

**PROGRESS REPORT ON JOINT USE  
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND  
THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION  
OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

April 1, 2009



**North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**  
Linda W. Hayes, Secretary

## **S.L. 2007-323**

### **PROGRESS REPORT ON JOINT USE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

**SECTION 18.11.** The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Department of Correction shall report quarterly during the 2007-2009 fiscal biennium, beginning October 1, 2007, to the Chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety and to the Joint Legislative Corrections, Crime Control, and Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee on the joint use by both departments of the Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center. The report shall include an explanation of significant delays in converting the Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center into a facility that functions as an adult female correctional center as well as a youth development center and any cost increase related to that conversion.

#### **Introduction**

In November 2006, the General Assembly approved a plan by the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP) and the Department of Correction (DOC) to share use of the Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center (SVYDC) campus. Under the proposed plan, DJJDP will continue to operate the southern part of the campus as a youth development center for male juvenile offenders. DOC in turn will move its operations from Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women to Swannanoa and operate the northern part of the SVYDC campus as a prison facility for adult females.

The long-term goal of both departments is to effect a complete transition of the Swannanoa Valley campus to DOC in three phases. The departments are in the process of implementing Phase I of the transition, in which DJJDP moved operations to the southern part of the campus, DOC completes the repairs and renovations to the northern campus, and relocates 165 inmates from Black Mountain to Swannanoa, supported by 79 employees.

In Phase 2, contingent upon legislative approval and funding, DJJDP is to begin construction of a replacement 32 bed facility to house juveniles committed by the courts predominantly from the western area of the state; DOC hires additional staff and houses additional inmates. In Phase 3, DJJDP relocates to a new replacement 32 bed facility, DOC completes renovations to the southern campus, hires additional staff, and houses up to 454 inmates. Approval and funding has not yet been provided.

Pursuant to Section 18.11 of Session Law 2007-323, the agencies are required to submit quarterly reports detailing the progress in implementing joint use of the Swannanoa property. This report will provide an update of the progress made by DJJDP since the Department submitted a report on January 1, 2009.

#### **Progress/Update by DJJDP Since the January 1, 2009 Report**

As reported in October 2008, the preparation and tasks required by DJJDP to facilitate the transition for joint use of the Swannanoa campus have been completed and completed within the appropriated

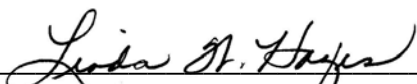
budget. The work that is needed prior to moving inmates from the Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women to the Swannanoa campus will be done by DOC.

Since January 1, 2009, DJJDP has housed an average of 48 juveniles on the south campus. Through a contract agreement, DOC provides 3 meals a day for the juveniles. Staff on the juvenile campus pick up food prepared by DOC, transport it to the juvenile campus, and serve it there. At no time are juveniles in the presence of adult inmates.

DJJDP continues to address small maintenance issues on the south campus and any issues that DOC typically uses inmates to address so that sight and sound separation is maintained. The departments continue to collaborate to define each department's role regarding larger maintenance issues.

### **Conclusion**

Joint use of the Swannanoa property is currently in effect. DOC expects to complete Phase 1 of the transition plan by December 31, 2009. During Phase II, DOC plans to continue repairs and renovations to Swannanoa buildings to house additional female inmates. The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is not able to move forward with building a facility for the juveniles currently housed at Swannanoa because of lack of funds. The Department requested funds for several replacement facilities in the 2007-2008 budget but did not receive the construction funds. The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is unable to move youth from the Swannanoa campus because there are currently no alternative options within the juvenile justice system for serving the committed youth from the western part of the state. When the budget crisis passes, DJJDP will request funding from the General Assembly for a replacement facility for juveniles in the western part of the State. Complete transfer of the Swannanoa campus to DOC cannot be completed without funding to build a replacement youth development center.



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Linda Wheeler Hayes, Secretary

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Date: April 1, 2009