



# JUVENILE RESOURCE CENTER

*Justice is only the beginning*



## TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- ▶ Welcome by Danette Thigpen, Youth Services Director
- ▶ Recognition of Elected Officials
- ▶ Setting the Stage: Moving Forward with Purpose - David Shelton
- ▶ A Presentation of Facts & Figures on the Juvenile Court & Youth Services
- ▶ Comments from Officials
- ▶ Q&A moderated by Mr. Shedrich Webster
- ▶ Finish by 7:30, no later than 8:00.



## THE ROAD AHEAD

*Opening remarks*

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## WHY I AM INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT

- ▶ Retired judge Wayne C. Shelton, my father, has advocated for a detention center since the 1980s.
- ▶ If a child is detained, they are traumatized in multiple ways because of the transport, isolation, and lack of support.
- ▶ We have an opportunity to be proactive.





## STARTING POINTS

*Understanding the current challenges*

**DON'T PUT OUR  
KIDS IN JAIL!**

**WE DON'T  
WANT TO!**



## THE PROCESS

*How does it all work?*

## THE (DUE) PROCESS

OFFICER CONTACT

CHARGES DETERMINED

ISSUE JUVENILE CITATION

OR

NO DETENTION FACILITY

JUVENILE COURT WITH 72 HOURS

JUDGE DECIDES NEXT STEPS

## IS IT DETENTION OR JAIL?

DETENTION

*Judge determines  
Risk to community  
Risk to themselves  
72 hours to Court  
Appearance*

COUNTY JAIL

*Detention & Jail Sentences  
State prisoners (leased)  
Juveniles convicted as adults  
(Serving sentence as a minor)  
Otherwise, ADULTS ONLY*

## NO DETENTION CENTER... NOW WHAT?

CHILD TAKEN INTO CUSTODY

THE SEARCH FOR A BED BEGINS

*Juvenile court officials reach out to  
other counties for a detention bed.*

CHILD TRANSPORTED TO FACILITY

*Contracted facilities are throughout Tennessee*

## NO DETENTION CENTER... NOW WHAT?

CHILD REMAINS IN CUSTODY UNTIL TRIAL

MULTIPLE TRIPS ARE COMMON

*Even though the detainee is our resident, there is limited  
access to family, churches, schools, or attorneys.*

*Once the child leaves our custody, Montgomery County has  
very little say in what occurs in remote detention facilities.*



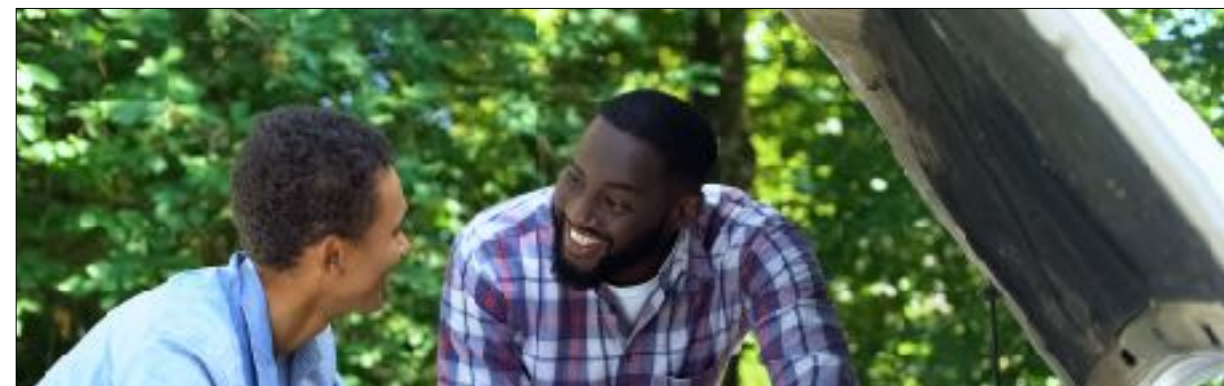
# NO DETENTION CENTER... AND NO BEDS!

