

# House Select Committee on School Safety Prevention and Response Protocol Subcommittee

August 21, 2018



Virginia Department of Juvenile  
Justice

# Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA)



## HISTORY

- Enacted by the General Assembly in 1994
- Funds were appropriated in FY96
- Program implemented January 1, 1997
- Restructured funding for local juvenile justice programming
- Consolidated individual block grant funds and an additional appropriation combined to form VJCCCA

# Virginia Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA)



## FUNDING

- Formula Driven - laid out in § [16.1-309.7\(A\)](#)
- Revisions to the formula have been included in the *Appropriation Act*
- VJCCCA funding was **\$30 million** in 1999
- The current state appropriation is **\$10,379,921**
- A **65%** reduction

# Virginia Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA)



## PURPOSE (From Va. Code Sec. 16.1-309.2)

“...to ensure the imposition of appropriate and just sanctions and to make the most efficient use of correctional resources for those juveniles before intake on complaints or the court on petitions alleging that the **juvenile is a child in need of services, child in need of supervision, or delinquent**

“it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth to establish a community-based system of progressive intensive sanctions and services that correspond to the severity of offense and treatment needs”

“The purpose of this system shall be to deter crime by providing immediate, effective punishment that emphasizes accountability of the juvenile offender for his actions as well as reduces the pattern of repeat offending”

- Funds may not be used for juveniles committed to DJJ or placed in a post-dispositional detention program

# Virginia Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA)



## LOCAL PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION

- Participation in VJCCCA is voluntary
- All 133 cities and counties in Virginia participate
- Maintenance of Effort (MOE) = Local Match
  - ✓ MOE = the amount of localities' fiscal year 1995 expenditures for pre-dispositional and post-dispositional block grant alternatives to secure detention
  - ✓ MOE intent was for localities to have financial commitment and not use VJCCCA to replace or supplant previous local funding
  - ✓ July 1, 2011, budget language change gave localities the option to reduce their MOE to equal state funds allocated for the locality

# Virginia Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA)



## ALLOWABLE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- The Board of Juvenile Justice is given the authority to establish guidelines for the types of programs funded
- Broad Categories of Services
  - ✓ Accountability: community service work monitoring, restitution
  - ✓ Competency Development: counseling, substance abuse treatment, employability skills
  - ✓ Public Safety: electronic monitoring, outreach detention, evening reporting centers

# Virginia Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA)



## PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPANTS

- Biennial Plans
  - ✓ Each locality or combination of localities develop a biennial plan
  - ✓ Plans must be approved by the Board of Juvenile Justice
  - ✓ Communities are given substantial autonomy and flexibility to address local juvenile offense patterns
- Plan Management
  - ✓ Local government designates who is responsible for plan management
  - ✓ In many localities the responsibility has been delegated to the Court Service Unit (CSU)

# Virginia Community Crime Control Act (VJCCCA)



## PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPANTS (cont.)

- Community Planning and Data Review
  - ✓ Community planning process
  - ✓ Examine court related data
  - ✓ Review existing services and service gaps
  - ✓ Plan development statutorily requires consultation with Judges, CSU Directors, and Community Policy and Management Team Chairs (CSA)



# VJCCCA Data Fiscal Year 2017



- 7,161 youth served
- 11,736 total placements
- Average 1.6 placement per youth
- Majority of placements were pre-dispositional (62%)
- Public Safety Service Category had the highest use (48%)



# Current Combined Funding

- FY 17/18 -- \$ 25 million (approx.) per year
- FY19/20 -- \$ 20 million (approx.) per year
- Recent combined reduction due to reduced local efforts



# Most Funded Services (FY 19)

- Outreach Detention/EM – \$ 6.2 million
- Shelter Care - \$ 5.7 million
- Group Homes - \$ 1.3 million
- Intensive Supervision/Surveillance - \$ 1.1 million
- Community Service - \$ 1.1 million
- Other services include, but not limited to, skill building, clinical, day treatment, and case management

# Goals of Prevention Programs to Promote School Safety



- Dedicated funding
- No (or limited) new bureaucracy
- Effective (evidence-based/informed) programs
- Easy and early access
- Locally tailored
- No/minimal court contact



# Proposed Legislation

- Crucial and laudable new goals
- Recognizes a gap in services and funding and would allow youth without delinquency charges to access services
- Builds on existing system
- Concerns:
  - ✓ VJCCCA funding has been cut, and is being expended
  - ✓ May require court contact to access
  - ✓ Other existing statutes or systems may be more effective

# Alternative Options for Prevention Legislation



## DELINQUENCY PREVENTION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ACT (Sec. 66-26 and following)

- Already in Code
- Authorizes DJJ (Director, Board, and Department) to establish guidelines for, and issue grants to support delinquency prevention and youth development programs

**BUT:** No current funding

# Alternative Options for Prevention Legislation



## CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT

- Existing local bodies that use assessments and make decisions about services for at-risk youth
- Pooled funding, and interagency decision making and planning

## BUT

- Current statutory language defining eligibility might be too restrictive to allow for prevention programs
- Funding

# Questions ?

