



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Veterans Services

John Maxwell
Commissioner

Telephone: (804) 786-0220
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May 8, 2020

Via Electronic Mail

John W. Jones, Executive Director
Virginia Sheriffs' Association
901 East Byrd Street, Suite 1301
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Mr. Jones,

I am writing to provide information on the veterans Justice Involved Services (JIS) program within the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS).

Like others who have been involved with the criminal justice system, veterans have significant reentry barriers due to their criminal history, medical and/or behavioral health needs, and lack of financial resources. Many community resources have limited funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so connecting providers to individuals being released from incarceration can be particularly challenging right now.

The JIS program is designed to meet the unique needs of justice-involved veterans throughout the Commonwealth by connecting them to supportive services. The JIS program offers assistance to those veterans and service members involved in veteran and/or problem solving treatment dockets, local jails and state prisons, and on probation and/or parole supervision in Virginia. We connect justice-involved veterans to housing, treatment, employment, and other community resources. There are four designated Veteran Justice Specialists (VJS) within VDVS. Their focus is to provide support and resources to justice involved veterans wherever they may be in the criminal justice system – from diversion to incarceration to reentry.

For more information about the Justice Involved Services (JIS) program, please see the enclosed brochure and referral form. You can also contact the Justice Involved Services mailbox at justice.vvfs@dvs.virginia.gov or contact Donna Harrison, Criminal Justice Director, at donna.harrison@dvs.virginia.gov or 804-225-4734.

We look forward to assisting veterans in their return to the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Maxwell".

John Maxwell