



# WHAT'S WORKING

A Message from  
DJJ Director Andy Block

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

May 30, 2017

## Creating the Continuum

*Regional Service Coordinators Lining Up Providers Throughout Commonwealth*

First Quarter (Jan. 1–March 31, 2017)

Contracts with Direct Service  
Providers: 100+  
Service Referrals: 300



Last October, we announced that we had contracted with two experienced service coordination agencies to help match Virginia's court-involved youth with services such as mental health evaluations, family interventions, and a wide range of clinical services to have much more ready access to them in the future. Evidence-Based Associates and AMIKids are both well on their way, as evidenced in their quarterly reports for their first three months of work, which reflected the combined numbers shown above.

At the recent CSU Summit at the Virginia Public Safety Training Center, a breakout session was held to educate CSU staff about the regional service coordinators and how they can help. "Since this program is a new direction for DJJ, I went into the training with a strong desire to understand the process, so I could provide direction to my staff," said CSU 6–Hopewell Probation Supervisor Timothy Beard, whose area is served by AMIKids. "I must say how delighted I was in

the presentation. The information provided helped me grasp how beneficial the third party providers would be in assisting my staff in acquiring the services expected and treatment needed for our youth in a predominantly underserved area. For years, probation/parole officers in rural areas have fought hard to obtain the necessary services for our youth. I, for one, must acknowledge having genuine hope and trust in our current process."

EBA's efforts already have had a profound effect on the life of one young man, who had been with DJJ for several years due to a serious charge. "EBA's assistance in securing, authorizing and facilitating a number of critical services was a crucial component in his recent release," says his grateful probation officer. "There is a good chance that if these services had not been in place, then the youth would not have been released on parole supervision. As it stands now, he has an excellent job and a very bright future."

## Who They Are

**Dan Edwards** is EBA's president, formerly its chief operating officer. Before joining EBA, Edwards worked for MST Services, an affiliate of the Medical University of South Carolina and the Family Services Research Center, where he coordinated several large-scale implementation projects in the U.S. and in Europe. He has written several publications on evidence-based programs.

**Kara Brooks** is EBA's Virginia project director and serves as the service coordinator for the Central Region. She has worked in a variety of community-based and residential programs. Most recently she served as a Children's Services Act coordinator, working within and leading a multi-disciplinary team to meet the needs of at-risk youth and families.

**Kim Stafford** is EBA's Western Region project manager. She has 20 years of experience in providing direct care services as well as program development and clinical supervision of services delivered to children, adolescents, and their families.

**Joel Walkley** is EBA's Northern Region project manager. He has



*EBA team, from left: President Dan Edwards, Kara Brooks, Kim Stafford, Joel Walkley.*

worked for various private and public family-serving agencies in Virginia since 2009, including direct case work for adults with developmental disabilities, children and parents affected by abuse and neglect.

**Heyward Golden** has been vice president of operations for AMIKids since 2008. He previously worked for the South Carolina Department of Corrections. Awards include the Columbia Urban League Outstanding Service and Commitment to Youth Award (1995), AMIKids Outstanding Leadership Award (1996), and the

President's Award (2006).

**Betty Dixon** is overseeing the Southern Region for AMIKids. She has national experience developing and managing community-based solutions. She founded Virginia's first statewide, intensive in-home behavioral health agency serving children, youth and families and developed a continuum of services through collaboration with public agencies and private partners.

**Ernest Madison** oversees the Eastern Region for AMIKids. He has worked for over 25 years in various juvenile justice communities and detention-based programs. He recently developed and implemented a recidivism reduction program in Newport News for youth based on an evidence-based model of best practices.

**Korah Schaffert** is a regional director for AMIKids overseeing programs in Virginia and North Carolina. She has served for five years as the executive director for AMIKids' statewide evidence-based Functional Family Therapy program in North Carolina. She has over 10 years of experience working with youth and families.



*AMIKids team, from left: Ernest Madison, Betty Dixon, Korah Schaffert, Heyward Golden.*