



# Newsletter

September 2010

Volume 4, Issue 39

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## Florida Revenue Update: Next Year's Budget Shortfall May Be Less Than Previously Estimated

The latest revenue forecast released last week shows that Florida's projected budget gap for next year has shrunk in half by nearly \$3 billion.

Originally estimated to be upwards of \$6 billion, the new forecast estimates that the state will need another \$1.4 billion next year for Medicaid and at least \$1.2 billion to replace federal stimulus money that is now being used to help fund Florida's schools.

This year the revenue collections are expected to grow by 2.4% over the estimate and in FY 10-11 collections are expected to grow between 6.7% and 7.4%.

Legislators will be forced to earmark \$2.1 billion again next year to cover the state's record-setting debt levels.

Regardless of the projected shortfall, the state's budget is a hot topic in the governor's race.

Gubernatorial candidate Rick Scott wants to make deep cuts in state government to help pay for tax cuts he says are needed to revitalize the state's economy.

## How the FMAP Money Will Be Used is Still Up in the Air

Florida analysts are saying it may be a while before a decision is made as to where the \$700 million in additional Medicaid money will be

*Continued on page 2 — FMAP Money*

## FJJA 2010-2011 Key Messages

Florida's juvenile justice system is one of the most comprehensive in the country and is always improving.

- We have nationally recognized programs and services throughout the state which serve the needs of each local community.
- Florida is a leader in prevention, early intervention and diversion services helping to reduce the number of youth from penetrating the system.

**A responsive and balanced juvenile justice continuum is good for Florida and good for the youth who need services.**

- Public safety is the most important goal, and a variety of services delivered locally ensure that the right service for the right youth at the right time occurs.
- Wise investments in the juvenile justice system pay off now and in the future and stop the flow of youth into the adult prison system.

**Building on our successes saves dollars that won't be spent on prisons and will prevent future victims.**

- Indicators point to the fact that today's adult prisoners are less likely to be in prison had they benefited from effective juvenile justice interventions at an early age.
- We can't afford to lose ground in these difficult economic times; we must build on what is working successfully.
- We must invest now or will pay more later.

**Mark Your Calendar  
FJJA Board Meeting  
Thursday,  
Sept 16, 2010  
Largo, Florida  
Operation PAR**

**The FJJA Newsletter  
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Send your news to  
[lynn@fjja.org](mailto:lynn@fjja.org)

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distributed this year. Recently approved, the 6-month extension of the FMAP program fell short of the \$1 billion level expected; Florida's \$70 billion budget included \$270 million in spending contingent on arrival of the federal funds.

The differences between what was expected and the actual cash will require further discussions between Governor and the Legislature. In addition, the Governor's \$371 million in budget vetoes (including a veto of a shift of \$160 million out of the Department of Transportation trust fund into public schools) will require that the budget be re-balanced. Although the FMAP dollars must be used to cover Medicaid costs, it can free up general revenue to fund other areas.

Also under consideration: whether lawmakers want to proceed with plans to spend \$20 million more on a state jobs- and tax-break bill for businesses, \$25 million more for the state's Bright Futures scholarships, and \$40 million for Everglades restoration, a fourfold increase in what lawmakers actually set aside for the environmental cleanup program.

## Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation Scholarship Opportunities Available for Juvenile Justice Involved Youth

The Florida Juvenile Justice Youth Investment Award, made possible by a generous grant from the Eckerd Family Foundation is still available. The award is designed to assist youth who are or were served by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice or contracted providers. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year, and are subject to funding availability.

The funding may be requested to assist youth leaving the juvenile justice system, with the next step essential to academic achievement or workforce readiness which cannot be met through any other available resources essential to the youth's success. Awards may contribute to tuition for post-secondary education, supplies, transportation, education or employability assistance with funding made directly to the vendor.

For more information, including the scholarship application visit: <http://www.djjfoundation.org/scholarships.shtml>.

