



Colonial Community Criminal Justice Board

4093 Ironbound Road, Suite B, Williamsburg, Virginia 23188
(757) 564-2464 Fax: (757) 229-8963

MEMO

TO: CCCJB members

FROM: Jack Fitzpatrick, Criminal Justice Planner

DATE: 8/10/2020

RE: Update to CCCJB in place of 8/3/20 quarterly meeting

Since there are several new Colonial Community Criminal Justice Board members who may or may not have had an orientation to the Board, I thought it would be good to clarify what the Board has determined my job to focus on.

I serve the Justice Board on a part time basis (20-hours per week). James City County is the fiduciary for my position and Hal Diggs (Colonial Community Corrections Director) is my first-line supervisor. CCC is under the umbrella of the James City County Police Department and Chief Rinehimer.

I have been assigned, by the CCCJB, to split my time between adult re-entry from jails and prisons, improving outcomes for those involved in the juvenile court system (to include preventing youth from court involvement), and Crisis Intervention Team and Opioid Abuse Prevention. Crisis intervention certification is offered to local law enforcement personnel, dispatchers, and others through a 40-hour training course provided in one of our localities twice per year. The course is designed to provide trainees with additional de-escalation tools, practice using the tools, and information on mental health crises and intervention. The proper use of CIT techniques has proven to decrease violent resistance and associated injuries in mental health-related crises.

Juvenile Justice Committee-has not met since February and most local schools appear to plan on spending at least the first nine weeks with students and teachers at home.

The Justice Planner has authored the Dangers of Synthetic Drugs & Opioids presentation and offers it each semester in the local schools. Several of the public high schools have taken the opportunity and some interest has been shown at the middle school level. The presentation was expanded, during the pandemic, to include additional information on “vaping” and inhalants as well as current information on the drugs that are resistant to Narcan/Naloxone.

The Historic Triangle Drug Prevention Coalition (HTDPC) continues to plan for a town hall-type event to discuss the local impact of addiction and overdoses in the fall/winter. The Greater Williamsburg Trauma-Informed Community Network is looking to partner with HTDPC on the town hall.

The “Hidden In Plain Sight” program is an interactive drug prevention program for parents of “tweens” and teens about risky behavior associated with drug and alcohol abuse. An interactive exhibit is provided for parents showing common-appearing items that can conceal drug/alcohol paraphernalia in a room that is designed to simulate a teenager’s bedroom. Spiritworks Foundation (substance-abuse recovery support) has retrofitted a bus to take the message to poor communities. Information was requested about the bus and whether it has been placed in use as yet or whether the pandemic postponed that effort but no information has been provided.

The Juvenile Justice Committee has produced 11 short videos and placed them on the Colonial Community Criminal Justice Board YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyGgmoTpCSwGPV66JESmd8A>

The videos have been viewed a combined 1,753 times. All videos provide a delinquency prevention message. Video topics include: “sexting”, seatbelt safety, dating violence, re-entry from the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail (VPRJ), synthetic drug abuse, and texting while driving.

CIT & Opioids Abuse Committee-the CIT 40-hour basic certification course was held March 9-13 in the City of Williamsburg. The September class is set for the 21st-25th at the JCC Law Enforcement Center and will be limited to 20 trainees (previously 24). CIT will forgo the site visits to Eastern State Hospital, the Critical Incident Therapeutic Assessment Center (CITAC), etc. due to pandemic lockdown orders.

Prior to the CoVid-19 pandemic, it was anticipated that our region might see the beginnings of alternative transportation of patients from the CITAC to receiving hospitals via a private contractor by the summer of 2020. Pandemic delays aside, this will be very helpful when it is up and running as it is expected to allow street patrol personnel to return to regular duties following patient drop off at the CITAC without the concern that they will be called back to transport when hospital arrangements have been finalized.

The Justice Planner nominated JCC police officer Brianna Sutton (a CIT-certified provider) for a challenge coin recognition for her handling of a July 11 incident where she encountered a female (wearing pajamas in the middle of Centerville Road during midnight shift) suffering a mental health crisis and convinced her to surrender a large hunting knife without additional incident. CIT Coordinator Boswell is handling the recognition.

Re-Entry Committee-The DMV Connect program allows inmates to have their photo taken for a new Virginia identification card prior to their release. Post 9-1-1, government-issued photo identification is critical to re-entering citizens. DMV Connect served the VPRJ in early March—just prior to the lockdown—and 11 inmates were served bringing the total served, since inception, to 338. The program has been curtailed during the pandemic.

In mid-March all volunteers and programs were halted by VPRJ due to the pandemic shutdown orders. CCC's Re-Entry Coordinator's on-site efforts were also halted. Male prisoners had been served in the One-Stop Resume Center up until that time by our two volunteers and female inmates were served by CCC Re-Entry Coordinator Ma'rea Proctor. Ms. Proctor was permitted to return to the jail in late July and resumed assisting re-entering citizens on-site at that time.

The VPRJ therapeutic substance abuse recovery pod called "We Are In This Together" (WAITT) finished its fourth session in April. Persons originally assigned to the fifth session were folded into another housing unit and continued the program in a self-paced format. There are currently two WAITT participants still in custody and VPRJ is developing an on-line / tablet-based curriculum with its provider. The program required significant changes due to the number of outside personnel who were needed to provide the services. As a reminder, the program is all-inclusive, 3-months in length, serves up to 20 women at a time, provides trauma-informed counseling, AA/NA support, job prep, family reunification, and religious programming. Prospective inmates have to apply and be interviewed for admission to the pod.

The fall VPRJ Re-Entry Fair is planned for October 30, 2020 starting at 8 a.m. The goal of the fair is to bring employers and services into the jail so that inmates who are due to be released in the next six months can have all questions answered and plans made.

VPRJ reports that they currently have six offenders in their "Home Electronic Incarceration" (ankle monitoring supervision) program. In 2020, the jail has boasted an average 64 inmate days saved per inmate in the program. In 2019, the average savings was 65.2 days. VPRJ was the first jail to have all inmates and personnel tested for COVID-19 on May 29. The National Guard assisted in the testing. Since the pandemic shutdown, all arriving inmates are quarantined for 14 days before entering the general population. The recent implementation of a tablet for internal and external inmate communication has allowed inmates to continue with a form of friends and family visitation during the pandemic.