

Spring 2019

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Here is the spring newsletter, finally! We are sorry to say that we have no quarterly meeting notes to present since we haven't had a meeting! We are going through letters for suggestions and questions to present at the next meeting. If you have any questions about issues that affect everybody, (not at just you), send them in. We can add them to the file. Again, sorry to have taken so long to organize a meeting. Hopefully we can get something together soon.

Virginia News

New Trend in Criminal Justice: Holistic Defense

There is a new trend in criminal justice among public defenders. This has been a move to practice “Holistic Defense”. Holistic Defense is a way to connect defendants with all of the resources and services they need, not just what relates to the crime of which they are accused. This is not normally a part of a defense counsel’s responsibility, but is becoming more prevalent as there is a growing realization of the needs of the clients. Consequently, public defenders who practice holistic defense have been known to help people get back their drivers licenses, enroll in drug treatment programs and connect to social service programs. They represent the whole person, not just the part of the person who is accused of breaking the law.

As Holistic Defenders, Public defenders work in interdisciplinary teams to address both the immediate case and the underlying life circumstances — such as drug addiction, mental illness, or family or housing instability — that contribute to client contact with the criminal justice system. There is a belief that holistic practices can help clients avoid returning to incarceration if their underlying needs are met. Needs for mental health and drug treatment, family counseling, housing and employment, if addressed, can lower the recidivism rate and promote a healthy lifestyle as a free person. According to David Johnson, executive director of the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, all of Virginia’s public defender offices are using holistic defense methods to varying degrees, but some have been more ambitious than others. Public defenders in Staunton, Charlottesville and Fairfax County have developed ties with local social and criminal justice service providers who can help low-income defendants get back on their feet. Holistic defense has gained support among public defenders nationwide as a means to improve outcomes for defendants and reduce recidivism but until recently, there was little research to show its merits. In Richmond, a new nonprofit called The Virginia Holistic Justice Initiative is aiming to provide data driven, holistic defense practices to the City of Richmond, and to add to the growing body of research on holistic practices.”

Attorney General pushes to legalize marijuana

Virginia’s Attorney General is leading a charge to decriminalize, and eventually legalize, the use of small amounts of recreational marijuana. Attorney General Mark Herring has stated that prosecuting marijuana possession cases is costing the state money that could be better spent elsewhere. Moreover, Herring believes that prosecuting marijuana cases is needlessly creating criminals and disproportionately affecting African Americans. He asserts that “Overall arrests for marijuana possession have increased by about 115%, from around 13,000 in 2003 to nearly 28,000 in 2017. The number of first-time marijuana convictions in Virginia has also risen dramatically, from 6,500 in 2008 to 10,000 in 2017 and that those arrested are overwhelmingly African American.” Herring has his detractors, however. Opponents of legalization are concerned that the use of marijuana could have on impaired driving, the development of children and on opioid abuse, with reported cases of people lacing pot with other drugs, such as fentanyl. Dana Schrad, executive director for the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, said her organization cannot support a push to decriminalize the drug. “It’s a great deal of conflict for law enforcement to have decriminalization at the state level when something is still against the law in federal criminal code,” Schrad said. Herring believes steps should be taken to first decriminalize simple possession of small amounts of the drug and address past convictions. Then, he said, attention can turn to laying down the groundwork for legalization. The Republican dominated General Assembly has killed a number of legalization bills in the last few years, though if the composition of the General Assembly changes after the 2020 elections, there may be a chance.