## FJJA Members Take the Lead to Showcase Local Programs at Legislative Events

FJJA is working with local members to showcase the local juvenile justice continuum. These efforts will be strengthened by FJJA member participation. These FJJA sponsored events will take place over the next few months and will focus on "Getting to know your local legislators and candidates" and "Learning more about the juvenile justice system."

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.** Please take a moment to make contact today with the local hosts to let them know that your organization (and your local staff) is interested in making these events a success.

Circuit	Location	Local Hosts
9	Orlando	PACE, Jill Gentry Tankersley, ED <a href="mailto:Jill.Gentry@pacecenter.org">Jill.Gentry@pacecenter.org</a>
13	Tampa	PACE, Chantell Griffin, ED <a href="mailto:Chantel.Griffin@pacecenter.org">Chantel.Griffin@pacecenter.org</a>
17	Ft. Lauderdale	PACE, Aggie Pappas, ED <a href="mailto:Aggie.Pappas@pacecenter.org">Aggie.Pappas@pacecenter.org</a>
20	Ft. Myers	PACE, Alice Brunner, ED <a href="mailto:Alice.Brunner@pacecenter.org">Alice.Brunner@pacecenter.org</a>
1	Okaloosa	Gulf Coast Youth, Jeff Kaplan, CEO <a href="mailto:Jeff.kaplan@psysolutions.com">Jeff.kaplan@psysolutions.com</a>
4	Jacksonville	PACE, Lynn Bertram, ED <a href="mailto:Lynn.Bertram@pacecenter.org">Lynn.Bertram@pacecenter.org</a>
2	Tallahassee	PACE, Marcella Torres, ED <a href="mailto:Marcella.Torres@pacecenter.org">Marcella.Torres@pacecenter.org</a>
5	Ocala	PACE, Cathleen Blagay, ED <a href="mailto:Cathleen.Blagay@pacecenter.org">Cathleen.Blagay@pacecenter.org</a>
15	Palm Beach	PACE, Angela Clarke, ED <a href="mailto:Angela.Clarke@pacecenter.org">Angela.Clarke@pacecenter.org</a>
6	Pasco/Pinellas	Operation PAR, Tom Camp, VP <a href="mailto:tcamp@operpar.org">tcamp@operpar.org</a>
11	Miami/Dade	Miami Dade Juvenile Services, Gladys Negron-Soto, Mgr. <a href="mailto:JAC0004@miamidade.gov">JAC0004@miamidade.gov</a>

### Children's Movement Mobilizing Across FL

Led by committee of citizen leaders across Florida, The Children's Movement has announced a statewide, citizen-led series of "Milk Parties" on behalf of Florida's children. The goal of this initiative is to show elected officials and other leaders across the state that Florida citizens demand that children become the first priority in Florida's decision making.

Fifteen rallies over the course of 24 days in September stretching from Pensacola to Key West will draw attention to the need to support Florida's children. Rallies will include appearances by movement leaders, children advocates, entertainers and local celebrities. Milk and cookies will be provided as refreshments.

All FJJA members are encouraged to actively participate in local events. For local event dates, [click here](#).

### Gubernatorial Hopefuls Scott & Sink To Participate in Debate on Kids

The first-ever gubernatorial debate to focus solely on the future of Florida's children will be held next month at the University of Miami, and organizers expect Democrat **Alex Sink** and Republican **Rick Scott** to participate.

Working as partners with University of Miami, the Children's Movement of Florida will host the Oct. 16 debate at UM, which will be broadcast statewide on television and on the Internet.

More information on the Children's Movement can be found at [www.childrensmovementflorida.org](http://www.childrensmovementflorida.org).

