

Brian Moran, Chairman
Jeffrey Aaron
Andrew K. Block, Jr.
Kimberley C. Lipp
Janet S. Lung
Scott Reiner



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
*Task Force on
Juvenile Correctional Centers*

MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2016

9:00 a.m.

Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Task Force Members Present: Brian Moran, Andy Block, Jeff Aaron, Janet Lung, Kimberley Lipp, and Scott Reiner with Victoria Cochran (Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security)

Guests: Tempestt Boone, Valerie Boykin (Department of Juvenile Justice [Department]), Ken Davis (Department), Michael Farley (Elk Hill), Lisa Floyd (Department), Daryl Francis (Department), Dick Hickman (Senate Finance Committee), Wendy Hoffman (Department), Jack Ledden (Department), Deron Phipps (Department), David Reynolds (House Appropriates Committee), Liane Rozzell (Annie E. Casey Foundation), Donna Sayegh, Lynetta Thompson (NAACP), Angela Valentine (Department), Janet Van Cuyk (Department), Amy Woolard (Voices for Virginia's Children)

WELCOME

Chairman Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, welcomed all that were present and stated that he was honored to be asked to chair the Task Force on Juvenile Correctional Centers (Task Force).

Chairman Moran asked the Task Force members to introduce themselves.

Brian Moran; Andy Block, Director, Department; Jeff Aaron, Facility Director, Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS); Janet Lung, Director, Child and Family Services, DBHDSd; Kimberley Lipp, Chief, Architectural and Engineering Services, Department of Corrections; and Scott Reiner, Interim Executive Director, Office of Children's Services

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Chairman Moran stated he believes this to be a historic and remarkable meeting with what has happened in the past two years and two months in juvenile justice in the Commonwealth. Upon taking office, Chairman Moran and Deputy Secretary Cochran were presented a plan by the Department to close the Beaumont and Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Centers and substitute them with a facility in Hanover. This idea intrigued the Secretary whose background in the juvenile courts

started back in 1989 and continued until his appointment. Chairman Moran noted that he successfully sponsored legislation to complete a study on juvenile justice during his time in the legislature in 2006. This was after the 1990s legislative changes in juvenile justice when laws went into effect that were tough on crime and allowed more juvenile offenders to be treated as adults. The study indicated a major finding regarding the impact of disproportionate minority contact for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. There was very little data on the subject back then in response to questions as to whether or not we were getting results and how these laws were impacting public safety in the Commonwealth. Chairman Moran and Governor McAuliffe brought in a passionate, knowledgeable, committed public servant in Director Andy Block. It was a perfect storm: a Director of the Department and a Secretary that is knowledgeable about these issues and a Governor who embraced the ideas. Director Block secured the services of the Annie E. Casey Foundation (Casey Foundation) to complete a top to bottom system reform and a comprehensive analysis of available data, the latter of which is something that was previously tried but was never accomplished. The Casey Foundation's analysis found that the Department was spending a disproportionate amount of its budget on the small percentage of youth committed to juvenile correctional centers compared with the other approximately 90% of individuals under the Department's supervision, with unsatisfactory results the Department was obtaining with the committed youth.

Chairman Moran is confident that the Task Force's charge and the Department's transformation are the appropriate direction for juvenile justice in the Commonwealth. These are in the best interests of the youth and the public safety for our fellow Virginians.

HISTORY OF JUVENILE JUSTICE TRANSFORMATION

Director Block presented a retrospective of the Department's transformation. (Please see the PowerPoint slides from the May 12, 2016, meeting on the Department's [website](http://www.djj.virginia.gov), www.djj.virginia.gov).

Mr. Scott Reiner commented that he has been involved with the juvenile justice system for a long time and what the group is hearing today takes pieces of things that have been tried in years past but had to be retrenched because of budget issues. The best of evidence-informed data and outcome-driven approaches are being brought together in a consolidated way that the Commonwealth has never really seen before. The Department transformation represents a whole-cloth renovation of the system in a coherent, sensible manner.

Mr. Reiner went on to explain that in order to make all of the Department's transformation efforts happen, improvement on the front end of the juvenile justice system and even prior to that point in time is necessary. The Commonwealth needs to have fewer kids coming into the juvenile justice system. Mr. Reiner noted that every step deeper into the system, whether it is in foster care, residential, psychiatric facilities, is usually a contributor to a less ideal outcome despite the best efforts of people operating those systems. Mr. Reiner believes that the Children's Services Act (CSA) can play a bigger role and bring resources and value into play across secretariats to prevent kids from being a number on the census sheet. Mr. Reiner noted that Secretary Hazel is fully committed to making this happen. Chairman Moran stated that the Governor created a Children's Cabinet which is a multi-agency secretarial approach to children's issues and continues to be a focus of the McAuliffe Administration.

OVERVIEW OF BUDGET AND TASK FORCE EXPECTATIONS

Chairman Moran reviewed the Budget Bill (HB 30) language (available on the Department's [website](#) under the May 12 meeting materials). Chairman Moran reminded the group that the Task Force's Interim Report is due before November 1, 2016, with a final report due before July 1, 2017. The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for May 31, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Patrick Henry Building. Chairman Moran stated that there is no reason to wait until November to complete the Interim Report if the Task Force review and analysis is completed at an earlier date.

