



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 3, 2019.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: _____

Program Title: _____

Program Category: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Title: _____

Department: _____

Telephone: _____ Website: _____

Email: _____

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Chesterfield County's Detention Review Team Takes Holistic View of Detained Juveniles to Maximize Services and Shorten Length of Stays

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chesterfield County's Detention Review Team is an innovative cross-departmental team comprising the Juvenile Detention Home, Court Services Unit, and Mental Health Support Services. Their purpose is to review, on a weekly basis, all juveniles being held pre-dispositionally to ensure cases are being expedited, services are being rendered in a timely manner, and juveniles are receiving necessary contacts with family members, probation officers, counselors, and attorneys. The goal of the weekly review team is to increase intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in addressing shared problems among a unique population.

Since being implemented in July 2017, over 1,250 cases spanning more than 180 juveniles have been reviewed resulting in securing earlier court dates for detained youth, shorter lengths of stays in detention, releases to less-secure detention alternatives, an increase in services (including mental health, medical, educational, and others), an increase in both family and community engagement for juveniles, and as a byproduct, an overall cost-savings to Chesterfield County. The Detention Review Team has demonstrated that taking a holistic view and individual approach towards detained juveniles can lead to maximized services and shorter length of stays.

PROBLEM/NEED FOR PROGRAM

Between FY17 and FY18 653 juveniles were admitted to Chesterfield Juvenile Detention Home. In order to be eligible for secure detention, a juvenile must meet at least one of the following criteria: 1) have committed a felony or class 1 misdemeanor and be a threat to others, a threat to self, or a threat to abscond or have a history of fleeing; 2) have absconded from another detention home; 3) be a fugitive from a jurisdiction outside the Commonwealth of Virginia; or 4) have failed to appear in court. These juveniles receive a detention hearing within 72 hours to determine whether they will remain in secure detention until their next court appearance. If they remain in secure detention following their detention hearing, the Code of Virginia states they have an adjudication hearing within 21 days and following adjudication, a disposition hearing must occur within 30 days. The intent of statutory timeframes is to limit the amount of time juveniles spend detained pending the outcome of their case.

While Chesterfield County Court Services Unit employs statewide best practices such as diverting many juveniles from the justice system, utilizing community-based resources, and using objective risk assessment instruments to guide decision-making, it appeared that juveniles were spending increasingly longer periods of time in detention before final disposition. There are many reasons for this including the need for various assessments and services to be completed prior to disposition (social histories, substance abuse assessments, psychosexual evaluations, psychological evaluations, competency evaluations, restorations services, etc.), the involvement of Department of Social Services needing to find placements for juveniles following disposition, and juveniles being transferred to Circuit Court and entering the

adult justice system, among others. Often, key departments such as the detention home, court services unit, and mental health may not know why a juvenile is still being held in detention because someone else holds that piece of the puzzle.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

The director of Chesterfield Juvenile Detention Home and the director of the 12th District Court Services Unit meet often to collaborate and problem-solve, recognizing that juveniles being held pre-dispositionally in detention need to be a shared priority. In Spring of 2017, they collaborated to address the above-mentioned issues and ultimately decided on an innovative solution in creating a Detention Review Team. This team would be comprised of the Home Incarceration Supervisor and Systems of Care Senior Mental Health Clinician from the Detention Home, the Intake Supervisor and an Intake Officer from the Court Services Unit, and a Case Manager from Mental Health Support Services who is assigned to the Detention Home. Administrators from the detention home and court services unit would have an open invitation to all meetings, as would the principal of the Detention Home School, bridging the gap between local government and local schools. The goal was for the team to start meeting at the beginning of the new fiscal year, July 2017, and have the Detention Review Team meetings weekly with the following objectives:

1. Discuss the case and status of all pre-dispositional juveniles being detained at Chesterfield Juvenile Detention Home (including upcoming court hearings, outcomes from previous hearings, any issues while detained, and any needed services)

