

# Florida Juvenile Justice Association

## Member

## Update

January 25, 2013

### **DJJ, DCF, Attorney General Report on Progress to Address Human Trafficking**

Attorney General Pam Bondi, DCF Secretary David Wilkins and DJJ Secretary Wansley Walters, recently updated legislative committees that the Safe Harbor Act will better assist victims of forced labor and prostitution, *but that much work remains to be done*. The law went into effect Jan. 1 and will help youth victims of trafficking, providing sanctuary and services instead of treating them as criminals. Prior to the new law, victims ended up in the juvenile justice system instead of receiving services necessary to protect them. Since 2010, DCF has investigated 1,266 cases of youth trafficking; of those, 717 were already in the DJJ system. FJJA is hosting a training event, ***Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: the Path to Survival*** to address training needs. Sponsored by the Florida Network, the training will be held at the 2013 Adolescent Conference. *For more info, go to [www.2013adolescentconference.org](http://www.2013adolescentconference.org).*

### **Governor Scott's Budget Proposal Rolls Out Tuesday**

Governor Scott is expected to lay out his budget proposal on Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. His staff will begin presenting the proposed budget in upcoming committee meetings. FJJA will be providing an analysis of the proposal once it is released. We do know that the proposed budget will include \$480 million in funding to support a \$2,500 pay raise for full-time public classroom teachers. This raise is in addition to an overall increase expected in education funding.

### **Bill to Improve Juvenile Justice Education Filed**

HB441, relating to Juvenile Justice Education Programs has been filed. FJJA worked on development of this legislation. A few highlights; the bill revises contract requirements for delivery of appropriate education services; requires that educational programs shall be based on each youth's reentry plan & assessed needs; provides requirements for prevention & day-treatment juvenile justice education programs; requires progress monitoring plans for all non-exceptional student students; requires that DOE, in partnership with DJJ, ensure that school districts & juvenile justice education providers develop educational transition plans; revises provisions related to funding for programs; requires DOE to establish student performance measures & program performance ratings; requires comprehensive accountability.

### **Update on Changes to Background Screening**

The Background Screening Program will participate in a new Screening Clearinghouse beginning in January 2013. The Clearinghouse allows for the sharing of state and national criminal history information among select agencies in order to prevent duplicate screenings. The Clearinghouse will house the information and be a shared database for the following agencies:

- The Agency for Health Care Administration
- The Department of Children and Families
- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- The Department of Elder Affairs
- The Department of Health
- The Department of Juvenile Justice
- Vocational Rehabilitation

The new database will retain fingerprints for five (5) years and scan each print nightly and will also require a photo ID at time of scanning. For more info, call 1-850-717-4454 or [www.dcfbackgroundscreening.com](http://www.dcfbackgroundscreening.com).



### **2013 Legislative Agenda**

***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, 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***

**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.

### **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.