### Recently Released Reports

National Juvenile Justice Network: *The Real Costs and Benefits of Change*

[http://njjn.org/media/resources/public/resource\\_1613.pdf](http://njjn.org/media/resources/public/resource_1613.pdf)

*Finding Opportunities for Reform During Difficult Fiscal Times*

U.S. Department of Justice: *Juvenile Transfer Laws: An Effective Deterrent to Delinquency*

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/220595.pdf>

This bulletin provides an overview of research on the deterrent effects of transferring youth from juvenile to criminal courts, focusing on large-scale, comprehensive studies on the effect of transfer laws on recidivism. It reviews all of the extant research on the general and specific deterrent effects of transferring juveniles to adult criminal court.

The Berkeley Center for Criminal Justice: *Gender Responsiveness and Equity in California's Juvenile Justice System*

[http://www.law.berkeley.edu/img/Gender\\_Responsiveness\\_and\\_Equity\(1\).pdf](http://www.law.berkeley.edu/img/Gender_Responsiveness_and_Equity(1).pdf)

The report addresses the needs of girl offenders and suggests ways policymakers and practitioners can improve their juvenile justice programs and services.



## 2010-2011

### Meeting Calendar

#### Board of Directors Meetings

- **Thursday, September 16, 2010**  
Largo - (Operation PAR)
- **Thursday, November 11, 2010**  
Orlando - (Center for Drug Free Living)
- **February 2011**  
Orlando – Adolescent Conference, hotel location TBA
- **Thursday, April 6, 2011**  
Tallahassee - (DISC Village)
- **June 15-17, 2011** (Wed - Fri) Board Retreat,  
Location TBA

#### 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 9/16/09, 11/11/09, 2/2010, and 4/6/2010

### Deadline Extended for Call for Presentations for 2011 Adolescent Conference

Planning for the 16th Annual Adolescent Treatment conference has started. The conference, convened by the Florida Juvenile Justice Association and the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association will be held in Orlando in February 2011.

We have begun the search for featured speakers and workshop leaders for this annual event. This conference attracts hundreds of attendees from across the state and addresses a multidisciplinary audience of professionals working with Florida's at-risk youth.

We need your help in identifying the experts to lead this year's conference. We are looking for experts whose strategies are working to positively change the lives of high risk, delinquent and substance involved youth.

For a copy of the "Call for Presentation," go to <http://www.fjja.org/documents/CallforPresentation.pdf>.

The deadline for proposal submission has been extended to September 30, 2010. Please submit presentations for consideration to [lynn@fjja.org](mailto:lynn@fjja.org) by end of business September 30, 2010.

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## Upcoming Events

### Prevention Conference

*Different Roles, Common Goals: Advancing and Empowering Lives* - 2010 Statewide Prevention Conference, September 29 - October 1, 2010, Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando. For more information and to register go to [Prevention Conference](#).

### Distance Learning Workshop

The Office of State Courts Administrator, Office of Court Improvement in cooperation with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, will present a distance learning workshop: *The Promise of Juvenile Drug Courts: The Foundations*, Thursday, September 30, 2010, 1 – 2:30 pm. This is a live teleconference, accessible via Microsoft Office Live Meeting. This training is designed for judges, magistrates, other court personnel and all community partners working with youth in the juvenile justice system and is presented free of charge. To register and receive details on how to attend this live teleconference, please email Polly Ryan at [ryannp@flcourts.org](mailto:ryannp@flcourts.org).

### Children's Cabinet

The Children's Cabinet will meet Thursday, September 30, 2010, 1-5 pm at the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, 2300 High Ridge Road (at Gateway) Boynton Beach, Florida 33426.

### Innovations in Treatment

Gateway Community Services 2nd Annual Spring Conference, April 6-8, 2011, in Jacksonville. Participants will explore the future of treatment and attitude in today's changing world. For more information, go to [Spring Conference](#).

### In the News

Atlanta Journal Constitution: *Rethink how we punish juveniles*  
<http://www.ajc.com/opinion/rethink-how-we-punish-594128.html>

The Nation: *Is this the end of the war on crime?*

<http://www.thenation.com/article/end-war-crime>

Many states are heeding the research and are putting their money into treatment and rehabilitative services, according to this article.

