



Newsletter

February 2010

Volume 4, Issue 32

Inside this issue:

FJJA Priorities	2
Recently Released	2
FJJA Supports Bills	2
FJJA Calendar	3
Legislative Dates	4
In The News	4
Upcoming Events	4
Children's Week	4
Member News	5-9
Adolescent Conference	10-11

Legislative Committees Meet to Face Tough Fiscal Decisions

Appropriations committees heard presentations last week from representatives of the Governor's Office on the specifics of the Governor's proposed budget. Budget director Jerry McDaniel was called to defend the governor's budget, currently built on the hope of getting a gambling compact from legislators and \$1.2 billion in additional stimulus funding from Congress. The Governor's budget again raids 32 trust funds totaling \$584.4 million, including the Chiles Endowment.

During the next two weeks, (February 9-11, February 15-18), appropriations and policy committees will meet. The 2010 Legislative session begins Tuesday, March 2.

As it was last year, the mood is somber. Again this year, as the economy shows very small signs of improvement, legislators will brace themselves for the very challenging task of identifying up to 2+ billion dollars that may need to be eliminated from next year's budget.

Confronted with a budget shortfall, legislative leaders in the Senate have asked state agencies to offer budget proposals that would further reduce general revenue by 15 percent. Last fall agencies were required to include 10 percent reduction scenarios in their legislative budget requests. Sen. J.D. Alexander, (R-Lake Wales), chairman of the Senate Policy and Steering Committee of Ways and Means, is asking each committee chair to find ways to cut their budgets. "At this point we don't know what the fix will be," said Alexander.

In the Senate Criminal Justice appropriations committee last week, Chairman Sen. Victor Crist, (R-Tampa) sent a simple message to the Governor. "I like your budget. I just don't think we're going to get the money to be able to do it," he said.

FJJA KEY MESSAGES

KEEP INVESTING IN JUVENILE JUSTICE: Juvenile Justice is a critical part of Florida's public safety strategy.

- Preserve current funding levels. Cutting current services will result in additional expensive costs in the future.
- Dedicate more resources for cost effective services such as prevention, diversion and other early interventions.
- The entire juvenile justice continuum is a "prevention program" for the Florida Department of Corrections.
- The success of Florida's juvenile justice system will help slow down the need to build future prisons, without compromising public safety.

MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE BALANCED CONTINUUM OF SERVICES: This will decrease the chances of youth re-offending and also provide a return on taxpayer investment.

- Proper screening and assessment ensures that youth are either diverted or receive appropriate services.
- Prevention/diversion services are cost effective interventions; as a result, the majority of youth served do not reoffend.
- Specialized residential treatment is critical to ensure public safety and is used for more dangerous youth.
- Community based aftercare is critical to the success of transitioning youth. Aftercare is cost effective, keeping recidivism rates low by successfully moving youth back to families, educational opportunities and employment.

FJJA Executive Committee
MONDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 2010
 11 am to Noon
 The Disney Contemporary Resort
 Lake Buena Vista, FL

FJJA Board of Directors
Meeting
MONDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 2010
 1-5:30 P.M.
 The Disney Contemporary Resort
 Lake Buena Vista, FL

The FJJA Newsletter is published monthly

Cathy Craig-Myers, Editor
Lynn Redmond, Publisher

Deadline is the 4th of each month

Send your news to lynn@fjja.org

FJJA Supports the Following Bills

SB 1012 - DJJ Rulemaking Authority for Ordinary Medical Care

SB 1072 - Juvenile Justice Reform (Blueprint Bill)

- Authorizes the mothers and infants residential program
- Formalizes the disproportionate minority contact task force
- Diverts children age 9 and younger youth- first-time misdemeanors
- Encourages the use of restorative justice
- Diverts youth with misdemeanor domestic violence charges
- Adds two members to the Detention Risk Assessment Committee
- Allows increased membership for Juvenile Justice Circuit Boards

SB 1006 - Repealing Outdated Agency Program Reports and Functions

HB 717- Provides definitions & intent to certain requirements relating to outsourced human services in mental health, substance abuse, child welfare, and juvenile justice.

