



DJJ FORUM

Where DJJ employees gather to stay informed and celebrate our victories

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

June, 2019

All Aboard The Transformation Train

By VALERIE BOYKIN
DJJ Director

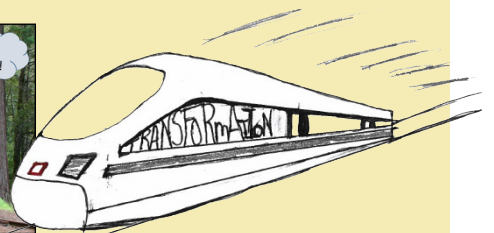
We have made remarkable progress in the first four years of our transformation effort! One of our favorite phrases during this period was describing the process as “building the plane while we are flying it.”

When I spoke with you as your incoming director at the recent DJJ Leadership Summit in Charlottesville, I indicated that I thought our plane was sufficiently built now to land it, and instead get on board to the Transformation Train, which will be able to take us to new and unexplored places that a plane cannot go.

In the spirit of our new theme, I asked our staff at Bon Air JCC and our Court Service Units to submit photos and images that reflect our forward progress aboard the Transformation Train. Thanks to everyone who submitted some clever, fun ideas, all of which are featured here.

Consistent with this theme, I’m also pleased to introduce a new newsletter, *On Board*, which will take the place of the *What’s Working* newsletter. In it, we will continue to highlight employees’ innovative ideas and programs that are clearly “on the right track” to help our youth become successful citizens.

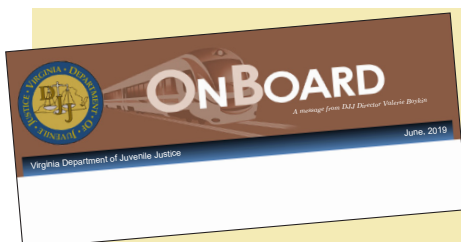
As your “conductor,” I remain very excited to see where our train takes us in the coming months.

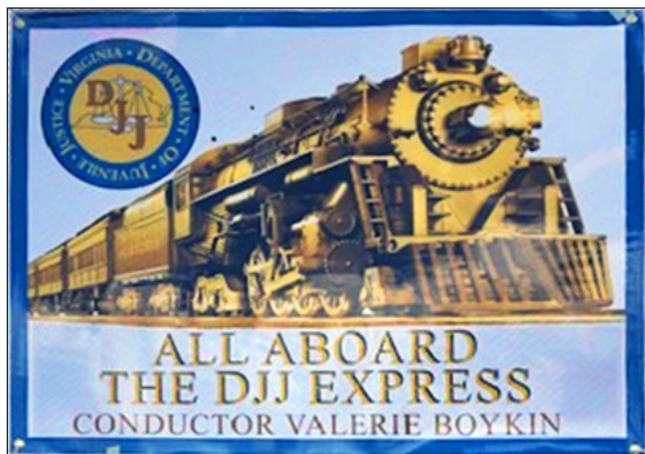


“The Dreams Don’t Expire” Express.
Difficult roads
often lead
to beautiful
destinations.

– Submitted by
Tiffany Davis
CSU 14-Henrico

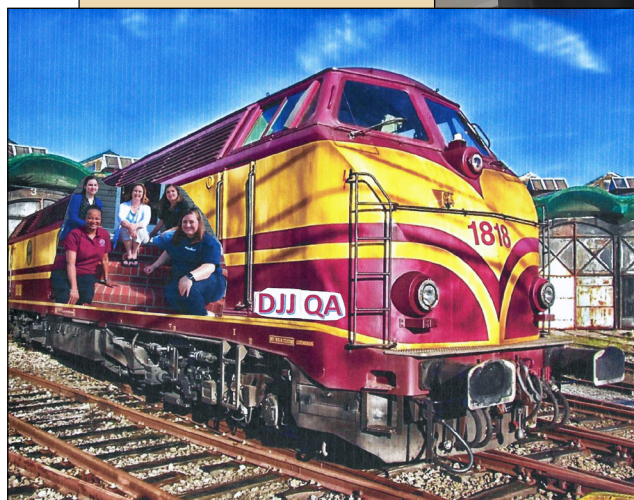
Top: CSU 28-Abingdon staff gets into the “training” spirit, from left: Probation Officer Senior Eric Anderson, P.O. Michelle Surber, CSU Director Darcy Janson, Executive Secretary Cathy Hagy, P.O. Heather Stanley, Probation Supervisor Kevin Downs. Center: Submissions from Sharnise Jackson, Training and Development Coordinator, and Office Services Specialist Sharon Gemmell of CSU 29-Tazewell. Left: The new “On Board” newsletter.





