

**VIRGINIA JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION  
BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
AUGUST 12, 2005**

**SUMMARY**

- **Guest speaker, Dr. Charles Brooks**, Service Advocate and Clinical Liaison for Keystone, facilitated a training session entitled “Residential Treatment for Sexually Abusive Youth”. Mr. Tim Powell, Service Advocate with Keystone was also present.
- **Review of Upcoming Events** - Members were encouraged to make the necessary arrangements to attend upcoming VJJA events.
  - **Annual Capital District Crab Feast**, September 22, 2005. The day begins with a half day training session at the Henrico Training Center in Richmond, Virginia, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Crab Feast will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The contact person for this is Katherine Farmer, Capital District Chairperson, [capitaldistrictchair@vija.org](mailto:capitaldistrictchair@vija.org), (804) 501-4417.
  - **VJJA Fall Institute**, November 2-4, 2005, Cavalier Hotel, Virginia Beach, Virginia. This year’s theme is “One Size Doesn’t Fit All”. More information will be mailed out to members on September 1, 2005. Additional information can be found at the website, [www.vija.org](http://www.vija.org) or by contacting the Conference Planning Chair, Katherine Farmer, conference [planning@vija.org](mailto:planning@vija.org), (804) 501-4417. Please let me know if you plan to attend by October 1, 2005, so that arrangements can be made for a chartered bus to provide transportation from the western part of the state to Virginia Beach.
  - **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bash**, November 2006, Richmond, Virginia. Please contact Paul Greggs, [pgreggs@trghc.org](mailto:pgreggs@trghc.org), (757) 482-4744, if you would like to help. Plans are to make this a memorable event.
- Those in attendance were surveyed regarding **training needs** in the District. The results are listed below in order of the amount of interest in each topic.
  - Substance Abuse
  - Sex Offenders
  - Stress Management
  - Teamwork – becoming more effective in the workplace
  - Juvenile Murder
  - Understanding Juvenile Correctional Centers – how to effectively interact with counselors and therapists
  - Crisis Intervention Skills
  - Family Structure Issues and Parental Instruction

Other requests included gang training for rural areas, recognizing various types of abuse and intervention techniques, self mutilation, grant training, how to effectively deal with oppositional/defiant adolescents, intervention services in localities, recording in Safe Measures and the impact on our future, courtroom testimony, defensive driving and community resource building.

An ambitious goal was for the Blue Ridge District to host a training session prior to October 1, 2005. Based on the results of our very informal survey we will work towards our first training topic of substance abuse and sex offenders. Sherry Pilson, Sabrina East and Regina Beheler have expressed an interest in helping coordinate this training session. We also feel confident we have an adequate list of additional topics which are of value and benefit to our membership.

- **VaLORS Update**

- Those present were updated on the latest information regarding VJJA's lobbying efforts in favor of the VaLORS legislation.
- All members are encouraged to **write letters** to their local legislators as well as the Governor. Your local legislators can be found at <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>. Your efforts are especially needed during the upcoming election season.

- **Blue Ridge District Officers**

- The duties of each **District Officer** were reviewed and a list of candidates for the Blue Ridge District was developed for the November elections as follows:
  - ✦ Chair - Robert W. Foster
  - ✦ Vice Chair – Anthony Drakeford
  - ✦ Secretary – Colleen French
  - ✦ Treasurer – Rodney Hubbard
- Linda Fain will be the chair of the election committee for the Blue Ridge District and agreed to assist in e-mailing ballots to all members and tallying final votes. Everyone is encouraged to give consideration to running for a district position. It is noted that contested elections lead to greater interest and increased voter response. If interested in running for one of these positions please contact Linda Fain at [Linda.Fain@djj.virginia.gov](mailto:Linda.Fain@djj.virginia.gov).
- The different committees within the district were reviewed and an impressive number of folks expressed an interest in being appointed to the following committees.
  - ✦ **Awards Committee Liaison**
    - ✦ Charles Hairston, W. W. Moore
    - ✦ Rhianna Price, Life Skills Mentoring Program
  - ✦ **Editorial Committee Liaison**
    - ✦ VACANT/Available
  - ✦ **Grants Committee Liaison**
    - ✦ VACANT/Available
  - ✦ **Legislative Committee Liaison**
    - ✦ Laura Maynard, Life Skills Mentoring Program
    - ✦ David Roberts, 21<sup>st</sup>
    - ✦ Laura Thompson, Life Skills Mentoring Program

- ✘ **Membership Committee Liaison**
  - ✦ Susan Farmer, 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ✘ **Public Relations Committee Liaison**
  - ✦ Rebecca Crosswhite, 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - ✦ Rebecca Moore, Life Skills Mentoring Program
- ✘ **Standards and Benefits Committee Liaison**
  - ✦ VACANT/Available
- ✘ **Scholarship Committee Liaison**
  - ✦ Charles Hairston, W. W. Moore
- ✘ **Training Committee Liaison**
  - ✦ Rebecca Crosswhite, 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - ✦ Sherry Pilson, 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ✘ **Website Committee Liaison**
  - ✦ Linda Fain, 21<sup>st</sup>
  - ✦ Butch Jefferson, Bedford County

The names of those appointed to each committee will be forwarded to the committee chair at the state level. A plan was also discussed with individuals present in order to solicit new members from colleges and universities in the Blue Ridge District. More details will be provided later.

- **New Members**

- Applications for renewals and new members were received from:
  - ✘ Rebecca Crosswhite, 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - ✘ Susan Farmer, 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - ✘ Laura Maynard, 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - ✘ Rebecca Moore, Life Skills Mentoring Program
  - ✘ Rhianna Price, Life Skills Mentoring Program
  - ✘ Laura Thompson, Life Skills Mentoring Program

Your applications and membership dues will be forwarded to the State Membership Chair, Jim Woolf.

- Special thanks to Linda Fain, David Roberts and Debbie St. John for the Mocha Punch. It was a special treat for everyone who attended.
- Special thanks to each of you who made the effort to attend. Your presence confirmed that the Blue Ridge District consists of top level professionals and that as a district we have the commitment and enthusiasm to make the Blue Ridge District one of the strongest in the State. Stay tuned for information on the training sessions we are developing. We are a District that will certainly give others a reason for joining the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association.