

Our Leadership

Samantha Higgins, President
25th District CSU - Lexington
president@vjja.net

Stephanie Garrison,
Immediate Past President
DJJ Regional Program Manager
immediatepastpresident@vjja.net

Kevin Meeks, Vice President
21st District Court Service Unit
vicepresident@vjja.net

Amanda Moseley, Secretary
Southstone Behavioral Health
secretary@vjja.net

Joe Young, Treasurer
New River Valley Detention Home
treasurer@vjja.net

District Chairs

Valerie Chambers, Blue Ridge
District, City of Lynchburg

Tammy Johnson, Capital District
DJJ Central Office- Richmond

Ellen A. Patterson, Northern
District, 31st District CSU -
Manassas

Doug Poe, Southwest District
27th District CSU - Christiansburg

Katherine Grimm, Tidewater
District, 3rd District CSU -
Portsmouth

Christa Galleo, Valley District
16th District CSU - Charlottesville

What We Believe

We believe in a juvenile justice system that ...

- recognizes that adolescents are not yet who they will become and are capable of change;
- differentiates between criminal/delinquent acts and normative adolescent acting-out;
- uses proven models, strategies and approaches;
- presumes innocence, protects liberty and justice and affords due process of law;
- ensures community protection and holds adjudicated children accountable for their actions;
- weighs heavily decisions concerning the deprivation of liberty and favors the least restrictive means necessary to achieve public safety;
- is free from racial, ethnic, and gender disparities and exercises objective decision-making as a means to ensure fairness and equity;
- relies upon data to measure progress and guide policy, practice and programmatic changes;
- promotes professionalism, collaboration, integrity, accountability and transparency among key stakeholder agencies;
- provides services relative to risk level, arranged in a continuum, and consistent with the principles of effective intervention;
- favors fiscal responsibility and accountability to be good stewards of scarce resources;
- does no greater harm, limits exposure to risk and exceeds minimum standards;

Virginia Juvenile Justice Association

Bringing together and educating professionals who touch the lives of system-involved children.



www.VJJA.net

What We Do

Awards & Recognition— Colleagues are recognized in a feature, “Colleagues in the Spotlight,” and celebrated during “Probation, Parole and Community Supervision” week and “Detention, Residential and Correctional” week. The association also recognizes members who have made extraordinary contributions by awarding Meritorious Awards in the areas of Community Service, Court Services, Residential Services, and Administration.

Professional Development—The Juvenile Justice Institute is the organization’s premier professional development event, attracting participants from throughout the Commonwealth and presenters from across the nation. Single-day training events are also held throughout the state.

Resources / Publications—Information on proven models, promising approaches and effective strategies is disseminated through print and web-based forums and list-servs. The Advocate, a professional newsletter, has been published since 1975.

Scholarships—Renamed in memory of Robert E. Shepherd, Jr. and Rodney C. Hubbard, the association awards professional development scholarships. The association also awards the W. Stephen Pullen Memorial Youth Scholarship.

Advocacy--From promoting proven practices to tracking legislation, our organization has a proud history of advocating for system-involved children.

Who We Are

Founded in 1966 as the Virginia Juvenile Officers Association (VJOA), the association’s name was later changed to the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association (VJJA) to reflect the diversity of its membership. That diversity is more evident today than ever, with members representing nearly every private and public agency in the Commonwealth that works with or on behalf of court-involved juveniles. Our membership represents court services, the judiciary, DJJ administration, correctional facilities, detention centers, indigent defense, prosecution, law enforcement, group homes, behavioral health providers, educators, and more. VJJA is administered by an elected board of directors and volunteer staff and divided into six geographical district chapters.

Our Mission

... to advocate for quality services for juveniles (due process, evidence-based practices, proven models, program integrity/standards, outcome measures);

... to enhance the professionalism and skills of our members (professional development, skill building, practice improvement, resources, technical assistance, awards for excellence, recognition);

... to foster communication among our members (collaboration, networking, publications); and to promote alternative approaches to resolving youth and family problems (diversion, risk-based graduated responses, least restrictive environment).

VJJA Member Application

(or join and pay dues online at ww.VJJA.net)

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

WORK PHONE: _____

ALT. PHONE: _____

WORK E-MAIL: _____

HOME E-MAIL: _____

REFERRED BY: _____

Mail completed application to:

VJJA, c/o Samantha E. Higgins, President
20 S. Randolph St, Suite 100
Lexington, VA 24540

540.463-5401 | membership@vjja.net

District Chapter (if known)

- Blue Ridge Capital Northern
- Southwest Tidewater Valley

Dues (current Fiscal Year – thru June 30)

- \$20 (1 year) \$40 (2 years)
- \$60 (3 years) \$80 (4 years)
- \$100 (5 years)