



Newsletter

March 2010

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2010 Legislative Session: At the Halfway Point

Now into the fourth week, this is a critical time for legislators as they scramble to get their bills heard. At this point in the process, bills that don't get on committee calendars by the end of the fourth week are considered DOA.

Moving at a rapid pace, the Senate and House appropriations committees are finalizing their respective budgets. The House and Senate have differing priorities; the Senate priorities include transportation and education and the House priorities are human services, public safety and schools.

Budget negotiations are expected to begin much earlier than usual. The House starts first with a full Appropriations Council meeting on Tuesday. The Senate Ways and Means will release the combined bill out Monday, but won't vote on it until Thursday or Friday. The completed appropriations bills are scheduled for a floor vote in both chambers March 30 and April 1.

With Medicaid spending accounting for about one half of current shortfall, it is yet undetermined whether the \$1 billion in FMAP federal Medicaid funding will be received and used to shore up health and human services budgets or whether it will be used to spread relief across the entire budget. The Race to the Top Funding also has the potential to provide up to \$1 billion, and if the Legislature ratifies the Seminole Gambling compact, the state could see additional revenue this year between \$450-500 million.

What we know is that the House wants to put \$1 billion into reserves for what will certainly be a shortfall next year. The Senate leadership is focused on providing tax breaks, a tax-free holiday for back-to-school shopping and is looking at possibly

repealing some of the increases to license tag and license fees approved last session.

Potential cuts in the House include Healthy Start Coalitions, Children's Medical Services, and Voluntary Pre-k. In the Senate, an additional 250,000 low-income Floridians may move into managed care, property taxes may rise in 25 counties, and the Bright Futures scholarship program may be reduced.

The W. Haywood Burns Institute: Juvenile Justice and Disparities

States are required to address disproportionate minority contact in their juvenile justice systems. The nature of disproportionate minority contact and/or racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system varies among states, as does each state's effort to reduce disproportionate minority contact and disparities.

To go to website:

http://www.burnsinstitute.org/state_map.php

To see how Florida fares, click here

<http://www.burnsinstitute.org/state.php?custom1=Florida>

FJJA
Board of Directors
April 8, 2010
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
DISC Village
Building 200
3333 W. Pensacola St.
Tallahassee, 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

2010 Annual Retreat

June 14-16

Casa Marina Resort, Key West

See page 6 for more information.

2010 Adolescent Conference a Success

The 2010 FJJA/FADAA Adolescent Conference, held this year at Disney's Contemporary Resort in Lake Buena Vista, was attended by well over 300 people. While overall evaluations are still being tabulated, the expected outcome spells success.

The opening session featured keynote speaker Father Greg Boyle of HomeBoy Industries, who runs the largest gang intervention program in the United States. Father Greg received a standing ovation for his presentation "Strategies for Working with At-Risk Youth." [Click here to read more about HomeBoy Industries.](#)

To order Fr. Boyle's new book, *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, [click here.](#)

The workshops were excellent and many presenters were members of the Florida Juvenile Justice Association who are experts in their respective fields. The conference was followed by a full day intensive workshop called, *Girl Matters: Girls Can't Wait!* 90 participants attended this workshop hosted by Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, Executive Director of the (NCCD) National Council on Crime and Delinquency Center for Girls and Young Women.

Collins Center Releases Smart Justice: Findings and Recommendations for Florida Criminal Justice Reform

Last November, the Collins Center *Coalition for Smart Justice* convened a Justice Summit to explore better ways to achieve a safer, more just and more effective criminal justice system. Using the guiding philosophy of public safety, fiscal responsibility, and criminal justice effectiveness, the summit studied desired outcomes of less crime, less public costs, and greater rehabilitative effect on offenders. Additionally, the Summit provided insight on current juvenile justice policies and practices that often lead to the failure to rehabilitate youth leading them to adult crime, to incarceration and to further cost to taxpayers.

To read the report, [click here.](#)

\$3.2 Billion in State Government Cost Savings Identified: TaxWatch Task Force Urges Legislature to Act

A prominent group comprised of current and former government officials, business leaders, organizational experts, and renowned academics have come up with 87 ideas to save state government \$3.25 billion dollars in the coming fiscal year and even more in future years. The arrival of the report is just in time to help the legislature through an upwards of \$3.2 billion revenue shortfall in the new budget year. To read the report, *Recommendations of the Florida TaxWatch Government Cost Savings Task Force to Save More Than \$3 Billion.*, go to <http://www.floridatxwatch.org/>.

FJJA Supports Bills

SB 1012/HB813 - DJJ Rulemaking Authority for Ordinary Medical Care

SB 1072 / PSDS2 - Juvenile Justice Reform Bill

SB 1006/HB833 - Repealing Outdated Agency Program Reports and Functions

HB 717/SB1584 - Provides definitions & intent to certain requirements relating to outsourced human services in mental health, substance abuse, child welfare, and juvenile justice.

