

## Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice



The Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice closed out the year at full speed with several major events. Two new Confinement in Response to Violation (CRV) centers opened in December in Robeson and Burke counties and began receiving probation violators for 90-day periods of incarceration with intensive treatment and programming.

Division leadership presented legislators with a status report on mental health care for offenders and previewed one of its legislative goals for next session — increased funding for additional behavioral health staff in prisons and probation officers trained to deal with mentally ill offenders in the community.

A Behavioral Health Task Force began meeting to review and improve prison procedures and practices regarding care of mentally ill inmates and the use of segregation. A first round of recommendations is expected from the task force in the coming weeks. Numerous improvements and changes to inmate mental health care are in process including expanded Crisis Intervention Training, a new Treatment Mall at Central Prison and establishment of Maury Correctional Institution as a major provider of residential mental health care. Electronic medical records are now being piloted in the female prison facilities.

DPS leadership and the Council of State Governments Justice Center staff delivered a positive and well received three-year report to legislators on the strong success of the Justice Reinvestment initiative. In November, a delegation from North Carolina shared those accomplishments with a national audience at the National Justice Reinvestment Summit in San Diego.

The passage of this year’s budget brought the closure of Fountain and North Piedmont Correctional Centers for Women and the Female Command. Eastern Correctional Institution is converting to a female population and Tillery and Caledonia were consolidated under a single management structure.

### Community Corrections

- ▲ Probation officers are participating in the state’s first Veteran’s Court in Harnett County.
- ▲ In Chatham County a Smarter Sentencing pilot is underway that uses a pre-sentence

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Adult Correction officials marked the openings of two confinement Confinement in Response to Violation (CRV) facilities for offenders who commit technical violations of the terms of their probation. Above is the Burke CRV Center, which is housed in a portion of the former Western Youth Institution in Morganton.



A correctional officer uses an award-winning app developed by DPS Information Technology to track his rounds in a prison.

investigation with a risk/needs assessment prior to sentencing to craft treatment and supervision conditions that will reduce the risk of recidivism.

▲ Administrative responses to probation violations are being tested in a pilot program. These are measures less than a formal violation that probation officers can use to quickly respond to negative behaviors and to provide positive reinforcement for good behaviors.

### Security Services

- ▲ Participated in a long list of joint operations with local, state and federal law enforcement partners resulting in more than 1,100 arrests, seizure of more than \$130,000, seizure of weapons, guns and knives and recovery of stolen property including law enforcement badges and handcuffs.
- ▲ Deployed additional Cell Sense technology to detect and deter cell phone use in prisons.
- ▲ A new law took effect Dec. 1 making cell phone possession in a prison or jail a felony.
- ▲ Three long-term prison escapees were returned to custody and several others have been located in custody in other states.
- ▲ Extradited 977 offenders on trips totaling more than 637,000 miles.

### Rehabilitative Programs and Services

- ▲ Signed its first agreements to provide transitional housing for sex offenders leaving prison. Two homes in New Hanover and Mecklenburg counties will provide short-term housing for male sex offenders, a group that faces the most significant barriers in finding suitable housing after prison.
- ▲ Transitional housing for non-sex offenders is now in place in Buncombe, Nash, Edgecombe and Durham counties.
- ▲ Rehabilitative programs staff have been training prison and community college employees in the newest cognitive behavioral intervention (CBI) curriculum to increase CBI's availability statewide.
- ▲ More than 800 inmates leaving prison received services like job readiness and training, job search assistance, coaching and career guidance, assistance with housing, transportation through reentry councils in five pilot sites across the state.

### Correction Enterprises

Two new industries were added:

- ▲ Inmate packaging program at Lanesboro Correctional Institution
- ▲ Production of State Employee Service Awards for the Office of State Human Resources.

Production is underway on new DPS employee uniforms:

- ▲ Correctional officer uniforms feature black pants and a grey shirt and are created without any metal — to make entering a prison through gatehouse security quicker and simpler.
- ▲ Probation officer uniforms feature tactical pants and shirts bearing the DPS logo.

### Awards received

- ▲ Penny Evans, Phil Rowe and Karen Brown of Correction Enterprises were recipients of the Governor's Award for Excellence for their work on the State Employee Service Awards program.
- ▲ The tablet-based Electronic Rounds Tracking System developed by DPS Information Technology staff was recognized by the National Association of State Chief Information Officers as the best in the country for a data, information and knowledge management initiative. Bob Buckheit and John Woodlock accepted this award.
- ▲ Deputy Commissioner William Lassiter was recognized with the Outstanding Service Award from the North Carolina Juvenile Services Association when the National Symposium of Juvenile Services met in Greensboro.

