



Newsletter

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SAVE THESE 2012 IMPORTANT DATES

- January 29 – February 3
Children’s Week
- January 30 – FJJA Board Meeting
DISC Village, Tallahassee
- January 31- “FJJA Day at the Capital
- January 31 – DJJ “Youth Success Day”

Make your plans now!

The FJJA Newsletter is published monthly

Cathy Craig-Myers, Editor
Lynn Redmond, Publisher

Deadline is the 4th of each month

Florida’s Revenue Forecast Looking Better— Maybe

New data projections will be included in an updated long-range outlook presentation to the Legislature next week which indicate a potential small surplus for next year.

However, state economists will also present a warning that the forecast could change if Florida’s economy slows. Wavering consumer confidence relative to recent economic conditions across the globe have forecasters worrying that tax collections may drop, forcing them to lower revenue forecasts.

Updated data projections now suggest Florida will have nearly \$274 million in surplus funds with an additional \$1 billion earmarked for reserves.

If the surplus remains the same the potential for budget balancing without spending cuts is possible. That would be a change from the previous years of cuts to balance shortfalls. Just to be sure, when the January session begins, decision makers will have the recommendations by state agencies which detail proposals of 10% agency spending reductions.

Preparing for Legislative Session

Florida Senate Convenes Taskforce to Review Education Services for Juvenile Justice Youth

A Senate taskforce charged with looking at Juvenile Justice Education continues to meet and hear recommendations about improving education services to juvenile justice involved youth.

Providers, stakeholders, community leaders are all stepping up with ideas that range from providing incentives to businesses to hire youth in transition, standardizing school funding formulas to ensure that revenues are maximizing to rehabilitate youth, to more providing more leniency in sentencing and expunging of youth arrest records, and also increasing industry certifications to give youth the opportunity for sustainable career ladders.

Although more data is expected to help guide any bill drafting to improve education for DJJ youth, current DOE statistics show that only 10 % of students who leave juvenile justice facilities in the 2007-08 school year returned to high school, a dramatic decline from 54 percent only two years before. Only six percent of those students went on to college, according to data from the Florida Department of Education. DOE plans to identify whether the drop includes the capture of youth who may have opted for a GED instead.

Additionally, Sixteen % of students who left a juvenile justice program in the 2007-08 school year went on to work a full-time job and 10 % eventually returned to the DJJ system.

Walters said one crucial issue is more educational opportunities for children who spend time in juvenile justice facilities, such as industry-backed certification programs or virtual classes. "If we don't really shepherd them into adulthood with some sort of education or skill set in order to get a job, they have very few options other than to become criminals," Walters said.

Interim Committee Weeks start the week of September 19th; the taskforce hopes to have draft legislation soon.

Preparing for Legislative Session

The Senate Subcommittee on Criminal Justice Appropriations releases interim report

A new report issued by the Senate Criminal Justice Appropriations subcommittee is recommending that the Legislature require DJJ to examine shorter stays in residential facilities. Currently, the length of stay is determined on a case-by-case basis, specifically until the youth completes individually determined treatment plans.

During last year's session, Florida TaxWatch Center for Smart Justice and Southern Poverty Law Center presented research showing that longer length of stays for low and moderate risk youth often do not improve the youth's chances of success.

The Senate committee report states that DJJ could likely make procedure changes reducing average length of stay by one week on average and save the state more than \$4.6 million and reduce beds by 120. At the same time, DJJ is proposing that legislators remove the requirement that a judge sign off on the department's release of juveniles who have completed their required program, yet the Senate committee did not make any recommendations relative to that issue.

The report indicates that DJJ supports the Florida TaxWatch/Southern Poverty Law Center recommendations to modify the length of stay.

