

March 2011

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Inside this Issue:

Reports of Interest	3
Key Messages	2
In the News	2
Legislative Agenda	4
Conference, workshops	5
Webinars	6
Grant Opportunities	6
Member News	7
FJJA Officer Elections	7

Children's Week Update

Over the past 15 years, Children's Week, a grassroots event supported by over 80 different non-profit, corporate, philanthropic, faith based, state agencies and organizations implements 200 community events and activities statewide, bringing thousands of parents, children, policy makers, professionals, community leaders and concerned citizens together to share valuable knowledge and information about children's issues in each community across the state and at the State Capitol.

FJJA is proud to be a One Voice Partner of Children's week. For more information and complete schedule of events, go to:

<http://www.childrensweek.org/>



Youth Success Days Planned

Emphasizing the strong partnerships between the Department of Juvenile Justice and providers, faith based and community organizations, agencies across the state serving juvenile justice involved youth will join together again this year as part of annual Children's Week in Tallahassee.

The theme is "*Part of the Community, Part of the Solution!*" with activities scheduled for April 4-9, 2011. Events so far include:

Monday, April 4

- Employee Appreciation Day, DJJ and provider programs
- DJJ, FJJA, and provider displays at the Capitol courtyard showcasing youth.
- Statewide activities highlighting youth success

Tuesday, April 5

- DJJ Youth Success Day Press Conference, (Time TBA) location: Old Capitol, rear steps
- DJJ, FJJA, and provider displays at Capitol with youth artwork and success stories
- DJJ information booth in Capitol Courtyard

Wednesday- Friday , April 6-9

- Local DJJ Youth Success Day events across Florida
- For more information, <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/ysd/index.html>

Mark Your Calendars

Children's Week
April 3-5, 2011
Tallahassee

DJJ Youth Success Day
April 4-5, 2011
Tallahassee/Statewide

FJJA Board Meeting
April 7, 2011, 9 am to 4 pm
DISC Village
3333 W. Pensacola St.
Tallahassee, FL

Annual FJJA Board Retreat
June 12-15, 2011
LaPlaya Golf and Beach Resort
Naples, FL

The FJJA Newsletter is published monthly

Cathy Craig-Myers, Editor
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Deadline is the 4th of each month
Send your news to lynn@fjja.org



FJJA Annual Retreat

June 12-15, 2011
LaPlaya Golf & Beach Resort
Naples, Florida

Watch your emails for more information

In the News

St. Petersburg Times: *We must intervene early*

Vicki Lopez Lukis

<http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/columns/article1155102.ece>

Sun Sentinel: *Juvenile Justice: Locking up teens far from the only option*

Judge Irene Sullivan

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/outlook/fl-iscor-juvenile-justice-outlook-sul20110307,0,7278038.story>

Orlando Sentinel: *Juvenile Justice Secretary favors therapeutic approach*

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/politics/os-rick-scott-juvenile-justice-20110225,0,6897505,full.story>

Texas Tribune: *New Juvenile Justice Agency May Save \$150 Million*

<http://www.texastribune.org/texas-state-agencies/texas-youth-commission/new-juvenile-justice-agency-may-save-150-million/>

Texas Tribune: *Interview with Shay Bilchek, [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform](#),*

Georgetown University Public Policy Institute

<http://www.texastribune.org/texas-state-agencies/texas-youth-commission/shay-bilchik-tt-interview/>

Huffington Post: *Attorney General Eric Holder Supports Prevention over Courts*

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20110307/us-holder-juvenile-justice/>

USA Today: *States change laws, send fewer juveniles to adult court*

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-03-12-juvenileWEB1_ST_N.htm

USA Today: *States making juvenile detention more localized*

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-03-16-juvenileWEB2_ST_N.htm

New York Times: *Trend toward fewer juvenile in adult court system*

New York is one of the few remaining states that automatically moves 16 and 17 year olds to the adult court system for any criminal charge. This New York Times piece details sound, research-based reasons for retaining teenagers in the juvenile justice system, and the growing national trend in support of keeping them there.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/06/nyregion/06juvenile.html?_r=1&emc=eta1

Vera Institute: *Measuring Risk and Need in Juvenile Justice Decision Making*

<http://www.vera.org/blog/measuring-risk-and-need-juvenile-justice-decision-making>

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.

Reports of Interest

ACLU, Advancement Project, NAACP Releases Report on Zero Tolerance

The ACLU of Florida, Advancement Project, and the Florida State Conference of the NAACP have released a report on their study of the ongoing harmful impacts of Florida schools' "zero-tolerance" policies. *Still Haven't Shut Off the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Evaluating the Impact of Florida's New Zero-Tolerance Law* shows that although the state took a significant step forward by amending its harsh zero-tolerance law in 2009, meaningful reform has still not reached most of the schools – and students – across the state.