Huffington Post: *Our Youth Don't Need Bootstraps, They Need*

*Us*

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ernest-saadq-morris/our-youth-dont-need-boots\\_b\\_704823.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ernest-saadq-morris/our-youth-dont-need-boots_b_704823.html)

**Member News**

**HBI Partners With Community Organizations to Provide Mentoring Services for Youth**

The Home Builders Institute (HBI) has announced partnerships with 16 community organizations to provide mentoring services for at-risk youth as part of the Construction-Coaching Opportunities to Reach Employment (C-CORE) program.

Funded by a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, the industry-sponsored C-CORE mentoring program matches youths aged 16 to 18 with mentors recruited from the greater home building community — from carpenters and contractors to real estate agents and appraisers.

“Community partners are key to the success of the HBI C-CORE mentoring program,” said Fred Humphreys, president and chief executive officer of HBI. “They provide structure at the grassroots level to ensure that mentoring services are being delivered effectively and provide support and guidance as young people explore a future career in the home building industry.”

HBI C-CORE community partners will facilitate the day-to-day operations of the mentoring programs in each of their cities. They will be responsible for recruiting and training mentors, facilitating positive relationships between mentors and students and improving the employability of students through leadership development and community engagement.

The following organizations will serve as HBI C-CORE community partners in Florida through February 2013: Youth Central, Orlando; Bay Area Youth Services, Tampa; Communities in Schools of Miami, Miami; and Daniel Memorial, Jacksonville

For more information about the C-CORE program, or to become a mentor, visit [www.hbi.org](http://www.hbi.org) or contact Tadar Muhammad at 863-557-5054.

**GAP Room For Girls Opens in Miami**

The Girls Advocacy Project, Inc. (GAP) recently opened their new “GAP room” for girls at the Miami Regional Juvenile Detention Center (MRJDC). Surrounded by bright colors, comfortable chairs and positive affirmations, girls now have a tranquil area as they journey down the road to change.

The room was envisioned and developed by GAP facilitator, Julie Blunkosky, who wanted to give the girls an opportunity to discuss personal issues and their individual case plans in a room that felt safe. Girls now have an opportunity to have their one on one sessions and group sessions in a private room away from the noise that can often occur on the module.

GAP would like to thank, MRJDC Superintendent Faulk; Regional Director, Rick Bedson; Department of Juvenile Justice and the staff at MRJDC for believing that girls deserve a tranquil safe place during their transition. A special thanks to American Airlines for sponsoring the room for GAP and the many girls that will benefit during their road to change.

**Thank You For Renewing Your FJJA Membership**

Your support of the Association makes it possible for us to continue to advocate on behalf of your organization.

**We appreciate your support.**

For information, call Lynn Redmond, Project Director, 850-671-3442 or e-mail [lynn@fjja.org](mailto:lynn@fjja.org)

## Member News

### North Florida Youth Development Center HBI Students Develop Garden

During the month of August, students in the Home Builders Institute program at North Florida Youth Development Center put a great deal of time in developing a community garden to help lower income families that need assistance with food in the Jackson County area. So far the garden has produced cucumbers, squash, purple hull peas, colored butterbeans, various tomatoes, watermelons, strawberries, collards, corn, various peppers, and okra.

The students made four and one half gallons of pickles from the cucumbers, two gallons of ready to fry okra, three gallons of butter beans and peas, five gallons of tomatoes, nine gallons of collards, and two gallons of squash. Through the project, the students have learned to give back to the community, allowing community partners to work together to get these food items donated. The garden helped the HBI students learn a variety of skills they will be able to use these skills throughout their lives, including carpentry by building the above ground planter boxes; plumbing by installing the irrigation system; team work; and gardening.

### Okeechobee Girls Academy Designs, Builds and Donates Dog House to Society

The HBI students at Okeechobee Girls Academy designed and built a dog house which was donated to Okeechobee Humane Society/Pet Rescue, a no kill shelter.



