

Chesterfield County  
**Connected & Caring**

**Monthly News & Updates**  
from Chesterfield County's Human Services Division  
Volume 1 Issue 6 | June 2021



### Dr. Worsley's Wise Words

The Human Services Division is proud to celebrate diversity in our community throughout the year and particularly in June as we host the Inaugural Juneteenth Community Breakfast with other related events in the county. In addition to the upcoming event, Chesterfield County is committed to having key staff that focuses on diversity and inclusion for the community and within our organization. In fact, Chesterfield County's Diversity

Advisory Committee has been an engine to programs and initiatives such as virtual "Inclusion Starts with Us" educational sessions and an annual Women in Leadership event that focused on "Balancing the Chaos."

A dozen years ago, I had an opportunity to spend the summer in Zomba, Malawi conducting research and the following fall I traveled to Madrid, Spain to present at an international conference. After much comparing and contrasting with my own lived experiences, I came to the conclusion that no matter what country or continent we may be from we have more similarities than differences. In my travels, I found that sharing important moments with family and friends like meals, music, special events and traditions were at the top of my observation list. Likewise, in Chesterfield County, we are connected by our strengths such as community support through volunteerism and collaboration, special events, and innovative ideas.

Lastly, I remind each of us with the words of Maya Angelou, "we all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color."

## Citizen Information and Resources



### Celebrating Juneteenth

Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, outlawing slavery as of January 1, 1863. For enslaved persons living in rural areas, it was several months before the news of the proclamation reached the geographically isolated areas. The annual

celebration of June 19th, [Juneteenth](#), commemorates the day that news of freedom reached over 2,000 enslaved persons living in Galveston Texas nearly two years later. This is the oldest known commemoration of the end of slavery and a Virginia state holiday.

Citizen Information and Resources Office of Diversity and Inclusion is leading a planning committee for a Juneteenth Community Breakfast as well as several events in the County to educate and celebrate the holiday. Chesterfield County Public Libraries will be conducting story walks in five locations on June 19th, Juneteenth. Pocahontas State Park will also be offering hikes and talks surrounding the holiday. The public is encouraged to participate, exact times and locations will be posted in the [Happening in Chesterfield](#) newsletter.

## Youth Citizen Board Recognized by Board of Supervisors

At the May 26 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Youth Citizen Board (YCB) was recognized for their outstanding work on the "mental health is a puzzle and we have the missing piece" campaign. The YCB began working on the campaign in September, 2020, in partnership with Mental Health Support Services and Communications and Media. The campaign reached more than 40,000 people across social media channels, more than 212,000 via print media and more than 550,000 through broadcast media. You can view the campaign on the Chesterfield Youth Services [Instagram](#) page and the Chesterfield County Prevention Services [Facebook](#) page.

The Youth Citizen Board is currently accepting applications for the 2021-22 year. [Learn more](#) and complete an [application](#) prior to July 1 to be considered.



## Court Partners

### **Pre Trial and Community Corrections Services Creates a Diversity and Inclusion Committee**

On April 12, 2021, Pre Trial and Community Corrections Services (CCS) held its first Diversity and Inclusion Committee meeting. During the meeting, 11 staff members including Gary Hughes, CCS Director, were brave enough to share their past experiences and desire to see change in their workplace. Kim Conley of Chesterfield County's Diversity office was also present to provide support to the committee.

Part of the committee's mission/vision is to challenge the status quo. Is our workplace diverse and do we foster an atmosphere of inclusion? Do we look like the community we have dedicated ourselves to serving? What changes do we need to make, even when the change is uncomfortable?

The committee will meet once a month and create opportunities to educate and inform staff about diversity and inclusion. The committee will sponsor their first event for CCS staff on Friday, June 18 in honor of Juneteenth (June 19) and Pride Month/Pride Day (June 28). This will also be the first time all CCS staff will meet in person since the pandemic began. Staff will eat lunch together and learn about [Juneteenth](https://nmaahc.si.edu/blog-post/historical-legacy-juneteenth) and [Pride Day](https://www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/about/). As a diverse staff who provides service to a diverse population it is important to ensure everyone is included in the conversation and everyone is heard.

## Juvenile Justice Services

### **Juvenile Justice Services Celebrates Families**

In May, we celebrate Mother's Day and in June, we celebrate Father's Day. But in today's world, there are many families with stepmothers, stepfathers, foster parents, and other family members who have stepped in as legal guardians such as grandparents, aunts, uncles, and even siblings or cousins. To be

inclusive, we celebrate families at Juvenile Justice Services. On Saturday, May 15, the Juvenile Detention Home hosted a family engagement event for our Treatment Programs. Families were able to visit in-person for the first time in over a year. Families played cards and games together, and each family member left with a potted plant grown by our residents. Family pictures were also taken as a gift to the residents and families. Happy Mother's Day and Father's Day to *everyone* out there taking care of children.