Recently Released

Advancement Project Publishes Report

The Advancement Project, a civil rights law, policy, and communications think tank has released a report *"Test, Punish, and Push Out" How Zero Tolerance and High Stakes Testing Funnel Youth into the School to Prison Pipeline* which provides an overview of zero-tolerance school discipline and high-stakes testing, how they relate to each other, how laws and policies such as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) have made school discipline even more punitive, and the risk faced if these devastating policies are not reformed. The report also discusses the success of grassroots efforts to eliminate harmful discipline and testing practices. To read report, click here:

<http://www.advancementproject.org/sites/default/files/publications/01-EducationReport-2009v8-HiRes.pdf>

Published last month, this report does not include any progress made in Florida as a result of the passing of SB 1540 in July of last year.

SB 1540 further defines intent of what constitutes petty misconduct and offenses that pose a serious threat to school safety. Initial data is showing that referrals are down as a result of implementation of this new legislation.

Campaign for Youth Justice Releases Report

The Campaign for Youth Justice has recently released a report on minority overrepresentation. The report, *"Critical Condition: African-American Youth in the Justice System,"* lays out recent data which shows that African-American youth are more than twice as likely to be arrested as white youth.

FJJA Long Term Priorities

Balancing the Juvenile Justice Continuum
Enhancing Gender Specific Programming
Addressing Racial Disparity
Ensuring Legal Representation
Developing Alternatives to Secure Detention

FJJA 2009-2010 Priorities

NO CUTS TO DIRECT SERVICES

Maintain current funding levels. Any reductions must consider performance, utilization and maintaining a balanced continuum.

IMPROVE JUVENILE JUSTICE EDUCATION

Enhance curriculum flexibility, funding formulas, vocational certification portability.

MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR JAC CENTERS

Maintain current levels of funding. FJJA will work with partners to quantify cost savings of this critical front end service.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO BHOS SERVICES

Maintain current funding levels for behavioral health services for juvenile justice youth. Support rulemaking for BHOS to improve services and access.

Further, after referral, white youth are 50% more likely than African-American youth to be diverted before adjudication. African-American youth are 40% more likely than white youth to be detained before adjudication. The disparities are greatest in arrest rates for person offenses, for which African Americans are nearly four times more likely than whites to be arrested.

To read report, click here:

<http://campaignforyouthjustice.org/documents/AfricanAmericanBrief.pdf>

OPAGGA Recommendations Relating to Juvenile Justice

<http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/MonitorDocs/Reports/pdf/1013rpt.pdf>

Upcoming Events

Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County Presents Lasting Impacts Conference

On February 25-26, nationally recognized experts in evidence-based programs and practices for early childhood, youth development, juvenile justice, substance abuse, mental health, teen pregnancy, and violence prevention will convene in West Palm Beach to discuss implementing evidence-based programs.

The purpose of this conference is to provide a clear understanding of what evidence-based means and the skills that program providers can use every day to improve their chances of achieving positive outcomes for their communities. Most importantly, this conference takes the concept of evidence-based programming to a new and exciting level. It goes beyond programs and practices – it's about accountability for results, resources and costs.

To learn more and to register, visit http://www.cscpcb.org/ebc_about

Governor Invites Youth To Participate In Essay Contest

Governor Charlie Crist announced Florida's 2010 Sunshine Week "Government in the Sunshine" Web site and invited Florida students in grades 9-12 to participate in the Florida Sunshine Week essay contest. Observed March 14-20, 2010, Sunshine Week celebrates Florida's laws dedicated to making state and local government more accessible to the public.



"This year's Sunshine Week Essay Contest provides an opportunity for high school students to focus on the First Amendment and the importance of open government," said Governor Crist. "Openness and transparency must be one of government's top priorities in order to ensure citizens can continue to hold their leaders accountable."

The essay contest is open to all Florida high school students in grades 9-12 and the winner will be announced during the week of March 8, 2010. The first-place winner will receive a \$2,500 scholarship, the second-place winner will receive a \$1,500 scholarship, and third place will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The contest is supported through the Volunteer Florida Foundation. Winners will be invited to attend an event at the Governor's Mansion.

