

**RICHMOND JDAI**  
**CASE PROCESSING/ SPECIAL POPULATIONS/ DMC**

**Strategic Issue #1: Fair, Efficient and Timely Case Processing of All Detained Youth**

**Description.** The Committee is committed to supporting the ongoing improvement of delinquency case processing in the juvenile court from the time of initial law enforcement contact with the youth through final disposition of the case, for youth of all races. The purpose is to reduce unnecessary delay, which will also reduce the length of stay (LOS) of detained youth and improve justice. To accomplish this, the Committee must identify present practices as well as innovative approaches in case processing, including those used in other jurisdictions. The Committee sees both an opportunity and a need to improve each step of the process including the: (1) paperwork requirement and flow; (2) procedures at detention hearings and arraignments; (3) special docketing; (4) appeals and cases transferred to Circuit Court. The Committee also recognizes the need to monitor the improved processes in order to be responsive to changing circumstances. The Committee sees a most valuable opportunity for achieving these goals in joining efforts with the Court in its strategic plan implementation concerning case processing issues.

**Paperwork Requirement and Flow.** Effective “paper flow” is central to appropriate case processing. Knowing the paperwork and detention requirements at the “front gate” is essential. Effective, timely communication and submission of information from that time through the conclusion of the detention hearing are crucial to this effectiveness so that a youth’s length of stay (LOS) in detention is not unnecessarily extended. The Committee, with all partners in that process represented, is committed to examining this work process and communication flow and improving them.

**Procedures at Detention Hearings and Arraignments.** The Committee sees opportunity for improved justice in addressing the processes by which youth are arraigned. To this end, the Committee will examine such present practices as the expeditor and probation officer roles at detention hearings. Some additional issues the Committee will address are detention reviews, communication between hearing participants prior to detention hearings and issuance of detention orders for a youth’s failure to appear at arraignment.

**Special Docketing.** The Committee recognizes that “not all cases are equal” in terms of their requirements of attorney and Court time. The Committee sees an opportunity in examining innovative docketing practices used in other jurisdictions for specific types of cases and determining their potential for use in Richmond. Some such cases are VOPs (violations of probation/parole), serious felonies, drug cases and cases where transfer to Circuit Court is requested or intent to certify is noted. In the latter cases, early dates for pre-trial conferences and case assessment as well as plea negotiations are some possibilities the Committee will consider. The Committee sees the advantage in innovative processing as expediting cases, reducing length of stay (LOS) of detained youth, and preserving fairness. In addition, in the case of a sustained petition, the resulting consequence would closely follow the offense, as a best practice.

**Circuit Court Cases.** The Committee recognizes opportunity in working with the circuit court judges and staff to address issues of timeliness and accuracy in issues such as docketing of appeals and receipt of circuit court orders.

**Teaming with the Court in its Strategic Plan.** As an immediate priority, the Committee is committed to working with the Court in addressing all components of case processing.

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**Strategic Issue #2: Special Populations in Detention**

*Description.* The Committee is committed to examining the circumstances of the special populations of all races in the detention home and improving their placements in terms of timeliness and appropriateness.

The Committee has identified the following special populations:

**Violators of Probation/Parole (VOP)**

(also addressed in Detention Alternatives)

**Youth Awaiting Post-Adjudicatory or Post-Dispositional Placements**

**Commitments to DJJ**

**DSS Placements**

**Mental Health/Substance Abuse placements**

(also addressed in Detention Alternatives)

**Youth Awaiting Pre-Adjudicatory Alternative Placements**

**Outreach Program**

**DSS placements**

**Shelter placement**

**18 Year Old Youth in Detention**

**Circuit Court Youth in Detention**

(also addressed in Detention Alternatives)

Adopted: June 2005