“CORRECTION CONNECTION”

Mission Statement
The Agency provides education, training, and treatment designed to encourage positive changes and meet the rehabilitative needs of offenders. We are committed to enhancing public safety through the utilization of evidence-based practices to reduce the rate of recidivism while promoting efficiency and economy in the delivery of correctional services. We are dedicated to improving quality of life and public safety by being professional and non-judgmental with respect to individual needs; being proactive through accountability, empathy and encouragement to support offenders; and creating awareness to empower individuals to make positive changes resulting in an alternative lifestyle to live productively and lawfully.

SPOTLIGHT: Edmonia Frederick

Edmonia Frederick works as a Deputy Clerk in Prince George General District Court. Edmonia was born, raised, and still resides in Petersburg, VA with her 9 year old son, Conner. Conner, is her pride and joy. No matter how much he drives her insane, she knows making memories with him will last a lifetime. Sitting back and listening to Conner, Edmonia knows he has a bright future!

Edmonia began working as a part-time clerk in Prince George General District Court in July of 1988 and became a full time employee shortly thereafter. After getting married, she ventured off to start a new chapter of her life, leaving Prince George General District Court in February of 2002 to move to Germany for a couple of years. In December of 2004, after returning to Virginia, she was able to resume her duties as a Deputy Clerk for Prince George Court. Returning to Prince George Court was the right choice because, it felt like she was returning to her home away from home. Currently, her duties include handling the Criminal and Division of Child Support dockets. She is cross trained and has worked in almost every division of court and is amazed how everyone in her office is a team player, making impossible tasks much easier. She loves the pressures of her job and knows how critical it is to perform her job to the best of her ability as she is dealing with people’s lives, freedom, and driving privileges. What a pleasure it is to work with Edmonia!

~ LIFE SKILLS GROUP A SUCCESS ~

In March 2013, the local probation staff began an in-house Life Skills group, conducting three twelve-week groups throughout the year. The focus of the group is on criminogenic needs of participants with practical life application. Materials and concepts are taken from the Carey Guides and Thinking for a Change as well as other sources. The majority of participants have attended on a voluntary basis and as part of the case planning process. The feedback received from graduates and professionals alike has been very positive. Agency Staff has taken on additional components to the modules allowing for a diverse presentation of topics. Tracey Jordan-Fotias leads the Wants vs Needs topic that discusses comparative shopping in the Budget Module. Lauren Bingham works with participants on effective interviewing, and conducting mock interviews to build skills and confidence. In the last twelve-week group session, we also had a guest speaker, who was a graduate of the very first group. The participant returned to talk to the group as a peer, encouraging them to maintain sobriety and active participation in the AA/NA community. Effect change in their lives. It is our hope that this endeavor will continue to expand and provide a means to help our clients. The next set of classes is set to begin in April.
David Miller began employment with RCJA on January 1, 2014, as our Senior Pretrial Officer. David brings with him many years of experience to include 3 years of active military duty, 5 years with the National Guard, 8 years as a private investigator, 2 years with Crater Detention, a short period of time with Richmond Office of Criminal Justice Services, and most recently, 8 years with Chesterfield Community Corrections. David graduated from VA Tech in 1994 with his degree in psychology, and is a local boy, graduating from Prince George High School in 1986. Though originally from Montana, David moved to Prince George when his family came to Fort Lee in 1980.

While David may seem like your average guy, most people do not know he had nine cats at one time! David says cats are loving and fiercely independent. He now has three cats and a Rottweiler named Sadie. For fun, David likes walking Sadie, spending time with his girlfriend and her children, hiking, and anything outdoors. One of his favorite past times is VA Tech football; he possesses season tickets and doesn't miss a game! David enjoys the mountains and their beautiful scenery as well as the cool temperatures. David is described as funny, caring, and compassionate. His passion in life is to be happy, healthy, and content! Of course, he wouldn't mind traveling for a bit, especially to Italy and Greece. Another fun fact about David is that he is afraid of ghosts if they do in fact exist! He is also afraid of big foot and commitment, not necessarily in that order! His least favorite things to do are the dishes and to wake up in the morning.

We are pleased that David has decided to join our team, adding to the uniqueness and diversity of our department. Welcome aboard!

Office News

Shoplifters Prevention Group

The Local Probation Staff implemented an in-house shoplifter’s group called “Something for Nothing”; it is a cognitive behavioral program for offenders charged with larceny offenses. The group is three sessions, each session lasting 90 minutes that the probation officers facilitate. There is no cost for the group. Offenders each receive a workbook, and there are homework assignments for each session. The sessions build on one another; therefore, participation at each session is required. The sessions are held at our office in the conference room. Feedback from participants has been positive. We also offer an on-line shoplifting option for those offenders that are unable to participate in “Something for Nothing”. If you would like more information, please contact Riverside Criminal Justice Agency at 804-733-2760.

