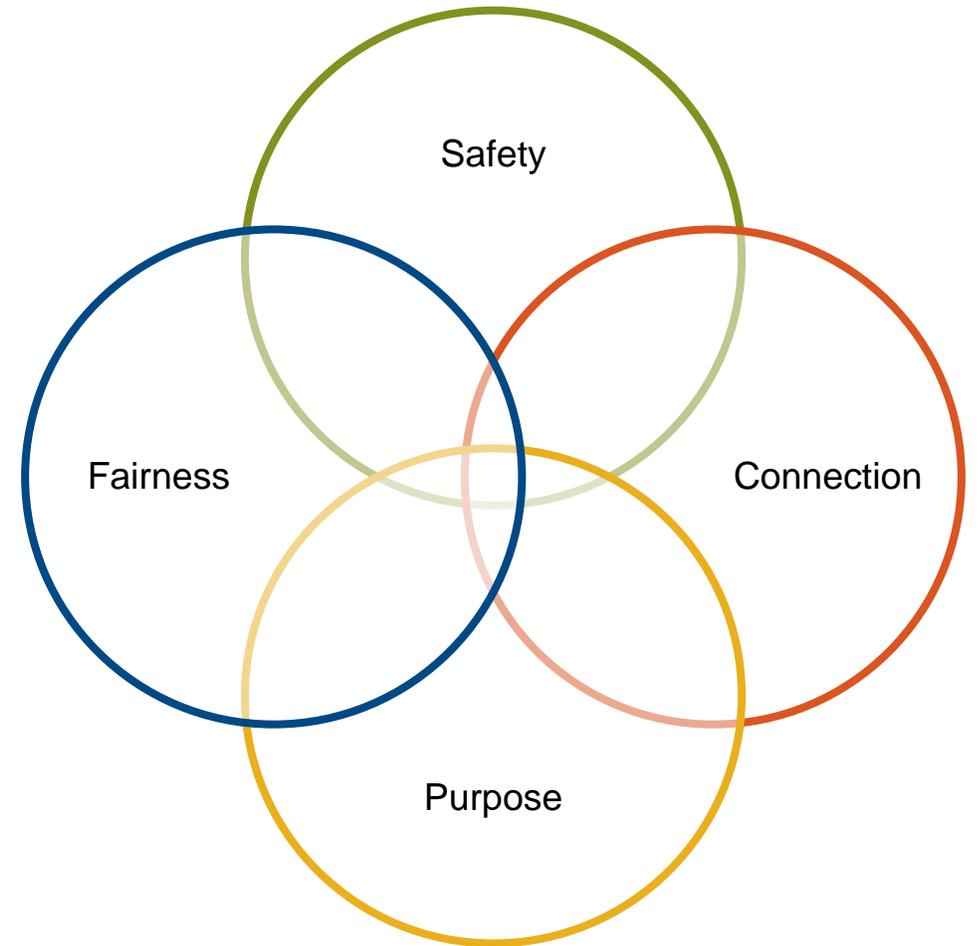
- The share of the direct care population living in small, local secure placements has risen from less than 5 percent to roughly 20 percent
 - The number of Juvenile Detention Centers (JDCs) participating in Community Placement Program (CPP) quadrupled from 2 to 8, and they are serving youth with a wider array of needs
- Procurement of regional service coordination partners is underway
 - Mechanism to provide more community-based and evidence-based services, both residential & non-residential
- Target is to serve half of all direct care youth in settings other than a JCC
 - This would mean that JCCs are reserved for only very high-risk & determinately sentenced youth

Share of direct care population held in alternative placements
(selected dates, May 2014 - August 2016)



REFORM: DJJ's approach to working with youth and their families is fundamentally changing

- Community Treatment Model
- Youth and family engagement
- Better services
 - Re-entry planning and supports
 - Intake and assessment process
 - Educational & vocational offerings
- Better decision making
 - Tools to support more consistent and better-informed decisions about dispositional recommendations, placements, and LOS