Federal Court Approves \$3 Million Settlement for Death of Virginia Jail Prisoner Jamycheal Mitchell

This spring U.S. District Court Judge Rebecca Beach Smith approved a \$3 million settlement in a wrongful death suit filed by the family of Jamycheal M. Mitchell, a 24-year-old suffering from Bipolar disorder and schizophrenia who, perished in the Hampton Roads Regional Jail due to neglect. According to the lawsuit, the 6'1" Mitchell went from over 180 pounds to 144 pounds during his 100-day stay at the jail, and was locked alone in a cold, air-conditioned cell with no water, mattress, sheets or blanket. The complaint further stated that he was denied his psychotropic medications and had been "forced to the ground, dragged, sprayed with mace, stood upon, punched and kicked," as well as mocked and laughed at by jail staff. His alleged crime involved stealing \$5.05 worth of soda and snacks from a 7-Eleven store. Although he had been found incompetent by a Virginia Court and was ordered to receive treatment in May of 2015 the court order was not delivered to the state hospital for over 2 months. When it arrived at the hospital, an employee in the Admissions Department shoved the order into a drawer where it was forgotten. Jammycheal's name was not even entered into the Admissions log!. During the investigation that followed, it took 18 months for Naphcare, the for profit that managed medical services for the jail, to present employees for questioning. The report of the investigation that followed the tragedy, concluded: "This case is a sad referendum on how people in positions of power and responsibility become cogs in an unfeeling wheel, immune to the plight of the weakest and most vulnerable among us."

Department of Justice finds Hampton Roads Regional Jail not providing proper medical and mental health care

Prisoners at Hampton Roads Regional Jail were subjected to medical and mental health care so bad that it violated their constitutional rights in a facility where officials didn't fix problems, even after becoming aware of them, the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division said in a recently released report. "Our investigation found reasonable cause to conclude that the Jail fails to provide constitutionally adequate medical and mental health care and that prisoners experience serious harm as a result".

The Justice Department report found that the jail did not have enough medical staff and lacked security for mental health staff. The Justice Department found the jail "does not take prisoner requests for treatment seriously, and often ignores them." "The Jail fails to provide adequate intake, discharge planning, sick call, chronic care, and emergency care such that prisoners are subjected to an unacceptable risk of harm due to delays or lack of treatment." Insofar as mental health is concerned, the Jail's current program fails to: properly screen prisoners for mental illness; provide adequate treatment planning; adequately administer medications and psychotherapy; and properly treat and supervise suicidal prisoners. The report also addressed the issue of the use of solitary confinement: and states that in 2016 and 2017: "the jail subjects prisoners with serious mental health problems to "prolonged periods of restrictive housing," more

commonly referred to as solitary confinement, putting them at risk of harm. Prisoners locked in their cells for 23 to 24 hours a day had much less chance of requesting medical attention. The jail is taking steps to fix problems, the report said, but more work remains.

Monthly parole Decisions 2019

	Regular parole			Geriatric		
	Granted	Heard	percent	Granted	Heard	percent
Jan	16	193	8	3	43	6
Feb	35	161	20	5	42	1
Mar	7	87	8	0	19	0
April	12	178	7	4	50	8
May	8	196	4	5	64	9

*Data are arrived at by counting Regular Parole Hearings and then Geriatric hearings and dividing the grant number by the total to equal percent. Below are the results of violation hearings not counted with the regular and geriatric hearings;

Violation Hearings	21
Continue on parole	5
Revoke	13
Discharge	3
Board Reviews	4
Not Granted	4

DNA Testing of Rape Kits nearly finished

DNA testing has been completed on nearly 1,800 rape kits collected prior to 2014 that were never tested by law enforcement agencies across the state, but apparently has not led to a single arrest for any previously unsolved crimes. "This testing has helped expand our ability to identify and prosecute perpetrators," said Attorney General Mark Herring. Among other things, Herring's office said 239 DNA profile hits have been sent to law enforcement agencies for further investigation.

Tazewell County Drug Courts Now funded by the state

The announcement from the state Supreme Court said drug courts in Tazewell, Russell, Buchanan, Dickenson and several other counties would be continuously funded starting July 1. Tazewell joins 14 other communities being funded by the state. Drug Courts currently serve 1.5 million people nationwide. said Circuit Court Judge Jack S. Hurley Jr. Drug Courts have been studied more than any judicial process that has ever happened, and they work. He said they reduce recidivism 58% and the cost of drug court is between \$9,000 and \$16,000 compared to an average of \$25-31,000 for incarceration. Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Katie Gallagher echoed Hurley's statements and said the program changed people's lives.