The U.S. Men's and Women's Opens in Pinehurst were major summer events for the state and DPS was responsible for coordinating security during the tournament's two-week run. This was a massive collaborative effort with local, state and federal law enforcement partners. AC/JJ employees contributed significantly by screening visitors at entry points and handling other security duties

The Office of Staff Development and Training signed an agreement with NC Wesleyan College to provide classes for NCDPS staff leading to bachelor's degrees in criminal justice and organizational management. This opens up a new

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Adult Correction security personnel checked each patron entering the grounds of the U.S. Open golf championships at Pinehurst.

educational opportunity for career employees looking to advance within the agency.

The “New Leash On Life” prison dog training program celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer. More than 3,000 dogs have been trained by inmates to be better pets and have been adopted since the program’s inception in 2004. Another new dog training program called “At Both Ends of the Leash” is gearing up at Franklin Correctional Center, where inmates will learn to train medical alert and mobility assistance dogs.

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## Juvenile Justice

In May, Billy Lassister was named deputy commissioner for Juvenile Justice after an in-depth study of North Carolina’s juvenile justice system. Lassister plans and directs the operations of the Juvenile Justice Section, serving as a member of the division’s executive team and the department’s senior leadership team in regard to juvenile justice operations.

### Facilities

The three-year decline in secure detention can be attributed to the use of strategies to divert juveniles from court involvement – including expanded, evidence-based community services – as well as to reform strategies, such as community education and engagement, the use of a standardized assessment tool, and the increased use of electronic monitoring and community alternatives to detention.

The Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice developed a strategic plan, presented and approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on Justice and Public Safety in April 2014, and included in the July 2014 budget bill passed by the General Assembly. This plan closes older, less secure facilities and reinvests the savings from closing these facilities into state-of-the-art, safer and more secure facilities, and into community-based programs.

Progress has been made toward implementation of the strategic plan:

- Renovations to buildings at Stonewall Jackson YDC: The Kirk building is being renovated to allow Gaston Detention Center to be relocated to this site. This relocation of Gaston Detention Center appears to be on schedule for July 2015. The McWhorter building is being renovated to add 32 beds. This project appears to be on

schedule for completion in July 2015.

- Renovations to C.A. Dillon D-housing Unit: The total renovation of D-housing (37-beds) unit has been completed. This housing unit will be utilized as an alternative to detention program that will serve youth in crisis such as runaways, family turmoil or mental health issues. A request for proposals has been released and a contract should be awarded for a contractor to operate this facility in January 2015.
- Renovations at Lenoir, Chatham and Edgecombe: The renovations of these three sites will increase bed capacity by 12 at each site to maximize efficiencies. The goal is to have drawings approved by the State Construction Office during February 2015, with ICP starting construction at Edgecombe in summer 2015.
- Court Services began creating Intensive Case Management positions to work rigorously with high risk/high needs juveniles. Intensive Case Management helps to assure that high risk and high need juveniles and their families receive effective services.
- The Juvenile Justice Section applied for and received the Second Chance grant award from the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The grant allows the state to plan for a statewide approach for creating effective re-entry options for juveniles returning from youth development centers. If the plan developed by the state is accepted by OJJDP it will lead to funding of the services described in the plan.
- Juvenile Community Programs successfully opened a female transitional home in February 2014. The home teaches life skills to young women returning from youth development centers or other residential programs who cannot return home due to an unstable home environment.

The plan closes older, less secure facilities and reinvests the savings in better facilities and community programs.

### Center for Safer Schools

- The N.C. Center for Safer Schools, at the request of the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, coordinated the development of a new critical incident response video to help standardize and educate school faculty and staff on how to best respond in a lockdown and other school emergencies. The Department of Public Instruction has

coordinated the Center’s training on this topic statewide. To date, 95 percent of school systems in North Carolina have received this training.

- ▲ Working in concert with the Governor’s Task Force on Safer Schools and the departments of Justice and Health and Human Services, the Center planned and implemented a series of symposia geared toward training law enforcement agencies, first responders, mental health providers, schools and other stakeholders on ways to prevent and respond to school violence. Four day-long sessions were presented in Salemburg, Gastonia, Asheville and Franklin, with discussions on effective ways to address bullying; ways to identify and respond to mental health needs; and developing a plan for a unified rapid response to an active shooter on campus.
- ▲ The Center produced a bullying awareness presentation with accompanying resource materials and trained 23 people in a train-the-presenter session on delivering the presentation to state-level and community groups of all types.

