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## Statewide Events Highlight Local The Juvenile Justice Continuum

Partnering with its member organizations across the state, FJJA is sponsoring local legislative events to showcase the local juvenile justice continuum. As we prepare for a new governor, newly elected legislators, and with legislative session quickly approaching, our immediate goal is to emphasize the positive impact of the local juvenile justice continuum. Community organizations and local programs play a vital role in meeting the needs of at risk-youth, while addressing public safety, and utilizing taxpayer dollars wisely. We urge providers to attend these local events. They provide the opportunity for local legislators and candidates to meet with juvenile professionals including agencies, and private and non-profit organizations committed to improving Florida's juvenile justice continuum. So far, three events have taken place in Ft. Lauderdale, Ocala, and Jacksonville.



Vicki Waytowich of Daniel Memorial, left and Steve Bauer of Gateway Community Services, far right, both FJJA members, participated in the Jacksonville event. They are pictured with Senator Stephen Wise, Cathy Craig-Myers, FJJA Executive Director.

**Ft. Lauderdale, Circuit 17 - Broward:** The Ft. Lauderdale event was hosted by the PACE Center for Girls, Broward. Aggie Pappas, PACE Executive Director, asked invitees to share their vision for maintaining and expanding the continuum of juvenile justice services. Representative Ari Porth, chair of the Broward Delegation welcomed everyone to the event. Also attending were Representative Clark-Reed, former Senator Matt Meadows, legislative staff from Sen. Rich, Sen. Sobel and Rep. Bogdanoff's office as well as representatives from the local Children's Services Council, DJJ, Broward Sheriff's Office/Juvenile Assessment Center staff, staff from the various diversion programs, residential programs, and members of the JDAI/Casey Foundation. Discussion highlighted the importance of local collaboration to better address the needs of at-risk youth, to decrease duplication and minimize the number of youth entering and re-entering the system.

**Ocala, Circuit 5 - Marion:** The Ocala event, co-hosted by the Marion County Juvenile Justice Council and the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Board and the PACE Center for Girls Marion, included Rep Chestnut's aide, candidates for Legislative seats (Districts 22, 23, and 24), Marion County Commission and Marion County School Board, as well as current County Commission and School Board members. Local community providers representing the continuum of services were on hand, as well as DJJ staff. Cathleen Blagay, PACE Executive Director moderated the discussion. All participants shared an interest in juvenile justice youth, acknowledging that the legislature, local county government and the school board are all currently dealing with juvenile justice issues. Candidates and elected officials were given 3 minutes to introduce

*Continued on page 2, See Statewide Events*

Mark Your Calendar

FJJA Board Meeting

Thursday,

November 11, 2010

Orlando, Florida

Center for Drug Free Living

**The FJJA Newsletter  
is published monthly**

Cathy Craig-Myers, Editor  
Lynn Redmond, Publisher

**Deadline is the  
4<sup>th</sup> of each month**

Send your news to

[lynn@fjja.org](mailto:lynn@fjja.org)

*Continued from page 2*

themselves and discuss their position on at-risk youth, and then given 2 minutes to answer a specific question on juvenile justice.

**Jacksonville, Circuit 4 - Duval:** The Jacksonville event, co-hosted by the PACE Center for Girls, Gateway Community and Daniel Memorial, included Senator Stephen Wise, and representatives from the offices of Sen. Thrasher, Rep Jones, Rep. Renuart, and Rep. Weinstein. Eleanor Ashby, Lifetime Board Member of PACE, Jacksonville also attended. Local co-hosts Steve Bauer, Vicki Waytowich and Lynn Bertram described the array of services available to serve at-risk youth, highlighting the collaborative efforts which ensure that youth receive the right service at the right time. Chris Carr, DJJ Chief Probation Officer for Circuit 4 also announced a recent SAMSA multi-year grant which will help at-risk youth receive specialized services within the community. Always a champion for youth in the juvenile justice system, Senator Wise urged attendees to continue to advocate for improvements to benefit DJJ youth, especially in the area of education and job training.

### Week of October 18th

- Winter Park, Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>,
- St. Petersburg, Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

### Week of October 25<sup>th</sup>

- Tallahassee, Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>
- Tampa, Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>
- Ft. Myers, Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>
- Pensacola, Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

More dates will be announced in the future, including Miami and Palm Beach.

For info on local events & local contact info, [click here](#)

## The Florida Center For Fiscal and Economic Policy Weighs In on the Road Ahead

The Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy (CFEP) has issued specific recommendations in the presentation "The Road Ahead" which identifies the challenges facing the state as we go into upcoming legislative session. They recommend that Florida must take a balanced approach which includes maximizing new revenues without asking the same businesses and individuals to pay more.