No more driver's licenses suspended for unpaid court debt

The General Assembly temporarily stopped the practice of suspending the Virginia driver's license of anyone who doesn't promptly pay court fines or costs. The legislature passed this major criminal justice reform in February via a budget amendment requested by Gov. Ralph Northam. The House voted 70-29 and the Senate voted 30-8. Because this amendment was done through the biennial budget, lawmakers will have to return next session to permanently change the statute. Sen. Bill Stanley, (R-Franklin), has been championing the repeal of the law for years. He pointed out that people who lose their licenses, can't drive to work and they lose their jobs. The practice disproportionately affects the poor and those in rural areas where there's a lack of reliable public transport. When people risk driving and get caught, they face additional charges and jail time. They're buried in court debt. "They don't have to drive in fear anymore because they're trying to keep their job," Stanley said on the Senate floor. More than 620,000 Virginians have suspended driver's licenses because they can't quickly pay their court debt. On July 1, the Department of Motor Vehicles reinstated their driving privileges.

Andrew Block, Juvenile Justice director, leaves after 5 years transforming the Department

Andrew Block, a former law professor and children's advocate who has directed the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice for the last 5 years, stepped down in April of this year. Under his leadership the Department of Juvenile Justice experienced sweeping change. During Block's tenure, Virginia closed the Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center in Powhatan County and used the annual savings to fund alternatives to incarceration. Those alternatives include the proliferation of community programs and placements at local detention facilities, including the Chesterfield Juvenile Detention Home, for low-risk offenders and those transitioning from state youth prisons. In a report late last year, the agency said Virginia courts are committing less than half the number of juveniles to state custody than they did a decade ago and fewer of those youths are entering the maximum-security correctional centers. Youth admissions to state care dropped from 759 in 2009 to 325 in the 2018 fiscal year. The number of youths in state correctional centers declined from 466 in mid-2015 to 216 at the end of last June. The department also reported big drops in the number of juveniles entering the court system, probation caseloads and detentions.

The department also has changed its approach to running its youth prisons. Instead of relying on a strictly punitive approach, the state instituted a community-based model in every residential unit to focus on engagement, rehabilitation and education. The agency also worked to improve access of families to incarcerated youths, beginning a bus service to help families across the state to visit their children at state facilities in central Virginia. The number of family visits more than doubled from mid-2017 to mid-2018, to more than 6,000 a year, the agency reported.

One big disappointment, however, is that, Block has not been able to complete the proposed transformation of the state youth prisons to smaller, modern maximum-security facilities closer to the communities from which the youth come. The idea was to use the savings from closing big youth prisons to pay for community-based programs, as the state did with Beaumont. However, Chesapeake blocked the establishment of a state facility for juveniles committed from localities in Hampton Roads, which generates more detention cases than any other region in the state. An effort to build a 60-bed youth prison in Isle of Wight County is awaiting local zoning approval in the face of opposition by local residents and youth activists. The state also has been stymied in its efforts to either rebuild Bon Air facility or find a site for a new facility in the greater Richmond area. Valerie Boykin, previously Deputy Director of Community Programs at the Juvenile Justice Department, was named to succeed Block, who had recommended her. Boykin has played a big role in the department, contracting with more than 125 companies to provide evidence-based services to rehabilitate juvenile offenders in their communities instead of imprisoning them and to help those leaving custody transition back to their homes. Before joining the department in 2015, she worked for 35 years in juvenile justice, beginning as a probation officer in Franklin County and ending as director of the court service unit of the 4th Judicial District in Norfolk.