The Center and the Governor’s Task Force on Safer Schools supported school safety legislation with an emphasis on bullying prevention and emergency preparedness.

- ▲ The anti-bullying measure amended the N.C. School Bullying Law to require that the principal shall provide the local policy prohibiting bullying and harassing behavior, including cyber-bullying, to staff, students and parents as defined in G.S. 115C-390.1(b)(8).
- ▲ The legislation geared toward emergency preparedness amends Article 8C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes to require that local school administrators provide emergency access to key storage devices such as KNOX boxes for all school buildings to local law enforcement agencies. It also requires that local school administrative units provide emergency response information requested by N.C. Emergency Management to build a web-based school emergency plan.

### Training

- ▲ DACJJ hosted the 20th National Symposium on Juvenile Services to share and learn about best practices for working with juveniles and families and how these practices are being implemented across the country. More than 900 juvenile justice professionals from across

the United States and other countries were on hand to hear North Carolina’s Juvenile Justice leaders present multiple examples and the positive outcomes of best practices implemented here.

- ▲ Because assessment of risk and need is the foundation of the recommendations made by court counselors to the Court, risk and needs assessment training occurred statewide in 2014. Additionally, 15 juvenile court counselors became certified trainers in Youth Mental Health First Aid and the Juvenile Justice Section committed to ensuring these trainers provide this training to all court counseling staff, in addition to community stakeholders.
- ▲ Facility Operations embarked on a major training initiative aimed at ensuring that all staff become efficient, effective and consistent in managing youth behaviors. Central Office staff facilitated curriculum on Effective Behavior Management to general instructors in a train-the-trainers process.
- ▲ In January 2014, four licensed mental health clinicians from YDCs (two from Chatham, and two from Stonewall Jackson) were accepted into a training cohort in SPARCS (Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress), and are currently completing training. It is expected that training in SPARCS will give LMHCs working in the juvenile justice system the knowledge and skills needed to provide ongoing evidence-based psychotherapy for YDC youth.

General Statutes to require that local school administrators provide law enforcement emergency access to key storage devices.

### Community Programs

#### improvement

Through the introduction of a modified version for non-court referred youth, juvenile justice community program providers expanded their use of North Carolina’s Assessment of Juvenile Risk of Future

Offending, in support of the effort of Juvenile Community Programs to guide its programs toward evidence-based programming. All providers were trained on its use to support the implementation of the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP), a tool which allows the measurement of individual community programs against juvenile justice best-practice programming models.

#### Employee Safety/Risk Management

- ▲ Juvenile court counselors across North Carolina were provided access to CJ Leads in 2014, which greatly

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increases their ability to manage risk and to obtain a more complete understanding of the families and juveniles with whom they work.

- ▲ Risk management for Court Services staff was also enhanced with the receipt of new, more reliable vehicles with accompanying safety equipment for the vehicles; the provision of smartphones for all court counseling staff; and collaboration with the Security Services Section to improve staff safety and to improve the management of cases and individuals that present particular challenges.

### Juvenile Services

- ▲ Juveniles being served in the juvenile justice system began using NC Virtual Public School, the nation's second largest state-led virtual school with more than 50,000 enrollments each year.
- ▲ Under the guidance/support of School Nutrition staff, 12 students at Stonewall Jackson YDC received ServSafe Certification. This certification helps in gaining employment in the food service industry.

### Staff excellence

- ▲ Satish Madho, Exceptional Children teacher at Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center, was recognized as a Teacher of Excellence at the 64th Exceptional Children Conference on Nov. 3.
- ▲ Alexander Juvenile Detention Center earned a "Best Practices Award" from the United States Department of Agriculture. Alexander Juvenile Detention Center was recognized for the Center's Child Nutrition Program's exemplary accomplishments in the category of Increasing Participation in School Breakfast, School Lunch, or Snacks.
- ▲ The Juvenile Justice Section's Healthier US School Challenge application qualified for the Silver Award following approval by the Atlanta office of the Food and Nutrition Service. The N.C. juvenile justice facilities receiving this recognition in 2014 were: Chatham and Dobbs youth development centers; and Alexander, Cumberland, New Hanover and Wake juvenile detention centers. ▲



Clifton Patterson, left, from Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center, was named Juvenile Justice Teacher of the Year. Satish Madho, left, also from Stonewall Jackson YDC, was selected as Teacher of Excellence for the Exceptional Children's Department for 2014.