



DJJD NEWS EXPRESS

For Employees and Friends of DJJD

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Our Top Stories...

State Advisory Council Welcomes Chief Justice Parker

The State Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention welcomed Chief Justice Sarah Parker to its November 29, 2006, meeting. As Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, Parker serves as co-chair and assists in advising and coordinating efforts among state agencies providing services to juveniles.

"Chief Justice Parker brings a vast array of expertise to this Advisory Council," said Secretary George Sweat. "We look forward to working with her on juvenile justice issues."

At this meeting, the Advisory Council also discussed the upcoming legislative session, the success of the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's two pilot programming projects, its staffing proposal for the replacements facilities, and the joint use proposal with the Department of Correction (DOC) to jointly use the Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center property.

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Department Continues to Lay Groundwork for Replacement Facilities; Holds Two Groundbreaking Ceremonies in November

The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention continues to lay the groundwork for what promises to be a successful endeavor for youth, families, and communities across the state of North Carolina. In November 2006, the Department held two groundbreaking ceremonies to mark its continued replacement facility efforts. The ceremonies announced the construction of youth development centers in Chatham and Cabarrus counties. These groundbreakings follow the Department's first groundbreaking held in Lenoir County in September. Community members, lawmakers, government officials, juvenile justice representatives, and school officials were in attendance.

The construction of these replacement facilities will become the foundation for an effective, community-oriented juvenile justice system. By providing youth throughout North Carolina with smaller, community-connected facilities, the Department will more effectively assist youth with the tools needed to become productive members of North Carolina's communities.

Both the Chatham County Youth Development Center and the Cabarrus County Youth Development Center will offer a positive economic impact to their local communities. The 32-bed facility in Chatham County will provide approximately 71 jobs with an estimated annual operating budget of \$3.2 million to the local community and the 96-bed facility planned for Cabarrus County will provide approximately 203 jobs with an estimated \$9.1 million annual operating budget.

Construction on both facilities is to be completed within the next 18 months.

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Therapeutic Environment Training Continues at Youth Development Centers; Planning Starts for Court Services

The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is now providing Therapeutic Environment Training (TET) for staff at all five youth development centers. Meanwhile, court services staff held their first meeting on November 14, 2006, and began planning the training structure for TET within court services. Two court counselor representatives from each district attended the meeting and are now working on the planning and design of the modules.

The TET training within court services will incorporate these same tools as well as focus on developing a standardized service planning format with the training curriculum. The TET training, a curriculum that delivers skills and knowledge and gives staff tools to create a therapeutic, teaching environment, will transition current youth development center operations to therapeutic environments for all committed youth and result in the implementation of an environment in which youth receive education and treatment in ways that allow for the development of skill competency and behavior and life changes.

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Staff from the Eastern, Western, Central, and Piedmont areas have been trained to teach the therapeutic environment model. Some of these participants were also identified as master trainers, presenting material for the instruction session as well as being part of their area training team. These trainers are currently instructing staff at Dillon, Dobbs, Samarkand, Stonewall Jackson, and Swannanoa as well as selected court services and detention staff. Each trainer delivers content through various activities as well as through lecture.

The Department plans to have all five youth development centers fully operating in a therapeutic environment by early 2007.

[For additional information about the TET initiative click here. \(PDF\)](#)
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DJJDP Submits Joint Use Proposal for Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center Property to North Carolina General Assembly

The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP) and the Department of Correction (DOC) submitted a joint report in mid-November to the North Carolina General Assembly regarding proposed joint use of the Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center (SVYDC) property. The proposal has been approved by the Governmental Operations Committee on Justice and Public Safety.

"This transition benefits both DJJDP and DOC," said Secretary George L. Sweat. "DJJDP will be able to transition from a large facility to a smaller, more community-connected facility based on a treatment-education model. At the same time, DOC will be able to meet the demands of a growing female population."

During the first phase of the proposed plan, DJJDP will continue to operate the southern part of the campus as a youth development center for male juvenile offenders, while DOC will move its operations from Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women (BMCCW) to the northern part of the SVYDC campus. The agencies propose to jointly use the campus until 2010, when DJJDP hopes to be able to move into a new 32-bed facility in the Western part of the state. DJJDP intends to seek approval for the new facility during the upcoming legislative session.

If the plan proceeds as proposed, DOC eventually will assume complete control of the Swannanoa campus. When the transition is complete, DOC will house approximately 454 inmates at the Swannanoa campus with a staff of nearly 200. DJJDP will employ approximately 66 staff members at its new youth development center.

For more information as well as a copy of the joint use proposal, visit the Department's website at www.ncdjjdp.org
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Governor Easley Announces Results of Review to Improve School Safety; DJJDP-Center Participates in Recommendations

Gov. Mike Easley has announced the results of his statewide school safety review. Over the past three months, Secretary Bryan Beatty of the Department of Crime Control & Public Safety and Attorney General Roy Cooper coordinated a comprehensive review of North Carolina's school safety programs in an effort to guarantee student safety in the state's schools. Beatty and Cooper asked the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention- Center for the Prevention of School Violence to assist in assessing current efforts and determining if additional measures should be taken to better protect the state's school students.

The review recommends expanding the School Resource Officer program in high schools and middle schools so there is at least one resource officer for every 1,000 students. There are currently 773 resource officers in the state's public schools.

The review also recommends law enforcement, technology, and school experts convene to examine the effectiveness of current technology and develop recommendations for school districts to acquire the appropriate technology to ensure two-way communication in their schools.

According to the review, information sharing is crucial to preventing school violence. North Carolina has been proactive in this area, with DJJDP-Center setting up a toll-free safe schools tip line so students, parents, and others can anonymously report threats or suspicious activity at schools. The report recommends increased public awareness of the tip line. That number is 1-888-960-9600.