Juvenile Justice Reform Bill Passes With an A+

Hooray! A bill favored by Virginia CURE this year passed the House of Delegates 99-0 and the Virginia Senate 40-0! This was the fate of the Virginia Crime Control Act created by a bill patroned by Del Mike Mullin (D) of Newport News. The Act is for all children and attempts to catch those at risk before they commit a crime. As explained in the bill the Act will "ensure the prevention of juvenile crime..." and the "most efficient use of community diversion and community-based ... resources" for youth "who have been screened for needing community diversion or community-based services using an evidence-based assessment protocol." Virginia's three year old juvenile justice reform has seen it close down all but one juvenile correctional center, and use the savings, as well as large amounts of social science and psychological research, to enhance a wide range of community help, from substance abuse treatment to family therapy to anger management classes and more.

A Note About Letters to Virginia CURE

While Virginia CURE cares about your concerns and appreciates being kept informed, we don't have a volunteer staff large enough to reply promptly to all letters received. Please, keep it short and to the point. **Do not send legal papers.** We do not have the capacity to deal with legal issues. Send mail to P.O. Box 2310, Vienna, VA 22183

Bills that have gone into effect July 1, 2019

P Solitary confinement; data collection and reporting, Department of Corrections to submit report. Introduced by: **Patrick A. Hope** Requires the Department of Corrections to submit an annual report to the General Assembly and the Governor containing (Also **SB 1140 Favola, 1085 Marsden, SB1777 Saslaw**)

P HB 1771 Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act; prevention of juvenile crime prior to intake. Introduced by: **Michael P. Mullin** Provides that juveniles who have been screened for needing community-based services using an evidence-based assessment protocol are eligible to receive community-based services as provided by the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (§ 16.1-309.2 et seq.) (the Act). The bill also requires the total number of children who have been screened for needing community diversion or community-based services using an evidence-based assessment protocol to be factored into the funding determination for community diversion services as provided for by the Act.

P HB 1918 Corrections, Board of; minimum standards for health care services in local correctional facilities. Introduced by: **Christopher P. Stolle.** Authorizes the Board of Corrections (Board) to establish minimum standards for health care services in local, regional, and community correctional facilities and procedures for enforcing such minimum standards, with the advice of and guidance from the Commissioner of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services and State Health Commissioner. The bill provides that (i) such standards shall require that each local, regional, and community correctional facility submit a standardized quarterly continuous improvement report documenting the delivery of health care services, along with any improvements made to those services, to the Board and (ii) such reports shall be available to the public on the Board's website. The bill also authorizes the Board to determine that a local, regional, or community correctional facility accredited by the American Correctional Association or National Commission on Correctional Health Care meets such minimum standards solely on the basis of such accreditation; however, without exception, the requirement to submit standardized quarterly continuous quality improvement reports shall be a mandatory minimum standard. This bill is a recommendation of the Joint Commission on Health Care

P SB 1381 Students; offenses reportable by juvenile intake officers to school superintendents. Introduced by: **Ryan T. McDougle** Adds (i) threats of death or bodily injury to another person communicated in writing to such person or member of such person's family and (ii) threats to commit serious bodily harm to persons on school property to the listing of offenses that a juvenile intake officer is required to report to the school division superintendent, when a petition is filed alleging that a juvenile student committed such an offense.

P SB 1501 Capital murder; law-enforcement officers and fire marshals. Introduced by: **Charles W. Carrico, Sr.** Provides that any person convicted of capital murder of a law-enforcement officer or certain other public safety officials who was 18 years of age or older at the time of the offense shall be sentenced to no less than a mandatory minimum term of confinement for life.