## Mental Health Support Services

### Chester House Reopening

"Connected and caring" is the very essence of Chester House, a Psychosocial Rehabilitation day program for adults diagnosed with a serious mental illness, fashioned after the "clubhouse" model. The daily work of the program is voluntarily carried out by "members" and staff who work side-by-side to run most aspects of the program. The partnering of members and staff promotes belonging, respect and affirms members are needed and wanted. We work together to greet visitors, offer tours, make lunch, run the snack bar, clean, produce the newsletter, offer psychoeducational groups, garden, complete billing, set and meet goals, and many other aspects necessary to operate the program. In the context of community and a normalized environment, members learn social skills, recovery skills, about health and wellness, develop community resources, develop a greater support network, and learn how to live their best life. Chester House offers employment services to anyone in the program and beyond who wants to work, as well as transportation to and from the program. Prior to the pandemic, Chester House served 50-60 members a day.

With the closure of Chester House on March 16, 2020, program staff continued to offer telephonic support to members, employment staff continued to support people with their employment goals, and van drivers continued to support people to and from medical appointments at the Roger's Building. All staff, except for those furloughed, were redeployed to support the Residential group homes in Chesterfield in some capacity.

Chester House reopened on March 8, 2021 to 12 consumers. To facilitate reopening, we worked closely with multiple county departments to complete a hazard risk assessment, ensure we had adequate cleaning supplies and PPE, and to create a detailed proposal of how we would safely operate the program. The reopening has been a great success! Chester House is currently serving 16 people a day in the program.

If you are interested in exploring the clubhouse model further, visit the [Fountain House](http://www.fountainhouse.org/about/impact) [http://www.fountainhouse.org/about/impact] website [https://www.fountainhouse.org/about/impact] for more information.



## Wellness Corner



### Don't Forget to Reapply!

Everyone knows how important it is to wear sunscreen in the summer, but many forget that one application is simply not enough. Keep sunscreen with you when you know you're going to be outside, and don't hesitate to take a time-out from whatever you're doing to reapply!

The [Skin Cancer Foundation](#) recommends reapplying every two hours.

## Nonprofit Corner

### CARITAS Warehouse Sale

CARITAS will be holding their premier warehouse sale at the furniture bank (2220 Stockton Street) on June 4-5. Contact [CARITAS](#) [<http://www.caritasva.org>]for details.

### Latinos en Virginia Offering Financial Assistance

Programa de Asistencia Financiera para residentes del Condado de Chesterfield afectados por Covid-19. Latinos en Virginia Centro de Empoderamiento estará brindando asistencia financiera para renta, billes de luz, agua o gas. Los fondos se distribuirán por orden de llegada hasta que se acaben y estaremos recibiendo solicitudes los días lunes y miércoles de 9:00AM a 4:00PM vía telefónica al [804-658-3341](tel:804-658-3341) [<http://tel:804-658-3341>]. Para aplicar, es requisito ser residente del Condado Chesterfield.

Financial Assistance Program for Chesterfield County residents affected by Covid-19. Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center will be providing financial assistance for rent, electricity, water, or gas bills. Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis and we will be receiving applications on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by phone at [804-658-3341](tel:804-658-3341) [<http://tel:804-658-3341>]. To apply, you must be a resident of Chesterfield County.

### Chesterfield's Book Ladies are Making an Impact

During the May 26 Board of Supervisors meeting Kristen Thrower and Lisa Signorelli were recognized for their outstanding work distributing books to the children of Chesterfield.

Since these educators began the bookmobile they've served approximately 1,300 people over 39 visits to neighborhoods and community centers, set up free libraries in their schools, and offered opportunities to select books for

siblings or parents and have them wrapped for gifts.

These book ladies are supported by "book angels", their school administration, Goodwill, and donations from organizations like the local Duke Alumni. Additionally, Chesterfield County recently donated two surplus county vans so that these exceptional volunteers no longer have to store hundreds of books in their own vehicles.

Learn more about the [book ladies](https://www.smore.com/2s7c4-book-ladies-free-bookmobile) [https://www.smore.com/2s7c4-book-ladies-free-bookmobile], where they'll be, and how you can support their mission.





## For More Information


### Caring & Connected Newsletter Team

- **Citizen Information and Resources:** [Ellen Costlow](#), community engagement coordinator - youth services
- **Community Corrections Services:** [JoAnn McLaurin-Carpenter](#), assistant director
- **Drug Courts:** [Melanie Meadows](#), administrator
- **Juvenile Justice Services:** [Justin Crostic](#), program administrator for treatment programs & detention alternatives
- **Mental Health Support Services:** [Jaroslaw Muchowski](#), assistant director of administration and planning
- **Social Services:** [Kiva Rogers](#), director

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