Additionally, the review recommends that all school districts have school safety plans in place and that they conduct exercises to test those plans. Furthermore, the report recommends new legislation be drafted to require regular drills and exercises for dealing with threats such as school shootings, chemical explosions, severe weather, and terrorism incidents. Current law only requires monthly fire drills at schools.

Other recommendations from the school safety review include:

- Providing technical assistance from state law enforcement to help schools conduct security assessments of campuses;
- Identifying key agencies, such as mental health responders, by the Department of Health and Human Services to be dispatched to help cope with emotional and psychological needs of staff and students after a violent incident; and
- Adopting a formal debriefing process by state education, law enforcement, and health services agencies to help local school and law enforcement officials improve their response plans.

North Carolina has been working to address the issue of school safety since the early 1990s. When Easley was Attorney General, he

worked to create the DJJDP-Center. DJJDP-Center focuses on understanding the problems of school violence and developing solutions to them.

For more information as well as a full copy of the report, visit the DJJDP-Center website at www.cpsv.org
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Grants Update: Planning for the Coming Year

As the end of the year approaches, it is time to think about the coming year. One of the most crucial components of the grants process is putting plans in place to continue the project once the grant funds are no longer available. This is called sustainability.

The lack of a strong sustainability plan appears like a bad "investment" to the funding agency. Funders want to see a solid commitment that is strong enough to continue the project even after the initial grant has ended. Therefore, sustainability planning should be on-going. However, if you have waited to the last minute, the end of the year is as good a time as any to dust off your original sustainability plan and take action!

There are no shortcuts, but the following ideas can help you get off to a solid start:

- Leverage shared positions and resources
- Become a line-item in an existing budget
- Create a sustainability committee
- Collaborate with groups focused on similar missions
- Tap into existing personnel resources
- Solicit donations and in-kind support
- Hold a fundraiser
- Develop a fee-for-services structure
- Secure endowed funds/planned giving
- Establish membership fees or dues

Remember, grant funds should be used for start-up projects, program enhancement and expansion, or seed money. They should not be counted on as a long-term funding solution. Thus, tackling sustainability is the key to making sure that your project has a lasting impact on the youth, families, and communities you serve.

For additional information, or assistance with your sustainability plan, contact Jay Cheston, via email at jay.cheston@ncmail.net
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YDC Students Participate in Annual Holiday Celebrations

This year the annual holiday shows were a huge success! Students currently residing at the five individual youth development centers worked diligently to put on and participate in various holiday celebrations for family, friends, and staff throughout the month of December. After each celebration, the students and their family members spent some time together as they enjoyed refreshments prepared by cafeteria staff at each of the facilities.

The holiday program for Samarkand involved a play produced by the cottage life staff. Students spent hours practicing the play which depicts the life of a teenage girl who finds herself with an addiction and is committed to Samarkand Youth Development Center. The teenage girl thinks about her bad choices, learns from her mistakes, and decides to become a responsible individual. Special thanks goes out to Ms. Melinda Kay Evans for her leadership in producing the event.

Chaplain Sandra McKeon led a chorus of students through an amazing array of holiday songs at C.A. Dillon. The students, who were dressed in tuxedos, also put on a holiday play.

Under the direction of Dr. Charlene Hemphill, Swannanoa Valley staff and students celebrated the holidays with song and a holiday play. English teacher, Marta Kraay, directed and wrote the holiday play while Rusty Eskew, a volunteer from the Epiphany Ministries Band provided the music. Michael Borkay of Asheville-Buncombe Community College and Chris Wilmoth, a literacy teacher, also added to the celebration by leading students and the audience in joyous song.

At Dobbs, the students provided entertainment in the form of a dance performance and a play about the story of Christmas. Paula Sutton, the broadcasting teacher, directed the event and was assisted by Chaplain Jim Cavanaugh. After the event, students spend time with members of their family over lunch.

With leadership from Hope Tarpley-Moore, Cynthia Stanback, and Annie Fleming- Weaver, students at Stonewall Jackson sang, danced, and tumbled their way into the hearts of the audience. A highlight of the program was a dance with mothers and their sons.

Thanks to all staff and students involved in these celebrations for putting us in the holiday spirit.
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Dobbs Youth Development Center Hosts Blood Drive

At the end of November, the Dobbs Youth Development Center hosted its annual blood drive. The Bloodhound Committee successfully sought commitments from 41 people and received response of 30 productive pints.

Due to the wonderful response, the management team pooled its resources to give away a \$25 gas card to one lucky giver. In addition, the Bloodhound Committee gave away a Thanksgiving dinner which included a turkey, homemade pies, farm fresh eggs, turnips, collards and many other goodies.

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Camp Woodson Meets Milestone: Holds 30th Birthday

As we near the end 2006, Camp Woodson met a milestone by holding its 30th reunion at Camp High Rocks in Cedar Mountain, North Carolina. The first session of Camp Woodson began in April, 1976, when students loaded up backpacks, laced up hiking boots, and took the initial steps on a journey that has now spanned three decades.

Over 100 former and current employees traveled from California, Oklahoma, and Maine to celebrate Camp Woodson's 30th birthday. The day's events included paddling, climbing, swimming, music, dinner, slide shows, and a silent auction that raised money to offset the cost of future reunions.

Many technological changes have occurred over the years, but Camp Woodson's founding core values of self-reliance, service to others, challenge, adventure, and personal growth have remained constant. Those values have not only served the students well, but have cultivated an enduring staff dedicated to using nature and adventure to change lives.

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