

**Prince William County  
Community Criminal Justice Board  
July 16, 2026**

**PARTICIPANTS:** Co-Chairperson Yesli Vega, Chief Judge Abigail Miller, Judge Butler, Bob Blakley, Major Fearnley, Col. West, Capt. Welsh, Ashley Hutson, Rickie Hardy, Phyllis Jennings Holt, Tracey Lenox, Capt. Hardeman, Kim Keller, Yesy Amaya, Levi Bass, Chris Fuller, Chief Jillian Mackling, Mason Riggs, Lt. Rust, Jim Nesterick, Bill Boge, Jean Humbrecht, Katanya Goswell, Christina Davis, Chanel Harris

**STAFF:** Tomaudrie Thomas, Maureen Anderson, Heather Crowley, Amal Hajjami, Ann Trullender, Wendy Dempsey,

**CITIZEN:** None.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

**CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS (Item 1)**

Co-chairperson Yesli Vega presided over the meeting. She reported that Brad Marshall was unable to attend due to a work conflict.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)**

Co-Chairperson Yesli Vega asked for a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by Bob Blakley and seconded by Ashley Hutson. The motion was passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)**

Co-chairperson Yesli Vega requested a motion to approve the April 16, 2026, meeting minutes. The motion was made by Bob Blakley and was seconded by Ashley Hutson. Members voted, and the motion was passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL ADOPTION OF REMOTE PARTICIPATION POLICY (Item 4)**

Co-chairperson Yesli Vega requested a motion to approve the Memo from Chief Executive Officer Chris Shorter. The motion was made by Bob Blakley and was seconded by Major Fearnley. Members voted, and the motion was passed unanimously.

**CITIZEN’S TIME (Item 5)** None.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES GRANTS (Item 6)** reported by *Tomaudrie Thomas*, Director of CJS

- CJS has applied for grants for the Behavioral Health Docket, for two new positions: Funding was requested for June through September 2026, before the new fiscal year starts.
- The grant remains outstanding; the two positions have not been filled. The positions will likely still be open in September, when the agency reapplies for the annual grant. Director Thomas said this is common and depends on when in the fiscal year the funding is

requested. The Board has already approved the funding. The agency expects to receive the grant funding again through the annual funding request in September 2026.

- Veterans Treatment Docket: A continuation grant in the amount of \$90,373 for a full-time treatment coordinator/therapist was requested and received.
- Adult Recovery Court: A continuation grant in the amount of \$110,698 for a Human Services Caseworker, who provides case management to participants, was requested and received.

**CCJB FORUM IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA (Item 7)** reported by *Tomaudrie Thomas*, Director CJS.

- Director Thomas reported that a team consisting of Chair Brad Marshall – Attorney-at-Law; Tomaudrie Thomas - CJS, Director; Dr. Yasin - Office of Community Safety Director; and Colonel West - Superintendent of ADC will attend a Community Criminal Justice forum in Charlottesville from September 2 thru September 4, 2026.
- The forum will be hosted by DCJS to discuss innovative ways to move Community Criminal Justice Boards forward across Virginia.
- The goal is to foster stakeholder collaboration and close gaps within local criminal justice systems.
- Supervisor Vega added that we will be well represented.

**PRESENTATION (Item 8)** The Stepping Up Initiative/Mental Health Docket Update presented by *Katanya Goswell*, Ph.D.

- Dr. Goswell announced that today, Prince William County has officially become a Stepping Up county. Stepping Up is a national, data-driven effort to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails.
- Background: Stepping Up started in 2015 as a national movement. It is a joint effort of the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the National Association of Counties, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation.
- It gives counties a data-driven framework, along with training and resources, to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails. Each county adapts it to local needs.
- About 584 counties take part nationwide, including Prince William. 51 counties, including Fairfax, are "Innovator Counties." These counties can accurately identify people with mental illness in their jails, share that data with partners, connect people to treatment, and use the data to shape local policy. Dr. Goswell gave the Behavioral Health Docket as an example of a data-informed local effort.
- Community mental health services are scarce and can be hard to reach. As a result, many people with serious mental illness are arrested for minor, nonviolent offenses caused by untreated symptoms.
- Once arrested, people with mental illnesses tend to stay in jail longer and return sooner than other inmates. About three-quarters also have a substance use disorder.
- U.S. jails are among the largest mental health providers in the country. Major Dickinson at the jail provided three years of local data on jail commitments and on referrals to mental health services. The Adult Detention Center (ADC) screens everyone at booking.
- It strengthens collaboration across agencies, including the EBDM team.
- It puts the County on the national stage for accountability and leadership.

- Goals: (1) reduce the number of people with mental illness in jail, (2) connect them to treatment, (3) shorten their time in jail, and (4) reduce recidivism. Meeting these goals eases strain on the jail, expands treatment options, and brings judges, attorneys, sheriffs, and behavioral health providers together into one coordinated system of care.
- Jail Reentry Center (opened 2024 in the jail lobby) under the leadership of Col. West: From February 2024 to May 2026, more than 600 people visited and 988 services were provided. The most requested were clothing, food, medication-assisted treatment, phone calls, and transportation. The center also runs a clothing closet, a food pantry, and hygiene care packs, and has served more than 129 people through those community partnerships.
- The goal of this initiative is to use a data-driven framework to connect individuals to treatment and reduce recidivism.
- The Crisis Receiving Center (CRC) has already successfully diverted 5,433 police hours by providing a walk-in facility for mental health crises.
- Veterans Treatment Docket (started 2019): 61 veterans served, 44 graduated.
- Recovery Court (started 2022): 51 participants served, 6 graduated in 2025.
- Behavioral Health Docket: Set to launch in fall 2026.
- Director Thomas added that about eleven staff members will attend a specialty docket conference in Nashville, TN to prepare for the launch of the Behavior Health Docket.