Interns and Volunteers

Riverside Criminal Justice Agency welcomes interns and volunteers who are interested in the criminal justice field. We have had students from John Tyler Community College, Virginia State University, Virginia Commonwealth University as well as volunteers who have graduated from such institutions and want to gain more knowledge and experience. Interns/volunteers have the opportunity to shadow officers to court, observe the intake process, and conduct office visits. They participate in the daily activities of drug testing, preparing monthly progress reports, reviewing the jail roster, and observing treatment groups. If you know someone interested in interning or volunteering with our agency, please refer them to RCJA. It’s a great experience.
CRIME TRENDS DROP IN PRINCE GEORGE, HOPEWELL AND SURRY

On February 7, 2014, the Riverside CCJB held its Strategic Planning Session with technical Assistance provided by Fran Ecker, NCJA, Ken Rose, DCJS, and Rebecca McNees, DCJS. Crime rates from Prince George, Hopewell, and Surry from 2008 to 2012 for violent crimes, domestic violence, property crimes, and drug arrests were compared to those of the statewide crime rates. The data yielded the following:

~ Violent crime rates have decreased, with the exception of Surry

~ Domestic violence rates slightly increased in Hopewell and Prince George but significantly decreased in Surry, and slightly across the state

~ Property crime rates have decreased in each locality and statewide with Surry having the most significant decrease

~ Drug arrests have decreased in Hopewell and Surry, with Surry having the most significant decrease while Prince George has seen a large increase in drug arrests, with only a slight increase statewide

While crime rates are down, the Riverside Regional Jail population has remained relatively unchanged from 2008-2013. It is interesting to see what makes up a our jail population though. Sixty-eight percent of inmates are either awaiting trial (prettrial 33%) or have been sentenced but have pending charges (35%). That leaves 22% of the daily population serving a sentence.

Great discussion was had by board members regarding the relationships between the peaks and falls of the different crime rates. From that discussion, the four major areas on which the Board decided to focus were born; juvenile justice, community engagement, re-entry from incarceration, and driver’s license/transportation. Many objectives on the accomplishment of the goals were identified, and the Strategic Plan will be finalized during the upcoming March CCJB Meeting.

Light Lasagna made with Turkey and Veggies

1/4 cup sun-dried tomatoes, chopped
1 pound ground turkey
1/4 cup boiling water
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1 egg white
1 cup grated fresh Parmesan cheese
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup fat-free milk
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
Nonstick cooking spray, preferably olive oil
2 tablespoons whole wheat flour
2 carrots, peeled and grated
2 garlic cloves, minced
12 cooked whole wheat lasagna noodles
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
And add lots of love!

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Place the tomatoes in the boiling water and set aside. Sprinkle the turkey with the oregano, salt, and pepper. Coat a large skillet with cooking spray and place over high heat. When the skillet is hot, add the turkey, carrots, parsley, and garlic. Cook 2 to 3 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the turkey begins to brown. Spritz the meat (off the heat) with a little more cooking spray if it begins to stick. Sprinkle the turkey mixture with the flour and reduce the heat to low. Continue to cook, stirring often, until the flour coats the turkey and leaves a light film on the skillet. Add the milk and bring to a slow simmer, stirring occasionally, until a thick sauce forms and the turkey is cooked through. In a small bowl, stir together the ricotta, egg white, and Parmesan. Set aside. Place the whole tomatoes and sun-dried tomatoes with their liquid in a blender with the balsamic vinegar. Process until smooth. Place 1 cup of the sauce in the bottom of a 9 x 13-inch baking dish. Layer a third of the lasagna noodles on top. Scoop on the turkey mixture. Layer another third of the noodles. Using a rubber spatula, spread on the ricotta mixture and top with the last layer of noodles. Pour the remaining sauce over the lasagna and sprinkle on the mozzarella. Baked uncovered 30 to 35 minutes, until the cheese is bubbly and melted and the filling is hot. Cool 5 minutes, then cut into pieces and serve.
Finding the good life requires tolerance of human variety. Aristotle compares our attempts to live good lives to an archer’s attempt to aim an arrow properly. The archer is more likely to hit the right mark if he has a target to aim at, and, similarly, we are more likely to live a good life if we have knowledge about what makes a human life good. Lives are much more complex than archery targets, however, so this metaphor inevitably raises certain questions. Should everybody be aiming at the same target? Are there really any general claims we can make about the common features of a good life? Is our target fixed, or is it moving? Doesn’t our understanding of the good life continually change as we pursue it? Do we really pick out a target life that we try to live? Perhaps we just shoot our arrows and then draw our bulls-eyes wherever the arrows happen to hit. Perhaps we just live our lives on the fly and then tell various stories and commit ourselves to various values in a retrospective process of giving our lives meaning. As one strives to live a good life, one’s understanding of the good life deepens through that very striving. One starts out with a rough conception of what it means to live well, which gets filled in through the process of living. Trying to understand what makes a life good must be an ongoing project because the subject matter is so complex. The value of human lives is linked to human potential, and our potential is surprisingly vast. We are involved in all sorts of valuable activities, which give our lives meaning. In addition, our understanding of these activities is always developing. We engage in continuing conversations about what it means to be a good artist, a good parent, a good executive. These conversations are personal, as we ourselves struggle to become good; and they are cultural, as society reassesses the expectations and demands that we place on these various roles. Because human potentialities are unfolding, we have an ongoing need to engage in moral reflection. New technology opens new doors, but it also raises new questions. New ways of thinking can be liberating and inspiring, but they need to be melded with previous insights. Continual change forces us to engage in continual evaluation and re-evaluation. In short, tolerance involves viewing all humans as engaged in the common project of trying to determine what makes a good life, or, in Aristotle’s terms, what target we should be aiming at.

**QUOTES**

“The best thing to give to your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to your child, a good example; to a father, deference; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; to all men, charity.”

~

“I didn't fail the test, I just found 100 ways to do it wrong.”

Benjamin Franklin

**POINTS TO PONDER… Something to Take Away**

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