For guidelines and other activities go to http://www.flgov.com/og_home



2009-2010

Meeting Calendar

Board of Directors Meetings

- **Monday, February 22, 2010, 1-5:30 p.m.**, Orlando, at the Adolescent Conference, The Disney Contemporary Resort, Lake Buena Vista, FL
- **Thursday, April 8, 2010**
DISC Village, Tallahassee, FL
- **Monday-Wednesday, June 14-16, 2010**, Board Retreat, Casa Marina Resort, Key West, FL

Executive Committee Meetings

- **Monthly Conference Call**
1st Monday of every month, 2 pm
- **Legislative Session**
Conference Call Every Monday, 2 pm
- **Meetings prior to board meetings for** 9/17/09, 11/12/09, 2/22/2010, and 4/8/2010

Legislative Dates To Remember

2010 Interim Committee Meeting Schedule

Week of Feb 1st – Regular Meetings
Week of Feb 8th – Appropriations Meetings
Week of Feb 15th – Regular Meetings

2010 Regular Session

March 2, 2010 Session Convenes
April 30, 2010 Last Day of Session

In The News

Editorial Miami Herald- *Get Rid Of Direct File Law*
<http://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/other-views/story/1466098.html>

Editorial New York Times- *Kids in Crisis (Behind Bars)*
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/28/opinion/28kristof.html>

USA Today- *Youth prison system under pressure*
http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-02-02-youth-prison-juvenile_N.htm

Upcoming Events

- 2010 Adolescent Conference —
On the Threshold: Moving Forward Together
February 22-24, 2010, Disney's Contemporary Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Fl. To register go to
http://www.fadaa.org/adolescent_conference/index.asp
- FJJA Executive Committee Meeting — February 22, 2010, 11 am - Noon, Disney's Contemporary Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Fl
- FJJA Board of Directors Meeting — February 22, 1-5:30 pm, Disney's Contemporary Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Fl
- FJJA Hosted Probation & Community Intervention Meeting — February 23, 2010 from 2-3:30 pm at Disney's Contemporary Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Fl.
- FJJA Hosted Medical/Residential Meeting — February 23, 2010 from 3:30-5:30 pm at Disney's Contemporary Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Fl.
- Children's Cabinet Meeting
March 25, 2010, 1-5 p.m., Tallahassee, Fl.
- Children's Cabinet Meeting
May 27, 2010, 1-5 p.m., Tallahassee, Fl.

Juvenile Justice Week Activities Incorporated Into Children's Week

The Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) announced that DJJ Youth Success Day, will be Wednesday, April 14 as part of Children's Week. Children's Week, planned for April 11-16 this year, is an annual event held at the Capitol that brings together concerned citizens, stakeholders, service agencies and providers from across Florida to share valuable information concerning children's issues.

For additional information, go to
<http://www.djj.state.fl.us/Communications/pr/2010/pr020310.html>

2010 Children's Week Events

DJJ Youth Success Day

Wednesday, April 13-14, 2010

Hanging of the Hands

Sunday, April 11, 2010

Advocacy Training

Monday, April 12, 2010

Advocacy Dinner & Reception

Monday, April 12, 2010

Children's Capitol for a Day Presented by Comcast

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Children's Week Press Conference and Hanging of the Hands Dedication Ceremony

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Guided Tours of the Capitol

Monday, April 12-14, 2010

Legislative Reading Corner

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

"Kids Only" Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Children's Week Luncheon

Tuesday, April 13, 2010

For more information regarding the events listed above, see the [Children's Capitol for a Day](#) page.