HB 627/SB1356 - Provides transition to adulthood services to youth in DJJ's custody or supervision. Also requires that transition to adulthood services for a child must be part of an overall plan leading to the total independence of the child from DJJ's supervision.



2009-2010 Meeting Calendar

Board of Directors Meetings

- **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

In The News

- Chicago Tribune - *Juvenile Justice, Children and Families Agencies Merging*
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-met-childrens-agencies-merge-20100310,0,4998075.story>
- New York Times - *For Juveniles in Family Court, Judges Seek Safer Alternatives to Prison*
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/08/nyregion/08family.html>
- Tampa Tribune - *Task Force Formed To Tackle Juvenile Justice*
<http://www2.tbo.com/content/2010/mar/03/task-force-formed-tackle-juvenile-justice/>
- Arizona Sun - *No One Expected Elimination of Juvenile Justice Agency*
<http://www.bensonnews-sun.com/articles/2010/03/04/opinion/editorials/edit2.txt>
- Huffington Post - *The Boys-Will-Be-Boys-Defense*
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-harold-koplewicz/the-boys-will-be-boys-def_b_473451.html
- Miami Herald - *An Eatery Manned by Teen Offenders Faces Uncertainty*
<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/03/06/1515470/an-eatery-manned-by-teen-offenders.html>
- Huffington Post - *Juvenile Justice Reform: Making the Missouri Model an American Model*
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/marian-wright-edelman/juvenile-justice-reform-m_b_498976.html

Member News

Promotions At Home Builders Institute

Dennis Torbet of the Home Builders Institute, Workforce Training and Employment (WTE) department, recently announced the promotion of Florida staff.

After Home Builders Institute received the "green light" to begin operations of the new mentoring program, Construction-Coaching Opportunities for Reentry Employment (CCORE), funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Tadar Muhammad began his new duties as Director of Special Projects.

Christina Kuhn, Project Coordinator of Project CRAFT-OYDC has been promoted to oversee HBI's WTE Florida Operations.

Upcoming Events

- **Behavioral Health Week**
 - March 24, 1-5 pm
Advocacy Training
Challenger Center, Kleman Plaza
200 S. Duval St, Tallahassee, FL
[Click here for more information.](#)
 - **Children's Cabinet Meeting**
 - March 25, 2010, 1-5 pm
Mission San Luis
2100 W. Tennessee Street
Tallahassee, FL.
 - **Children's Week Schedule**
 - **Sunday, April 11** 1-4pm
Hanging of the Hands
 - **Monday, April 12** 11:30am-1pm
Children's Week Awards Luncheon
 - **Monday, April 12** 1-2:30pm
Advocacy Training
 - **Monday, April 12** 5-8pm
Children's Week Advocacy Dinner
 - **Tuesday, April 13** 9am-3pm
Children's Capitol for a Day
9am- Press Conference
10am- "Kids Only" Town Hall Meeting
11:30am- Luncheon
1pm- Youth Advocacy Training
 - **Wednesday, April 14** 9am-3pm
DJJ Youth Success Day
Juvenile Justice Providers with exhibits
10:00 am-Press Conference-Youth Scholarship Awards
Provider community represented
- For more info:**
<http://www.childrensweek.org/index.php?page=events&menu=2009schedule>

Member News

Building on Successes at Avon Park Youth Academy

*Submitted by Becky Anderson
Employment Specialist for Home Builders Institute
Avon Park Youth Academy*

Robert and Dillon were both 17 years old when they completed their trade certifications and went home from Avon Park Youth Academy. Many people question the validity of training youth too young for employment in a field. However, for many youth sent to commitment, achieving success is the catalyst for further achievement.

Robert enrolled in Home Builders Institute's (HBI) plumbing trade at Avon Park Youth Academy. Quiet but angry he had many things to

learn to improve his chances of success. The partnership between G4S and HBI helped Robert to change course. While at the program he achieved his GED and passed the FCAT. In addition he gained confidence in his abilities as he learned the plumbing trade. Robert has been home for nearly six months and has reunited with his father and been employed building docks and decks. He is saving money and researching colleges to further his education.

Dillon enrolled in the electrical wiring HBI trade and was determined to complete his high school education. Dillon returned home and immediately began helping repair things at his home and attending a local high school. There was much turmoil in the home because of family health issues. Dillon used the skills he had learned at Avon Park and began to take leadership in directing his life and assisting his mom. Dillon is now succeeding with dual enrollment to complete high school and continue his electrical education at Travis Technical.

American Black History Month Celebrated

Polk Halfway House

Gow Fields, Mayor of Lakeland, spoke to the youth at Polk Halfway House during Black History month. He talked to them about the meaning and importance of Black History. Mayor Fields assumed his position January 2010 after having served on the Lakeland City Commission.



