Director’s Message

During the Thanksgiving season, our thoughts turn naturally to reflection and celebration.

When we at the Virginia Department of Corrections reflect on the year gone by and the work we’ve done to change lives, we have much to celebrate.

We are completing one of the agency’s most successful years, one in which we have overcome and learned from significant challenges and made a vital difference in our communities.

We’ve met our challenges related to staffing head-on, implementing a recruitment campaign that has improved hiring and new retention strategies.

We’ve worked diligently to improve medical and mental health services for offenders.

We’ve stared down one of the worst hurricane threats in recent memory, reacting swiftly and effectively to protect all in harm’s way.

All the while we’ve maintained the lowest recidivism rate in the nation.

Our healing environment is working. We are achieving our mission of helping people be better.

These good things have happened because of you and your hard work.

Let me encourage each of you to be grateful for not only our professional success, but all the good things in your life.

Be grateful especially for family and friends and the support they lend that allows you to get up every day and make a difference in public safety.

Be grateful for the co-workers who support you, encourage you, and challenge you to be better.

Be grateful for supervisors and leaders whose vision aims to stop problems before they begin.

I am incredibly grateful to work with each of you as we strive to promote long-lasting public safety. This agency’s staff is its greatest asset.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and productive holiday season.

Harold Clarke

Panel Seeks Improved Handling of Mental Illness

The Department of Corrections and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services recently joined forces to host panel discussions that explored ways to improve the criminal justice system’s response to its clients with mental illness.

Messages Project Keeps Child and Incarcerated Parent Connected

For a few moments they are not incarcerated, but simply mothers.

They talk as mothers talk to their children. They tell funny stories. They praise. They share dreams. They laugh, and sometimes they tear up. But most of all,
Panel Seeks Improved Handling of Mental Illness

The Department of Corrections and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services recently joined forces to host panel discussions that explored ways to improve the criminal justice system's response to its clients with mental illness.

Panelists at the Virginia Forum on Public Safety and Behavioral Health held November 8 in Richmond acknowledged the importance of recognizing mental illness early and addressing it, if possible, before the person becomes incarcerated.

People suffering from mental illness are believed to be over-represented in the criminal justice system.

In the coming year, members of the panel hope to address various mental health issues and ultimately work toward a better understanding of mental illness as it affects prison populations.

Speakers at the event included:

- Dr. Daniel Carey, Secretary of Health and Human Resources
- Harold Clarke, Director of the Department of Corrections
- Dr. Hughes Melton, Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, facilitated the panel discussions at Embassy Suites.

CSG is a national nonprofit that provides practical, nonpartisan advice and evidence-based strategies to increase public safety and strengthen communities. The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance provided funding for the forum.
VADOC Project Focuses on Improving Family Relationships to Further Reduce Recidivism

The Virginia Department of Corrections is launching a new project aimed at improving services for incarcerated parents and their minor children. The Building Family Bridges project involves a number of pre- and post-release strategies and fosters positive parent-child engagement, thereby strengthening relationships and reducing recidivism.

The project is made possible by a recently awarded $667,829 grant issued by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

“The collateral damage of incarceration is significant and I am grateful we can dedicate additional resources to this challenge,” says Jessica Lee, Cognitive Programs Manager. “The Building Family Bridges grant will afford the VADOC an opportunity to enhance our family reunification services, along with direct parenting needs.”

Building Family Bridges will include two levels of facility involvement. One level will pilot a comprehensive, wrap around approach in at least three VADOC facilities. The second level will provide training designed to reach all facilities, potentially benefitting all offenders with minor children and visiting families.

“Successful reentry and strong family bonds go hand in hand. This grant gives us the opportunity to help grow and strengthen those bonds before returning citizens reenter society, thus improving our communities and reducing recidivism,” adds Scott Richeson, Deputy Director of Programs, Education and Reentry. “Our staff worked hard to obtain this grant and we’re excited to put these resources to work.”

Virginia’s recidivism rate is currently 22.4 percent, the lowest in the country among the 45 states that produce three-year recidivism rates for felons.