## BEDS ARE FREQUENTLY UNAVAILABLE

*Each week, 3-5 children with elevated charges must sleep on the floor of the Clarksville Police station or be sent home at risk to the community.*

*Federal law says that children must not be detained in the same facility as adult detainees.*

## SOLUTION: BUILD OUR OWN FACILITY ASAP



# THE NUMBERS

*Just how many cases are there?*

## CONTACTS AND DETAINEES

### TOTAL NEW JUVENILE CASES

3019

FY 2021

4134

FY 2022

3592

FY 2023\*

### TOTAL DETAINED (M/F), %

85 (70/15) 2.8%

129 (90/39) 3.1%

120 (88/32) 3.3%

FY=JULY THROUGH JUNE | 2023 AS OF MAY 5, 2023

## CONTACTS AND DETAINEES

### UNRULY / DEL

FY 2021

173 / 572

FY 2022

580 / 1093

FY 2023\*

974 / 995

### DETAINED (M/F)

85 (70/15)

129 (90/39)

146 (88/32)

### BLK / MIX / WHT

48 / 5 / 32

69 / 11 / 49

79 / 17 / 50

FY=JULY THROUGH JUNE | 2023 AS OF MAY 5, 2023

## CURRENT DETENTION CONTRACTS

MAURY COUNTY (COLUMBIA)

BEDFORD COUNTY

MADISON COUNTY (JACKSON)

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

PUTNAM COUNTY

RHEA COUNTY

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

SEVIER COUNTY

*Contracts range from \$130 to \$175 per night*

## EXISTING JUVENILE RESOURCES

20/10 MENTORING (APSU)

YOUTH COALITION

JET PROGRAM

MALE MENTORING

CLARITY WORKSHOP

THE DANGERS OF NICOTINE

YOUTH EDUCATION &  
AWARENESS (YEA)

PRIME FOR LIFE

*See the full list at <https://mcgtn.org/juvenile>*



## JUST THE FACTS, MA'AM

*Break through the noise with FACTS*

## "BUT I HEARD..."

*If we have the beds, we will fill them!*

## JUVENILES TRIED AS ADULTS

*A section of the Montgomery County Jail is set aside for juveniles that have been convicted of crimes as an adult.*

*When this happens, the juvenile will stay in county lockup until they reach 18, when they will be transferred to the state prison system.*

*This section has 48 beds.*

*The current number of juvenile inmates in this pod is 0.*

## THE LAW LIMITS DETENTION

*There are two charges for juveniles:*

**UNRULY**

**DELINQUENT**

*Detention is allowed only in certain circumstances:*

*The child is a danger to the community*

*The child is a danger to themselves*

*Others are listed in TN State Law: ss 37-1-114*

## TCA 37-1-114 (JUSTIA)



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

*The Juvenile court office consists of four judges & 17 staff members.*

*Judges remain on-call for warrants.*

*Office staff is often required to find beds and other services, oftentimes working 16-18 hours a day and during odd hours overnight.*

*We are always seeking and vetting new resources.*



# RESOURCE CENTER & SERVICES

OFFICES & STAFF

DETENTION

COURTROOMS

MENTAL HEALTH & RESPITE

WELCOMING & CLASSROOMS

*One building. An entire community to serve.*

# RESOURCE CENTER CURRENT STATUS

*The County Commission will vote on the FY24 Budget in June, which will include some capital projects.*

*Before a Juvenile Resource Center can be constructed, land must be procured, and a design must be developed.*

*The Budget Committee is recommending to the full Commission that funds be appropriated next year for the purchase of land when located.*

*Depending on the timing of the land acquisition, the Mayor may seek an amendment to the budget over the next year in order to move forward with the development of the center's design.*

# LOOKING TO OUR FUTURE

*It is our RESPONSIBILITY to have a detention facility.*

*Let's turn it into an OPPORTUNITY to be a model for all of Tennessee and beyond.*

*We can be REACTIVE and solve only the detention issue.*

*Or we can be PROACTIVE and combine all resources under one roof to better serve the entire community.*



## Q&A

*What's on your mind?*