Mayor Gow Fields

Dade Juvenile Residential Facility

The Dade Juvenile Residential Facility, in conjunction with Dade County Public Schools, presented the fourth annual Black History Month Initiative that included a poster contest entitled "Who Inspires You?" Participants identified leaders in American Black history who inspire them. The contest taught them about American Black history and gave the youth a forum to express themselves. Special guest Rickie Grant, Regional Director for G4S Youth Services, along with community leaders, attended the event.

ROOT Visits Cypress Creek

Running Out Of Time Outreach (ROOT) of Ocala, FL visited Cypress Creek Juvenile Offender Correctional Center on February 20. The event also included performances by Tekulve, Mrs. Tee and Regas.

Regas, born with a bone deficiency in both legs, developed many talents, one which includes being one of the world's fastest double-amputees competing in track events across the country. He is also a musician and does tricks on a four-wheeler.

All 96-youth were present for an exhibition of talents that included music, four-wheeling stunts and inspirational messages from each of the performers.

Member News

HBI Awarded Grant from U.S. Department of Justice for Construction Mentoring Program

Home Builders Institute (HBI), the workforce development arm of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), announced today that it has been awarded a three year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to operate an industry-sponsored mentoring program for underserved, at-risk and court involved youth. The Construction-Coaching Opportunities for Reentry Employment (CCORE) program will match 5,000 youth across the country aged 16 to 18 with over 1,600 mentors recruited from Home Builders Associations, NAHB Student Chapters, other business organizations and local community.

Mentoring will be career focused to help improve job placement and retention in home building industry related careers. In addition to creating positive peer-relationships, the program aims to reduce recidivism and youth involvement in substance abuse, truancy and other high risk behaviors, while improving job placement and retention opportunities.

As with other HBI programs, the program will include student involvement in local community service projects.



Strength Team Demonstrates Special Talents to Youth At OJOCC

The Mike Hagan Strength Team visited the Okeechobee Juvenile Offender Correction Center (OJOCC) on February 25 demonstrating feats of strength and endurance. Founded by Mike Hagan, formerly of the NFL's Seattle Seahawks, the strength team travels across the United States providing a message of physical and inner strength to young people.

Two members of the team, Greg Meade and A. Jimenez, showed how to bend a steel bar, rip a three-inch phone book into two pieces, and roll up a Teflon frying pan. Local volunteers from the First Baptist Church of Okeechobee made this event possible.

Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, PACE Center for Girls Hire New Leaders

Stacy Gromatski has been selected as the new Executive Director of the Florida Network, replacing longtime director Dee Richter, who moved to DCF last fall. Stacy was the former CEO of Capital City Youth Services in Tallahassee. The Florida Network serves runaway, truant, ungovernable and other troubled youth and their families. This population is defined by the statute as Children and Families in Need of Services or CINS/FINS, and has been recognized as a best practice by OJJDP.

Mary Marx has been selected as the new CEO of PACE. Mary had served as interim director of PACE for more than a year. An agency member of FJJA, PACE is a national leader in prevention and intervention services, promoting gender specific programs and alternatives to deeper juvenile justice system involvement. The PACE Center for Girls was recently singled out as one of the nation's most effective emerging models in juvenile delinquency prevention, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation 2008 KIDS COUNT Data Book.



Mary Marx

"It is a privilege and an honor to have been selected to lead PACE Center for Girls. PACE offers a unique opportunity to apply my experience in helping to define the challenges facing girls in our society today and to reinforce PACE's core mission and commitment to all girls," said Marx."



2010 Annual Retreat

June 14-16, 2010

Casa Marina Resort

Key West, Florida

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MAY 14, 2010

To Reserve A Room At the Special Rate Below.

Built in 1920, Casa Marina is a flawless merging of old Key West ambiance and contemporary luxury. Nestled on the island's southern edge spanning more than 1,100 feet of private beach, this landmark hotel is listed in the national Register for Historic places. Sample the renowned night life of nearby Duval Street or the charming attractions of historic Old Town. Enjoy famed Key West water sports -- from windsurfing to diving in America's only living barrier reef. Catch some warm sunshine on the island's largest secluded beach. Located on the largest private beach in Key West, it is only a short walk to the Southern-most point of the United States of America, the Key West Aquarium, the vibrant attractions and night life of Duval Street and Historic Old Town.



This special rate for Florida Juvenile Justice Association members if available from June 10th thru June 19th.

Island Vista Rooms

\$159 Per night



Quick and easy reservations for attendees.

Just go to

<http://waldorfastoria.hilton.com/en/wa/groups/personalized/EYWCMWA-ZZFJJA-20100610/index.jhtml#reservation>