Performance measure data for Building Family Bridges will be gathered from VADOC’s data management system, surveys, new data collection tools specific to the project, and/or pre/post testing and/or participant evaluations to determine progress.
Messages Project Keeps Child and Incarcerated Parent Connected

For a few moments they are not incarcerated, but simply mothers.

They talk as mothers talk to their children. They tell funny stories. They praise. They share dreams. They laugh, and sometimes they tear up. But most of all, they love.

“I want you both to know that when your heart beats, I breathe”

“The mistakes I made are the reason, I am here. You had nothing to do with it.”

“When you are sad and you miss me, I want you to remember these stories.”

“I love you both more than anything, and I won’t make the same mistakes. I miss you, and I love you. Merry Christmas.”

Participants in the Messages from Mom and its male version Messages from Dad allow incarcerated parents to communicate via video with their children. In addition to the video, each child receives a book.

The primary aim is to connect or re-connect, to build or re-build relationships.

Messages visits 14 Virginia prisons, serving at least 50 offenders at each facility.

Continued on Next Page

Carolyn LeCroy, above left, founded the Messages from Mom and Dad program after her own incarceration. Photographer Kevin O’Sullivan, left, has been with the program since 1999. Volunteer Sarah Perkins-Smith works with offenders as they prepare to video.
“We’ve done about 20,000 since 1999,” said program creator Carolyn LeCroy. In the pre-holiday rush, the program should reach as many as seven facilities. Messages from the Mom’s and Dad’s is especially active around Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and the holidays. “It is gift to the children and a gift to a child is a gift any time, it doesn’t have to be a holiday,” Ms. LeCroy said.

Participating offenders are infraction-free. They understand the Messages program as both an incentive and a privilege.

Messages started in 1999 and today reaches four other states (Texas, California, Oklahoma and Nebraska) and two other countries (New Zealand and east Africa’s Malawi). LeCroy’s efforts won national attention in 2008 when she received a CNN Hero of the Year Award. Among many other awards, she received Virginia’s Volunteer of the Year Award from then-Governor Tim Kaine.

She’s good at this because she understands what incarcerated mothers go through. She had worked many years as a television producer in Norfolk, before her life took a radical shift in 1995, and she found herself incarcerated. “I saw first-hand how being separated affected my children.”

Asked if one word could describe these messages and their purpose, LeCroy doesn’t miss a beat, “Love.”
VADOC Employee Leads Thanksgiving Effort in His Community

Early on the brisk Saturday morning before Thanksgiving, people lined up in front of the church at 2200 Fairfax Avenue in Richmond.

The line went around the corner and down the block.

People had came to the Redeemed Assembly of Jesus Christ Church on Richmond's south side to receive a Thanksgiving dinner – an uncooked turkey all the trimmings and side dishes.

The event, coordinated by VADOC’s Atron Thorne, ultimately delivered turkey dinners to more than 300 families in the south side Richmond community and eclipsed the church’s inaugural effort last year that gifted more than 175 dinners.

Mr. Thorne, an information technology security analyst, also serves as the leader of his church’s men’s outreach efforts. The church group worked with city officials, community groups, local businesses to locate needy families, gain support, raise money, collect goods and organize a culminating day-long event November 17.

Representatives from the city’s fire and police departments attended including McGruff the Crime Dog. Various VADOC personnel volunteered, including several staff from headquarters. A contingent of detainees from Chesterfield Diversion and Detention pitched in to coordinate the activities.

Event attendees included State Senator Roslyn Dance and Richmond City Councilwoman Reva Trammel.

“We are letting our community know we are there for them,” said JeLani Lynch, a church member who coordinated the event with Mr. Thorne.

“It’s hard to minister to the spirit when they bodies are not there. We need the bodies there,” Mr. Lynch added.

Continued on Next Page
Giving: A Holiday Tradition for Many in the VADOC Family

At right, the volunteers pose after the November 17 effort at Redeemed Assembly of Jesus Christ Church. Pictured lower left is VADOC’s Tanika Grooms with her family.

Atron Thorne, shown lower right group photo, kept up his habit of giving as he and his church’s men’s group joined forces on Thanksgiving Day with Richmond City Councilwoman Reva Trammell and her volunteers to feed about 200 homeless people at the Satellite Restaurant on Jeff Davis Highway.