Director Block informed the group that, at the Task Force's next meeting on May 31, 2016, advocates and other stakeholders will be invited to provide input into the process. If you are interested in presenting at this meeting, please contact Janet Van Cuyk, the Department's Legislative and Research Manager.

Director Block continued his slide presentation. Regarding a slide on population, Chairman Moran asked about the next Secretary's Office meeting on forecasting since this is a significant issue. Last year the forecasting group was optimistic about the declining population. Ms. Van Cuyk noted that the next forecasting report is due on October 15, 2016.

Ms. Van Cuyk explained that the Commonwealth operates a consensus decision making process regarding forecasting the juvenile population with a statistical analysis to inform the final decision by policy makers who consider any other factors that could implicate the data. There are statistical analyses, first on the number of admissions into the Department's juvenile correctional centers and second, informed by the admission analysis, on the average daily population of committed youth. Both the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) and the Department develop models for consideration. The statistical committee make recommendations on which model is more accurate or whether there is a blended proposal that would serve to most accurately predict the future committed population. Last year, the Department's admissions model forecasted a lower number than the DPB model. After much deliberation, the statistical committee recommended a compromise model. The Department just finished its forecasting accuracy report for the first three quarters of Fiscal Year 2016; the compromise model adopted as the official state forecast was less accurate than the Department's proposed forecast. The Department, as of the end of the third quarter, was one committed youth off from their forecasted population. Director Block stated that today the Department's juvenile correctional center census is 339.

Mr. Block stated that the Department will have a link on its website for the public to easily find meeting materials. The third meeting of the Task Force will include experts who will talk about specific issues requested by the legislature. The Department will also hold town hall meetings and create public forums so people who cannot attend meetings during regular working hours have an opportunity to share their views.

Director Block and Chairman Moran concluded their presentation, and Task Force members were asked to comment.

Mr. Reiner remembered when the Department separated from the Department of Corrections; it showed how much the juveniles needed their own system focused on their needs. This is an effort to give young people who make bad choices a second chance without labeling them as prisoners. This is a second chance for juvenile justice, for the kids, and the work we all do.

Ms. Lung stated that so many of the slides presented at this meeting can be found almost word for word in policy reports that DBHDS has produced in recent years. The DBHDS constantly talks about the inconsistent array of services, justice by geography similarly stated by Director Block, and the surveys done related to services on community services boards reflect this inconsistency.

Dr. Aaron stated that as a clinical psychologist, his training directs attention to outcome data rather than impressions, or policy responses based on selective attention to specific bad outcomes. He noted that the direction of the task force, as articulated by Secretary Moran and Director Block, is extremely encouraging as it is based in models of responding to juvenile delinquency and crime that are supported by research and linked to positive system outcomes.

Chairman Moran opened the meeting up to public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amy Woolard, Voices for Virginia's Children

Ms. Woolard thanked the Chairman for opening the meetings up to the public and was glad to hear about the town halls that will be scheduled to get input from other stakeholders. It can be difficult for families and kids to attend some of these events, so the earlier notice will be appreciated.

Michael Farley, Elk Hill

Mr. Farley noted that he has been around long enough to know of the system prior to the reforms of the 1990s. Mr. Farley commended Director Block and the Department for these reform efforts and noted that we have lost a lot of human and financial capital over the last few decades; it is time to turn it around.

Donna Sayegh, Citizen from Portsmouth

Ms. Sayegh is interested in helping schools implement change. She is focused on learning as much as she can to help schools learn how to resolve conflicts with kids and not be in a situation where schools have to use the juvenile justice system. Ms. Sayegh has provided information to Director Block.

Lynetta Thompson, NAACP

Ms. Thompson voiced her concern with the school to prison pipeline. When Ms. Thompson was coming to the juvenile justice meetings, it was more talk about community-based corrections; and she was not happy to hear about the planned new juvenile prison. Ms. Thompson is very much interested in community corrections and how the Department's transformation will support a stronger emphasis on this.

Dick Hickman, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Finance Committee

Mr. Hickman is delighted to see these agencies come together on the Task Force; this is exactly the kind of collaboration the Senate Finance Committee thought so essential for this process. Mr. Hickman noted that the Budget Caboose Bill (HB 29) calls for a report by the end of the fiscal year on June 30 related to the Department's transformation plan. Additionally, on July 7, 2016, the Senate Finance Public Safety Subcommittee is scheduled to visit Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center for a meeting and tour of the facility. Mr. Hickman remembers when there was much more robust funding for community placements for the Department and with the Office of Children's Services. Mr. Hickman thanked the group and wished them luck.

Chairman Moran noted a concern when the Reception and Diagnostic Center was being closed that the savings from that closing would go directly into the general fund. Now with the approval of the General Assembly those savings can be reinvested into community-based services. He noted that the Commonwealth needs those resources to build a continuum of services to ensure the best interventions to support the success of juvenile justice involved youth.

Chairman Moran adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.