Not passed

HB 1689 Parole; exception to limitation on the application of parole statutes. Introduced by: **Joseph C. Lindsey** Provides that a person is entitled to parole if (i) such person was sentenced by a jury prior to the date of the Supreme Court of Virginia decision in **Fishback v. Commonwealth**, 260 Va. 104 (June 9, 2000), in which the Court held that a jury should be instructed on the fact that parole has been abolished, for a noncapital felony committed on or after the abolition of parole going into effect (on January 1, 1995) and (ii) the jury was not instructed on the abolition of parole **01/21/19 House: Subcommittee recommends passing by indefinitely**

Governor vetoes legislation to allow blocking of sex offenders from emergency shelters

Gov. Northam has vetoed legislation that would allow officials to temporarily block convicted sex offenders from using emergency shelters. Northam stated that it is "unconscionable" that people could be turned away from shelters during hurricanes, flash floods or other emergencies. The legislation would have allowed shelter officials to deny entrance for convicted sex offenders for however long was "necessary to ensure the safety of other individuals" admitted to the shelter. The legislation would have also required convicted sex offenders to declare they are registered offenders after arriving at an emergency shelter. Northam said he's directing state officials and encouraging local officials to formulate plans about how best to shelter "all members of our communities" during emergencies.

ACLU files suit against Virginia housing complex that bans ex felons

The American Civil Liberties Union and, Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia (HOME) filed a federal lawsuit in June against apartment complex in Chesterfield, alleging that its blanket policy against renting to those with criminal records is racially discriminatory because it has a disproportionate effect on African Americans. Advocates of the suit say that landlords could carry out more careful investigations of applicant's backgrounds rather than banning anyone with a record. Critics disagree. "A policy like [Sterling Glen's] is not discrimination simply because you end up with a racial disproportion," said Roger Clegg, president of the Center for Equal Opportunity, a think tank that opposes affirmative action in the college admissions process. "Just about any policy you can think of is going to have some kind of a demographic disproportionate impact on some group." The upshot of this policy, advocates say, is that an elderly person with a drug conviction decades old is treated like someone with a recent violent conviction, the lawsuit says. "We have found that persons who have a criminal background, even if it's old or was a minor offense, have nearly impossible odds to find decent affordable housing,"

Reports

Alternatives to Youth Incarceration Report

Campaign for Youth Justice

Over the past two decades, a consensus is emerging that youth incarceration is overused, expensive, and ineffective and that it does not address youth needs or prepare youth for re-entry. Influenced by this new consensus, the youth justice system has shifted from a focus on punishment to a focus on rehabilitation and on addressing youth needs. One visible change throughout the country is the emphasis on community based alternatives exemplified by the demise of large youth correctional facilities and the use of smaller more community connected facilities. Moreover in the past 13 years at least 37 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws to keep more youth in the juvenile justice system. These laws have raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction, limited which offenses are automatically sent to adult court, and required more judicial oversight over transfers to the adult system. As a result, the number of youth in adult facilities has decreased about 58 percent nationally since 2000.

Inspired by these changes, The Campaign for Youth Justice (CYJ) has conducted a nationwide search for alternatives to youth incarceration that work

As the result of this nationwide search, CFYJ found a variety of approaches that are effective in ensuring youth are responded to in an appropriate way. These approaches include:

:

- Narrowing state laws for how and when youth are sent to the adult system;
- Investing in non-residential, community-based initiatives that offer diversion opportunities to more youth, including those charged with felonies;
- Deploying community-based therapeutic interventions well into adolescence that are more developmentally appropriate and that may include residential treatment; and
- Allowing youth charged and sentenced as adults to remain under juvenile justice custody and offering appropriate services to them.

The report calls on states and localities to do more to invest in what is working and to include youth charged as adults in their services and programs. Too many youth aged 17 or younger are still classified as adults, and too many children still sleep in adult facilities every night.