To read report:

<http://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/Session/2012/InterimReports/2012-118cj.pdf>

Update On DJJ/Georgetown University JJSIP Project

As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, The Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project (JJSIP) project has launched in Florida, one of four states working with the Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. Working with prominent criminologists to provide technical assistance throughout the 18-month project, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice is working with stakeholders in Pinellas County (Circuit 6). According the Georgetown University JJSIP project website, expected outcomes will include:

- Improved programs/services across the juvenile justice continuum (rather than in silos),
- A richer, more diverse continuum of services in both the demonstration site and state,
- Better use of structured decision making tools to improve the development of individualized comprehensive treatment plans targeted to a juvenile's risk and needs, and
- Ultimately Improved outcomes for youth.

FJJA 2011-2012 Legislative Agenda

No Cuts to Juvenile Justice

Maintaining funding will:

- Reduce crime, victimization and other related costs;
- Reduce the flow of youth into adult corrections and need for future prison construction.

Increase Investment in Community Based Services

Increase funding for:

- Prevention, early intervention and diversion programs;
- Specialized residential services;
- Transition, reentry and aftercare services;
- Education, vocational training and job placement.

Key Points:

Investing in Florida's Juvenile Justice System Ensures Public Safety

- Last year, DJJ received the largest funding cut in public safety.
- Very few resources have been earmarked for reinvestment into community based services.
- Of the \$77 million cut, only \$5 million will be reinvested.

Congratulations to 2011-2012 Perkins Grant Winners

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS	AREAS OF FOCUS	AWARDS
Cypress Creek Academy	Information Technology	\$ 70,000
AMIkids Last Chance Ranch	Energy Technology	\$ 69,895
Twin Oaks Liberty JUST	Manufacturing	\$ 70,000
Twin Oaks Vocational Academy	Construction	\$ 70,000
Palmetto Youth Academy	Information Technology, Business Management & Administration	\$ 69,125
Okeechobee Intensive Halfway House	Business Management & Administration	\$ 23,889
Avon Park Youth Development Center	Transportation, Distribution and Logistics	\$ 39,510
TOTAL		\$ 412,419

Prevention Activities Abound Under New Assistant Secretary Finnie's Leadership

The Office of Prevention and Victim Services has created a Special Projects Unit which is responsible for developing and recommending positive ways to increase interdepartmental collaboration with other agencies as well as Community Outreach. Currently, the Office of Prevention and Victim Services is collaborating with Dr. Jamie Self, Director of Family and Community Services, and John Davis, Director of External Affairs at DCF to expand the Faith Community Network to include faith partners who serve youth in foster care. This effort is the first of its kind and will close a number of gaps in services within our communities. Additionally, last month the Special Projects unit participated in the following community projects and local outreach:

- On August 23rd, the Special Projects staff and Assistant Secretary Wanda Finnie attended the Circuit 8 Juvenile Justice Board meeting in Stark, FL. Following the meeting, the staff visited the Church of God In Faith, a community outreach program that focuses on afterschool care, teen interaction, spiritual guidance, arts and crafts, and more.
- On August 25th, Assistant Secretary Finnie spoke on behalf of Secretary Wansley Walters at the 1000 Men Rally at the Capitol. Her message focused on empowerment, networking, collaboration and the commitment of DJJ to work with the community. The rally, titled, "*Let Us Make Man: It's a Family Affair*", "*4 Years With You In Mind*," was presented by 1000 Men Rally in cooperation with Life Church International and Kingdom Fellowship and promoted prevention among youth as well as volunteerism to help keep youth out of trouble. This rally was attended by many community and legislative leadership.
- On August 27, the Special Projects staff participated in the first annual "*Celebration of the Palmer Munroe Teen Center*" by stuffing backpacks that were distributed to youth in attendance at this event. This month, the Leon County School District will provide transportation assistance to the Palmer Munroe Teen from Griffin, Nims, Fairview, Rickard, and Godby schools. This is a huge success for the Center as transportation has been one of their greatest challenges.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW

In order for FJJA to continue to advocate on behalf of your organization, please remit membership dues today. For information call Lynn Redmond at 850-671-3442 or e-mail her at lynn@fjja.org.

We appreciate your support.