**THE RIGHT STEP JUVENILE DIVERSION INITIATIVE (Item 9)** presented by *Christina Davis*, Office of Youth Services

- Ricky Hardy, Deputy Director, Office of Youth Services, introduced Christina Davis and outlined the program. The Office runs the Molinari Shelter, the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC), and Juvenile Pretrial Supervision.
- Program Manager is Chanel Harris, and she was in attendance.
- The Office of Youth Services turned two years old on July 1. Right Step is its newest initiative.
- Right Step is meant to balance the Office's current secure and supervision services with more restorative options.
- Committee recommendations: The planning committee made these recommendations, and several are underway:
  - A community-based restorative justice program
  - Community-based placement
  - Life skills and independent living
  - Building a Prince William County Youth Center
  - Cross-system collaboration
  - Updating information and technology systems
- Right Step has three parts: prevention, intervention, and diversion.
- Eligibility:
  - Ages 10–17
  - First-time offender
  - Misdemeanor charges only
  - All parties must agree: the parent, the youth, the victim (if any), and the responding officer

- Must live in Prince William County. Youth from the City of Manassas and Manassas Park are not being served at this time.
- The program lasts up to 120 days. The referral and the hearing happen within the first 30 days, and the youth has the rest of the time to complete what was assigned.
- A case manager supports the youth and family throughout.
- Sanctions are required and set by the volunteer panel. Examples are apology letters, community service, and in-house workshops on decision-making, accountability, victim impact and empathy, theft awareness, and drugs and alcohol.
- Prince William County Police refer the youth.
  - Court Services confirm eligibility.
  - Staff contact the family, then the victim.
  - The youth is enrolled.
  - When finished, the youth earn a certificate of completion and the referring officer is notified. There's no further involvement with intake, the courts, or the justice system.
- 100% successful completion rate
- Police training and consistent referrals: Three squads were trained during the November soft launch, and the other 15 were trained in May 2026. Offenses that state code says can't be diverted still go through the normal process.
- Expanding to Manassas and Manassas Park: Mr. Hardy said the Office hopes to grow the program, and Mr. Bass will bring it back to the BOCS for discussion.

**EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING Update (Item 10)** reported by *Maureen Anderson*, Deputy Director, CJS

- EBDM Policy Team met on May 20, 2026.
- Maureen Anderson reported that the evidence-based decision-making team is currently focusing on peer support and recovery initiatives for those with substance use disorders.
- The jail's medicated assisted treatment (MAT) program has exceeded expectations, serving thousands of individuals over its first four years.
- The domestic violence fatality review team conducted its first formal case review, which will help establish protocols for future actionable recommendations.
- Tracey Lenox added that it went well and helped set how future reviews will be done and what recommendation they can produce.
- The next EBDM meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2026

**DCJS QUARTERLY REPORT/DATA REPORT (Item 11)** Quarterly data presented by *Amal Hajjani*, Senior Public Safety Analyst, CJS

**Pretrial Services**

- Caseload: Active placements rose from 575 to 615 by the end of Q4, which is high compared with last year.
- Supervision levels: Cases keep shifting toward Level 1, the lowest intensity, which reached 67% by Q4. The highest level peaked at 12%. Both are in line with prior years.
- Appearance rate rose from 79% to 95%. Director Thomas credits this mainly to the text reminder system, now fully built into the state's new data system.
- Public safety rate stayed in the 80% range all year.

- Compliance rate fell to about 64% and is being monitored.
- Unsuccessful closures: Nearly 2,000 closed cases were tracked over the year. Cases close unsuccessfully for one of three reasons: failure to appear, a new arrest, or a violation of supervision conditions. Failure to appear was the highest attribution. Unsuccessful closures went down steadily across all four quarters, and failures to appear dropped about 10% after the text reminders were added.

#### **Local Probation:**

- Caseload: Stayed steady in the low 500s for most of the year, then rose to 555 by the end of Q4.
- Risk level: Most clients are low risk, and less than 1% are high risk. This matches the past five years.
- Public safety rate fell from 88% to about 77%. This is being monitored after this quarter and will investigate the cause.
- Compliance rate settled around 66%.
- Success rate rose sharply to 71% by Q4.
- Risk screening stayed between the high 90s and 99% all year.
- Success plan development dipped from 78% to 70%.
- Unsuccessful closures: About 110 were for absconding (the client stopped reporting), about 80 for new arrests, and about 39 for condition violations.
- Director Thomas credited ongoing quality assurance and case reviews for the higher probation success rate. She also pointed to coaching that helps probation officers use evidence-based interventions that address criminal thinking, such as decision-making homework assignments, and to supervision tailored to each client's case plan.

#### **ROUND TABLE TOPICS (Item 12) Members**

- Chief Public Defender Tracy Lenox was thanked for testifying on behalf of VCCJA, which helped change code wording about interviews during the Public Safety Assessment
- Director Tomaudrie Thomas announced the celebration of Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Week on July 19-25, 2026, and asked members to thank staff when they see them.
- Director Thomas introduced Heather Crowley, newly hired Manager for Pretrial/Probation, CJS
- Staff recognition: Director Tomaudrie Thomas publicly thanked Ann Trullender (Admin Coordinator), Amel Hajami (Senior Public Safety Analyst), Wendy Dempsey (Admin Coordinator), and Maureen Anderson (Deputy Director) for their outstanding contributions to CJS.
- On behalf of Chairman Marshall, Yesli Vega congratulated Tracey Lenox on her earlier recognition and Judge Miller on her appointment to Chief Judge, General District Court.

#### **ADJOURNMENT (Item 13) The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.**