

Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor

Larry Hogan  
Governor

Sam Abed  
Secretary

**Statement from the Department of Juvenile Services**  
**April 9, 2018**

The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) extends its gratitude and admiration for the Victor Cullen Center staff who intervened during the group disturbance that occurred on April 8, 2018. Several staff courageously risked injury to help protect other youth and staff from harm. While most of the injuries suffered by staff were treated at the facility, 3 Victor Cullen staff required hospitalization. DJS is thankful to report that all 3 staff have been treated and released.

DJS would also like to thank the Maryland State Police and the Frederick County Sherriff's Office for responding and assisting the Victor Cullen Center staff during the incident. As always, the department appreciates the support from its law enforcement partners.

The 8 youth involved in the incident have been transferred to other secure facilities.

Counselors from DJS headquarters and DJS executive staff are at the Victor Cullen Center to support the staff and youth and help the facility move forward. Secretary Sam Abed has directed that new admissions to the Victor Cullen Center be suspended. The department's investigation is ongoing.

DJS remains committed to provide all of the necessary support and services that the Victor Cullen Center needs to ensure it is safe for both youth and staff.

Please direct all inquiries to Jay Cleary, Chief of Staff of the Department of Juvenile Services  
[Joseph.cleary@maryland.gov](mailto:Joseph.cleary@maryland.gov)  
Cell: 410-624-6623