On November 17, The Greater Prince William Reentry Council partnered with McLean Bible Church – Prince William Campus, to host the Annual Turkey Outreach Fall Open House. Residents of Prince Williams County received more than 400 Thanksgiving meal. The boxes included a full turkey, dressing, potatoes along with other sides and trimmings.

District 35, Manassas Probation Officers referred clients on supervised probation. Officers Jason Frazier, Sherri Jenkins and Steve Preston helped deliver boxes around the county to 23 clients who did not have transportation to the event. Officers Carla Darden, Erin Edmundson Emily Meganhardt, and Karina Portillo attended to answer questions from the community during the Resource Fair portion of the event.

Turkey Outreach is an annual event that is sponsored by McLean Bible Church throughout the Northern Virginia area.
Job Fair, Resource Event Help Men Return Successfully to their Communities

On October 26, the Planning District 16 Reentry Council hosted the Job and Resource Fair at the Goodwill Community Resource Center in Fredericksburg.

Several individuals filled out job applications and some even interviewed on site. One fortunate probationer got a job the day of the event and started the next week.

Attendees included 56 job seekers, seven employers and resource providers representing 23 entities.

The guest of honor for the event was ex-offender Thurston White.

Stafford CCAP divertees assisted with the pre-event set up and closing activities following the event.

During the week of November 13, Haynesville Correctional Center hosted a multifaceted event aimed at addressing the needs of returning citizens. Several different resource providers attended the facility’s “Resource Week” including The Gilbert Foundation, Disabled American Veterans, Rappahannock Community College, 211, Fredericksburg Probation and Parole and Virginia Cares.

The week-long activities aimed at addressing both specific needs - such as services available to military veterans - and broader concerns - such as helping returning citizens access community resources. The last day offered an inspirational and motivational returned-citizens panel. Event organizer OWDS Jessica Banks collaborated with Fredericksburg District 21 Senior Reentry Officer Christa Holbrook to bring three individuals to speak about their transition from incarceration to citizenship.

Ex-offenders Travis May, Thurston White, and Chris Yarborough delivered healing and motivational messages. All three men now contribute positively to their communities, and each spoke about his difficulties and successes.
VSU’s Emily Sattie Receives Award
Submitted by the Victims Services Unit

On November 14, 2018, Emily Sattie received the “Award for Innovation” for fostering collaboration and innovation in the field of Victims’ Services from the Virginia Victim Assistance Network (VVAN) at their 36th annual Conference on Crime Victims’ Issues in Virginia Beach.

Emily is the Victim Impact Advocate Senior for the Department of Corrections’ Victim Services Unit. She has been instrumental in the expansion of our Victim Impact Program (VIP) and Victim Speaker Bureau during the past year. Emily supported the launch of the Victim Impact Program at nine new facilities and supported ongoing programs at 12 facilities.

Just two years ago we only had two facilities running the Victim Impact Program and now we have over 20; including maximum security, female facilities and in Probation & Parole. Victim Impact is now in all areas of the state and recommended for all offenders prior to release. Over 500 offenders completed the program in the last year. This year alone, Emily completed 42 site visits and coordinated 38 victim speaker presentations statewide! Emily vetted nine new victim speakers and identified seven speakers that are in the preparation process.

This education/awareness curriculum is focused on sensitizing offenders to the impact that crime has on victims, families, and the community. The program is structured to hold offenders accountable for the harm they caused and to help foster a level of empathy toward crime victims and survivors.

The goal of this program is to have offenders gain a better insight into the harm they have caused their victims and the ripple effect of that harm throughout the community. It is a 13 week program with each session lasting approximately 2.5 hours. Each subsection of offenses covered in the curriculum will focus on the financial, physical, emotional, and religious/spiritual impact of crime on victims/the community. The curriculum also incorporates the use of guest speakers which Emily assists with accompaniment to ensure victims have the support they need.

Emily works long hours and travels across the state to ensure that the Victim Impact Program has the support and leadership needed to encourage offender accountability and the ability for victims to be heard.

From left: Victim Services Manager Amber Leake, Victim Impact Advocate Senior Emily Sattie, and Victim Services Director Wendy Lohr-Hopp.
Shaketta Thomas Recognized with Patriots Award

The Division of Education's Shaketta Thomas, pictured right, recently received the Patriot's Award, from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), of U.S. Department of Defense.

