



Newsletter

November 2011

Volume 5, Issue 71

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SAVE THE 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"
FJJA/FI Network
Evening Reception

Make your plans now!

**The FJJA Newsletter
is published monthly**

Cathy Craig-Myers, *Editor*
Lynn Redmond, *Publisher*

Deadline is the 4th of each
month

FJJA, Florida Network and DJJ Partner to Highlight Successful Youth

Mark Your Calendars! Children's Week is January 29 -February 3, 2012 and DJJ Youth Success Day is Tuesday, January 31.

The Florida Juvenile Justice Association, the Florida Network and DJJ are ramping up activities to celebrate DJJ Youth Success Day on January 31.

FJJA asks that all member agencies join together with us to celebrate "Youth Success Day" by holding local events, supporting community service days, and other activities to highlight youth success and to emphasize the strong partnerships between the Department of Juvenile Justice, private providers, faith based and community organizations. We will be showcasing youth success stories in this newsletter as well as the December and January editions. Additionally, we will be organizing story boards to display at the Capital during Children's Week and on Youth Success Day. We will provide this information to the Governor's Office and the Department of Juvenile Justice as well. We urge you to develop activities that represent the success of our DJJ youth in giving back and moving forward with their lives.

Tell us what you are planning and we will announce your efforts in our upcoming newsletters.

DJJ and Foundation Partner Celebrate Youth Success

On January 30 at the Brogan Museum, DJJ and the Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation will be hosting a reception celebrating "Youth Success through Art". In an effort to showcase youth programs, FJJA has partnered with the Mary Brogan Museum to run an exhibit of art created by youth at the Volusia Detention Center. The art will then be silent auctioned as part of the reception.

FJJA plans to have youth from local programs in attendance to help deliver the message of the importance and benefits of their programs to our communities. *More information coming soon!*

17th Annual Adolescent Conference Coming in April

We are pleased to announce our 17th Annual Adolescent Conference. The 2-day conference will be held on April 23-24, with a topic specific Post Conference scheduled on April 25. The conference will be held at the Florida Hotel in Orlando. This year's theme: **Unsung Heroes: Making A Difference.**

This year, we will celebrate the thousands of people who work every day with adolescent youth. They are the heroes that always fly beneath the radar. They aren't famous but they give of themselves for the greater good. They see the potential in our at-risk youth population and they work hard to get kids back on track.

Simply, what they do inspires our youth to move forward in a positive way. And yet, we often forget to acknowledge their sacrifice. They receive no parades, no holidays. Their work often goes unnoticed, unless they fail at it. We hope to celebrate the work of these unsung heroes. *More information coming soon!*

We Need Your Help!

- Continue to send us information about youth in your program accomplishing great things!
- We will be highlighting youth success in the Nov, Dec and Jan newsletters.
- Send your success stories to lynn@fjja.org

Legislative News

Florida's Financial Outlook

As of November, Florida's budget hole for next year was put officially at \$2 billion and it seems that the forecast continues to be revised downward. State economists now also project state budget shortfalls through FY 2015. We expect that appropriation committees will look to make reductions as they craft the budget.

Medicaid Reform Update

In October, AHCA sent its seventh request asking for a waiver extension to run its Medicaid reform pilot in five Florida counties. Growing opposition to the Medicaid waiver continues to grow; many of these opponents believe that expansion of the pilot builds directly on what essentially has been a failure.

Newsworthy

National Accreditation Agencies Make Presentations at DJJ

As DJJ continues the discussion of how accreditation could be integrated into how agencies review and monitor programs, this week DJJ and provider staff heard presentations from the Council on Accreditation (COA), the American Correctional Association (ACA), the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and the Joint Commission.

For CARF presentation, [click here](#).

For COA presentation, [click here](#).

For ACA presentation, [click here](#).

For Joint Commission, [click here](#).

SAVE THE DATE

January 31, 2012

**FJJA and FL Network Reception
Celebrating Youth Success Day**

Watch your e-mail for more information coming soon!

FJJA 2011-2012

Legislative Agenda

No Funding Cuts to Juvenile Justice.

Over the last 3 years, DJJ reductions have amounted to close to \$167 million dollars. Last year, the agency took a cut of more than \$70 million dollars. As DJJ works to improve the system of care, maintaining current levels of funding will ensure further success in the reduction of crime and other related costs, and second, prevent the flow of youth into adult corrections, reducing the need for future prison construction by taxpayer dollars.