Member News

Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for “Project Home Front”

The Center For Drug Free Living held a groundbreaking ceremony January 22 for “Project Home Front,” a 28 bed facility for homeless female veterans and their families in Brevard County. Along with housing, the facility will provide services for substance abuse, mental health and co-occurring disorders. Attending the event from Washington, DC was Tammy Duckworth, Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, United States Department of Veteran Affairs; Christina Tchen, Executive Director for White House Council on Women and Children's Issues and Director/Special Assistant



L-R Dick Jacobs, Debbie Watts, Tammy Duckworth and Tom McFadyen

to the President; Bruce Grant, Director for the Florida Office of Drug Control; and, Gil Kerlikowske, Director for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. Pictured above are Dick Jacobs, CEO for The Center for Drug Free Living; Debbie Watts, Sr. Administrator for Juvenile Justice Programming for The Center for Drug-Free Living; Ms. Duckworth; and, Tom McFadyen, DJJ Regional Director.

Welcome New Member

We would like to welcome new member Global Youth Services of Land O Lakes, Florida. You can contact Eric Gallon, CEO, at (813) 949-8698 or by email at egallon@gysinc.com.

G4S Youth Services Partnering with NCCD Center for Girls and Young Women

G4S Youth Services has announced a partnership with the NCCD Center for Girls and Young Women and Dr. Lawanda Ravoira. Dr. Ravoira is a national expert, researcher, published writer, and trainer on issues specific to justice involved girls and system reform.

Consultation and initial collaboration will address assessment and program design of two newly awarded 24-bed girls programs in Florida, located in Pasco and Okeechobee Counties. In addition, G4S will employ the Center's services to further enhance services delivery at three current programs providing gender specific programming.

Kerry Knott, CEO of G4S Youth Services said “I am excited to work with one of the leading gender responsiveness groups in the

nation, and to further enhance our gender specific programming to better meet the needs of the youth in our care”.

The Redirection Project Expands

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has received a grant to expand the Redirection project in Jacksonville and surrounding counties (Duval, Clay and Nassau). The expansion started in January. Redirection provides treatment in the home and focuses on helping parents implement more effective ways to interact with, monitor and discipline their adolescent children.

“Redirection has already changed the lives of thousands of families throughout the state. We are extremely pleased to be helping the Jacksonville community positively impact at-risk kids, decrease crime and save Florida taxpayers money through evidence-based interventions like the Redirection project,” said Kristine Smith, executive director of Camelot Community Care Inc., a national non-profit child welfare and behavioral health organization committed to providing quality services to children and families.

Member News

Family Involvement Recognized as Integral To Treatment of Youth at Gulf and Lake Academy

Gulf and Lake Academy strives to provide many opportunities for family involvement and interaction in the treatment of children. Family participation in the child's treatment is not only possible in a variety of ways, but strongly encouraged because greater family involvement translates directly into greater chances of success for these youth.

Examples of opportunities for family involvement include Family Group meet and greet, invitations to participate in treatment team meetings, and participation in family therapy

Family members and residents get together for Family Group on Thursday evening to participate in organized activities designed to encourage closeness, develop empathy in the youth, and most importantly, to have fun in a supportive, conflict-free environment.

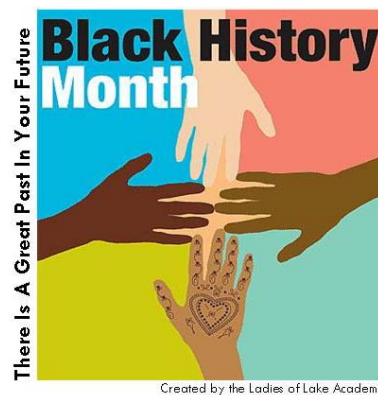
Meet and greet is a bi-monthly weekend event for the families to meet the staff of Gulf and Lake Academy to answer questions and to help create a strong working relationship with the team who serve their children.

Treatment team meetings are formal monthly reviews of the youths' progress. Parents and guardians attend in person or by telephone.

Family therapy is an opportunity for therapists to have regularly scheduled, confidential family therapy sessions either in person or by telephone. Family sessions can play a big role in the child's successful re-entry into the family and community.

Black History Month Celebration

During Black History month, the Cultural Diversity Committee of Youth at Gulf and Lake Academy has chosen to celebrate the contributions of African Americans each week through education, essay contests, poetry, and music. Events include creating a timeline highlighting the struggles and accomplishments of African Americans throughout history. The month will culminate in a celebration that includes food, music and presentations by the youth.