Reconsidering the Violent offender

Excerpted from a report by the SQUARE ONE PROJECT

The violent offender label is used throughout the legal system if the associated crime is defined as violent. Yet, many people convicted of violent crimes did not commit any actual violence. This much needed report addresses the issue of labeling a crime violent and the consequences suffered by those described by that label. This inappropriate categorization in turn imposes deprivations of liberty, sentence enhancements, and collateral penalties that are disproportionate to the actual, or even intended, harm. The report covers the impact on prison conditions for the violent offender. A suite of sentencing policies—including mandatory minimum sentences, three-strikes laws, Truth-In Sentencing provisions, and life without possibility of parole laws enacted from the mid-1980s through the 1990s had the effect of not only ensuring incarceration for a wide range of offenses, but also lengthening incarceration for those offenses. The single most reason for the higher percentage of the daily prison population is that violent offenders have a length of stay of 56 months, which is more than twice that of persons incarcerated for nonviolent crimes. Though violent offenders are thought to be dangerous, the violent offender label fails to predict future crimes, foreshadowing contemporary policy debates about risk assessment. Studies of youth in juvenile courts find no patterns of arrests and convictions across offense types; challenging the hypothesis of specialization in violence. Moreover, the recidivism rates for those incarcerated for violent offenses are lower than those for other offenses. Only about 15 percent of all released prisoners were re-arrested for a subsequent violent offense, and virtually all of those re-arrests were for assault or robbery. People convicted of a violent crime have a violent re-arrest rate of about five percent. The report continues with recommendations such as:

- policymakers should not use the violent label during re trial or parole decisions.
- parole boards should not refer to the nature of the crime when considering a person for parole and
- The lengths of stay for people convicted of violent offenses should be shortened.

New report, Does our county really need a bigger jail?

A new report from the Prison Policy Initiative offers towns and counties a tool to make informed decisions as to alternatives to overcrowded and overwhelmed jails and suggests **33 questions that local decision-makers should ask** in evaluating proposals for new or bigger jails. The number of people in jails nationwide has tripled in the last 30 years," said report author Alexi Jones. "But in too many counties, jail growth is rooted in known policy failures like an over reliance on money bail. Local policymakers owe it to their constituents to find out if there is a **better fix to overcrowding** than just building a new or bigger jail." The report's 33 questions include

On a typical day, how many people are confined in the existing jail who **have not been convicted**? • How many are incarcerated because they cannot afford fines and fees? • What "diversion" courts and treatment programs is the county using for people with substance use and mental illness? For all 33 questions, the report offers a set of alternatives and best practices, including:

- **Releasing more pretrial defendants** on their own recognizance, and **investing in pretrial services** to help them make their court dates;
- Requiring judges to **set fines** based on a defendant's **ability to pay**;
- Investing in specialized "**problem-solving**" courts for people with mental health or substance abuse disorders that serve as true alternatives to jail time. The report contains helpful graphics as well as examples of successful programs.

Arnold Grants \$17M to reform prisons

A \$17 million initiative launched by Arnold Ventures aims to transform prison life. Kelly Rhee, president and CEO of Arnold Ventures, says the grants are aimed at producing a framework for "transformative" change. While reducing prison populations remains a central goal, the nation should be invested as well in the mission of turning prisons "into institutions that respect human dignity." According to Nancy LaVigne, vice president of Justice Policy for the Urban Institute, the Arnold grant will be used to enlarge its research team in order to identify at least four state facilities where promising pilot projects can be developed. The five-year program will involve collecting data on areas ranging from basic prison conditions to the experiences of corrections officers. "We're looking at prison climate, which involves anything from the lack of air conditioning to safety issues.

In a parallel effort, the Vera Institute will receive a boost from Arnold to help expand its efforts to change the structure of prisons themselves. The three-year \$7 million grant will be used to open three "radically reimagined" housing units in three additional state corrections agencies crucial to the long-term effort to rethink the U.S.

system of punishment—particularly its history of racial bias. "A background paper prepared for the launch of the initiative argues that we're now at a "critical inflection point."