Highlights:

- Nearly half of all Florida school districts had more or the same number of referrals to the Department of Juvenile Justice following the passage of SB 1540 than they had the year before.
- 67% of student referrals to the juvenile justice system were for misdemeanor offenses, with over 12,000 referrals for lower-level offenses.
- Racial disparities in referrals to the juvenile justice system got worse after the passage of SB 1540.

In spite of the new law, most school districts' policies still allow for extremely severe punishments – such as arrest, referral to law enforcement, and expulsion – for relatively minor infractions.

[To read full report click here.](#)

Smart on Crime Report Released

The Sentencing Project and more than 40 of the nation's leading criminal justice reform organizations collaborated to produce a comprehensive report examining the nation's criminal justice system and offering recommendations.

The report, *Smart on Crime: Recommendations for the Administration and Congress*, reviews federal policy and offers recommendations for reform in 16 key criminal justice areas. These include sentencing policy, juvenile justice, reentry, and overall systems change. To read the report, go to:

<http://www.besmartoncrime.org/>

Children's Defense Fund Releases State Data Factsheets on Children at Risk

These factsheets provide basic stats and rankings regarding poverty, health, hunger, child welfare, early childhood development, education and youth at risk for children in 2010 in Florida. To read report, <http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/state-data-repository/cits/2011/children-in-the-states-2011-florida.pdf>

Youth at Risk in Florida – at a glance

Percentage of 16 to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school - not high school graduates	7.1%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	66.9%
Percent of 16 to 19-year-olds unemployed	24.0%
Number of juvenile arrests	105,805
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	5,733
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	2.5
Number of children and teens killed by firearms	176

Center for Juvenile Justice Reform: Working Together for Multi-System Youth

This new, online periodical from Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, and the Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform provides information to assist multi-system youth - those who have a wide range of needs in many different systems, such as child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, and education. Quarterly issues will provide information on initiatives, research, model programs, and policy .

For more information, go to:

<http://www.rfkchildren.org/images/stories/the%20connector%20winter%202011.pdf>

Legislative News

Legislative Session in Full Swing

Legislative Session convened on Tuesday March 8th and committees are working diligently to hear bills while attempting to develop a budget to address the current budget deficit of \$3.6 billion. Significant changes will most likely be coming in the areas of Medicaid, and renewing interest in accelerating reform of both the criminal and juvenile justice systems will see changes in how both agencies are operated. On the corrections side, the new secretary plans to close prisons to capture savings and in juvenile justice, the new secretary will be implementing changes that will move resources to the front end of the system, close the door to misdemeanants into residential programs, and engage local communities to take ownership of delinquent youth by serving them within the community.

President and First Lady Talk About Preventing Bullying

At a White House Conference in March, President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, along with leaders from the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services, spoke about how young people, parents, teachers and others can prevent bullying. For more information, go to http://www.stopbullying.gov/references/white_house_conference/index.html

House Launches “Build Your Own Budget” Website

In preparation for this year’s budget exercise, House Speaker Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park) and his staff have designed a program for Floridians across the state to participate in budget building exercises via the “Build your Own Budget” website. To access website:

http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/contentViewer.aspx?category=WebSite&file=build_your_own_budget.htm

FJJA 2010-2011 Legislative Agenda

Maximize Florida’s investment in a balanced juvenile justice system to ensure public safety.

- Reduces crime.
- Reduces victimization and related costs.
- Reduces need for future prison construction.
- Reduces flow of juveniles into adult prison system.

FJJA Long Term Legislative Priorities

- Balance the Juvenile Justice Continuum
- Enhance Gender Specific Programming
- Reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact
- Ensure Legal Representation
- Develop Alternatives to Secure Detention

Please Continue to Meet with Your Legislators

[Click for talking points](#)

- Support the Continuum of Care
- FJJA 2010-2011 Legislative Agenda
- Reduce or Eliminate State Operated Residential programs
- Create a more efficient QA process
- Preserve BHOS Services for JJ youth
- Rethink FL Definition of Recidivism
- Improve collaboration with workforce development
- Implementing Evidence Based Practices

Upcoming Conferences, Workshops, & Events

24th Annual Children's Mental Health Research and Policy Conference, Sunday - Wednesday, March 20 - 23, Hyatt Regency Tampa, Florida . For information go to [Tampa Conference](#).

Children's Week, for details of the 2011 Children's Week Events, State Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida, [click here](#).

Department of Juvenile Justice: Youth Success Day, April 4 & 5, 2011, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. State Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida

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

The Girl Matters™ Training of Trainers Workshop, sponsored by NCCD Center for Girls and Young Women, May 9-13, 2010, Jacksonville, Florida. This week-long interactive workshop will challenge participants to improve outcomes and will provide research-based and proven strategies to meet the challenges and needs of girls. Space is limited. For registration information, workshop times and location, please go to www.justiceforallgirls.org.