FJJA Recommends:

Taking into consideration the significant budget cut to DJJ last year, FJJA recommends that DJJ be spared further reductions in upcoming session.

Increase Investment in Community Based Services.

Investments should focus on the following program areas: 1) prevention, early intervention and diversion; 2) specialized residential; 3) transition, reentry and aftercare; and 4) education, career education and industry certification.

FJJA Recommends:

If the revenue picture improves – investing additional dollars in community based services and contracted rates will further enhance youth success, lower recidivism rates, provide maximum return on taxpayer investment and sustain proven programs.

Newsorthy

Supreme Court Will Take Up Juvenile Life Without Parole Again

The Supreme Court will again consider limits on when life without parole sentences can be imposed on juvenile offenders. A year and a half ago, the Supreme Court's ruling in *Graham vs. Florida* banned life without parole sentences for any juvenile accused of a non-homicide offense.

The court will hear the oral arguments in the spring with the decision most likely by summer of 2012. The Court will be reviewing two additional cases that involve 14 year olds who were convicted of homicides. These cases will challenge whether the sentence given to youthful offenders are constitutional under the Eighth Amendment's protection against cruel and unusual punishment. The court could choose to limit life without parole sentences in two ways.

First, they could completely ban sentencing juveniles without parole for a non-homicide offense, impacting the sentences of more than 2,500 current inmates, with half coming from four states including Florida. Second, a ban on sentencing juveniles 15 years and younger would impact only 73 current inmates.

Congress Makes Further Cuts to Juvenile Justice Funding

This week Congress passed H.R. 2112, which contains a spending package for juvenile justice funding. The bill was signed by President Obama. Final funding levels for Title II, Title V and JABG have been dramatically reduced. This will have serious impact to Florida DJJ in program areas under the prevention umbrella. To read bill, [click here](#).

| OJJDP FUNDING | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 (HR 2112) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Title II Formula Grants to States | \$75m | \$62m | \$40m |
| Title V (Delinquency Prevention) | \$65m | \$54m | \$20m |
| Juvenile Accountability Block Grants | \$55m | \$45.65m | \$30m |
| Mentoring | \$100m | \$83m | \$78m |
| Missing and Exploited Children | \$70m | \$58.1m | \$65m |
| Victims of Child Abuse | \$22.5m | \$18.68m | \$18m |
| Community-Based Violence Prevention | \$10m | \$8.3m | \$8m |

OJJDP leadership will have difficult decisions to make as they distribute the JJDPA Title II formula funds, which are given to states in exchange for their compliance with four core standards of juvenile justice operations: not detaining or incarcerating status offenders; keeping all juveniles out of adult jails, and separating them by sight and sound in the rare exceptions when jail is allowable; and addressing disproportionate minority contact in the system. Last year, Florida received \$2M in Title II, \$1.5M in JABG, and \$50K in Title V.

FJJA Legislative Materials
Now Available Online

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

Is Florida's Zero Tolerance Law Working?

As Florida continues to debate the effectiveness of SB 1540, Zero Tolerance legislation passed by the Florida Legislature in 2009, a new report has been released that draws a correlation between the increase of law enforcement in schools and increases in referrals to the juvenile justice system, especially for minor offenses like disorderly conduct. In recent weeks, Legislative committees have been hearing presentations from DJJ and other advocacy groups that Florida's Zero Tolerance laws continue to propel youth out of schools, often for charges and arrests that are ultimately dropped. Advocates argue that changes are needed to tighten up the intent of the law.

At the same time, other states continue to look at how and why youth enter the juvenile justice system through school based referrals. A new report, *Education Under Arrest: The Case Against Police in Schools*, by the Justice Policy Institute, makes the argument that the mere presence of law enforcement in schools creates an environment that makes learning difficult and, in some cases, causes the violence that they are supposed to prevent.

The report goes further to say that the presence of law enforcement in schools often exacerbates what happens to youth, disrupting the youth's education, and often leading to suspension, expulsion, and alienation from school.

The report also states that the presence of school resource officers (SRO) and harsh, zero-tolerance policies are more likely to affect youth of color and youth with disabilities. Additionally, schools that face funding cuts if they do not meet annual yearly progress on tests are incentivized to push out struggling and failing students.

