



**COLONIAL COMMUNITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD**

**4093 Ironbound Road, Suite B**  
**Williamsburg, VA 23188**

**(757) 564-2311**

**Meeting Notes:**

Colonial Community Criminal Justice Board  
November 1, 2021, 7:00 p.m.  
Stryker Bldg., 412 North Boundary St.  
Room 127  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

**Members Present**

Byron Adkins  
David Coe  
Sean Dunn  
Andy Engemann  
Joe Jackson  
Stacy Kern-Sheerer  
Adam Kinsman, Chair  
Betty Lasris  
Jenny Kittrell (Desig. For Pauls)  
Brad Rinehimer  
Judge Holly Smith  
Rob Tyler  
Kelly Waddell  
Tommy West  
Roy Witham

**Members Absent**

Judge Wade Bowie  
Judge Josh DeFord  
Todd Duval  
Joe McLaughlin  
Charles Moss, Vice Chair  
Rana Navarrete  
Patricia Paige  
Andrew Trivette  
York-VACANCY

**Staff Present**

Hal Diggs, CCC Director  
Jack Fitzpatrick, Criminal Justice Planner  
Brandee Ponce, Administrative Coordinator

**1. CALL TO ORDER** (*Adam Kinsman*)

The quarterly meeting of the Colonial Community Criminal Justice Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Adam Kinsman.

**2. ROLL CALL AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM** (*Brandee Ponce*)

CCC Administrative Coordinator Brandee Ponce called the roll and reported that a quorum had been achieved.

**3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** (*Adam Kinsman*)

N/A.

**4. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2, 2021 MEETING NOTES** (*Adam Kinsman*)

Mr. Kinsman asked for motion to approve the meeting notes. Mr. Rinehimer made the motion and the motion was approved.

**5. REPORT OF THE CHAIR** (*Adam Kinsman*)

Chair Kinsman asked for volunteers to serve as Nomination Committee Chair and Committee members. Mr. Rinehimer agreed to serve as Chair and asked anyone who is interested in assisting to advise him. It was noted that Chairman Kinsman's last Colonial Criminal Justice Board meeting will be in February 7, 2022 and that a new Chair will be need to be seated for the May 2, 2022 meeting.

**6. APPOINTMENTS and ELECTIONS** (*Adam Kinsman*)

Welcome to Williamsburg-James City County General District Judge Josh DeFord as a new member representing James City County. We are awaiting re-appointment from Charles City for Todd Duval's (local defense attorney) and Joe Jackson's seats. York County is working to fill their vacancy of a local governing body rep.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a.) Juvenile Justice Committee: (*Joe Jackson*)  
9<sup>th</sup> District Court Services Unit

- Juvenile petitions are down. This trend has a direct impact on referrals made to local service providers.
- Merrimac Detention’s Post–D program is temporarily not accepting applications for placement. No date has been identified as to when operations will resume.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> CSU participated in the James City County National Night Out Event. The CSU was also scheduled to participate in the Williamsburg event; however, the event was canceled.
- New Kent CSU office continues to process TDO petitions for Cumberland Hospital (the hospital recently opened a new Acute Psychiatric Unit for juveniles).
- DJJ has created a parent guide for the Standardized Disposition Matrix process.
- The CSU created a brochure that provides youth on formal supervision with information of the award & incentive program available for compliant behavior and progress.
- The CSU created a pamphlet for parents of youths committed to DJJ. The pamphlet provides them with information on what to expect during commitment and reentry phase.
- Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents reduced their beds by six to 18 beds. Riverside Behavioral Health closed their Psychiatric Residential Treatment Program on 8/2/2021.
- Intake services are fully operational as we continue to respond to COVID-19 environment.
- POs continue to maintain supervision contacts with moderate and high-risk youth, and supervision contact with low risk youth are conducted virtually and via phone.
- The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) have been conducting juvenile-justice-related webinars on funding, programs and initiatives. On the OJJDP website under events, they have a list of upcoming webinar training opportunities to including:
  - November 2, 2021: Preventing Substance Use Among the Youth
  - November 3, 2021: Preventing Substance Use Among the Youth

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**Community Information** (e.g., law and school initiatives)

- Several local law enforcement entities are hosting Trunk-or-Treat events, preparing for Thanksgiving food donations and Shop With A Cop/Sheriff events.
- The Criminal Justice Planner (CJP) has offered the Dangers of Synthetic Drugs and Opioids presentations to all of the area school districts. Warhill High School and Charles City High School have begun plans to host the presentations for their Health and P.E. classes this semester.
- CJP has sent an alert to Regional contacts to include school nurses in W-JCC regarding the accidental overdoses of several children (including a 2-year old) involving “Edible Gummies” infused with Delta-8 THC in the Roanoke region. The Colonial Region has at least two retail locations that are selling “Bearly Legal” brand gummy bears, in addition to them being available online.
- The Juvenile Justice Committee’s 11 public safety videos have been viewed 1,812 times.

b.) CIT & Opioids Abuse Prevention Committee: (*David Coe*)

Mr. Coe provided an update on the closures of the state mental hospitals to new admissions (discussed at last quarterly meeting). A group of stakeholders met with the Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and some changes have been seen since but the Commonwealth remains 252 beds short of its former availability. All state hospitals have reopened with reduced capacity—some only allowing admissions when they have an equal number of discharges (despite the law making state hospitals the hospitals of last resort). This means that we will still have much longer wait times than are acceptable.