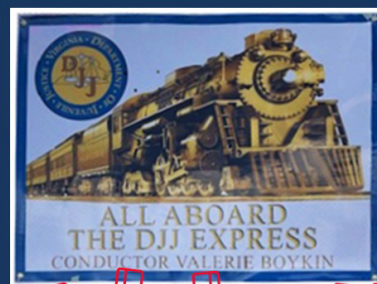
Welcome Aboard!

Above: Substance Abuse Service Provider Wanda Stevens, along with Instructor Jonathan Davis' advertising and graphic design students, designed this banner that is on display at Bon Air.



Above: Two residents of Unit 63 at Bon Air constructed this train. Left: Quality Assurance Unit team members, clockwise from left: Q.A. Specialists Deidre Davis and Christina Hall Zember; Q.A. Manager Andrea McMahon; Q.A. Specialists Nina Joyner and Leah Nelson.

Right: CSU 18—Alexandria's ticket to ride.



Ticket
Name: 18 th CSU



Virginia Department
of Juvenile Justice

Safety. Connection.
Purpose. Fairness.

Black History Month Observances

High School Celebrates African American Art

Yvonne B. Miller High School observed Black History Month by inviting numerous guests to perform and recite poetry in appreciation of African American art.

After a performance of “Lift Every Voice And Sing,” there was a Drum Call, featuring the Steppin’ Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company.

The Yvonne B. Miller Staff Choir followed with the singing of traditional gospel music, accompanied by voices, foot-stomping, hand-clapping, and anything else that made a sound.

Several poets recited their works, including Douglas C. Powell, Nikkea Sharee Green, Allen Onaje Baldwin, Tracey Brown, Eric Dugan, and Dawn Sheppard.



Yvonne B. Miller High School staff invited guests, and performed some themselves, to celebrate African American contributions to the arts during Black History Month. Top: A team of staff members performs traditional gospel music. Left: An educational game of “Jeopardy.” Above: The Steppin’ Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company.

Black History Month Observances

CSU 31-Manassas Involves Area Kids

CSU 31-Manassas invited youth in the community to help present its first Black History Celebration entitled “Remembering the Past to Shape the Future.” The presentation, given at the Dr. A.J. Ferlazzo Auditorium in Woodbridge, involved 25 youth who helped with props, curtains, lighting, ushers, hosting and refreshments. Adults and kids alike presented a journey through the past to shape the future. The presentation began in pre-slavery times and continued on a journey through slavery, civil rights, the Black Panther Movement, and up to the present with a look to the future.





Diedre Russell rewards family with “Family Movie Night” package.

CSU 6 – Hopewell

Diedre Russell, probation officer with CSU 6–Hopewell, recently presented a Hopewell youth with an incentive for sound compliance and progress. The CSU’s incentive program, called “Family Movie Night,” provides the youth and his/her family an “Excellence” certificate, a Redbox gift card, a Little Caesar’s gift card, box candy, and a 2-liter drink as a reward for their achievement. The goals of the program are to engage and encourage compliance from other court-involved youth and families.

DJJ Training Unit



Don White

Donald White, Safety Officer for the Virginia Public Safety Training Center (VPSTC), was recently recognized by the Alexandria Volunteer Fire Department as their Volunteer of the Year for 2018. In addition to the work White does at VPSTC, he has continued to serve his community in Alexandria even after his relocation to our area two years ago. Don’s legacy of public service is well known, and now VPSTC benefits from his expertise, wisdom, humor, positive attitude, and dedication.