She was nominated by an Academic Tester at Nottoway Correctional Center, Sgt. Leonard Pettus.

Sgt. Pettus is currently deployed.

“The Patriot Award reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide-range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence if needed,” according to the ESGR website.
VCA Holds Fall Conference

The Virginia Correctional Association Conference gave the following awards during its fall conference held in Williamsburg on October 17-19:

- Criminal Justice Employee Of The Year - Malcolm Taylor
- VCA Member of the Year - Karen Stapleton, shown with Mr. Taylor in upper left.
- Lifetime Achievement Award - Cookie Scott (not present)

Rick Barrett Memorial Scholarship winners, pictured at bottom, were:

- Alyssa Jones
- Briana Ampy
- Corey Long, Jr.
- Indiya Stephenson
- Timothy Mason

Zach Davis, 2016 scholarship recipient, pictured upper right, gave a brief address before the awards.
Organizational Development Manager Dr. Susan Williams recently represented the Department at The World Needs Dialogue! Conference held in Horsham, England, United Kingdom.

During the conference held October 15 – 17, Dr. Williams presented a paper detailing the cultural transformation of the Department under the umbrella of the Healing Environment with Dialogue as the catalyst for employee communication, engagement, and empowerment.

She also explained how recent changes have positively influenced Virginia's long-term public safety and fostered lowered recidivism rates.

The conference included presenters and participants from over a dozen countries discussing how Dialogue work impacts criminal justice, healthcare, education, organizations, and society.

VADOC’s Education Division held an Academic Forum from November 27 to November 29. Educators and administrators discussed recent changes to standards and assessments and the positive impact of education on reentry success. The Research, Policy, and Planning Unit’s Evaluation Unit Manager Yan Jin and Senior Research Analyst Dr. Libbie Miller presented “Correctional Education Study Findings: FY2013 Releases.” Presenters included: Greensville/Deerfield Tester Sharon Ross, upper right, and Western Region Tester Tammy Sword, lower right.

A smiling Eastern Region Tester LaTosha Branch, lower left, shows off a conference door prize.
The Education Division held its annual Woodcrafts Show & Event from November 27-29 in downtown Richmond’s James Monroe Building.

The event displayed a wide range of items produced in educational classes by VADOC students. Furniture, toys, concrete sculptures, art, upholstery, sheet metal creations and plants were available for public purchase.
Headquarters held its Healing Environment Fall Festival and Chili Cook Off on November 16. The event brought attention to the agency’s Healing Environment allowing people to connect while also enjoying samples of several different types of chili. Participants included 11 entrants from eight HQ units:

- Interstate Compact
- Information Technology
- Human Resources
- Re-entry, Education, & Programs
- Procurement
- Architectural & Engineering Services
- Medical Services
- Research, Policy & Planning

Other Units who provided support to the event were: General Services, Food Services, and Internal Audit.
Bland and BKCC Raise Funds by Feeding Folks Chili

Bland Does Chili:
Bland Correctional Center hosted a chili cook off CVC fundraiser to benefit the Employee Assistance Fund. For a donation staff were able to enjoy and sample each chili entry paired with a grilled cheese sandwich. More than $200 dollars was raised.

BKCC Raises Money for Employee Assistance Fund

On Wednesday, November 14, Buckingham Correctional Center hosted a chili cook off to raise money for the VADOC Employee Assistance Fund.

Very special thanks to the guest judges: G.K. Washington, Bernard Harris, and Barbara Wheeler. 1st Place Winner: DOE Principal Dr. Wendy Lyle-Jones, 2nd Place Winner: Unit Manager Stacy Brown, and 3rd Place Winner: Psychologist James Thompson. Thanks to all who took part in the chili cook off. We were able to raise $100 toward the VADOC Employee Assistance Fund.

The BKCC Chili Cooks, pictured at left: Front row from left: DOE Principal Dr. Wendy Lyle-Jones, and Counselor April Mela; Second row: CO Karen Brown; Janice Dabney, OSA, and Germando Harris, Counselor; Third row: Unit Manager Stacy Brown, and Counselor Richard Pence; not pictured: Psychologist James Thompson.
Virginia: One of Eleven States Highlighted for Excellence in Reentry Efforts

Virginia was among 11 states highlighted recently in a report released by the National Reentry Resource Center and the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center for showing significant declines in their three-year return-to-prison rates.