The Justice Policy Institute maintains that all of these negative effects set youth on a track to drop out of school and put them at greater risk of being funneled into the juvenile justice system. The report cites data from Birmingham, Alabama, where 96 percent of juvenile court referrals for students were for misdemeanor offenses or minor violations. Additionally, a study of sample schools with and without school resource officers (SRO) found that schools with an SRO had nearly five times the rate of arrests for disorderly conduct as schools without an SRO. To read report, [click here](#).

Of Interest

DJJ Office of Prevention Participates in "Stomp Out the Violence"

DJJ's Office of Prevention and Victim Services recently participated in a community day hosted by Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., called "*Stomp Out the Violence*".

This event was designed to encourage youth, families and community stakeholders to unite in a common mission to deflect violence that is often experienced in our communities. "*Stomp Out the Violence*" was created to explore alternatives and more appropriate venues to address violence and victims of violent behavior, especially "gang violence." By providing and fostering a nurturing and positive environment full of activities and uplifting dialogue, this event elevated public awareness of the consequences of violent behavior. The Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. sought to achieve this purpose collaboratively with community partners and stakeholders.

Assistant Secretary of Prevention and Victim Services Wanda Finnie spoke to more than 500 young adults and parents about prevention, motivation and education with an emphasis on partnerships DJJ has with statewide stakeholders.

In the News

New York Times: *Court Reform for Teenage Offenders*

Washington Post: *Judge Steve Teske seeks to keep kids with minor problems out of court*

Washington Post: *Federal Cuts would imperil juvenile justice*

Chicago Sun Times: *Prison isn't best option for nonviolent youths*

Philadelphia Inquirer: *Schools must move away from Zero Tolerance*

Tampa Tribune: *Stop Housing Juvenile in Adult Jails*, Editorial by David Utter, Southern Poverty Law Center

Flagler Live.com: *Florida Lawmaker Proposes Broader GPS Tracking of Juvenile Offenders*

Florida Today: *Cutting juvenile crime: Civil citation is key to state's juvenile justice reform*, Editorial by Secretary Wansley Walters

Upcoming Conferences, Workshops, & Events

Health Care Reform Workshops, 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>

2 Day ARISE Life Skills training, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, December 5-6, 2011, Seacoast National Bank 3001 PGA Blvd., Palm Beach Gardens, Fl. To register or for more information contact ARISE at 1-888-680-6100, or e-mail answers@at-riskyouth.org or go to www.at-riskyouth.org.

5 Day ARISE Master Training - Drop It At The Door, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, January 9-13, 2012 Palm Beach Gardens Fl. To register or for more information contact ARISE at 1-888-680-6100, or e-mail answers@at-riskyouth.org or go to www.at-riskyouth.org.

Upcoming Webinars

ARISE 60 Minute Webinars

Setting Goals for Happiness - November 30th

Making the Work Environment More Positive - January 25th

Acting with Hope and Optimism - February 22nd

To register or for more information contact ARISE at

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

www.at-riskyouth.org



Important Dates to Remember

December 2011

- Dec 5 - Legislative Committee Week

January 2012

- Jan 10 - Legislative Session starts
- Jan 29 - Feb 3 - Children's Week
- Jan 30 - **FJJA Board Meeting**
DISC Village, Tallahassee
- Jan 31 - DJJ "Youth Success Day"
- Jan 31 - "FJJA Day at the Capital"
- Jan 31 - FJJA-FI Network Evening Reception

March 2012

- Mar 1, 2012 - **FJJA Board Meeting**
DISC Village, Tallahassee

April 2012

- April 23-24, 2012 - Adolescent Conference, **Unsung Heroes: Making A Difference**,
- April 25, 2012 - Post Conference Workshop, The Florida Hotel, Orlando
- April 23, 2012 - **FJJA Board Meeting and 1/2 Day Executive Committee Visioning Session**, The Florida Hotel, Orlando

May/June 2012

- **FJJA Annual Retreat**, Date TBA
LaPlaya Resort, Naples

Just Released

Youth Justice System Survey Shows Public Favors Restorative Approach

The Campaign for Youth Justice has released polling data that shows public opinion favors a balanced and restorative approach, as well as recognizing age and stage of development for youth in the justice system. Highlights include: Public strongly favors rehabilitation and treatment approaches, such as counseling, education, treatment, restitution, and community service (89%); Americans strongly favor involving the youth's families in treatment (86%), keeping youth close to home (77%), and ensuring youth are connected with their families (86%); Americans support requiring the juvenile justice system to reduce racial and ethnic disparities (66%); Public rejects placement of youth in adult jails and prisons (69%). To read full report, [click here](#)