Coalition for Juvenile Justice Annual Spring Conference, Council of SAGs' Meeting & Hill Day: "Fair & Equal Justice: Alternative Sentences and Sanctions for Youth," May 20-24, 2011, Washington, DC. This year's conference theme is "Fair & Equal Justice: Alternative Sentences and Sanctions for Youth." The conference will feature speakers, panels and workshops addressing current themes and trends in juvenile justice sentencing reform, touching on the needs of status offenders, juvenile life without parole, policies and reforms resulting in positive family and community outcomes, sentencing reform and efforts to reduce racial/ethnic disparities, and more. Click [here](#) to see a draft agenda an conference highlights. For registration information, go to http://juvjustice.org/conference_11.html.

ARISE 5 Day Master Training, May 23-27, 2011, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Central Region Office, 4524 Oak Fair Boulevard, Tampa, Florida.

Progress Through Partnerships: 2011 National Gang Symposium, June 7-10, 2011, Orlando, Florida, sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), offers opportunities to learn about innovative and successful gang-related programs and strategies and will provide the latest information on youth gang activities and trends from national experts. For registration information, go to <http://www.gangsymposium.org/>.

Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Abuse, July 27-29, sponsored by Florida's Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort, Orlando, Florida. For more information , go to <http://www.fncac.org/index.php?s=3043>

Health Care Reform Workshops, August 19, September 28, September 29, October 20, November 30, and December 16, is sponsored by The Florida Department of Children and Families and the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association . For topics and locations, go to <http://www.fadaa.org/workshops/index.asp>.

Making Lives Better: The Force That Unites Us, August 24-26, 2011, the 2011 Annual Conference sponsored by Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association and Florida Council for Community Mental Health, will be held at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress, Orlando, Florida. For more information go to <http://www.makinglivesbetter.org/>.

Upcoming Webinars

ARISE Webinar, April 20th

Anger Management - Powerful Anger Solutions

To register: Contact ARISE toll free, 1.888-680-6100

Vera Institute Webinar, March 22, 2011, 1-2 pm

Measure for Measure: Striking a balance in the assessment of risk and need in the juvenile justice system. To register, go to

<https://rwjf.webex.com/mw03061b/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=rwjf&service=6>

Grant Opportunities

Successful Reentry Through Mentoring

Deadline: April 21, 2011

This Department of Justice program seeks to promote more effective and successful reentry for juvenile and adult offenders through the establishment and maintenance of pre- and post-release mentoring relationships. Eligibility is limited to nonprofits and tribes. There will be multiple awards of up to \$300,000 each. Information

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/11SecondChanceMentoringSol.pdf>

Anti-Gang Research Funding

Deadline: May 9, 2011

This Department of Justice program looks to promote the development of evidence-based programs, policies and strategies that effectively address at-risk and gang-involved youth. Eligibility is limited to states, units of local governments, tribal governments, nonprofits, for-profits, institutions of higher education. There will be multiple grants ranging from \$200,000 to \$1 million each. Information:

<http://www.ojdp.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2011/GangFIRE.pdf>

In Kind Assistance Available

Deadline: Ongoing

Gifts in Kind International links to corporate resources and receives donations from companies throughout the country and then distributes these goods to nonprofit organizations that. The products generally range from computer software and hardware to clothing, personal care items, toys and furniture. Over the past 27 years, Gifts in Kind distributed product donations valued at nearly \$7 billion to more than 50,000 recipient organizations serving people in need, including at-risk youth, the homeless, military



FJJA 2010-2011 Meeting Calendar

Board of Directors Meetings

- **April 7, 2011**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
DISC Village, Building 200, 3333 W.
Pensacola St., Tallahassee, FL
- **June 12-15, 2011**
Annual FJJA Board Retreat,
LaPlaya Golf & Beach Resort, Naples, FL

Executive Committee Meetings

- **Monthly Conference Call** - 1st Monday of every month, 2 p.m.
- **Legislative Session** - Conference Call Every Monday, 2 p.m.

families, domestic abuse victims, refugees, immigrants, the illiterate and the under- and unemployed. Non-profits are eligible for this assistance.

Information: www.giftsinkind.org or 703/836-2121.

At-Risk Youth Funding

Deadline: Ongoing

Although the Frueauff Foundation is not considering new proposals, it does invite grants seekers to complete an online eligibility quiz for potential funding in 2011. In addition to the quiz, it's a good idea to submit initial brief letters of inquiry for the foundation to assess your chances. The letter should include: a brief agency mission and purpose; agency location; brief purpose of request and amount requested; and an email address. Non-profits are eligible for this assistance. Information:

www.frueauffoundation.com or 501/324-2233.

