Task Force Requirements
The Task Force was charged with:
- reviewing the current policies and practices of the Department of Juvenile Services regarding shackling and strip searches of children within the juvenile justice system;
- examining when, by whom, and for what purposes a child in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Services is strip-searched or shackled;
- determining the capital expenditures that are necessary to address issues regarding the restraint and searches of children within the juvenile justice system; and
- making recommendations regarding changes in policies, practices, or capital expenditures that are necessary to address issues involving the restraint and searches of children within the juvenile justice system.

DJS Recommendations

Visual Body Searches

1. The department shall provide youth with a disposable paper gown when conducting a visual body search.

2. The department shall not conduct a visual body search of a youth after attorney visitation, unless there is reasonable suspicion that the youth is in possession of contraband.

3. The department shall not conduct a visual body search of a youth after family visitation, unless there is reasonable suspicion to believe the youth is in possession of contraband. A budget appropriation would be required for equipment and staff in each of the 13 DJS operated facilities to implement this recommendation.

4. The department shall prohibit the use of visual body searches when youth have remained under the direct and continuous supervision of department staff during an off-campus outing, unless there is reasonable suspicion to believe the youth is in possession of contraband.

5. The department shall clarify procedures to direct staff to utilize a graduated approach when conducting a reasonable suspicion search (utilizing other search procedures such as, processing with the youth, a pat down search or wand search) before employing a visual body search.

Other State Information

- 61% of States Reviewed Require Routine Strip Search After Visitation
- 12 of the 36 States Reviewed Provide for a Reasonable Suspicion or Probable Cause Search at Visitation
- Recommendations #1 and #2 are consistent with the Annie E. Casey Detention Standards
- Consistent with the approach in Oregon; Colorado; Florida; Massachusetts; Pennsylvania
- Recommendation #4 is consistent with the Annie E. Casey Detention Standards
**Mechanical Restraints**

6. The department will evaluate reorganizing the transportation unit. Currently, the department operates one statewide unit that is responsible for most of the youth transportation needs across the state. It is DJS policy that all transportation unit transports are secure, meaning mechanical restraints are used. The department shall evaluate the ability to create a separate transportation unit for our staff secure programs to provide non-secure transports. **It is anticipated a budget appropriation for equipment and staff would be required to implement this recommendation.**

7. The department shall make every effort to eliminate the use of secure transports when transporting a youth on a home pass.

8. The department will work with private providers to transition transportation responsibilities to the provider where possible.

9. The department shall clarify procedures for out-of-state transports. Specifically, the procedures shall include factors to consider when requiring a secure transport for out-of-state placements, such as a youth’s verbal indications of AWOL, suicide ideations, prior AWOLs, and aggressive behavior.

**General Recommendations / Reporting**

10. The department shall refine data collection methods to capture when and under what circumstances there is reasonable suspicion to conduct a visual body search, and what if any contraband or prohibited items are recovered.

11. The department shall refine data collection methods to monitor the use of secure transports.

12. On or before December 31, 2017, the department shall submit a report to the General Assembly providing an update on the implementation of the task force recommendations.

**Legislative Changes**

13. The Task Force should consider legislation to set a minimum age a youth could be detained.