



*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*

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This is a status report on the **Statewide Community-based Corrections System** as required by the 2004 Appropriations Act, Chapter 4, Item 413.

FY 2004 was dominated by discussions and actions designed to address the interrelated issues of technical probation and parole violators returning to prison and improved prisoner re-entry services.

The volume of so-called “technical violators” continues to rise in proportion to increasing caseloads. This number and the length of re-imprisonment terms imposed upon them by Courts and Parole Boards are issues of national and state concern. We are confronted with large caseloads including many offenders re-entering communities from prison, rampant illegal substance abuse, procedural barriers to housing and employment and additional paperwork created by the new technical violation guidelines plus the perception that there will be a lessened enforcement of conditions and instructions. These are major challenges at all levels of our Division.

But our central mission to “supervise and assist” offenders live pro-social lives and our fundamental “Balanced Approach” supervision principles has **not** changed.

We will continue to:

- identify offender risks and needs and give priority to those who pose the greatest risk to public safety
- develop and follow-up supervision plans which address identified risks and needs
- exhaust every available appropriate service to respond to individual needs and reduce risk
- quickly and assertively respond to non-compliance with proportionate sanctions

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Re: Violators

When an offender's documented habitual non-compliance threatens public safety, we will act decisively to exercise our arrest authority and advise the Court or Parole Board.

It remains the province of the judiciary and Parole Board to determine whether to docket "show cause" or final violation hearings and decide the type and duration of any sanction.

We will continue our efforts to seek adequate resources, emphasize "evidence based practices" in our services, focus on "value added" activities, collaborate with other agencies, reduce barriers to full civic participation, develop a computerized offender management system and incorporate new validated methods to achieve our mission.

We are a nationally recognized and accredited Community Corrections agency. Our people's work is important and vital to the public safety of the Commonwealth. This contribution work was recognized by the Governor and the General Assembly through the provision of additional staff in the FY 2005-2006 budget.

*James R. Camache*

James R. Camache, Deputy Director, Division of Community Corrections

cc: Mr. Gene Johnson  
Mr. Robert Baldwin, Executive Director, Supreme Court of Virginia  
Ms. Helen Fahey, Chair, Virginia Parole Board  
Dr. Richard Kern, Executive Director, Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission  
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