Broad support from all sides of the political spectrum, as well as the recently enacted First Step Act, have contributed to a climate in which legislators and prison administrators are willing to adopt "evidence-based policies that promote safety...effective programs, and successful reentry," the paper said. "This is a unique moment in time, one that would benefit from a new national conversation on prisons, their purpose, and the opportunities for both institutional and state policy innovations," said the paper

The two grants will focus on data and the testing of new ideas." Recipients include Drexel University, which in partnership with the Pennsylvania DOC, the Norwegian Correctional Service and the Swedish Prison and Probation Service, will design a housing unit in a Pennsylvania facility similar to those operating in Scandinavian prisons; the Justice Policy Institute; the Unchained Media Collective; One Voice; and the Ladies of Hope Ministries.

Excerpted from an article in **The Crime Report**

National CURE Board Meeting Held in Birmingham Alabama



This May, CURE Board members, including your Virginia State Chapter leader, traveled to Birmingham Alabama for a Board meeting. Though the meeting was important and informative, one big attraction was the visit to some of Birmingham's museums from the early civil rights decades. We visited several museums, including the old bus station and a civil rights museum as well as Martin Luther King Jr's church. The most moving part of the experience was the visit to the Memorial to Peace and Justice, otherwise known as the "lynching museum", that consisted of large blocks of hanging stones engraved with the names of lynching victims from the 1890's to the 1920's, sorted by county. It was shocking and sad to see all the names on those stones and realize how many lost their lives during these terrible two decades. The memorial has more stones prepared for counties throughout the states to take away for placing in their own towns and cities to acknowledge their part in this horror so it might never happen again. Several Virginia Communities will be posting stones, though the majority of lynching's took place in counties in the "deep south".

CURE Chapters

Northern Virginia CURE
Carla Peterson
Carla4vacure@gmail.com
Arlington Unitarian Church
4444 Arlington Blvd.
Arlington VA 22204

Richmond CURE
Mary Anne Stone
mary.anne.stone@verizon.net
Friends Meeting House
4500 Kensington Ave
Richmond VA 23221

Hampton Roads CURE
James Bailey
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Norview Baptist Church
1127 Norview Ave.
Norfolk VA 23513

VACURE Chapters are currently on
summer break

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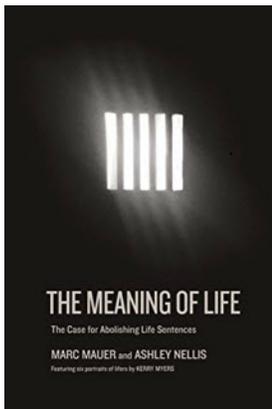
To be added to our distribution list!

Book Review: The Meaning of Life

Mark Mauer and Ashley Nellis

“An impressive blend of statistical analysis and personal experiences to reveal the story of life sentencing in the U.S. While the figures are alarming and should set off alarms, it is the stories that invoke emotional responses. . . . [T]he degree of detail in this well-titled book makes it an excellent resource and of great value to those seeking a way to effect positive social change.”
—Booklist

“As with Mauer’s *Race to Incarcerate*, this book is convincingly and meticulously researched while also balanced in its acknowledgement that the issue [of life sentencing] remains complex and highly controversial. Mauer and Nellis not only build a compelling argument for ending life imprisonment; they also provide strategic public-policy groundwork for enacting a maximum 20-year sentence. . . . A riveting, passionate case against lifetime incarceration and a plea for criminal justice reform.”



Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants– Virginia, Inc.
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 Vienna, Virginia, 22183

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address _____
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_____ city state zip

e-mail _____ prisoner birthday _____

phone day () _____ evening () _____

fax () _____

Involvement: prisoner family friend professional volunteer

other _____ Institution _____

please specify

Virginia CURE invites prisoners to submit original articles, poetry and artwork for consideration for publication. Virginia CURE reserves the right to edit submissions accepted for publication.

Virginia CURE will not return submissions unless prior arrangements are made. Send submissions to: Newsletter Editor, Virginia CURE, P.O. Box 2310, Vienna, Virginia 22183

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