That report, “Reducing Recidivism: States Deliver Results,” focuses on states with low recidivism rates, and highlights the successful reentry strategies of these states.

While Virginia continues to hold the lowest recidivism rate in the nation, other states, especially those highlighted in this recent report, are seeing considerable success as well. CSG credits the federal government’s Second Chance Act for promoting public safety by providing 900 grants to state, local and tribal governments and nonprofit organization in 49 states serving 160,000 people.

“As a result of these strategies, diverse states—from New Jersey to South Dakota—are showing reductions in the number of people returning to prison. Six of them—Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Ohio, West Virginia, and Wisconsin—show that reductions in recidivism of 20 percent or more are achievable,” according to a CSG release.
Time to Sign Up for the Virginia Beach Polar Plunge

Here’s the whole schedule - right through to the summer!

Virginia Beach-
Date: February 2, 2019
Location: 3001 Atlantic Ave.
Virginia Beach, VA
VADOC TEAM is registered as LETR TRUE BLUE
Team picture is at 12:30 p.m. on the ocean side of the tent.

New River-
Date: February 23, 2019
Location: Dudleys Landing at Bissett Park
Radford, VA
VADOC TEAM is registered as LETR TRUE BLUE
TEAM picture is at 1:30pm adjacent to the boat launch.

Tim’s Rivershore Plunge
Date: February 23, 2019
Location: 1510 Cherryhill Road
Dumfries, VA
Info coming @valettrtrueblue on facebook

Mosiac Plunge
Date: January 19, 2019
Location: 2910 District Ave.
Fairfax, VA
Info will be released on @valettrtrueblue on facebook

Richmond Solar Plunge
Date: Summer Games
Location: University of Richmond
Info will be released on @valettrtrueblue on facebook

Side note from Captain James Shantz:
Correctional uniformed staff needed for opening ceremony to the state Summer Games held at the University of Richmond. June 7th, 2019. Point of contact is Captain James Shantz. jim.shantz@vadoc.virginia.gov
Haynesville Correctional Center Holds Veterans Day Services

Haynesville Correctional Center VETS dorm held special Veterans Day services on November 6.

The VETS dorm is a privilege available to honorably discharged veterans allowing them to live with a military regimentation and draw on the strengths of their military experience to help them prepare for their reentry to their communities.

HCC’s VETS dorm opened in 2012. The men living there represent all branches of the military. VADOC also has a VETS dorm at Indian Creek Correctional Center.
In Case You Missed It: VADOC on IDOC, Social Media and more!

On YouTube:

Flash Freeze and Haynesville VETS Dorm

Take a look at VADOC’s flash freeze plant, a facility that allows the Department to preserve and transport much of the food it grows. Click here.

The VETS Dorm at Haynesville Correctional Center helps veterans prepare to return to their communities in a multitude of ways. In September and November, they held special services. To see more, click here.

As Seen on IDOC, Twitter:

On November 9, D23 Virginia Beach DCPO Jennifer Gregg and SPO Angela Gehring were part of the ‘Cop on Top’ event at a local Hardee’s. Money was collected for Special Olympics of Virginia. News Channel 3 WTKR did a segment on the event. To see it, click here.

Deerfield Women’s Work Center’s graduation ceremony on November 20 included four GED graduates, one High School graduate and one Computer Applications graduate. Myra Chambers, Director of Alternative Learning for Hampton City Schools delivered the commencement address. See the related tweet here.

Jazz musician Willie Bradley served as the guest speaker November 19 for the Deerfield Correctional Center Cognitive Community Fall Commencement. A total of 38 offenders graduated including 10 parole grantees. See more here.

Take a look at VADOC’s flash freeze plant, a facility that allows the Department to preserve and transport much of the food it grows. Click here.

In Case You Missed It: VADOC on IDOC, Social Media and more!

On YouTube:

Flash Freeze and Haynesville VETS Dorm

Take a look at VADOC’s flash freeze plant, a facility that allows the Department to preserve and transport much of the food it grows. Click here.