Recommendations by CFEP include closing some sales tax loopholes, modernizing the unemployment system, modernizing the sales tax, eliminate subsidies to sports teams, collecting tax on internet sales as well as making multistate companies pay their fair share of state taxes.

[To download the complete presentation, click here.](#)

## 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.

## **NCCD Center for Girls and Young Women Wins OJJDP Grant to Establish “*National Girl’s Institute*”**

The NCCD Center for Girls and Young Women has announced it will receive a three-year grant to establish a *National Girls Institute*. A \$1.5 million federal grant will work to improve the way girls and young women are treated in the juvenile justice system.

A part of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, the institute will provide training and programs improving the treatment of female delinquents for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, a division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, FJJA member and Director of the NCCD Center for Girls and Young Women said, "It is an expansion of the work we are already doing, but on a larger scale and in partnership with the federal government."

The NCCD Center for Girls and Young Women was established in 2008 with a grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, and provides training, professional resources and develops programs designed to correct disparities in the treatment of young females in the juvenile justice system.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Children’s Cabinet Budget Committee**

Thursday, October 21, 2010, 2 – 4 pm, DJJ, Alexander Building, Training Room 1318, Tallahassee, Fl.

### **Children’s Cabinet**

Wednesday, December 1, 2010, 1 – 5 pm  
Florida Solar Energy Center , Auditorium Adjacent to Brevard Campus of UCF 1679 Clearlake Road, Cocoa, Fl 32922-5703.

### **Children and Youth Services Information Sharing Committee Meeting**

Monday, December 6, 2010, 1 – 4 pm, Dept of Health, 4052 Bald Cypress, Room 301-AB , Tallahassee, Fl.

### **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](#).

## **National Reentry Resource Center and Center for Advancement of Mentoring Host Webinar**

The National Reentry Resource Center and The Center for the Advancement of Mentoring will host the second of a two-part webinar on engaging family members in reentry efforts and identifying pro-social support for youth involved in the juvenile justice system on November 1, 2010 3:30 pm.

This webinar will focus on incorporating juvenile justice-involved youth’s family and social network into reentry mentoring programs. Speakers will discuss identifying, recruiting, and training “natural mentors,” such as extended family members, teachers, or neighbors, to work alongside other reentry program-assigned mentors to help youth better transition back into the community and in many instances into adulthood.

Speakers include:

- David Altschuler, Principal Research Scientist, Johns Hopkins University Institute for Policy Studies
- Shay Bilchik, Founder and Director, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown University
- Roger Jarjoura, Associate Professor, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; Founder, Aftercare for the Incarcerated through Mentoring
- Dennis Talbert, President, Michigan Neighborhood Partnership

To register, [click here](#).

### **Recently Released Reports**

Justice Policy Institute: *Money Well Spent: How positive social investments will reduce incarceration rates, improve public safety, and promote the well-being of communities*

[http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/10-09\\_REP\\_MoneyWellSpent\\_PS-DC-AC-JJ.pdf](http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/10-09_REP_MoneyWellSpent_PS-DC-AC-JJ.pdf)

This report explores the connection between poverty and incarceration. It found that state spending patterns indicate a priority of law enforcement and incarceration over vital public programs and support services. In addition, much of the increased incarceration and racial disparities in the justice system stems from drug arrests. Investing in appropriate mental health and substance abuse treatment can improve public safety and reduce justice involvement. As well, criminalizing homelessness reinforces poverty and homelessness. Stable housing is one of the most significant factors affecting the risk of involvement in the justice system.

In addition, job training and employment are critical to a person's success in the community.

US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS): *Depression High Among Youth Victims of School Cyber Bullying*

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/sep2010/nichd-21.htm>

Unlike traditional forms of bullying, youth who are the targets of cyber bullying at school are at greater risk for depression than are the youth who bully them. This finding is in contrast to earlier studies of traditional bullying, which found that the highest depression scores were reported by another category of youth involved in bullying-bully victims. Unlike traditional bullying which usually involves a face-to-face confrontation, cyber victims may not see or identify their harasser; as such, cyber victims may be more likely to feel isolated, dehumanized, or helpless at the time of the attack. Although bullies are less likely to report feelings of depression than are bully-victims or victims, they are more likely to report depression than are youth not involved with any bullying behaviors.

