

# Best Practices for Incarcerated Youth with Brain Injury

Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative Project with the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

Helivi Holland  
DJJ Director

Steven F. Peed, Ph.D.  
DJJ Behavioral Services  
Unit

# Background

- TBI can be a causative factor in behaviors that may lead to arrest and incarceration
- A 2008 legislative report concluded there was little information available about TBI prevalence or a Best Practices Model in Virginia's offender populations
- Report recommended that these issues be studied beginning with Virginia's juvenile offender population

# Best Practices for Incarcerated Youth with Brain Injury Project

- ▶ The VCU TBI model system was chosen to conduct the project
- ▶ The project is at the beginning of the third and final year

# Project Goals

- ▶ Improve DJJ's ability to identify and meet the needs of juvenile offenders with TBI
- ▶ Develop an effective screening tool for use with all juvenile offenders entering the DJJ system
- ▶ Develop education and training materials for DJJ staff as well as other providers, educators, and state holders

# TBI Screening Process

- ▶ History Taking Instruments
- ▶ Medical Record Review
- ▶ Neuropsychological Screening

# Effective Screening Tool

- ▶ “DJJ Brain Injury Screening Tool” under development
- ▶ Data analyses underway to establish reliability and validity of screening process

# Education and Training Materials

- ▶ Screening and Assessment Protocols
- ▶ User friendly screening and evaluation manual for staff
- ▶ Dissemination of information regarding prevalence, evaluation, and intervention
- ▶ Final report with recommendations

# Project Results

- ▶ Improving DJJ's ability to identify residents with TBI
- ▶ Establishing Best Practices Model
- ▶ Contributing to DJJ Mission