PYA Donates to Haiti Victims

The youth at Palmetto Youth Academy (PYA) painted t-shirts with the Six Pillars of Character and other motivating messages in the hopes of providing inspiration to people in Haiti who were impacted by the earthquake. Staff donated food, hygiene products, and first aid items. On January 29, 2010, staff from the PYA Education Department delivered the items to the Haitian Baptist Church in Palmetto. Haiti is not only a neighbor to PYA, but also the native land for some and the home of family members and friends.



Dude for Dogs Program To Continue at Hillsborough IRT

Hillsborough Intensive Residential Treatment Academy (IRT) received approval from the Pinellas County SPCA to continue the on-site Dude for Dogs program for 2010. Hillsborough IRT worked with six dogs in 2009, graduating all six dogs for successful adoption. The youth work with volunteers from the SPCA who come on site and train them to handle the dogs properly, train leash control, basic commands and agility course training. These volunteers will then test the dogs after the eight week training course and certify them.

Member News

HBI Project CRAFT Extends to Okeechobee Youth Development Center

Home Builders Institute, Project Community, Restitution, Apprenticeship-Focused Training (CRAFT), has extended its training program to Okeechobee Youth Development Center (OYDC) located in Okeechobee, Florida. In partnership with the G4S Youth Services, LLC and Washington County Schools, the program will train approximately 32 youth each year in the craft of facilities maintenance.

HBI and G4S staff worked diligently together to identify the appropriate students for placement into the HBI program and on August 17, 2009 HBI students began their first day of training. With excitement and enthusiasm, the students quickly became familiar with the program's expectations and future direction.

Within the first two weeks students were issued work uniforms, work boots, safety gear and prepared to venture the task of renovating a dilapidated building into the HBI training center. The project included redesigning the original layout of the building. Initially the building was used as a secure confinement area for youth who were unable to control themselves or deemed physically aggressive. The entire focus of the building is now being altered to reflect a positive and suitable area for a vocational training skills program.

Since the beginning of September HBI students, while under the direction of their vocational instructor, embarked on several considerable large scale projects within their new building. Some of the projects included building a tool room, classrooms, offices, training stations, bathrooms, and storage. Tremendous efforts and accomplishments have been made, one step at a time, working towards completing the goal of the HBI training center.

With the ongoing support of OYDC, additional training opportunities have been made available to HBI students in landscaping. While continuing to work within the facilities maintenance curriculum, HBI students will also focus on the maintenance and operation of commercial equipment. Beginning early in 2010, utilizing their new commercial equipment, HBI students will begin to maintain the interior grounds at OYDC. It is the goal of both HBI staff and students to improve the overall appearance at OYDC's grounds within one year. The current vision is to enhance the property and transform it from that of a juvenile program to one similar to a college campus setting. Additionally, HBI will work to provide a significant level of support to the maintenance department by assisting with preventative, daily, and emergency related work orders.

The first HBI-OYDC graduate was released in December 2009 and is currently living with his mother in South Carolina. This graduate is enrolled in Adult GED classes, working part time, and most importantly, proving that he is steadfast in his decision to make positive changes in his life.

Columbus Juvenile Residential Facility Holds Young Men's Initiation

On January 29, 2010 Columbus Juvenile Residential Facility held Young Men's Initiation, an event that recognizes the growth of the youth from past, present and future rather than focusing on the completion of treatment as the end of the road.

The event included a Black History month dance performance and the final presentation by the current YEA Stageworks group.

With the ability to provide transitional planning for the youth in its care, Columbus hopes to reinforce the continuation of learned pro-social and life skills.

Polk Halfway House Activities

- In January the staff hosted a Martin Luther King Celebration Barbeque for the youth who presented speeches and poems. World renowned Drum Circle Facilitator Jana Broder visited the program and held a drum class with the boys together with Drum Magic.
- Therapist Mr. Andrew Guido has joined the clinical team at Polk Halfway House.
- Two classes from Keiser University's Criminal Justice program recently participated in tours of the facility courtesy of Mr. Mark Noe, Criminal Justice Chair for the University and Polk Halfway House Community Advisory Board member.

