



MEDIA RELEASE

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia DJJ Director Bermingham and Chief Deputy Brown Highlight Key Progress for Agency in First Six Months

RICHMOND, Va. — After recently completing their first six months of leadership at the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Director Robert “Bob” Bermingham Jr. and Chief Deputy Marilyn Brown have announced progress made in key areas focused on improving efficient youth placement and release, expanding educational opportunities, strengthening community-based services, and refining data-driven procedures. The department increased staffing across key areas, updated policies to align with current legislation, expanded diversion and mental-health partnerships, and improved data reporting.

DJJ teams across divisions worked to move youth more efficiently through placement and release. Youths with late release dates for their length of stay were prioritized. Since the beginning of the year, 381 direct care cases were processed, including 164 released from direct care. Partnerships with locally operated detention centers expanded placement options and increased access to service providers.

To better prepare youth for life after their time at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center, educational opportunities have been increased. A new career development center launched. The Business Career Certificate was updated to an Associate of Applied Studies pathway program; driver’s education was re-established under Yvonne B. Miller High School and post-secondary programs; a new life literacy course was added to strengthen basic life skills and career awareness; a new high school CTE program, Design Multimedia and Web Technologies added Adobe and Microsoft Office Specialist certification pathways.

DJJ’s community programs have been enhanced with additional recruitment and hiring of 45 new probation and administrative support personnel. Staff continue to build and maintain relationships with community partners and are working with local community service boards to embed mental-health providers in court service units. The Diversion and Resolution at Intake Procedure was expanded to include diversion opportunities and track diversion-eligible cases in response to recently passed legislation at the General Assembly.

In addition, data tools and reports have improved clarity and accuracy across the agency. Over the last six months, population forecasts have remained reliable to support planning and daily



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decision-making. The department has announced new and amended procedures based on the data-driven findings.

“Working in the youth justice space is extremely challenging, complex, and ever evolving,” said Virginia DJJ Director Robert “Bob” Bermingham, Jr. “The men and women of DJJ show up every day to support youth and their families in reaching their full potential. The success of the department over the past six months is directly related to those staff who have continued to collaborate, engage, and continually search for ways the department can better serve those we serve. I’m excited and encouraged by the progress we have made. I’m equally excited and optimistic as to what the department can accomplish in the future as collectively we strive to provide fair and equitable services that results in better outcomes for youth and families.”

As a career juvenile justice professional, I am excited and honored to be working alongside Director Bermingham and all our staff who are dedicated public servants,” **said Virginia DJJ Chief Deputy Director Marilyn Brown.** “I am excited by the progress we have made and humbled by the work we have before us.”

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