

## 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  
21<sup>st</sup> District Court Service Unit  
vicepresident@vjja.net

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

**Kevin Heller**, Treasurer  
27<sup>th</sup> District CSU - Pulaski  
treasurer@vjja.net

### District Chairs

**Susan Farmer**, Blue Ridge District  
23rd District CSU - Salem

**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

**Tim Smith**, Valley District  
Shenandoah Valley Juvenile  
Detention Home

## 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;
- routinely reviews policies, practices, and programs for quality, consistency with stated goals, and the ever-evolving science of our field.

# Virginia Juvenile Justice Association

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



[www.VJJA.net](http://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 Membership  
c/o 25<sup>th</sup> District CSU  
20 S. Randolph Street, Suite 100  
Lexington, VA 24450  
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)