

Florida Juvenile Justice Association

Legislative

Update

Week Seven

April 20, 2013

Budget Conference Fast and Furious

With two weeks left in session, things are moving quickly, although some major differences still remain, mostly along budget lines. They include across the board salary increases for teachers, higher education tuition increases and expansion of health care coverage. As of right now, it is very possible that session may end without deciding whether Florida will accept federal Medicaid money to expand coverage of Florida's poorest citizens. Budget conference committees continue to meet back and forth with a 5:00 pm deadline April 23 or issues will be "bumped" to leadership for resolution. On the juvenile justice side, items most likely to be bumped involve funding for Redirections, increased funding for PACE Center for Girls, second year funding for the Florida Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs and others.

Bill Tracking

DJJ Legislative Package and FJJA's Juvenile Justice Education Bill Likely to Pass

HB 441 passed on the special order calendar on April 17th. Its companion, **SB 1406** has passed out of the Senate Education Committee. A House appropriation of \$1.6 M (HB5001) to fund this bill was accepted by the Senate in budget conference. We expect HB 441 to move to the Senate soon and hopefully be taken up by the Senate.

Supported by DJJ and many other stakeholders, this bill would enhance transition services by expanding collaboration in a youth's transition planning. It also requires that school districts to consider the needs of individual youth when they return to school, and enhances career and technical education. This bill will improve accountability and enhance access to virtual education. This bill will also lower recidivism rates while protecting public safety.

Other Bills of Interest

HB 617 passed unanimously out of the House on third reading. **SB 676** is passed through Appropriations, its final committee. The bill seeks to streamline juvenile justice circuit boards and juvenile justice county councils by merging them into a single entity: juvenile justice circuit advisory boards, which are to be established in each of the 20 judicial circuits.

Also, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee passed **SB 672** and has one last committee stop in the Senate. This legislation creates a criminal penalty in statute for those that neglect or abuse children of any age, while in DJJ care. It also repeals provisions for the outdated Youth Custody Officer position, and the provision for punitive jail tours, which, if used, could jeopardize DJJ's federal funding. The companion bill, **HB 353**, already passed out of the House last week.

SB 1834 passed unanimously out of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, heading to its final stop, Appropriations. The companion, HB 7103 is headed for the House floor. The bill dealing with cross-over youth, will establish a pilot dealing with youth who straddle both the dependency and delinquency systems. It is estimated that there are currently 600-900 children would qualify as cross over youth.

Highlights of Proposed DJJ BUDGET (Side by Side)	Senate	House	Budget Conference
BUDGET INVESTMENTS			
Expand PACE Center - Miami PACE/additional slots in Jacksonville	\$2,000,000 1,277,000GR 723,000 NR	\$1,118,750	bumped
Telephonic Psychiatric Consultation	37,200	37,200	agreed
Contracted Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist	\$108,160	\$108,160	agreed
Internet GED Testing	\$55,000	\$55,000	agreed
Expand CINS/FINS to Rural Underserved Areas	\$1,501,605	\$1,501,605	agreed
Pasco County Challenge Kids	\$36,000		bumped
Documentation and Analysis of former Dozier School for Boys Gravesite	\$200,000 In DJJ budget	190,000 In Higher Education budget for USF	bumped
Alliance of Florida Boys and Girls Clubs	\$1,816,276	\$500,000	bumped
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Florida	\$500,000	\$100,000	bumped
Web Based Early Intervention Program	-	-	-
Informed Families of Florida Program	\$100,000	\$100,000	agreed
Expansion of Florida Youth Challenge Academy	\$400,000	\$400,000	agreed
Additional staffing for DJJ Bureau of Contracts	\$219,110	\$219,110	agreed
Increase Juvenile Justice Prevention Services	-	-	-
YAP program (Duval and Nassau)	\$100,000	\$100,000	agreed
SEE School of Miami	-	-	-
Maintenance and Repair for facilities	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	agreed
Juvenile Justice Education (HB441) (proviso)	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	agreed
BUDGET REDUCTIONS			
Reduce Detention Bed Capacity- 53 FTEs	(\$2,730,998)	(\$2,730,998)	agreed
Reduce Vacant Positions over 180 Days- 11 FTEs	-	-	-
Reduce Vacant Probation Positions- 21.5 FTEs	-	-	-
Reduce Non-Secure Bed Capacity- 133 beds, 14 FTE	(\$5,830,907)	(\$5,830,907)	agreed
Reduce Funding for Redirections	(\$7,000,000)	(\$6,000,000)	bumped
Eliminate Funding for Girls Advocacy Project Program (GAP)	(\$150,000)	(\$150,000)	agreed
Eliminate Funding New Horizons Community Mental Health	-	-	-
Eliminate Funding for Community Coalition Program	(\$574,080)	(\$574,080)	agreed
Reduce Staffing in DJJ Residential Services Staff- 12 FTEs	(\$663,696)	(\$663,696)	agreed
Real Estate Savings	(\$520,217)	(\$520,217)	agreed
Department Totals	\$513,572,353,455	\$511,777,925	