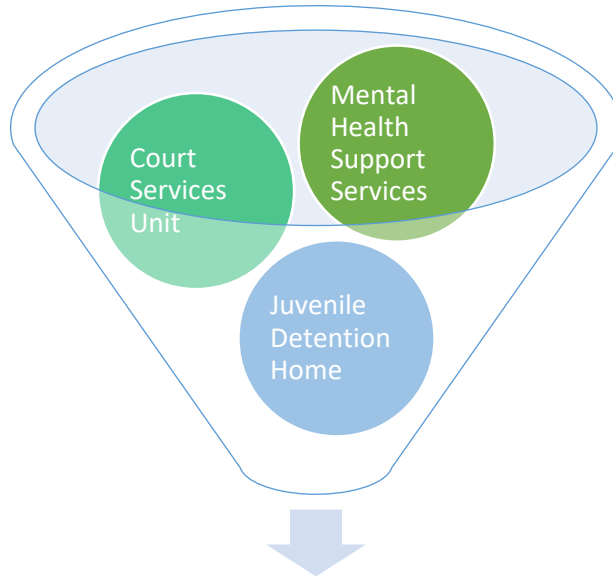
2. Determine the eligibility of any juvenile for potential release to a less-secure detention alternative such as the Court Services Unit's House Arrest Program or the Detention Home's Electronic Monitoring Program (permission was granted to the team from Chesterfield County's Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court judges to determine appropriateness of potential releases)
3. Ensure juveniles are returning to court at least once every 30 days for a detention review hearing
4. Ensure juveniles are receiving weekly visits from probation officers and regular visits from attorneys
5. Monitor the frequency of parent/guardian visits for juveniles and try to coordinate visits with extended family members if parents/guardians are unavailable
6. Increase intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in addressing the needs of detained juveniles to include behavioral, mental health, educational, and medical among others

Like many local government agencies, despite being closely connected with our missions, the Detention Home, Court Services Unit, and Mental Health Support Services were often siloed with each department's respective information on juveniles. By creating a cross-departmental team whose aim was to take a more "holistic" view of detained juveniles, the hope was for silos to break down to provide the best, most effective services for juveniles navigating the juvenile justice system in a timely fashion. Each person/department on the team would have a specific responsibility:

- The Detention Home's Home Incarceration Program Supervisor would lead the Detention Review Team and ensure population reports were kept up to date and would track the progress of all juveniles being discussed. This person would serve as the liaison to the detention home's administration and provide feedback to the Detention Review Team regarding special situations of any detained juveniles. This position would also help determine the appropriateness of any juvenile's potential release to the Electronic Monitoring Program.
- The Court Services Unit's Intake Supervisor and Intake Officer would provide information regarding each juvenile's case to include offense, upcoming court hearings and outcomes from previous hearings, as well as information gathered from family interactions. They would also act as a liaison to the Chesterfield County Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court to help expedite court cases that were beyond the 30-day detention review period. Lastly, these positions would help determine the appropriateness of any juvenile's potential release to the House Arrest Program.
- The Detention Home's Systems of Care Senior Mental Health Clinician and Mental Health Support Services' Case Manager would provide updated information on juveniles in terms of mental health concerns, potential placements being pursued for juveniles, and act as liaisons to juveniles' families.

Information from all three departments gets funneled into one central location, the Detention Review Team. From there, decisions can be made that are best for each individual juvenile being reviewed. Because the Detention Review Team meets weekly, new admissions to the

detention home are quickly brought into the process and any changes for current juveniles can be quickly addressed.



Detention Review Team

STAFFING AND FINANCING

This program takes advantage of three full-time positions across two County departments and two full-time positions from one State department. There was no cost to implementing this program and there remains no cost for continued operations, making this program easily replicable to any locality. The five positions that comprise the Detention Review Team meet for approximately one hour each week to discuss information they each hold regarding juveniles and their cases.

RESULTS AND SUCCESS OF PROGRAM

The Detention Review Team held its first meeting on July 12, 2017 and as of March 6, 2019 has held over 70 weekly meetings. The results and successes of the Detention Review Team can be seen below based on the above objectives:

1. Discuss the case and status of all pre-dispositional juveniles being detained at Chesterfield

Juvenile Detention Home

As of March 6, 2019, 1,254 cases have been reviewed from 187 unique juveniles. One specific juvenile's family was having difficulty affording a needed but expensive medication, resulting in that juvenile going without the medication despite its necessity. This information was discussed among the Detention Review Team and the Court Services Unit was able to connect the family with the VCU medical program where services are available for indigent families. In the end the family was able to secure the needed medication for their child without having to worry about exorbitant costs.

