

MERRIMAC CENTER

MIDDLE PENINSULA JUVENILE
DETENTION COMMISSION



History

- Authorized by the General Assembly and formed in 1994
- Seventeen counties and two cities joined the goal of building and operating a secure juvenile detention facility. (King George County withdrew from the Commission in 2000 leaving our current membership at 18)
- Localities had no guaranteed access to secure juvenile detention beds. Local law enforcement officials were transporting juveniles to detention facilities and jails throughout the Commonwealth, some as far away as Bristol on the Tennessee border
- Family contact with detained juveniles was limited due to the distance of placements
- On December 23, 1997, the Merrimac Center admitted its first juvenile offender

Mission

- 48-bed facility to provide safe and secure custody of youth who are accused of conduct subject to the jurisdiction of the court
- Ensure the safety of the community and the youth while there is pending legal action or a sentence to a secure juvenile facility
- Provide services that support the juvenile's physical, emotional and social development including education, recreation, counseling, nutrition, health care, assessment, visitation, behavior modification, and continuous supervision

Serving 18+ Localities

- The 9th and 15th Court Service Unit districts (Caroline, Charles City, Essex, Gloucester, Hanover, James City, King and Queen, King William, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland, York, and the cities of Williamsburg and Poquoson)
- Governing body is made up of administrators appointed by each member locality
- Additional jurisdictions for CPP youth (Newport News, Hampton, Norfolk, Richmond, Suffolk, Fredericksburg, Dinwiddie, Chesapeake, Petersburg, Henrico, Portsmouth, Hopewell, Charlottesville, Virginia Beach, Franklin, Brunswick, Accomack, Southampton, Emporia, King George, and Chesterfield)

Stats FY19

- Leading charges: contempt of court and assault
- Total of 307 admissions; 12,552 child care days
- Average daily population = 34
- York has the third highest utilization of all the localities with 33 admissions this year and 886 child care days

Staffing = 74

- 36 full-time and 14 part-time Counselors/ Direct Care (5:1 staff to resident ratio)
- 4 Shift Supervisors
- 1 Treatment Program Manager
- 2 Mental Health (CPP Case Manager and CPP Therapist)
- 1 Career-Readiness Specialist
- 4 Kitchen Staff
- 3 Drivers
- 1 Registered Nurse
- 1 Custodian
- 1 Maintenance Manager
- 1 Technology Manager
- 1 Administrative Services Manager
- 1 Secretary/ Receptionist
- 3 Administrators

Our Staff



Department of Juvenile Justice

- Merrimac's regulatory agency
- Research by Annie E. Casey Foundation (2014)
- Transformation (2016)
- Utilization of local detention centers
- Growing additional DJJ revenue since FY16 (guaranteed funding)
- \$1,427,403 from DJJ programs in FY19
- \$125,000 increase for FY20

Budget

- 4.6 million-dollar budget
- Developed 2 years in advance based on projections
- 5-year average child care days for localities at a daily rate to cover projected expenditures
- Approximately 56% is state funding
- Approximately 44% is local funding
- Capital reserve fund and operating reserve fund

Programs

- Pre-dispositional
- Post-dispositional
- DJJ Assessments
- DJJ Re-entry
- DJJ Community Placement Program – Boys
- DJJ Community Placement Program - Girls

Behavior Management

- Tenets:
 - “We are what we’ve learned.”
 - “Everything we want them to know we have to teach.”
 - Focus on the “do” not the “are”.
- Cognitive Behavior Training (CBT)
 - Thinking Chain
 - Responsibility
 - Worksheets
- Behavior modification
 - Time outs
 - Incentives
 - Praise and encouragement
- Groups – 21 per week
 - Restorative justice, moral decision making, addictions, risk management, Aggression Replacement Training, Girls Circle
- Weekly Goals – Boy’s Town Teaching Social Skills to Youth

Services

- **Mental health**
 - Individual and group therapy
 - Case management
 - Medication management
- **Physical health**
 - Full-time RN
 - State-certified medication agents
 - Contracted medical director
- **Education**
 - Provided by James City County School System
 - Standard school days plus summer enrichment
 - Full library
 - Literacy, special education, GED, and post-graduate services
 - 8 Teachers, an Administrative Assistant, and a Principal
- **Transportation**
 - To all appointments in all localities

Classrooms



Programs / Partnerships

- Spring Open House/Partner Recognition
- Horticulture/Greenhouse Program
- Chicken Project
- “Think Pawsitive”
- Therapeutic Drumming
- Royal Rangers
- William & Mary Mentors
- Religious Studies
- Mental Health
- GED Testing Site
- Pet Therapy

Spring Open House



Plant Sale



Horticulture Program



The Lemon House



Chicken Project



Chicken Project



“Think Pawsitive” Program



A Day in the Life

- Hygiene
- Goals group
- Restorative justice group
- School
- Lunch in the dining hall
- Goals group
- Moral decision-making group
- School
- One-hour room time for private professional calls
- Aggression Replacement Training
- Outdoor or gym recreation
- Dinner
- Goals group
- Dog training
- CBT group
- Free-time/ shower
- Bedtime

We Thank You!!



Questions?