### **Report Worth Revisiting**

The Advancement Project:

*Test, Punish and Push Out: How "Zero Tolerance" and High-Stakes Testing Funnel Youth In to the School-to-Prison Pipeline*

<http://www.jdaihelpdesk.org/Docs/Documents/i.BINDER%20Tab%209%20Test%20Punish%20and%20Push%20Out.pdf>

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## **Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation Scholarship Opportunities Still Available for 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>

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

Planning for the 15th 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 October 22, 2010. Please submit presentations for consideration to [lynn@fjja.org](mailto:lynn@fjja.org) by end of business.

### DJJ holds Symposium to Train Faith Based and Community Volunteers

Volunteers from faith and community-based organizations throughout Florida joined in Orlando for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) "Our Children, Our Future" Faith and Community Symposium. The two-day event focused on sharing training and fresh perspectives in how to support delinquent and at-risk youth as they work to turn their lives around. The symposium provided formal training for DJJ's Faith and Community Network Partners and Volunteer Chaplains on how to help youth transitioning out of the juvenile justice system by offering moral and spiritual support. Opening speaker Rep. Darryl Rouson, of St. Petersburg, spoke of his life experiences as an at-risk youth.

The Faith and Community Network consists entirely of faith-based and community organizations that volunteer as partners with DJJ to offer programs that help at-risk and troubled children. Volunteer Chaplains from a variety of different faiths offer pastoral counseling and care to youth and families in crisis.

### In the News

[New York Times: \*Racial Disparity in School Suspensions\*](#)

[Chicago Daily Herald: \*Recommit to Serving Troubled Teens\*](#)

[The Gainesville Sun: \*Juvenile Injustice\*](#)

[Tampa Tribune: \*School Officials Back Zero Tolerance for Serious Offenses\*](#)

[Models for Change: \*What "Sustainability" Means for Juvenile Justice Reform\*](#)

[The State: \*The Quiet Revolution at South Carolina's DJJ\*](#)

[USA Today: \*Training Video Looks at Needs of Female Juvenile Offenders\*](#)

[Sarasota Herald: \*Counties Consider Taking Over Juvenile Jail from State\*](#)

[St. Petersburg Times: \*Raised by the Courts: What Happens When a Judge Has To Be the Parent?\*](#)



### 2010-2011 Meeting Calendar

#### Board of Directors Meetings

- **Thursday, November 11, 2010**  
Orlando- (Center for Drug Free Living)
- **February 14-16, 2011**  
Orlando – Adolescent Conference, Disney's Contemporary Resort, 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 11/11/10, 2/2011, and 4/5/2011



**Member News**

**Judge Alicia Latimore Visits ARC**

Judge Alicia Latimore of the Ninth Judicial Circuit, serving Orange and Osceola Counties, recently visited the Adolescent Residential Camps (ARC). Babette Hankey, CEO of Center for Drug Free Living, and staff from the three juvenile justice programs met with Judge Latimore and shared each of the program's vision and goals, highlighting various successes. Those successes include the development of a new educational collaborative partnership between NASA and Brevard Group Treatment Home and the successful GED/high school diploma completions received at ARC and the Frances Walker Halfway House.

Judge Latimore's tour of the facility included interaction with youth in the classroom, a visit to cottages and lunch with with five youth that had once stood before her in court. Joining Judge Latimore for the visit was Dante Johnson and Anthony Rosier, of Wake Up Mentoring, a non-profit mentoring program. Both men saw made a commitment to help mentor youth from the Orlando area while they are in the program. Wake Up Mentoring will play an active role in the discharge planning by speaking to high school coaches and employers in the community.



*Judge Latimore was presented a certificate of appreciation from the directors of the Center for Drug Free Living's Juvenile Justice programs. From left: Kerilynn Kelly-Moss, Director Brevard Group Treatment Home, Joseph Nixon, Program Administrator ARC, Honorable Judge Latimore, and Josette Lopez-Shipman, Director Frances Walker Halfway House.*

SAVE THE DATE

**2011**  
**Adolescent Conference**

We are happy to announce the conference will be held on

**February 14-16, 2011**

at Disney's Contemporary Resort in Lake Buena Vista Florida.

[www.fadaa.org/adolescent\\_conference](http://www.fadaa.org/adolescent_conference)

Hosted by:



## Member News

### The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation Announces Investment in PACE Center for Girls

The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, a national foundation that focuses on advancing opportunities for youth, announced its investment in the business planning process for PACE Center for Girls. The Foundation makes substantial investments in leading youth-serving organizations as part of its ongoing effort to help young people from low-income families develop the skills and abilities that will enable them to make a successful transition to productive adulthood.