2. Determine if any juveniles are eligible to be released to a less-secure detention alternative such as House Arrest or Electronic Monitoring (permission was granted to the team from Chesterfield County's Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court judges)

Three juveniles have been successfully stepped down from secure detention to either House Arrest or Electronic Monitoring, resulting in an increased community engagement for those juveniles as well as a cost savings to Chesterfield County. While this number is small, it did help reinforce that juveniles detained in Chesterfield County are held appropriately, in accordance with objective risk criteria.

3. Ensure juveniles are returning to court at least once every 30 days for a detention review hearing

Numerous detained juveniles have been afforded earlier court dates to expedite their cases and prevent long term detention, resulting in earlier release dates and a cost savings to Chesterfield County.

4. Ensure juveniles are receiving weekly visits from probation officers and regular visits from attorneys

Court Services Unit's Intake Supervisor ensures all pre-dispositional juveniles are seen according to state regulations. Visits can be made on the day of the Detention Review Team meeting for any juvenile who has not been seen within the previous week.

5. Monitor the frequency of parent/guardian visits for juveniles and try to coordinate visits with extended family members if needed

Many special arrangements have been made for juveniles to visit with extended family members in the absence of parents/legal guardians or alternative means of visitation have been explored. For one specific juvenile whose mother lived in another jurisdiction several hours away, a video conference was arranged from the mother's local court services unit to Chesterfield Juvenile Detention Home.

6. Increase intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in addressing the needs of detained juveniles to include behavioral, mental health, educational, and medical among others

Relationships built among the three represented local and state government departments in the Detention Review Team have increased services for all juveniles in ways that could not have been foreseen. In January 2019 Chesterfield Juvenile Detention Home implemented special visitation for juveniles who achieved the highest level in the facility's behavior management program. This was a first for Virginia detention homes. All juveniles on Level 3 of the program were afforded monthly visits from siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other extended family members. Through the connections made within the Detention Review Team, the Mental Health Case Manager submits all visitation requests made by juveniles to the Court Services Unit for final approval of visitation.

In addition to pre-dispositional juveniles having their cases expedited, the same is true for many juveniles detained on Electronic Monitoring who may see court dates stretched out past the 30-day review period. The increased relationship and interaction between the detention home and the court services unit also led the Detention Home's Home Incarceration Program to begin face-to-face home checks on juveniles placed on the Court Services Unit's House Arrest Program, blending the two less-secure alternatives to detention.

In September 2018, ahead of Hurricane Florence, the Detention Review Team conducted an emergency exercise to determine which residents, if any, could be safely released in the event the detention home needed to evacuate. At the end of the exercise it was determined that five pre-dispositional juveniles could be stepped down to Electronic Monitoring, one sentenced juvenile could have their time commuted to weekends in detention, an additional two pre-dispositional juveniles could be released to awaiting placements, and four post-dispositional program juveniles could be furloughed with extended home passes. In total, 12 juveniles were identified as potential releases in the event of a mass evacuation. This exercise demonstrated the scope and ability of the Detention Review Team to be mobilized and function in an emergency.

A final result of this program has been a cost-savings for Chesterfield County. A lesser-known fact about detention is its costly price tag for localities. It can cost upwards of \$300 per day to house a juvenile in detention. In FY18 the average length of stay for a juvenile at Chesterfield Juvenile Detention was 28 days, with many residents exceeding that length of stay, for an average cost of \$300 a day for their entire stay. Ensuring juveniles spend no more than the necessary amount of time in detention to resolve their case reduces the economic impact of juveniles being detained. Additionally, having the ability to release juveniles to a less-secure detention alternative while they continue through their court process can save upwards of \$215 per day (cost for Electronic Monitoring in FY18 was approximately \$85 per day). With the Detention Review Team expediting court cases and potentially releasing low-risk juveniles back to the community, there was an increased cost savings to Chesterfield County.