Member News

Sequel Youth and Family Services Acquires Three Springs Inc.

Sequel Youth and Family Services is pleased to announce the acquisition of Three Springs, Inc., provider of specialized behavioral health treatment for adolescents. Three Springs Inc., headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama, is a strategic and valued addition to Sequel.

The acquisition extends the company's geographic footprint, with the combined entity operating 22 programs nationwide and serving about 2,300 adolescents with approximately 1,400 staff members.

The combined, nationally-scoped continuum of care now includes programs that serve public customers as well as private educational and therapeutic programming. Leadership at the TSI programs will remain unchanged.

Three Springs' referral sources, clients and families will continue to receive the same level of quality and support as both companies will work to ensure a seamless transition.

Chairman Jay Ripley said, "Sequel is delighted to have been able to complete the combination with Three Springs and we look forward to great things ahead. Most importantly, we will stay true to the operating philosophy and core values shared by both Sequel and Three Springs which have made each of us independently successful in the past."

If you would like additional information about Sequel TSI programs in Florida, please call Michael Tomczak at (386) 566-7125.

Activities At Thompson Academy

There are new and exciting things happening at Thompson Academy (TA), a Youth Services International facility.

Staff and youth welcome Dr. Craig Ferguson as Administrator. Because of the staff's hard work and dedication, they achieved "deemed status" with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

Dr. Ferguson has implemented therapeutic and team building programs, activities and campaigns that have had a positive impact on morale. One of the most recent staff projects was food and water donations to the Haiti Relief Efforts. In addition to the donations, the youth wrote poems and made drawings expressing their grief for the earthquake victims.

Dr Ferguson instituted a "Keep the Peace" campaign in an effort to reduce the number of incidents of aggressive behavior. To get things started, a "Keep the Peace" rally was held that included decorations, songs, poetry writing, skits, and dance.

Quarterly rallies will be held and staff will wear green and white wrist bands that say "Keep the Peace." Youth will be rewarded for the most peaceful unit each month.

To communicate the activities taking place at TA, a new bi-weekly newsletter has been instituted. Information includes regular features like 'From the Desk of Dr. Ferguson and Policy Pick of the Week, which helps familiarize everyone with TA and DJJ policies.

Upward Bound Outreach Visits Cypress Creek Juvenile Offender Correctional Center

Upward Bound Outreach from St. Louis, Missouri, visited Cypress Creek Juvenile Offender Correctional Center, a program for males in Lecanto, Florida operated by G4S Youth Services.

Jeff Moody, founder of Upward Bound Outreach, and special guest speaker Bryan Jackson visited the program courtesy of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Faith and Community Based Partnerships.

Attending this special presentation were DJJ Deputy Regional Director Edgar Mathis, Program Support Supervisor Billy Starke, and Circuit 5 Senior Juvenile Probation Officers Jessica Fernandez, Gannon Westmoreland, and James Lightbody.

Mr. Jackson shared his story that included being the first person injected with AIDS infected blood when he was 11 months old by his father in an effort to avoid paying child support.

After the presentation, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Moody had lunch with Cypress Creek administrative officials and Youth Council Presidents, made up of representatives from each of the program's six units.

Member News

Kody's Grandma's House -- A Place Where Miracles Grow Old

In 2007 a resident of Riverside Academy suggested a visit to the Russell Home — his family home — and since that time they returned as often as they can. A visit to Russell Home, is just that, a visit. There are no expectations, agendas or assignments. The visitors are asked to be open and kind and see what happens. Without exception, they reportedly experience change after spending time with the children and staff at the Russell Home.

The following story was written by a young man who is a current resident at Riverside describing a typical visit to Russell Home.

By Ryan T.

Riverside Academy

Kody's Grandma's house is known to the public as the Russell Home. It is a home for atypical children. They proudly displayed the license issued by the state welfare board as the first non-profit home for brain damaged children.