Standing, from left: Probation Supervisor Vanessa Grooms, CSU 13 Director Kim Russo, Case Manager Sonia Easter, Intake Officer Vicky Eaton. Seated, from left: VCU Healthy Communities for Youth Case Manager Reid Stowe, Probation Supervisor Sabrina Lewis.

CSU 13–Richmond

Several staff members of **CSU 13–Richmond** recently participated in several **Youth Violence Prevention Week** activities, including “Peaceful Families,” “Safe & Healthy Communities” and “Youth Matter Showcase.” Staff assisted with registration, packing goody bags, greeting guests and coordinating the youth acts behind the stage.

Probation Officer Charles Durant of the Diagnostic Unit attended **Richmond Public School Career Day**.



Attending Richmond Public School Career Day, from left: Ed Gates, Richmond Justice Services; CSU 13 Probation Officer Charles Durant; a local student; Greg Hopkins, Richmond Justice Services.

CSU 21 – Martinsville



Kevin Meeks

CSU 21–Martinsville Director Kevin Meeks recently spoke at the 24th National Symposium on Juvenile Justice in Greensboro, N.C. Meeks spoke about the nature of court services field work in the session entitled, “Current Trends in Court Services Field Safety.” The

workshop provided Court Service Unit staff with updates in current safety practices, policy and procedure as well as training topics and methods. “This was a great opportunity to collaborate with DJJ staff from around the country,” Meeks says. “I have had several other states request information on the safety practices in the 21st District, especially around canine safety and the use of police radios.”

CSU 24–Lynchburg

Ayonna Harris, Probation Supervisor with CSU 24–Lynchburg other CSU staff represented the 24th District at multiple Empowering Neighborhoods to Overcome Undesirable behaviors Gives us Hope (ENOUGH) events in the community as a response to gang violence in Lynchburg neighborhoods. ENOUGH is a community outreach initiative sponsored by the local law enforcement community and churches within Lynchburg. The events provided opportunities for the residents to connect with local law enforcement. CSU 24 staff did an outstanding job of connecting and engaging with our community in an anti-violence effort and collaboration.



Left: Ayonna Harris connects with a Lynchburg youth. Right: Harris and Lynchburg P.D. Capt. Daniel Meehan.



Music Instructor Karen Cotta of Family Insight in Danville leads participants in the Coping With Music session.

CSU 22–Rocky Mount

CSU 22–Rocky Mount recently participated in the third annual Real Life of Southside event, designed to give at-risk youth a chance to experience what life will be like as they enter the workforce and adulthood. Breakout sessions included Budgeting, Coping with Music, Substance Abuse Awareness, and discussions with District 22 Juvenile Court Judges Timothy W. Allen and Brian H. Turpin.

“This has been a positive event for Southside drawing together with community members to make it all happen for our youth,” says CSU 22 Probation and Parole Officer Dawn Loving. “For the past two years, Danville Community College has warmly opened its doors and graciously supported Real Life of Southside. The results have been amazing. It’s great to watch the youth throughout the day realize they may need to adjust their educational goals to reach their life goals, to having their eyes opened by the discussion with the judges and hearing our motivational speakers.”



CSU 20W-Warrenton Probation Officer Alyssa Clark displays some of the 200 book bags the unit bought and filled with school supplies for local youth.

CSU 20W-Warrenton

CSU 20W-Warrenton recently co-hosted the Annual Community Fun Day with First Baptist Church, Warrenton Police Department and Piedmont Resolution. The unit purchased more than 200 book bags and, with the assistance of colleagues, friends, and community partners, they filled each book bag with school supplies and gave them to local youth. Photo: Alyssa Clark, Probation Officer

CSU 29-Tazewell



Belvie Underwood

CSU 29-Tazewell Probation Officer **Belvie Underwood** recently received an award from Delta Kappa Gamma International IX Chapter in recognition of "her service as a juvenile probation officer and a strong advocate for education in Tazewell County for 20 years. We commend her work with

at-risk youth who often need a push in the right direction. Her loving care and support have made a positive impact on the lives of many students."



Bon Air Residents Love What This Team Does!

