

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Larry Hogan
Governor

Sam Abed
Secretary

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES

RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
CAPITAL SUBCOMMITTEE
March 7, 2017**

**SENATE BUDGET AND TAX COMMITTEE
CAPITAL SUBCOMMITTEE
March 14, 2017**

Introduction

The Department of Juvenile Services continues to implement reforms and initiatives that are consistent with the developmental approach to juvenile justice, which takes into account the scientific research on the unique attributes of the adolescent brain. The department strives to strike the appropriate balance between holding youth accountable for their actions while not unnecessarily pushing youth deeper into the justice system.

The Department has successfully forwarded initiatives that reserve our highest level interventions for those youth who pose a risk to public safety and aim to provide a continuum of services to support youth in the community. Additionally, the Department implemented a strong system of quality assurance and accountability to ensure that reforms are being implemented in a manner to achieve desired outcomes. Facility operations have improved by creating a centralized hiring unit to swiftly fill vacancies, and the department has enhanced treatment services by implementing trauma informed care and a comprehensive reentry plan.

This strategic and comprehensive approach has resulted in producing better outcomes for justice involved youth while improving public safety.

- ✓ Committed recidivism **declined 6%**. (From 23% in FY 10 to 16.7% in FY 15)
- ✓ Recidivism for State-run programs **declined 13%**. (From 31% in FY 10 to 17.9% in FY 15)
- ✓ Girls committed recidivism was **cut in half to 7%**. (From 15.4% in FY 11 and to 7% in FY 15)

Overview of Current Capital Projects

1. New Female Detention Center

The original scope of the design phase is 100% complete. However, based on current facility operations, the original scope of work must be expanded to include additional offices/support spaces. Additionally, a revised design of the proposed sewage system is required. The acquisition process to acquire property easements for the proposed public water and sewer lines will most likely delay the start of construction of the New Female Detention Center by approximately one year (January 2018).

2. Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center Education Expansion

The revised Part I and Part II Facility Program has been submitted to the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of General Services for review and approval.

DJS Responses

The Department of Juvenile Services concurs with all the authorizations/de-authorizations and recommended bond actions contained in the Analysis of the Department's FY 2018 Capital Budget.