



DJJ FORUM

Where DJJ employees gather to stay informed and celebrate our victories

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

June 30, 2020



A big, ongoing “thank you” to our Court Service Unit team members around the Commonwealth who are coming to the office every day to do their extremely important work. Top row, from left: Laquita Griffin, Intake Officer, CSU 2–Virginia Beach; Gary Downey, Senior Probation Officer, CSU 7–Newport News; CSU 18–Alexandria Director Mike Mackey conducts virtual staff meeting. Center, from left: CSU 17–Arlington staff members Evelyn Cochis, Intake Supervisor; Carla Medina, Probation Counselor; Gabriela Grajeda, Probation Counselor; Alexandra Caltrider, Intake Officer; Earl Conklin, Director; Shannan Moore, Probation Supervisor. Bottom left: Clockwise from top left: Onelia Ramos, Administrative Assistant, CSU 31–Manassas; CSU 15–Fredericksburg Director Vince Butaitis, Probation Supervisor Danielle Hicks and Probation Officer Geraldly Whetsell. Bottom right: Stephanie Winder, Office Services Assistant, CSU 8–Hampton.

CSU 28 Staffers Get Kudos For COVID Vigilance

Shonna Owens, the Office Services Specialist for CSU 28–Abingdon, had just directed a domestic intake and had begun her daily routine of disinfecting the intake area, when an elderly couple approached the intake window, both wearing facial masks. The couple were in need of a protective order and were looking for assistance.

Following the COVID-19 safety procedures implemented by CSU 28 Director Darcy Janson, Shonna asked the couple the standard COVID screening questions, and after they answered “no” to all of them, she directed the couple to a nearby office for privacy to complete their paperwork. When the couple returned with their completed paperwork, the gentleman told Shonna and Supervisor **Amy Johnson** that a recent visitor to his home had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

Deciding to take no chances with possibly compromising the health of CSU 28 staff or anyone else in the Washington County Courthouse, Shonna and Amy asked the couple go back into the office where they could be isolated from others. All other CSU staff, including the intake officer for the day, were advised to stay in their offices and away from the intake area. Shannon immediately notified courthouse security of the couple’s potential exposure to COVID-19.

Shonna ensured that the paperwork the couple



CSU 28–Abingdon Supervisor Amy Johnson, left, and OSS Shonna Owens.

filled out was sanitized and safely delivered to the judge for the court proceeding. The couple were later escorted out of the courthouse through the nearest emergency exit and were advised to contact the Department of Health.

“We acknowledge the vigilance of Shonna Owens and Amy Johnson, whose decisive action in this unusual situation may have protected others from contracting the virus,” said Sgt. Karen Tolbert of the Washington County Sheriff’s Department, which provides security at the Washington County Courthouse.



Cheers For Peers

CSU 13–Richmond staff members recently made appreciation poster boards for their colleagues at the Richmond Juvenile Detention home. From left: Office Services Specialist (OSS) Diana Martinez, Intake Officers Tara Holmes and Cori Stash, OSS Ashley Gordon, Probation Officer Jessica Maddos, OSS Supervisor Nancy Sarpong.