Models for Change: Doorways to Delinquency

This report highlights findings from a study conducted by NCJJ that examines the prevalence of multi-system involvement among youth referred to the King County Juvenile Court on delinquency matters in 2006. The study found that about two-thirds of all youth referred on a delinquency matter had some form of child welfare involvement and that such involvement is correlated to poorer juvenile justice outcomes including time spent in detention and recidivism. To read full report, [click here](#)

U.S. Department of Justice: Youth Focused Policing Resource Center

This website provides a directory of law enforcement programs and services for youth, training and technical assistance in juvenile justice, and information on resources available through the International Association of Chiefs of Police. In addition, the site includes a searchable resource library, a secure discussion forum for law enforcement officials, and comprehensive information and resources relating to youth crime, delinquency, and victimization. To read full report, [click here](#)

U.S. Department of Justice: Juvenile Court Statistics 2008

This report describes delinquency cases handled between 1985 and 2008 and petitioned status offense cases handled between 1995 and 2008 by U.S. courts with juvenile jurisdiction. In 2008, courts with juvenile jurisdiction handled an estimated 1,653,300 delinquency cases. In 1960, approximately 1,100 delinquency cases were processed daily. In 2008, juvenile courts handled about 4,500 delinquency cases per day. More than 31 million youth were under juvenile court jurisdiction in 2008. Of these youth, 79% were between the ages of 10 and 15, 12% were age 16 and 9% were age 17. To read full report, [click here](#)

U.S. Department of Justice: Journal of Juvenile Justice

This new journal is a tool for researchers and practitioners. It addresses a variety of issues in juvenile justice, such as juvenile victimization, delinquency prevention, intervention, and treatment. The inaugural issue includes topics such as the unique risk factors associated with crossover youth and the benefits of comprehensive restorative justice programs. It also includes articles on programs that demonstrate promise in reducing child maltreatment and increasing the efficiency of case processing. To read full report, [click here](#)



Celebrating Youth Success!

Inspired, Pace Graduate Julia Largay Plans to Help Other Youth Reach Their Potential

Julia attended PACE ten years ago. Her home life was overwhelming. Her mother, an alcoholic had not held a job since before Julia was born. Julia remembers coming home from school as a child and opening the refrigerator to find it full of beer, a sign that the child support checks had come. Her elderly grandmother cared for Julia and her sister during her early years. When her grandmother passed away in Julia's 6th grade year, she was devastated. Her support system instantly collapsed. Her mother used the inheritance money to delve further into alcohol and other drugs. The electricity and telephone were shut off for weeks.

In public school Julia felt as if she were a complete outcast, alone and unable to reach out to anyone around her. Others made fun of her because she was poor and didn't dress right. She became cynical towards the world, completely apathetic toward schoolwork, having friends and making goals for herself. She began to drink and smoke cigarettes at the age of 13, turning to alcohol as her mother had, believing it was her only option to ameliorate the hopelessness of her dire situation. Although she had been a bright, gifted student in elementary school, her grades slipped and she lost confidence.

Julia enrolled at PACE Center for Girls Alachua but was very skeptical that it would help. However, after a few months her natural outgoing self reappeared. She was able to confide in Mr. Michael, her counselor, about what was troubling her at home and her feelings. She said he always received her conversations in a positive, supportive manner, listening to what she said. For the first time she could remember, she actually had a voice. She credits him as one of the biggest influences of her renewed interest in herself and school. After a while she truly began to think of some of her teachers and mentors as extended family - PACE staff cared about her triumphs, believed in her dreams and gave her unconditional love and acceptance. They gave her what she didn't have at home - someone to look up to.

Julia believed that before entering PACE her future was bleak- she was destined to become her mother. With the tools she learned at PACE, she could dream again and forge a future for herself. Though she left PACE 8 years ago, the staff has always been there for her. Just two years ago Mr. Michael helped her to apply to the University of Florida.

She is now two months short of graduating from UF with her Bachelor's Degree in English and a minor in Education. She has a grade point average of 3.9 and is only \$2000 in debt for student loans. She wants to be a middle school teacher. Julia feels that people often label children as either destined for success or on their way to dropping out during that pivotal time in adolescence, based on their progress in elementary school and their family environment. Inspired by the professionals at PACE, Julia wants to reach out to adolescents, help them achieve their potential, believe in them and cheer for them just as PACE has done for her.

