

## About Us

Many of our members provide services to youth in the juvenile justice system through a continuum of care, with services ranging from early intervention, prevention, diversion, day treatment, gender specific services, detention screening, specialized residential treatment, transitional aftercare, conditional release, mental health services, substance abuse services, vocational education, and career preparation.

Other members represent advocacy groups, law enforcement, the judiciary, schools, and share the commitment to improving services to justice involved youth while safeguarding public safety. From promoting proven practices to tracking legislation, our organization has a proud history of advocating for system-involved children.

For the past eighteen years, our annual FJJA Adolescent Conference has been recognized as a premier professional development event, attracting participants from across Florida and presenters from across the nation.

## An Effective Juvenile Justice Strategy

An effective juvenile justice strategy improves the lives of Florida's citizens and youth by wisely investing, through community partners, in local programs and services that work, and that yield high returns for youth and their families. The FJJA supports policies that promote accountability, fairness, justice, equity, responsibility and effectiveness, and that create a foundation for academic achievement, responsible citizenship and economic productivity.

An effective juvenile justice strategy promotes public safety and saves the state money. By funding quality prevention-based programs, the state can help to reverse the need for costlier deep end programs, thereby reducing the burden to taxpayers.

## Our Members

### Agency Members

ACTS , Inc.  
Bay Area Youth Services  
Center for Drug Free Living  
Daniel Memorial, Inc.  
DISC Village  
Evidence-Based Associates  
G4S Youth Services, LLC  
Gateway Community Services  
Gulf Coast Youth Services  
Home Builders Institute  
Human Services Associates  
Miami Dade Juvenile Services  
Operation PAR, Inc.  
Outward Bound, Inc.  
Paxen Learning Corporation  
PACE Center for Girls, Inc.  
Prodigy Cultural Arts  
PsyCare Juvenile Justice  
Psychotherapeutic Services  
of Florida, Inc.  
Sequel Youth and Family  
Twin Oaks Juvenile  
Development, Inc.  
The Henry & Rilla White Youth  
Foundation, Inc.  
Youth Services International, Inc.

### Associate Members

Marjorie Anders, Office of  
State Attorney 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial  
Circuit  
Bridgeway Center, Inc.  
Broward County Sheriff's  
Office  
Capital City Youth Services  
Miami Bridge Youth &  
Family Services, Inc.  
Jon Mark Howard Consulting  
Partnership for Child Health  
Quality Assurance Solutions  
Savannah Family Institute  
The Children's Trust  
The Justice Research Center  
Youth Crisis Center  
WaveCREST, Children's  
Home Society of Florida

### Corporate Members

AFLAC  
USI Consulting Group  
Lassiter Ware Insurance

### Ex Officio Member

Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, Delores  
Barr Weaver Policy Center

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## Setting the Standard

The Florida Juvenile Justice Association (FJJA) is a statewide organization that strongly supports a common sense approach to juvenile justice that treats young people fairly, holds them accountable for their actions and keeps our neighborhoods, schools and communities safe.



The Association brings together juvenile justice system professionals, state and local agencies, private and non-profit organizations and other stakeholders committed to improving Florida's juvenile justice system for children and families.

We work with and care about at-risk youth in Florida, and we are committed to improving citizens' confidence in the effectiveness of Florida's juvenile justice system.

With the support and collaboration of the Florida Juvenile Justice Association, national and statewide advocacy groups and Florida's business community, Florida is now positioned to embark on system wide improvement to the delivery of services to juvenile justice involved youth.

Working together to improve the system will ensure further success in the reduction of crime and other related costs, and prevent the flow of youth into adult corrections, reducing the need for future prison construction with taxpayer dollars.

## 2013 Legislative Agenda

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### **The Road to Success:**

#### *A Comprehensive Educational System*

ENSURE that meaningful educational and vocational opportunities are available to all youth served in DJJ programs, including youth in residential settings and small juvenile justice schools.

### **Invest in Proven Programs with a ROI:**

#### *Prevention, Intervention and Diversion Services*

ENSURE that prevention efforts are evidence and research based, include universal and targeted services, the use of civil citation programs, the expansion and enhancement of Juvenile Assessment Centers (JACs) and other existing intervention services, incorporate gender responsive services and the use of arbitration, mediation and Teen Court.

### **Keep the Public Safe and Youth Accountable:**

#### *Community-Based Residential Services*

ENSURE that Florida's juvenile justice continuum includes an appropriate amount and variety of residential commitment services, the use of evidence-based risk and criminogenic assessments, and specialized residential services that include mental health and substance abuse treatment. SUPPORT adequate funding of evidence-based services for specialized populations which produce positive outcomes and reduce recidivism.

### **Make Sure Youth Go on to Succeed in Life:**

#### *Aftercare/Continuing Care*

ENSURE that comprehensive aftercare services begin at initial identification by the juvenile justice system and follow youth throughout their continuing care. EXPAND and ENHANCE existing aftercare/continuing care services, and SUPPORT adequate levels of funding for transitional housing and independent living services in the community.

## Keeping the Public Safe While Not Giving Up on Our Youth: Investing in a Comprehensive and Robust Continuum of Services

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### **Preventing Crime**

Effective programming can prevent crime. Redirecting funds from incarceration to education, counseling, treatment and job training for young offenders is the best investment in the system. Programs that provide help and skills can enable youth to become productive citizens.

### **Not Giving Up on Youth**

Almost all youth who commit crimes have the potential to change. Second chances save lives.

### **Community-Based Programming**

Programs and services that are family centered and community-driven are proven to work.

### **Adequate Funding**

Appropriate levels of funding for evidence-based policies and programs that incorporate best practice models reduce recidivism and allow youth to go on to succeed in life.

### **Advocacy**

Leading in the spirit of collaboration, FJJA plays a major leadership role, working with state agencies, advocacy groups and other statewide organizations in Florida to support juvenile justice advocacy. Our leadership is reflected in effectively serving and addressing issues raised by our diverse member agencies serving youth across the juvenile justice continuum of care.

### **Legislation**

Each year, FJJA develops and promotes a legislative agenda based on improving the system of care for Florida's juvenile justice involved youth. FJJA promotes legislation and public policy and during the Florida Legislative session provides a weekly legislative update to members.

### **Our Mission**

The Florida Juvenile Justice Association promotes the availability and accessibility of comprehensive, high quality services to pre-delinquent and delinquent youth and their families.