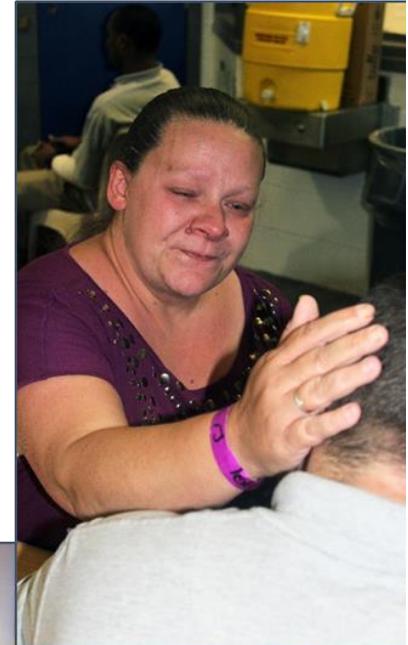
Community Treatment Model

- Two years ago, the Community Treatment Model (CTM) did not exist – today, roughly half of JCC youth live in CTM units
 - A comprehensive new approach, the product of dedicated and resourceful DJJ staff
- Early indications are that implementation of CTM has been associated with improved safety, stronger relationships between residents and staff, and more frequent family visitation



Youth & Family Engagement

- Family
 - New emphasis on family visitation
 - Transportation assistance program already supporting more than 100 visits per month
 - Family partnership meetings
- Youth
 - Re-energized youth council
 - Personal Action Plan to become part of the re-entry planning process



Better services for youth in direct care

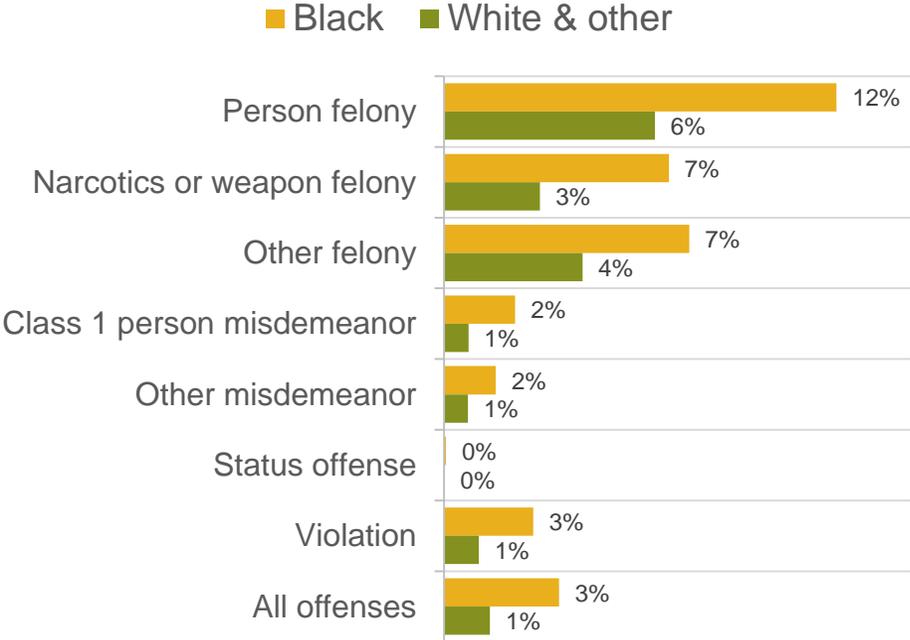
- Re-entry planning and resources
- Intake & assessment process
- Educational & vocational offerings
 - Largest number of diplomas awarded to date at Yvonne B. Miller High School



Better tools for decision making

- Factoring risk and needs into decisions about placement and length of stay
 - Renewed emphasis on validated objective risk assessment instruments
 - New LOS policy for indeterminate sentenced youth
- Using data to examine and improve dispositional recommendations
 - Effort underway to develop a structured dispositional matrix (SDM)

FY12-13 cases involving Black youth were more than twice as likely to result in commitment to DJJ, than cases involving youth of other races – and this pattern held across all major offense categories



REPLACE: DJJ has developed a realistic, feasible roadmap for replacing the current JCCs

- Projected reduction in JCC capacity of more than 70 percent, with savings reinvested in a continuum of more community-based alternatives
 - Smaller facilities would be easier to manage than current JCCs
 - Moving out of the very large (200+ bed) facility infrastructure is vital (whether through construction or renovation)
- Proposed locations would be much closer to the communities where most families live
 - The Chesapeake facility will make a dramatic difference
 - Step toward a more regionally focused system
- Precious opportunity to create:
 - a safer, more therapeutic built environment
 - more efficient and easier to maintain facilities
 - stronger partnerships with communities from which committed youth are coming

WHAT'S NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE TRANSFORMATION

Completing this transformation will require:

1. Continued investment in developing a continuum of services and placement alternatives
2. Continued emphasis on engaging youth, families and communities
3. Continued emphasis on using objective tools to promote fairness and to match the right youth with the right intervention at the right time
4. Transition to new or renovated facilities that are appropriately sized and sited
5. Continued refinement and implementation of the CTM

THANK YOU!

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