Present for the ceremony were Roberta Pace, HBI VST Coordinator, Wade Lariviere, HBI Vocational Trade Instructor, Tiara Allen, G4S staff, Cynthia Stepanovich, Facility Administrator for Okeechobee Girls Academy, and George Wright, Florida DJJ Program Monitor.

In addition to this project, the students have been lending a helping hand in daily maintenance and making improvements at the Humane Society facility.

### Avon Park Youth Academy HBI Masonry Class to the Rescue

In the summer of 2009, the Avon Park Youth Academy participated in a code compliance inspection. This inspection was conducted to ensure that all buildings and living units on the campus were safe and within current building codes. During this inspection, it was noted that many of the landings of buildings located on the campus did not meet the current code. In all, 40 landings would have to be cut out and replaced.

After careful deliberations, it was decided that HBI's masonry class would make modifications. Each landing had to be cut out, broken up and hauled away. The new landings were formed and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a yard of concrete was poured for each landing. Four landings were completed at a time with a total of 10 concrete pours needed to bring the landings into compliance.

The project recently completed and in all, 40 landings were removed and replaced using 25 yards of concrete and several hundred man hours. By the HBI masonry class completing this project, several thousand dollars were saved by the facility and the Department of Justice.

### Two Former Daniel Are Youth Investment Awards Winners

Semmie Turner and Estonia Villegas, both former students in the Behavior Management and Counseling at Daniel Memorial, program, were awarded laptop computers as part of the Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation Youth Investment Awards program. They were nominated by Dana Platas, Program Director, and had to complete an essay explaining how this award would assist in their next step to academic achievement or workforce readiness. Both spent 5 months in the program.



Semmie Turner



Estonia Villegas

### **Member News**

#### **Sequel Students See Academic Successes and Prepare for Independent Living**

Sequel TSI Daytona Beach operates a 16 bed moderate risk program for youth aged 16-18 that have successfully completed high or moderate risk sex offender treatment at a DJJ residential commitment program.

This unique program focuses heavily on independent living and reintegration into the community. Youth may be admitted to this program upon referral when other placement options are not available, not in the best interest of the youth, or the victim may be in the home. Some of our youth do return to their families after receiving family counseling or reunification.

Since the opening of this unique program, successes of youth working and going to school in the community are occurring. Currently four youth are enrolled at Daytona State College for the fall semester. Youth are studying fine art, drafting and design technology, and culinary management. Youth are well on their way to achieving their dreams and to becoming contributing members of the community.

In addition to the academic successes, youth are preparing themselves for independent living by working off campus at local businesses as they save money to move into their own apartments upon leaving the program. At the program they are taught skills for independent living and basic vocational skills. The individual then has the opportunity to put these competencies to use immediately in real life situations while remaining under the counsel and safety of staff.

#### **Awards Presented at End of Semester**

In partnership with the Washington County School Board and Home Builders Institute, the Okeechobee Youth Development Center recognized youth for their achievements during the Summer semester. An awards ceremony was held on August 27 with the youth being presented certificates. At the same time, the youth presented themed skits that displayed their individual skills. The partnership between the three organizations has allowed for intensive vocational programming blended with academic instruction that youth are engaged in on a daily basis.

#### **Avon Park Youth Academy Wins Grant**

For school year 2010-2011, Avon Park Youth Academy received a Perkins grant worth \$25,000 for students to learn how to install on-grid solar energy systems.

As part of the grant, at least three staff will receive one week of training at the Florida Solar Energy Center, which is affiliated with the University of Central Florida.

Electrical and Building Construction Technology teachers will be involved with the training and, once trained, will teach their students about solar energy systems.

#### **HBU Students Paint New Project, Earn Service Hours**

In preparation for Bay Area Youth Service's move to a new facility in August, HBI students painted four offices and the entrance lobby. Students learned setting and clean up, the purpose of using primer, brush stroke techniques, cutting-edging technique, and how to find area of the room.