The Russell Home started in 1951 when Kody's great grandmother Vantrease Russell received an urgent phone call. It was a desperate mother with a daughter who has cerebal palsy asking if Mrs. Russell could care for her daughter. Without hesitation, she responded, "I would love to". Marilyn spent her whole life at the Russell Home. She recently passed away at the age of 64.

The Russell Home is just that, a home. It was built by Kody's great grandfather as the family home. Over the last fifty years they have bumped out walls and added on so they can accommodate the 25 children that currently live there. All of the children have either been abandoned by their families, or their parents could not take care of their special needs.

When we first arrived, Grandma brought us into a big room and explained to us what the Russell Home is, how it started, and that they do not receive any funding from the state. The place runs off of donations and an entire family that has donated all their love to make miracles happen. This is about the time when Kody arrived. He was a resident at Riverside two years ago. He was very excited for us to be there and to share his family's life passion. We toured the whole house but the best part was when we got to hangout with the kids. There was a large

room with all different kind of activities going on. It seemed like every kid was busy doing what they enjoyed most. Kody introduced us to all of them. Paul was left on the front porch of the home; he was so small that his parents put him in a shoe box when they placed him there. Before we left there was one lady that wanted to show us her Elvis impersonation. Kody then took us to the nursery where they have four kids in large baby beds. These kids need 24 hour around the clock special care.

The most amazing miracle at the home is Michael. He came to the home when he was three weeks old. He was born without a brain; all he has is a brain stem. The doctors expected him to only live for a few weeks, but with all the love and special care he has received, Michael just celebrated his sixth birthday. He was very shy when we were there but they told us that he plays patty cake, loves to listen to Louis Armstrong, and is currently learning how to walk with a walker.

It was a great learning experience that will always be with me in my heart. There is no better feeling than interacting with these kids and bringing them joy. I think I have found my new passion. I want to find a local place to volunteer. I would even drive to Orlando to visit them again. I feel working with special needs kids gives them the love they need and makes me a better person. Not only am I helping them, I am also helping myself.

13th Annual Adolescent Conference Workshop Highlights

For the past 13 years, the Florida Juvenile Justice Association (FJJA) and the Florida Alcohol & Drug Abuse Association (FADAA) have co-sponsored the statewide Adolescent Treatment Issues Conference. This conference focuses on providing professionals -- who work with delinquent and substance abusing youth -- the latest information in best practices covering key issues such as co-occurring disorders, adolescent treatment, substance abuse and other treatment strategies. In past years, topics have included issues that dealt with suicide prevention, gender specific interventions, motivational interviewing, and others. This year's workshop highlights include:

RE-ENTRY OF RESIDENTIAL YOUTH SAFELY INTO THE COMMUNITY WITH LIMITED RELAPSES

Scott Sells, PhD, Linda Hill, MSW, Mitch Mitchum, MS, Christina Indar, MSW

Currently in Florida, recidivism rates for juveniles returning back into the community from residential treatment are 54% or higher within the first 4 months. A key reason for such high recidivism rates is that the youth returns home to an unchanged home environment with a lack of a clear aftercare plan with protective factors already in place. This workshop will demonstrate how PLL (Parenting with Love and Limits), a Redirection program in Circuit #10 and #13, is engaging the parent or caregiver before the youth is discharged not after to create a more seamless transition back into the community to promote successful reentry and prevent relapse within those first 4 critical months of discharge and beyond.

THE INTEGRATION OF APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT: RE-ENGINEERING YOUR ADOLESCENT TREATMENT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE CLIENT OUTCOMES

Bennie Colbert, MA, Pat Horton, MS, Ashley Miller, MS

The workshop will review the redesign of a teen substance abuse treatment program. The redesign consists of three phases using Applied Behavior Analysis, an experimental branch of psychology, to identify and correct program contin-

gencies, teach classroom-based proactive behavior management strategies and on the floor coaching. Preliminary data will be shown to demonstrate pre-post comparison of program effectiveness.