Bon Air Food Service Workers recently observed national Pride In Food Service Week for the invaluable support they provide in preparing and serving nutritious meals to our residents.

Back row, from left: Judy Del Bene, Leroy Burnett, Roderick Moore, Dewin Campbell. Middle row, from left: Angela Chica, JoAnn Gaskin, Angela King, Cleo Baskerville, Tracy Smith, Garrett Clark. Kneeling in front: Lisandra Myers.



Shaun Parker Speaks To VUU Class

Bon Air Community Manager Shaun Parker recently spoke to students in a juvenile justice class at Virginia Union University. Parker spoke to them about day-to-day life at Bon Air, the Community Treatment Model, roles of staff, and how to learn about job opportunities.

After 52 Years Of Service, Dollie Lewis Retires



CSU 9-Williamsburg Office Services Supervisor Dollie Lewis retired Feb. 1 with an astounding 52 years of public service with DJJ. Left: CSU Director Joe Jackson presents Dollie with her certificate of appreciation. The retirement luncheon included CSU 9 staff along with Central Region RPM Stephanie Garrison, Eastern Region RPM Michael Morton, and previous CSU directors, from left: Jim Thomas, Tom Gooding and Mike Scheitle.



Promotions



Ira Holland was appointed director of CSU 20L-Loudoun by the Loudoun County Juvenile Court. A native of Wilmington, DE, Holland graduated from Howard University and began his DJJ career at Hanover JCC as a juvenile specialist. He went on to various positions including Beaumont JCC as a counselor, CSU 12-Chesterfield and in the private sector serving Richmond area court-involved youth and families. He directed the construction of a \$53 million detention center while with the D.C. Youth Services Administration.



Michael Favale is DJJ's new Legislative and Policy Director. He joined DJJ's Policy and Planning Unit in 2013, first as a legal specialist and then as a manager of the Human Rights Team. His job duties have varied from handling resident and employee grievances, to instructing staff on PREA and civil liability, to working with the Procedures Committee to ensure compliance with policy and the law. He received his bachelor's degree from Cornell University and J.D. from Cornell Law School.



Dawn Loving, a probation officer with CSU 22-Rocky Mount, was promoted to probation supervisor of the Franklin County and Pittsylvania County offices. She has worked for DJJ since 2012, and has been the YASI leader for the Chatham office as well as the FAPT chair.



CSU 22-Rocky Mount Probation Officer **Jan Harris** was promoted to Probation Officer Senior, and will serve in the Danville office. Ms. Harris joined DJJ in 2015, and has gained experience supervising probation cases and writing detailed social histories in her time with the 22nd District.

One-Time Intern Meador Becomes P.O. At CSU 23

Kelsey Meador, who interned with CSU 23–Salem while attending Lynchburg College as a student, was recently sworn in by Hon. Judge Leisa Ciaffone as CSU 23's newest probation officer.

Upon graduation, Ms. Meador worked with Roanoke City Department of Social Services and later came to work with Court Community Corrections in Salem with the Drug Court.



Welcome, New Employees!