The VETS Dorm at Haynesville Correctional Center helps veterans prepare to return to their communities in a multitude of ways. In September and November, they held special services. To see more, click here.

As Seen on IDOC, Twitter:

On November 9, D23 Virginia Beach DCPO Jennifer Gregg and SPO Angela Gehring were part of the ‘Cop on Top’ event at a local Hardee’s. Money was collected for Special Olympics of Virginia. News Channel 3 WTKR did a segment on the event. To see it, click here.

Deerfield Women’s Work Center’s graduation ceremony on November 20 included four GED graduates, one High School graduate and one Computer Applications graduate. Myra Chambers, Director of Alternative Learning for Hampton City Schools delivered the commencement address. See the related tweet here.

Jazz musician Willie Bradley served as the guest speaker November 19 for the Deerfield Correctional Center Cognitive Community Fall Commencement. A total of 38 offenders graduated including 10 parole grantees. See more here.
Do you have a story idea for the newsletter (or IDOC)? Please contact Win Sisson at george.sisson@vadoc.virginia.gov or call (804) 887-8072.

**Catch VADOC in the News!**

**Murderer stabs Corrections Officer delivering mattress to prison cell:** A Corrections Officer at Sussex I State Prison in Waverly suffered two non-life threatening wounds when he was stabbed by a 26-year-old inmate, according to the Virginia Department of Corrections.

**Virginia wants to help people with mental illness navigate the criminal justice system:** Richmond Commonwealth’s Attorney Mike Herring remembers the fatal shooting of man in the Gilpin Court housing project last summer.

**Inmate mother feeding premature baby in hospital ICU from prison:** Anthony entered the world in September, 2½ months ahead of schedule and weighing 2 pounds, 14 ounces.

**Virginia state prison honors incarcerated veterans for Veterans Day:** For some, honoring veterans is a few dollars off a burger or free admission to the zoo. For the incarcerated veterans in the Haynesville Correctional Center, it means something very different.

**Murderer stabs Corrections Officer delivering mattress to prison cell:** A Corrections Officer at Sussex I State Prison in Waverly suffered two non-life threatening wounds when he was stabbed by a 26-year-old inmate, according to the Virginia Department of Corrections.

**Virginia wants to help people with mental illness navigate the criminal justice system:** Richmond Commonwealth’s Attorney Mike Herring remembers the fatal shooting of man in the Gilpin Court housing project last summer.

**Inmate mother feeding premature baby in hospital ICU from prison:** Anthony entered the world in September, 2½ months ahead of schedule and weighing 2 pounds, 14 ounces.

**Inmates Thrive Through Dance Therapy Program:** Being in prison doesn’t mean all is lost. Activities and keeping busy can help to fill the void, and some jails offer programs like “Dance to Be Free.” The idea is to explore the healing power of dance and allow inmates to escape from their troubles and traumas.

**11 States Report Reduction in Three-Year Recidivism Rates:** “Despite the progress we’ve made over the last two decades toward embracing recidivism reduction as a central mission of corrections agencies, some remain skeptical that these numbers can truly drop,” said Harold Clarke.

**14 arrested in Petersburg’s Operation House Call; 22 additional suspects wanted:** The Petersburg Bureau of Police has arrested 14 people in phase 1 of an operation called “Operation House Call.” Petersburg, Virginia State Police and Virginia Department of Corrections P&P conducted phase 1.

**Inmates Thrive Through Dance Therapy Program:** Being in prison doesn’t mean all is lost. Activities and keeping busy can help to fill the void, and some jails offer programs like “Dance to Be Free.” The idea is to explore the healing power of dance and allow inmates to escape from their troubles and traumas.

**11 States Report Reduction in Three-Year Recidivism Rates:** “Despite the progress we’ve made over the last two decades toward embracing recidivism reduction as a central mission of corrections agencies, some remain skeptical that these numbers can truly drop,” said Harold Clarke.

**VADOC launches new program for offenders with young children:** A new project is aiming to improve services for incarcerated parents and their minor children. The Virginia Department of Corrections launched the Building Family Bridges project. It involves several pre- and post-release strategies.