As providers, we see the many, many success stories in our system. Programs across the continuum of care provide youth with the tools to make better decisions, re-establish critical relationships, complete their education and obtain gainful employment. FJJA is proud to honor youth who have made a commitment to change, take responsibility for their actions and who have turned their lives around.

*Coming in December
Successful youth in their own words.*



Celebrating Youth Success!

Persistence Paid off for Matthew C at the Okeechobee Youth Development Center

Home Builders Institute "Project CRAFT" and G4S Youth Services would like to recognize Mathew C. for his persistence and dedication to making a change in his life out of respect for himself and his family. Mathew quickly identified that he had no interest in attending an alternative school when he returned home, due to the overwhelming negative influences surrounding that atmosphere. He immediately inquired and applied for HBI's Project Craft.

Unfortunately the classes were full and there were no openings for him, but as soon as he heard of an opening he quickly applied again. This time he was turned down because he was less than 16 years of age. Once he turned 16, he would be eligible, but there was a hitch. If he enrolled when he turned 16 he would have to voluntarily stay at Okeechobee Youth Development Center (OYDC) and additional 5 weeks past his anticipated release date to complete the 6 month program. Without hesitation he agreed.

His persistence paid off, and while in HBI Project CRAFT's Facilities Maintenance class at OYDC, Mathew excelled and graduated ahead of schedule while pursuing his General Education Diploma. (GED) He completed and passed his FCAT making him eligible for a special diploma if he successfully passes his GED testing. After successfully completing HBI in 5 ½ months, he worked with the employment specialist who helped to get him enrolled in a GED program when he got home.

Mathew has now completed his GED prep Courses 3 months ahead of schedule, and will be testing the week of November 7 2011. Filled with confidence, Matthew has already started pursuing higher education at Lake Tech Technical School. The next step of his educational plan includes becoming certified as a Welder or an Auto-Technician.

Aside from attending school, pursuing higher education, and working part time at Top Notch Tree Specialists, Matthew takes great pride in building a new relationship with his role model, his grandfather. They work together refurbishing old muscle cars and have recently completed a 1967 Chevelle, and are currently starting a ground up restoration project on a 1957 Chevy Bel Aire.

Mathew attends youth groups from 7-10 on Fridays and intends on becoming a mentor in the near future. Mathew has matured beyond his age in a short period of time and as he prepares for his future demonstrates the value of making the best of second chances.

On the Right Path

In July 2010, B.C. graduated from the G4S Palmetto Youth Academy with his high school diploma. He had entered the program needing only three credits to earn his high school diploma. Studying day and night B.C. also helped to tutor other youth when needed.

B.C. would often admit that he struggled to not resume his old ways of opposing authority but he quickly learned that he was much too smart to continue on that path. During his talks of the future, B.C. declared that he really aspired to be an educator like his mother. He admired his mother for her love of teaching and he often bragged about the way her students loved and respected her.

When B.C. graduated, he immediately enrolled at Edison College. Since then B.C. has kept in touch with the counselors at Palmetto, sending frequent emails updating them on his college success. Recently he announced that after spending time at a friend's law office, he is now considering working in the justice field.



Celebrating Youth Success!

Changed Lives

Kevin Portela was released from the G4S Dade Juvenile Residential Program last May and is back home currently attending Boyton Beach High School and is presently on the Academic Honor Roll. With the help of various educators from the high school, Kevin is now involved in a music production venture and is also attending BASA after school where he is learning aeronautics. He was awarded a scholarship to attend technological college, once he graduates from high school.

Jacob Smith was released from G4S Dade Juvenile Residential Program last February and has been working as a waiter in a 5-Star restaurant in North Carolina since his release from the program. Jacob is very interested in a potential culinary career, and will be leaving for Hawaii soon, where he has found a job at another 5-Star restaurant. Once he arrives, he will have the opportunity to train by the top chefs in Hawaii. Jacob is also interested in one day majoring in engineering, with plans to return to the states, specifically North Carolina to eventually pursue that career.

A Real Success Story

An intensive mental health program, Youth Service International's Broward Girls Academy is used to dealing with girls with mental health issues. When Britany Kalis arrived at the academy, it was determined that she would need to be Baker Acted due to psychotic features. However, once Britany returned back to the facility, she showed slow but consistent progress. She met with the psychiatrist once a week and twice a week for intensive mental health counseling by a Licensed Mental Health Counselor.