John Armentrout, Probation Officer, CSU 26–Winchester
Lisa Boone, Admin. & Office Spec. III, CSU 9–Williamsburg
Berley Bresier, Probation Officer, CSU 31–Manassas
Isabella Broaddus, Probation Officer I, CSU 3–Portsmouth
Ashley Buchanan, Probation Officer, CSU 31–Manassas
James Burton III, Probation Officer, CSU 23–Salem
Mary Jean Callender, Probation Officer, CSU 23A–Roanoke
Stephen Chesher, PE and Health Instructor, Bon Air JCC
Lisa Christian, Financial Svcs. Specialist, Central Office
John Colligan Jr., Budget & Fiscal Service Mgr., Central Office
Donna Compton, Office Svcs. Specialist, CSU 31–Manassas
Shannon Connor, Probation Officer I, CSU 8–Hampton
Jillian Davenport, Probation Officer, CSU 6–Hopewell
Heather Davis, Probation Officer, CSU 29–Tazewell
Joyce Davis, Admin. & Office Specialist, Central Office
Gabriela Detwiler, Fiscal Technician, CSU 31–Manassas
Allison Dixon, Probation Officer II, CSU 9–Williamsburg
Karen Dobson, Admin. & Office Specialist, CSU 9–Williamsburg
David Ferguson, Office Svcs. Specialist, CSU 18–Alexandria
Shawn Fry, Executive Secretary, CSU 25–Staunton
Celeste Frye, Probation Officer, CSU 27–Pulaski
Deandrea Gary, Office Svcs. Specialist, CSU 13–Richmond
Tracie Green, HR Assistant, Central Office
Kimberly Hague, Probation Officer I, CSU 4–Norfolk
Jeffrey Harner, Fiscal Technician, Central Office
Jane Hodges, Executive Secretary, CSU 27–Pulaski
Marica Howard, Probation Officer, CSU 2 Virginia Beach
Janene Hudson, Financial Svcs. Specialist, Central Office
Ayoka M. Jack, Probation Officer I, CSU 20L–Loudoun
Whitney Jacques, Probation Officer, CSU 16–Charlottesville
Camillya Jones, Probation Officer, CSU 15–Fredericksburg
Yabome Kamara, Probation Officer, CSU 15–Fredericksburg
Vera Langaster, Admin. & Office Spec., CSU 3–Portsmouth
Nicholas Lindsay, Probation Officer, CSU 31–Manassas
Miranda Long, Probation Officer, CSU 10–Appomattox
Christina Lovasz, Probation Officer, CSU 26–Winchester

Karen Marion, Probation Officer, CSU 28–Abingdon
Diana C. Martinez, Office Svcs. Specialist, CSU 13–Richmond
Katelyn McCoy, Probation Officer, CSU 29–Tazewell
Angela McWilliams, Probation Officer, CSU 26–Winchester
Kelsey Meador, Probation Officer, CSU 23–Salem
Stephanie Moody, Office Svcs. Specialist, CSU 13–Richmond
Sandra Mullins, Probation Officer, CSU 29–Tazewell
Jennifer Murphey, Office Svcs. Specialist, CSU 25–Staunton
Melissa Nastasi, Office Svcs. Specialist, CSU 15–Fredericksburg
Brandi Orange, Probation Officer, CSU 24–Lynchburg
Georgia Parr, PREA Analyst, Bon Air JCC
Obron Pierce, Admin & Office Specialist II, CSU 1–Chesapeake
Jillian Porter, Probation Officer, CSU 31–Manassas
Erica Powell, Admin. & Office Specialist, CSU 5–Suffolk
Tiffinie Powers, Probation Officer, CSU 26–Winchester
Alex Quash, Probation Officer, CSU 16–Charlottesville
Khadijah Ramos, Probation Officer I, CSU 2–Virginia Beach
Kristin Reigle, Probation Officer, CSU 16–Charlottesville
Mary Saady, Office Svcs. Specialist, CSU 12–Chesterfield
Rodney Sandidge, Probation Officer, CSU 16–Charlottesville
Leon Semper, Probation Officer I, CSU 7–Newport News
Joseph Sheffield, Probation Officer, CSU 23–Salem
Kendall Short, Probation Officer I, CSU 9–Williamsburg
David Simmons, Information Security Officer, Central Office
Corey Smith, Probation Officer, CSU 31–Manassas
Maria Montez Smith, Licensed Practical Nurse, Bon Air JCC
Heather Stanley, Probation Officer, CSU 28–Abingdon
Jessica Stilwell, Probation Officer, CSU 27–Pulaski
Donald Sullivan, Probation Officer, CSU 7–Newport News
Michelle Surber, Probation Officer, CSU 28–Abingdon
Seth Sweet, Probation Officer, CSU 15–Fredericksburg
Tanna Marie Terlaje, Probation Officer, CSU 31–Manassas
Aaron Webb, Probation Officer, CSU 7–Newport News
Stephanie Welch, Office Svcs. Assistant, CSU 26–Winchester
Carlos Williams, Probation Officer, CSU 5–Suffolk
Victoria Wynn, Licensed Practical Nurse, Bon Air JCC