The students did an excellent job and continued their painting efforts throughout the month of August, painting seven offices instead of three. This project was completed to the satisfaction of staff and management. The students completed a total of 250 hours of community services for this project.

#### **Correction From August Newsletter**

In the August 2010 edition of the FJJA Newsletter, Okeechobee Youth Development Center was incorrectly identified. Okeechobee celebrated the first year of Project CRAFT – Okeechobee Youth Development Center with the youth participating in the Home Builder Institute's "HBI Trade Olympics."

### **Member News**

#### **HBI Partners with G4S at OIHH**

Home Builders Institute Project CRAFT recently partnered with G4S Youth Services, LLC at the Okeechobee Intensive Halfway House (OIHH) to provide vocational services to 20 youth a year in the area of Facility Maintenance. Students will participate in various projects inside and outside the facility.

Recently students assisted in the preparation of kennels for Urban Tails, a non profit organization that offers a ground breaking method for helping troubled youth. The HBI students helped to locate the drainage pipe in order for the concrete to be poured for the kennels.

The HBI instructor and students work closely with the maintenance staff and administration to identify work projects that support the HBI curriculum. They have participated in a variety of activities including ground maintenance, beautification projects, various painting projects and carpentry skills. They are currently rebuilding the gazebo.

Although the program is new to OIHH the students are very motivated and willing to learn and take on new projects.

#### **Dog Training Program Started at OIHH**

On Thursday, September 2nd, after months of planning and anticipation, the Urban Tails Dog Training program began at the Okeechobee Intensive Halfway House (OIHH). Four dogs arrived at the facility and were assigned to the 9 youth in the program.

After the school day is completed and on the weekends, the students learn dog training and instruction, proper pet nutrition and vaccinations, They are also going to be responsible for maintenance of a website where the dogs will be featured as adoptable pets.

Urban Tails Project Coordinator Tracy Zack and OIHH Facility Administrator Joseph Hasselbach worked tirelessly to bring the program to OIHH.

#### **Decorating Contests Held at OJOCC**

Room decorating began during August at the Okeechobee Juvenile Offender Correction Center (OJOCC) as part of the program enhancement initiative started by G4S Youth Services, LLC.

A contest was held to find the most creatively decorated room as well as the best overall unit decorations.

The students were given an area rug and other supplies to individually personalize their rooms. Among the favorite decorations chosen were pictures of sports heroes, as well as origami sculptures.

The winner of the individual contest was a young man who took the art of paper sculpting to the next level. He crafted a working Ferris wheel and picture holder from paper and fashioned 3-D images of a baseball bat and football. His creativity won him an assortment of personal hygiene products and other treats.. The unit selected for the overall prize received a pizza party.

#### **HSA, White Foundation Employees Receive ESSY Award for MST Excellence**

Two FJJA member agencies have been recognized for their excellence in providing services to families through the Redirection project. Heidi Lindner, a therapist with Human Services Associates Inc. in Fort Pierce has been globally recognized for her work with children and families in the Indian River County and Treasure Coast area. Additionally, the MST team with the Henry and Rilla White Foundation in Circuit 8 also received the top honor. The White Foundation MST team also received the distinguished award that goes to the top five teams around the world. Elisabeth Edward, Matt Birt, Lisa Taebel and Katie Rogers, are this year's recipients.

MST is available through DJJ's Redirection project. In 2004, DJJ contracted Evidence-Based Associates to launch Redirection, which uses three therapy model programs: Multisystemic Therapy (MST), Functional Family Therapy (FFT), and Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT) to treat troubled youth. Since its inception, Redirection has expanded to 18 circuits, providing alternative, effective treatments to more than 5,000 families.

All the programs represented by EBA have been identified as model or promising programs by the Blueprints for Violence Prevention at the University of Colorado, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration.