

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVE INITIATIVE

JDAI Organizational Structure---JDAI's organizational structure was 90 % completed in November with the formation and initial meetings of the Steering Committee and four of what will eventually be six standing sub-committees.

Steering Committee—this is the Collaborative that is made up of the Juvenile Court's five Judges, a Circuit Court Judge, heads or senior managers from all departments and agency's working closely with the Norfolk Juvenile Detention Center (NJDC) and the Court, private providers and City officials. This group, chaired by Judge Jerrauld Jones, will serve as the guiding body and will be responsible for approving JDAI recommendations from the sub-committees regarding modifications to Norfolk's policies and practices relative to detention reform. The Steering Committee met on November 15 and will meet next on December 8.

Detention Utilization Sub-committee—The purpose of this committee is to analyze data and statistical reports provided by the NJDC and the Department of Juvenile Justice regarding trends and patterns in detention and detention alternatives use, so that decision making will be based on the reality of practice and not on anecdotal or subjective information. This Sub-committee currently has eleven members representing NJDC, CSU, Public Schools, Commonwealth Attorney, Public Defender, Circuit Court, etc. Its initial meeting was November 7 and it will meet next on December 5.

Detention Alternatives Sub-committee—The purpose of this Sub-committee is to examine the existing detention alternatives and determine the extent to which they are meeting community detention alternative needs. Using objective data, this group will seek to determine if the current alternatives are being fully utilized, whether there are gaps in Norfolk's detention alternative continuum and how current alternatives can be enhanced as a means of making them more responsive. This Sub-committee currently has fifteen members from NJDC, CSU, CSB, Commonwealth Attorney, Public Defender, Public Schools, Paramount Youth Services, Family Preservation Services, NIC , City Attorney, Community Solutions, etc. Its initial meeting was November 8 and it will meet next on December 7.

Case Processing Sub-committee—The purpose of this Sub-committee is to examine the various paperwork processes that are related to the docketing and continuances of detention cases in Juvenile and Circuit Court in order to determine if it may be possible to establish enhanced practices that will contribute to the more expeditious processing of the cases of juveniles that are detained with the goal of reducing their length of stay in secure detention. This sub-committee currently has ten members from NJDC, CSU, Public Schools, Juvenile and Circuit Court Clerk's Offices, Commonwealth Attorney, Public Defender, etc. Its initial meeting was November 9 and it meets next on December 12.

Special Populations Sub-committee—The purpose of this Sub-committee is to look at the various groupings of detainees that have unique charges or special circumstances. These include youth with mental health issues, CHINS(truants), probation/parole violation charges, parent unwilling to supervise cases, etc. Currently, this Sub-committee has fourteen members from NJDC, CSU, Commonwealth Attorney, Public Defender, CSB Public Schools, NIC, Family Preservation Services, City Attorney Office, Paramount Youth Services, etc. Its first meeting was November 10 and it will meet again on December 6.

Disproportionate Minority Contact(DMC) Sub-committee—this Sub-committee is currently seeking volunteers who have an expertise and/or interest in the area of DMC or racial disparity. The purpose of this Sub-committee will be to examine data to determine the degree to which minority youth are treated more restrictively relative to their initial representation in Norfolk’s juvenile justice system, particularly relative to DJJ commitment, secure detention and the various detention alternatives. It is planned to identify the Sub-committee members by January with an initial meeting and presentation from the DJJ, DMC Coordinator in February. Persons who wish to serve on this committee should notify JDAI Coordinator, Kevin Moran, at kevin.moran@djj.virginia.gov. or call at 757-664-7625.

Facility Inspection Sub-committee—This Sub-committee will not be formed until late 2006. Its purpose will be to establish a structure and process that ensures a rigorous detention facility inspection using guidelines established by the Youth Law Center. This JDAI related annual inspection will supplement the mandatory Certification Audit conducted regularly by the Dept of Juvenile Justice regarding Virginia’s Standards for Secure Detention.