National Juvenile Justice Network Makes Policy Recommendations to Congress

Recommendations include:

- Support the Reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) First enacted in 1974 and most recently reauthorized in 2002 with bipartisan support, the JJDP sets forth standards for the custody and care of court-involved youth and establishes a federal-state partnership for delinquency prevention and juvenile justice reform, while also upholding community safety and the prevention of victimization. By reauthorizing the JJDP, Congress has the opportunity to strengthen accountability for federal spending, help states protect public safety, hold delinquent youth accountable, and provide rehabilitation services to youth to prevent future crime.
- Appropriate Adequate Resources to the States: Since FY 2002, federal investments in programs that prevent and reduce delinquency have decreased by 50%, but the needs of youth have not decreased. The FY 2011 budget bill cut federal juvenile justice programs by an additional 17%; in real terms, more than half of the states are suffering reductions as high as 32%. Worse, cuts come at a time when state and local jurisdictions cannot make up the difference.
- Extend Adam Walsh Act Compliance Deadline: Enacted into law in 2006, the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act ("the Adam Walsh Act") aims to safeguard children and youth from sex offenders. Chief among these provisions is a mandate that youth adjudicated within the juvenile court for certain sex-based offenses be required by their state to register with their state and the national registry for a period of 25 years to life. NJJN urges Congress to extend the compliance deadline and recommends that Congress pass amending legislation that removes juveniles from the registry entirely.
- Support State Interest in Reducing Use of Secure Confinement for Youth: States across the country have been saving money and improving public safety by reducing their reliance on youth jails and prisons. States could benefit from federal bridge funding to help counties develop appropriate community-based responses until the savings can be achieved from a closure, and from more research on the efficacy and cost of community-based supervision options.
- Support the Youth PROMISE Act: The Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunity, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education ("Youth PROMISE") Act (H.R. 1064/S. 435) will provide for increased federal investments and coordination to support evidence-based prevention and intervention efforts at the local level, in the form of mentoring initiatives, after-school programs, family strengthening services, youth leadership development, etc., to reduce victimization, keep children involved in productive activities and provide for cost-effective use of public resources.
- Reauthorize the Second Chance Act (S. 1231): This Act is an investment in strategies to reduce recidivism and the financial burden of corrections on state and local governments, while increasing public safety. Each year, approximately 100,000 youth under the age of 18 leave secure residential facilities following adjudication, bringing with them educational and mental and chemical health needs.
- Fund Research on Youth Development: The juvenile court was founded in 1899 on the notion that juveniles are inherently less culpable than adults. Studies show that many of the current policies used for youth in conflict with the law actually decrease public safety rather than improve it. Additional research is needed to test and provide evidence for youth development-based juvenile justice.

To read more about recommendations:

<http://www.njjn.org/uploads/Miscellaneous/Policy%20Recommendations%20112th%20Congress%20fin.pdf>

Florida DJJ News

PACT Data Now Available Online

The DJJ Office of Probation and Community Intervention has posted data from the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) on the agency website. Information represents almost 750,000 PACT assessments completed in Florida from July 2006 through June 2010. There are nine separate views to explore, including risk to re-offend, drug and alcohol use, mental health issues, motives for crime, criminogenic needs and school, family and social issues. It is possible for the user to filter and examine statewide PACT data by fiscal year, race gender, judicial circuit and county. The data is presented in both tabular and graphic format.

Florida's centralized juvenile justice information system makes it possible to accurately track comprehensive, statewide data. "The online availability of the PACT profile makes this highly useful tool readily accessible," said Secretary Wansley Walters. "This information is important to local governments and communities for planning and understanding the needs of their youth, and we urge them to use it." For more information: <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/Research/tableau/PACT-Profile.html>

DJJ Reports Reduction in Physical Restraints

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has just released its most recent data on restraints which indicates a dramatic reduction in the use of physical restraint techniques, an impressive 41.6 percent. More than half of DJJ residential programs decreased or eliminated use of physical techniques in the past year.

"I am proud of the residential programs that have contributed to this accomplishment," said DJJ Secretary Wansley Walters. "This data shows that facilities are adopting the best practices in behavioral management."

