

Rethinking Virginia's Juvenile Justice Correctional Strategy

3 Goals of Juvenile Corrections

- Public safety through incapacitation of the most dangerous juvenile offenders
- To reduce risk and enhance protective factors that determine likelihood of re-offending
- Provide knowledge, skills, and abilities that will lead to better long-term outcomes for offenders

In Short, find the means to promote desistence from crime over the life course

Juvenile Correctional Treatment Population Has Declined Dramatically

- 1998- Average daily population of Wards in DJJ custody peaked at 1500 (approx.)
- 2011- Average daily population of Wards in DJJ custody has declined to 808 (based on capacity of 917)
- 2015- It is projected that average daily population will decline further to 710 (based on capacity of 917)

Local Juvenile Detention Facilities are Significantly Underutilized

- For many years Juvenile Detention ran at full capacity of 1425
- In 2011 there was the average daily population declined to 758 (based on capacity of 1425).
- It is projected that this population will continue to decline to an average daily population of 616 by 2015 (Based on capacity of 1425).

Juvenile Justice Opportunity

- Significant opportunity exists to use juvenile detention facilities to augment DJJ correctional centers for long-term security, control, and care
 - providing accountability
 - incapacitation
 - improved treatment/rehabilitation
 - Better re-entry programming

Best Practices

- Best practice indicates that risk instruments are critical in determining level of security and level of service (over servicing and over incarcerating cases have significant negative consequences)
- Smaller facilities lead to more individualized services, reduced anxiety, and greater offender safety
- Limiting exposure to other offenders to the extent possible is critical.

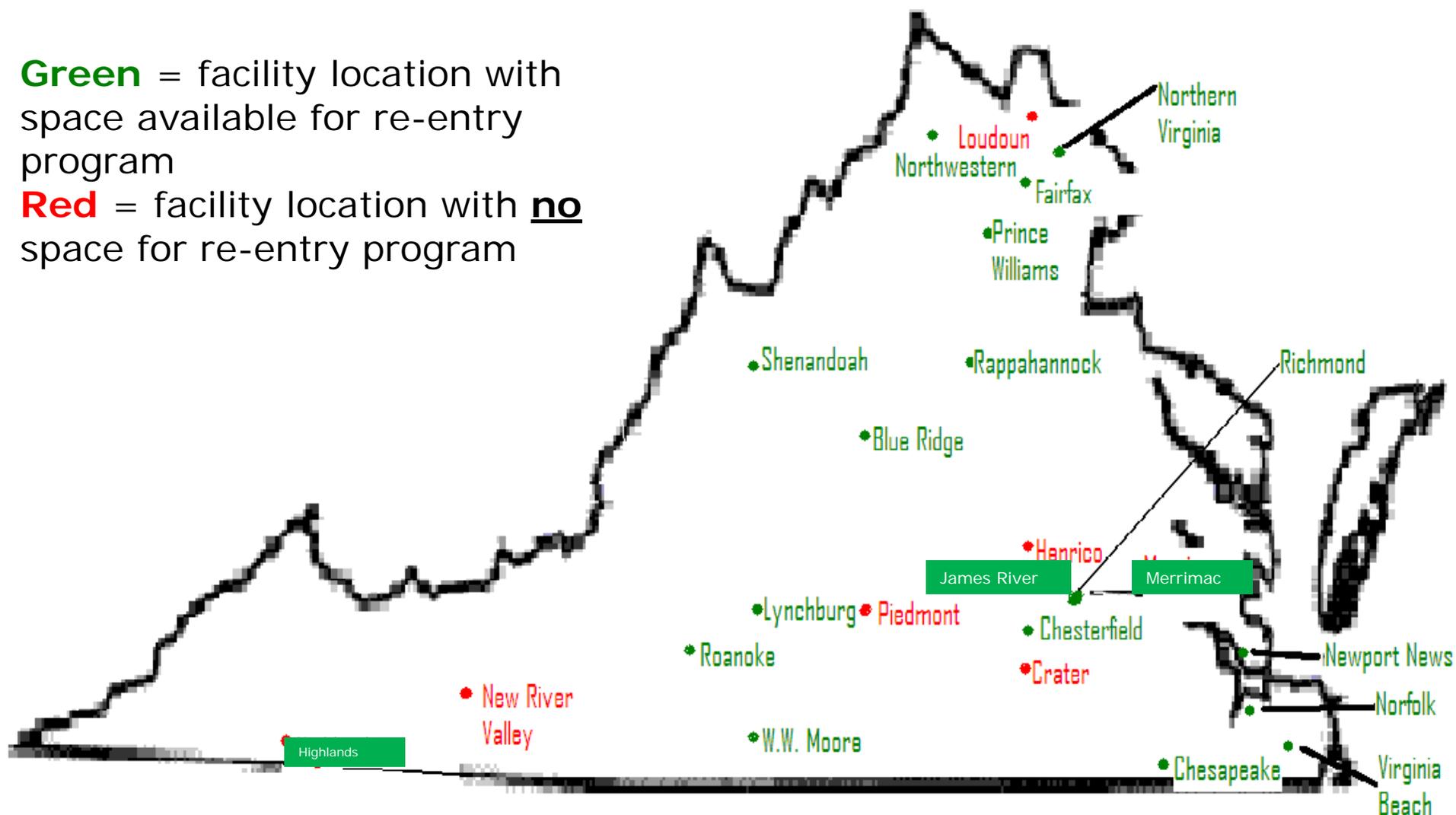
Best Practices (Continued)

- Treatment of offenders closer to home, schools, community resources, job opportunities, provides stronger outcomes
- Gradual re-entry from community based facilities eases transition and reduces recidivism
- Many states are providing incentives to localities to reduce committed populations, save money, and improve outcomes
- The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is supportive of localized services

Map of Local Virginia Detention Facilities

Green = facility location with space available for re-entry program

Red = facility location with no space for re-entry program



Funding for local programming opportunities

- The closure of a juvenile correctional center, in theory, could place offenders in local detention facilities at a lower cost
- The Juvenile Correctional Centers have considerable short to medium term capital liabilities
- Local detention homes are newer, more modern facilities with only medium to long term capital liabilities

Funding (continued)

- Transitioning to local detention facilities could create private sector jobs in local communities
- The closure of a correctional center will result in overhead savings that can be used to offset this transition
- The land occupied by a Juvenile Correctional Center can be placed back into the local tax base

Upsides

- Size of government reduced
- Government services moved closer to people
- Partnerships with private sector providers who can deliver treatment services
- Private providers can be far more flexible

In Closing

- This proposal can have a number of positive impacts for
 - Youth re-entry
 - Better offender outcomes
 - Government reform
 - Private sector job creation
 - Aide to local governments
 - Reduced State costs
 - Increased aid to localities
 - Better offender outcomes