The Foundation's investment includes a partnership with The Bridgespan Group, a strategy-consulting group located in Boston with a focus on mission-based organizations. The business planning process is a very in-depth and intensive process that will involve PACE's key stakeholders and result in a multi-year plan for growth. The Foundation's investment in PACE is specific to the business planning and the work with Bridgespan.



Mary Marx, President and CEO of PACE, said, "This investment in PACE reflects our 25 year history of success, quality and focus on believing in girls. With the planning process we are undertaking, PACE will significantly increase the number of girls we can serve and sustain that growth over time." The Foundation's investments are designed to help nonprofits serve at-risk youth on a significant scale. Other organizations previously funded by the Foundation include Harlem Children's Zone, Citizen Schools, Nurse-Family Partnership, and Youth Villages.

For three decades, The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation has sought to improve the lives of people in poverty. It currently focuses on advancing opportunities for low-income youth (ages 9 to 24) in the United States. The Foundation's aim is to help develop and expand a pool of organizations that can serve thousands more low-income youth each year with proven programs.

The Foundation is named for Edna McConnell Clark, a daughter of the founder of Avon Products. Over the past three decades, the Foundation has made grants totaling over \$706 million.

### Dade Juvenile Residential Facility and Dade Public Schools Host First Career Day

In partnership with Dade County Public Schools, the Dade Juvenile Residential Facility held its first annual Career Day on September 23, 2010. The theme of the event was "Today's Choices and Tomorrow's Opportunities."

Guest speakers shared stories of the challenges they faced and the techniques they used to seize opportunities in order to achieve career success. The companies represented during the event included the Florida City Police department, Dade County Corrections, Robert Morgan Vocational Tech, Chef Vocational Training, Dade County Go Green Training, and Waste Management.

The continued partnership with Dade County Schools and the local community has provided the youth facility the opportunity to receive real world experiences and career advice.



*Youth from Dade Juvenile Residential Facility talk to career counselors during Career Day*

## Member News

### NASA's Education Program Visits Brevard Group Treatment Home

Education specialists from NASA's Kennedy Space Center had an opportunity to share their knowledge of the nation's space program with a group of young men at Brevard Group Treatment Home (BGTH).

NASA educators brought attention-grabbing videos, demonstrations and hands-on learning activities to inspire imagination and interest in science, technology, engineering and math.

The excitement that filled the room was evident as NASA's education specialists asked for volunteers to be "vacuum wrapped" like the food available on the International Space Station and ride a makeshift "hovercraft." The kids were especially fascinated by the demonstration of how a sample thermal tile protects a space shuttle when super-heated.

In another experiment, the youth donned gloves, similar in weight and bulk of the protective gloves the astronauts wear while in space, and were asked to perform small tasks like tying shoe laces -- not as easy as one might think.

Each student was built a rocket using paper and tape to create a rocket's base, nose cone and fins. They launched them using PVC pipe and plastic bottles as a propulsion system.

Yvonne Watson, language arts, reading and social science teacher, said, "We are seeing wonderful strides. We had a student who recently left (the program) whose entry level test for reading comprehension was about fifth grade and his exit comprehension with the reading plus program was 12th grade."

BGTH's Director Kerilynn Kelly-Moss added, "If the kids can see potential in themselves from our program, that's all I'm asking for -- for them to think about something else that (they) can be, and the positive exposure to something else -- that's the future."

Visit the NASA Web site to see more about the event at BGTH. [http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/centers/kennedy/home/bgth\\_event.html](http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/centers/kennedy/home/bgth_event.html)

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### Twin Oaks Announces Opening of New Dove Intensive Mental Health Program for Girls

Twin Oaks Juvenile Development, Inc. announced the opening of its new facility to house the DOVE IMH Program for Girls in



Graceville, FL. The 32-bed moderate risk facility features four dorms that house eight girls, each in single rooms, and a state-of-the-art administration/education/vocational education building. Awarded the IMH Contract in January, 2010, the program was temporarily housed in vacant buildings on the adjacent site of the current DOVE Vocational Academy. Girls moved into their new location on September 28. Donnie Read, CEO said, "It is our vision to offer

gender responsive and evidence-based intensive mental health services, combined with vocational education, in a manner that is unique in Florida." The program uses MRT and individual and group therapy and has applied its trauma-informed care approach which is similar to what is used at the DOVE Vocational Academy. Additionally, Girls in this program are provided with the opportunity to participate in one of four vocational programs, including culinary operations, information technology, building/construction trades and landscaping.

The DOVE Intensive Mental Health Program for Girls is one of seven residential programs operated by Twin Oaks, a contracted provider for both Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Children and Families.

Twin Oaks also operates a community based competency restoration program based in Gainesville.