DJJ Reports Delinquency Rates Have Dropped

DJJ has announced that juvenile delinquency in Florida has fallen by 10 percent from last year. The overall number of youth entering the DJJ system continues to decrease, referrals to the agency from schools are down 11 % from last year and the number of youth waiting in detention centers for placement in a residential facility is the lowest in DJJ's history.

Of the latest numbers, Secretary Walters said her agency's reform efforts, supported by Gov. Rick Scott, emphasize investments in "front-end services" such as civil citation, diversion programs and community-based treatment. Deeper-end sanctions and secure facilities are reserved for youth who pose a clear risk to public safety. Governor Scott added, "We cannot afford the financial or the societal costs of unnecessary juvenile incarceration. By shifting our focus and our investments to the front end of the system, we will save not only money, but also the lives and futures of the young people in our care."

For DJJ's annual report, <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/AboutDJJ/DJJ-Annual-Report.pdf>

DJJ Launches Statewide Community Resource Database on Website

In response to new legislation directed at enhancing local diversion services for qualifying misdemeanants and preventing placement of misdemeanants in residential programs, local DJJ circuit staff and boards and councils conducted a survey of available community services for youth in each circuit. This information has been compiled into a statewide community resource guide now available on DJJ Webpage. A work in progress, and as additional services are identified, they will be added to the resource guide.

For more information: <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/Probation/tableau/community-resource-guide.html>

Of Interest

Partnership for Safety and Justice and Campaign for Youth Justice: *Misguided Measures: The Outcomes and Impacts of Measure 11 on Oregon's Youth.*

A study that reviewed 3,000 juvenile indictments from 1995 to 2008 found that when black youth were arrested in Oregon, they were three times more likely to be indicted than a white youth arrested for the same crimes. The report concludes that Oregon's Measure 11 sentencing law disproportionately pushes black youth into the adult criminal justice system. To read report:

<http://www.safetyandjustice.org/spotlight/2373>

International Association of Chiefs of Police: *A Survey of Law Enforcement Shows Juvenile Justice Training Needs Assessment*

This report includes findings from a survey of law enforcement officers across the nation, which identifies the challenges and training needs they face when working with juvenile crime, delinquency, and victimization. Results describe data on department training budgets and needs, juvenile justice operations, and the most pressing juvenile justice issues for the jurisdictions included in the survey.

The top eight most pressing youth issues affecting agencies were substance abuse, abuse (physical, sexual and/or emotional), juvenile repeat offenders, bullying/cyberbullying, gangs, Internet crimes involving juveniles/youth (as perpetrator/victim), runaways, and school safety. To read report: <http://www.theiacp.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Vy2Y7Xk815U%3d&tabid=225>

National Juvenile Justice Network: *Bringing Youth Home: A National Movement to Increase Public Safety, Rehabilitate Youth and Save Money*

This report updates changes to juvenile incarceration rates including Florida reductions: FI DJJ commitments dropped from 8,897 in FY 2004-05 to 6,402 in FY 2008-09, a 28 %reduction; DJJ has eliminated 2,300 beds –from 6,012 in FY 2006-07 to 3,639 as of June 2011; Serious juvenile crime, i.e., felony referrals, dropped 25 % between FY 2005-06 and FY 2009-10 and total juvenile arrests declined by 21% between 2005 and 2010.

To read report: http://njjn.org/uploads/digital_library/Bringing%20Youth%20Home%20FINAL_%208.9.11.pdf

In the News

Huffington Post: *New Juvenile Justice Law Aims To Keep Young Offenders Out Of Prison*

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/16/new-juvenile-justice-law-_n_928660.html

Detroit Free Press: *Riots have Britain rethinking its stance on juvenile justice*

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110813/NEWS07/108130320/Riots-Britain-rethinking-its-stance-juvenile-justice>

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange: *Georgia's Commissioner of Department of Juvenile Justice Talks about Her Kids, All 22,000 of them* <http://jjie.org/amy-howell-djj-gjsa/20637>

Upcoming Conferences, Workshops, & Events

ARISE 5 Day Master Training, from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., September 26-30, 2011.

For information call 1-888-680-6100 or email

answers@at-riskyouth.org.