Member News

Sequel TSI of Kissimmee Celebrates Black History Month



Sequel TSI of Kissimmee, recently celebrated Black History month with a talent, poetry, and essay contest on African Americans who made important contributions to the United States. During the two-day celebration, the Burning Spear, a reggae band, performed and a Civil War actor provided information and demonstrations of actual military items used by the Union Army. The celebration ended with a "soul food" meal.

White Foundation Receives Deemed Status

The Henry and Rilla White Youth Foundation's CBIS Community and Conditional Release programs in circuits 2 and 14, respectively, were recently named Deemed Status.



Circuit 2 staff, from left, Brad Hill, Katharine Fisher, Ericka Barnes, Lekeyta Carson, Jill Downey, Kisha Levy, Je'Meane Pinkney, and Steven Williams.



Circuit 14 staff are Bobbie Frenton and Mechill Coel.

Nominations Sought for Upcoming FJJA Officer Elections June 2011



FJJA will be seeking nominations for six executive officer (6) positions to include Treasurer, Incoming President and four at-large executive committee positions. Those elected will serve for a period of two (2) years. Executive Committee members may serve for more than one consecutive term and President and President Elect positions may be elected to non-consecutive terms.

The Nominating Committee will be formed at April Board meeting. On April 6th, the Past-President will convene the nominating committee. Four additional members will be selected for the nominating committee by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, with such members being selected from the agency membership.

On May 12, 2011 the Nominating Committee shall submit a slate of officers to the members of the Association. At the FJJA annual retreat in June, elections will be held with additional nominations accepted from the floor. Those not attending the retreat may vote via e-mail, telephone and proxy according to the FJJA By-Laws.

There is one vote per Agency Membership. Associate Agency Members and Ex Officio Members do not have voting privileges.

Prodigy Program Showcases Youth's Talents

In February, hundreds of children throughout the Tampa Bay area performed in Annual Prodigy Showcase events. The 2011 Showcase, themed Circles of Influence, included a variety of exciting and creative performances from the Prodigy youth such as roller-skating and break-dancing routines, art gallery presentations and live performances.

Prodigy youth saved their best artwork selections to present gallery-style at the Showcases held throughout Central Florida. They performed plays, read poetry that they wrote, played in drum lines, sang, played guitars and keyboards, and displayed their works of art in pencil, paint, clay and other mediums.

In East Tampa, the Prodigy program there participated in an art show with Southern Renaissance, which featured renowned artist and muralist James Vann. They also held a luncheon for the youth celebrating and honoring their "persons of influence."



The Lakeland, Plant City and Brandon Prodigy youth held a combined showcase that featured theatre class monologues, bucket drum performances, and a singing group with a band. All of the acts had video voice-overs of Prodigy students talking about the program and how it has changed their lives.

For many of the youth who participate in this prevention, intervention and diversion program, the showcase event was the first time they received personal praise and recognition. More than 22,000 children in Florida have benefited from the life skills learned through the Prodigy program.

Prodigy's research-based diversion, intervention and prevention program is proven to increase the life chances of at-risk children. Prodigy has one of the

highest success rates – 89% non recidivism -- at one of the lowest costs of any program in the state of Florida.

Prodigy is a project of the University Area Community Development Corporation (UACDC), in collaboration with the University of South Florida School of Social Work, and Bay Area Youth Services, Inc., and funded by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. For more information, call (813) 558-5212 or visit www.prodigyarts.org.

Bay Point Youth Produce Documentary on Veterans of Historic Bay of Pigs Invasion

The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program embarked on a project called Momentum Miami - "Documenting the Past, Impacting the Future."

The boys from Bay Point Schools, Inc. were chosen to take part in this historical preservation project, an intergenerational oral history connecting the youth of the city to Miami's aging veterans of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

The Bay Point teams interviewed 28 of the veterans of the Bay of Pigs.

To begin the project, the boys were given a tour of Little Havana, the Cuban community of Miami, under the guidance of Dr. Paul George, well known Florida International University

History professor. Afterwards, they had follow-up classes to get a better understanding of Fidel Castro and what happened during the invasion.

Dr. Mary Louise Cole-Wood, CEO of Bay Point Schools said the boys heard about their years in prison, firing squads for differing opinions, lost homes and possessions and the patriotism that inspired such brave acts of courage.

"Most of all, it was impressed upon our boys that there is nothing more precious than liberty and freedom of speech and sometimes the price can be high to preserve them," she added.

During this project the boys learned the technical skills involved in producing a documentary. In addition to designing the interviews, they also had to learn to use video equipment and are currently editing the project down from 40 minutes to 5. A premiere of the documentary will place at the Towner Theater in Little Havana at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 31st.

After the premiere the documentary will be housed in the U.S. Library of Congress.



FJJA Annual Retreat

June 12-15, 2011

LaPlaya Golf & Beach Resort

Naples, Florida

Watch your emails for more information