Mr. Coe turned the discussion to the Marcus Alert Law that passed the General Assembly in July. The law will require that *all* Virginia localities (or regions) have a mental health and law enforcement co-response team in place twenty-four hours a day, seven day a week by full implementation in 2026. Meetings and discussions on the local level have begun in an effort to make the mandate work. He noted that this will require massive changes to all stakeholders and how they currently operate. Mr. Coe will lead the effort in the jurisdictions of Williamsburg, James City, York, and Poquoson. By 2026, all jurisdictions/regions are required to be fully active and that will include the 9-8-8 nationwide mental health emergency line.

Mr. Fitzpatrick added that he met Christine Hennigan-of the Family Priority Behavioral Therapy Office-at the “Tall Cop Says Stop” town hall meeting which was sponsored by the Historic Triangle Drug Prevention Coalition. She invited him to present the Dangers of Synthetic Drugs and Opioids to her eleven staff members which he did on September 30. On August 9, five newly certified James City Officers attended the presentation as well.

James City County Emergency Communication Center (ECC) asked to have the “Excited Delirium Syndrome” presentation provided via video format so that their personnel could view it when available. Mr. Fitzpatrick complied and the video has been viewed eleven times. York-Williamsburg ECC plans to have the presentation during their training academy in the future.

c.) Re-Entry Committee: (*Jenny Kittrell for Jenny Pauls*)

- The **DMV Connect** program—providing photo ID’s to inmates in need—remains on-hold with March 2020 being the last visit. The total served through the program remains 338.
- The **One Stop Resume’ computer center** at VPRJ remains mostly closed with the exception of Re-Entry Coordinator Danielle Nardi (from Colonial Community Corrections) assisting individuals on a one-on-one basis.

- VPRJ **therapeutic substance abuse recovery program** called “We Are In This Together” (WAITT) is a hybrid in-person and DVD/workbook program. The in-person sessions are for Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) and “Real Life” counseling sessions to deal with trauma. As a reminder, the program had involved segregating those enrolled in an all-inclusive, 3-month length, up to 20 women at a time, providing trauma-informed counseling, AA/NA support, job prep, family reunification, and religious programming. Prospective inmates still have to apply and be interviewed for admission to the pod. The plan is that once CoVID protocols have passed, the program will return to its original format.
- The VPRJ’s **video visitation** program remains available for all inmates who are in compliance with jail rules to use one time per week. At last check, 854 visits had been hosted in 2021
- The **New Kent-Charles City Re-Entry Council** has been meeting virtually since August. The Bridges Of Change shelter has been dealing with turnover challenges recently but has continued moving forward with its efforts to assist women and children recovering from domestic violence. October was Domestic Violence Awareness month and the “Pockets of Hope” traveling art display has made several stops in New Kent and Charles City. The display points to the fact that women were not permitted to have pockets in their clothing for fear that they could carry notes/messages/etc. without being seen.

Judge Smith asked if the WAITT program is only available to women and Col. Witham explained that there has always been a hope to expand to a male version but that space required for CoVID isolation has prevented that plan from coming to fruition. He noted that three women graduated from the program recently and all three will assist with the fourteen who will start a new session this week. VPRJ continues to work toward restarting the DMV Connect program as well as the General Equivalency Degree (GED) program as soon as possible. Despite the fact that the jail is quarantining new admissions for ten days, all still have the opportunity to use the phone and have recreation time.

## 8. REPORT OF CCC AGENCY DIRECTOR (*Hal Diggs*)

Mr. Diggs thanked Col. Witham for allowing three Colonial Community Corrections (CCC) Probation Officers, certified in MRT, to act as in-person instructors for the WAITT program at VPRJ.

The Department of Criminal Justice Services has established minimum standards for probation and pretrial personnel. Several practices have been reinstated that were canceled some time ago.

CCC administrative staff have met with the new judges and noted that Judge Smalls (W-JCC J&DR Court) expresses a desire to establish a Domestic Violence Court. He is looking into

funding for the effort. CCC has held a grant from the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) for two consecutive three-year terms and has applied for another three-year grant. Mr. Diggs has heard from a media outlet that the grant has been approved for CCC for the \$500,000 but he has not heard from the OVW.

Medium and high risk clients are seen in-person by CCC staff members and low risk are contacted by phone. CCC has requested no increase in funding for the last three fiscal years but will request a slight increase in the next budget. Supervision numbers are low but increasing and the seriousness of the offenses supervised are much higher. Mr. Diggs noted that he lost an employee to the state Probation and Parole Office in Newport News and that the employee received a \$7,000 sign-on bonus.

## **9. UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Witham raised a concern regarding a law that was passed in the recent General Assembly which will reduce the sentences of convicted felons significantly. The law will take effect on 7/1/2022 and few felons will not be eligible for the reduction. The old formula for calculating release dates stated that the inmate received 4.5 days reduction for each 30 days served. The new calculation will be 15 days reduction for each 30 days served.

He noted that the calculation will be retroactive—meaning that many offenders will be released statewide on 7/1/22. He estimated that Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail might lose between 20 & 30 on that date. It was requested that the details on this new law be distributed to the Board and the Justice Planner advised that he would ensure that happened.

## **10. CLOSING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kinsman noted that, with no additional information to report, he adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

*\*\*Note: Although present at this meeting, Judge Holly Smith abstained from participating in any Board votes.*

The next meeting is expected to be held Monday, **February 7, 2022**, in York County