Health Care Reform Workshops, 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/hcreform/index.asp>

NCCD Center for Girls and Young Women are hosting two workshops during the month of October - Girl Matters!® and SAVVY Sister. Registration is limited. Several training options available! For information go to

www.justiceforallgirls.org or call 904-598-0901.

Florida Prevention Conference: *Pathway to Wellness*, October 5-7, 2011 Eastern Time, Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida

<http://www.cvent.com/events/2011-statewide-prevention-conference/event-summary-3aafd5d8d4f34e00a15902f162f4dbdc.aspx>

2011 National Juvenile Justice Conference, National Harbor, Maryland, October 10-14, 2011. For information,

<http://www.ojdp.gov/2011conference/index.html>

17th National Symposium on Juvenile Services, Indianapolis, October 16-19, 2011. For information, <http://www.npjs.org/symposium.php>

Upcoming Webinars

ARISE Webinars

- *Manage Time, Manage Stress* - September 21, 2011
- *Just Say Om* - October 26, 2011
- *Setting Goals for Happiness* - November 23, 2011
- *Making the Work Environment More Positive* - December 21, 2011
- *Acting with Hope and Optimism* - January 25, 2012

To register or for more information contact ARISE at

1-888-680-6100, or e-mail answers@at-riskyouth.org



Important Dates to Remember

September

- September 15 - FJJA Board Meeting
Operation PAR, Operation PAR
13800 66th Street, Largo Florida
Young Center, Building B (Great Room)
- September 19 - Legislative Committee Week

October

- October 3 - Legislative Committee Week
- October 17 - Legislative Committee Week
- October 31 - Legislative Committee Week

November

- November 8 - FJJA Board Meeting
The Center for Drug-Free Living
3670 Maguire Boulevard, Orlando, FL
- November 14 - Legislative Committee Week

December

- Week of December 5 - Legislative Committee Wk

January

- January 10th 2012- Legislative Session starts
- January 29 - Feb 3- Children's Week
- January 30 - FJJA Board Meeting
DISC Village, Tallahassee
- Jan 31 - DJJ "Youth Success Day"
- Jan 31 - "FJJA Day at the Capital"

March

- March 1, 2012 - FJJA Board Meeting
DISC Village, Tallahassee

April

- April 2012 - Adolescent Conference, TBA
Half Day FJJA Board Meeting
Half Day Executive Com Visioning Session

May/June

- FJJA Annual Board Retreat, Date, Location TBA

learn more about Juvenile Justice



FJJA and the Florida Network are working with local members to showcase the local juvenile justice continuum. We hope to have providers who deliver screening and assessment, prevention and intervention, gender responsive girls' services, diversion, civil citation, specialized residential, probation/community-based intervention services and detention.

These 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." These events are intended to be an opportunity for legislators and candidates to meet with juvenile justice professionals including agencies, child advocates, and private and nonprofit corporations committed to improving Florida's juvenile justice system for children and families.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED. If you haven't already, 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 participating in the events.

Circuit	Location	Point Person	Activity Update
1	Escambia	Nicole Janer njaner@ebanetwork.com	
2	Leon	Kelly Otte Kelly.otte@pacecenter.org	Planning meeting September 12
4	Jacksonville	Kisha Levy klevy@hrwyf.org	Planning meeting September 9
5	Ocala	Nicole Janer njaner@ebanetwork.com	Planning meeting mid September
6	Pasco/ Pinellas	Andy Coble acoble@yfainc.org	Planning meeting mid September
9	Orlando	Christina Kuhn ckuhn@hbi.org	Planning meeting mid September
11	Miami/ Dade	Sylvia Williams swilliams@cfceinc.org	Planning meeting September 8
13	Hillsborough	Nicole Janer njaner@ebanetwork.com	Target mtg date for event Nov 7th or 28th
17	Ft. Lauderdale	Patricia Snow psnow@ps-corp.net	Planning meeting September 9th

Watch your email for further updates. For information contact
Lynn Redmond at lynn@fjja.org or call 850-671-3442