THE HEALTHY CAREGIVER: DEALING WITH STRESS

Julie Eberwein, MS

Work in the behavioral healthcare field can be a rewarding experience, fostering pride in your ability to help clients and families overcome life's most difficult challenges. Indeed, the code of ethics and related ethical obligations of the profession often stipulate that behavioral healthcare staff put the needs of their clients ahead of the needs of others, including their own. The behavioral healthcare field has its downside. Listening to clients express feelings of distress can zap your ability to be empathetic and your ability to practice good self care. Understanding the importance of heeding your own needs will help you provide the best possible treatment to your clients, avoid liability, and keep burnout out of the challenges you face day-to-day.

COMPLEXITY CAPABLE: THE EXCITEMENT OF ASSESSING ADOLESCENT CO-OCCURRING SERVICES!

Benny Haimovitz, MA

Establishing the program baseline for co-occurring capability of adolescent care is the starting point for moving forward in Florida's Co-Occurring Services Initiative. Learn how the latest assessment tools allow you and your program staff to become positive Change Agents in the process.

INCORPORATING USE OF FINE ART INTO YOUR ADOLESCENT TREATMENT PROGRAM – FROM MATISSE TO LIFE SKILLS

John Kohlburn

This interactive workshop is designed to explore proven methodologies used to deliver Life Skills to youth through the fine arts. Workshop participants will be guided through a fine art studio course presented as it would be to a group of middle school aged children.

Highlights continued on page 11

Highlights continued from page 10

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT GIRLS IN DETENTION: GROUP INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

Nancy Rudes, MSW

This session is an experiential workshop combining the Mutual Aid model of group work with Solution Focused and Motivational Interviewing approaches to facilitate process groups of adolescent girls in detention.

STAND BY ME: A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO SPARKING VOCATIONAL INTERESTS AND EMPLOYMENT IN YOUNG ADULTS

Tadar Muhammad

This workshop will provide a practical approach to sparking vocational interest in young adults that leads to employment. Personal stories and group exercises will provide tricks of the trade that leads young adults to a successful transition into adulthood.

BEGINNING WITH THE END IN MIND: PROJECT CONNECT – A TRANSITION MODEL FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

Jeff McSpaddin

Project Connect is a comprehensive transition program that has demonstrated success in reducing the recidivism of youth returning to their community from residential commitment. This presentation will identify some of the barriers experienced by re-entry youth, provide strategies for comprehensive transition planning, and discuss the synergy created through community partners providing services in a coordinated effort.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT – GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER: GIRLS ARE RELATIONAL

Aggie Pappas, MSW, Kathie Southwick, Med

Participants in this workshop will focus on building a healthy therapeutic relationship with girls through better understanding of the six developmental domains – intellectual, emotional, physical, sexual, spiritual, and relational. Practical ideas on how to engage girls in a healing relationship and how to move the girl into action as she addresses her behaviors and attitudes will be shared.

THE DIRECT LINK BETWEEN UNRESOLVED TRAUMA AND JUVENILES WITH EXTREME BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS

Scott P. Sells, PhD, Linda Hill, MSW, Nayibe Marin, MS

Research has recognized there are direct links between children with unresolved trauma issues and extreme behavior problems in juveniles. Unfortunately, the majority of treatment for this population focuses on behavioral issues and misses the root causes of the problem: unhealed wounds or traumas such as abandonment, unresolved grief, or abuse and neglect. An evidence-based model, Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL), has developed unique components to both accurately identify those youth who have had significant trauma or loss and then step-by-step methods to heal the unresolved trauma issues both within the adolescent and their family. A complete overview of the model will be presented, including assessment procedures, treatment methods, and aftercare alternatives.

Plan To Attend An Evening Reception Sponsored by G4S Youth Services

Everyone registered to attend the conference is invited to join us Monday, February 22 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on the Convention Porte Cochère for a Disney-themed reception followed by Magic Kingdom® Wishes™ nighttime fireworks spectacular. The reception sponsor is G4S Youth Service with Florida Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation sponsoring the special audio for the evening fireworks.