With time, she began to acclimate to the program and learn to trust the staff members. Within a few months, she became a model youth in the program. She moved up to the highest level in the program and consistently received the highest points. She was admired by her peers and served as a Level IV leader. Before leaving, she worked with her therapist to cover every aspect of transition planning, including writing a resume, scheduling counseling, finding volunteer opportunities and building a relationship with her family members. Despite Britany's mental health issues, she successfully completed the program in less than seven months. She was released from the program and returned to high school, where she plans to attend college and get a B.A. degree in journalism.



Preparing for a High Tech Career

Randy Poole graduated from the Okeechobee Juvenile Offender Correctional Center in June, 2008, and soon thereafter, Randy enrolled in Palm Beach State College (PBSC). He quickly found a job working at night, and in two short years, he graduated from PBSC with an Associate Degree in Science. He had higher aspirations; Randy then applied and was accepted into the University of Central Florida's, College of Engineering and Computer Science, Mechanical, Materials and Aerospace Engineering. Randy is doing well and will receive his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in June, 2012. He is seriously considering pursuing a degree in Aerospace engineering.



Celebrating Youth Success!

One DJJ Intervention Equals a Life-Altering Experience for Four Young Men

Three teens who came to Prodigy, J.L., E.M. & A.V., were referred from Bay Area Youth Services (BAYS), and all had been arrested together for a shoplifting incident at a local store. In April of that same year, another student, A.G. was referred from BAYS and all four became fast friends. J.L. took art; the other three began taking Capoeira, a Brazilian art form of part *dance*, part *self-defense*. All four boys successfully completed BAYS as well as their eight week commitment to Prodigy, but they did not leave the Prodigy program. They wanted to explore other courses Prodigy had to offer. When Prodigy added a Break-dance class the boys continued with both Capoeira and Break-dance, often combining Capoeira moves into complicated Break-dance numbers.

Two years later, in 2011, the boys are now seniors in High School and have become Prodigy's star Break-dancers! The transformation that took place in the lives of all four of these youth has been significant, not only in their improved self-confidence, but in their scholastic and artistic lives as well. After almost three years, the connections these four youth made are deep and long-lasting. Prodigy is proud to be part of the inspiring changes that these teens have created for themselves and believe that all four will lead successful lives.

Safe Harbor Made the Difference

When Tom, 17 years old, came to Children's Home Society of Florida's (CHS) Safe Harbor emergency shelter, he was essentially homeless. His mother had been admitted to a treatment program, and they had been evicted from their apartment. Tom experienced the rollercoaster of emotions one would expect after being separated from his family, but he quickly befriended the other youth in the shelter. The staff saw Tom as a role model and recognized his natural leadership particularly as he worked hard during the CHS weekly counseling sessions that helped him with his skills and transition planning. His counselor helped him obtain a social security card, birth certificate and a learner's permit. She also encouraged Tom to enroll in the CHS youth employment program; within a few weeks, he was working as a dishwasher at an upscale Italian restaurant in Lake Worth. With aspirations of becoming a chef, Tom knew he had to start somewhere. He did so well at work that his boss began taking him on catering jobs, opening more doors for Tom's future. After hard work in treatment, Tom's mother successfully completed her program and took him home in February. We are very proud of all Tom accomplished and the example he set for dozens of other youth during his time with CHS.

Finding Your Way Back

Cory entered Gulf Academy not knowing if he could make it through the program. He had a great deal of family issues, anger problems, always thinking people were out to get him. However, while at Gulf Academy, Cory began to participate in the therapy that was offered to him. He began mentoring other youth in the program, encouraging them to plan for the future. Making the best of the situation and by showing leadership, Cory was able to complete the program in 7 ½ months. Once arriving home, Cory began working at a local feed store and starting EMT school. A diabetic, Cory was interested in the medical field. Today, Cory is progressing well, preparing to finish his EMT studies and hopes to attend Florida State and major in business. Additionally, with his dream of playing college football, he hopes to one day "walk on" to the FSU Football team. With his drive, ambition, and the heart to succeed, we know that Cory will go far. Cory is an inspiration to all youth struggle at times, but find their way back.

learn more about Juvenile Justice



Founded in 1994, The Florida Juvenile Justice Association is a statewide organization that strongly supports a common sense approach to juvenile justice that treats young people fairly, holds them accountable for their actions and keeps our neighborhoods, schools and communities safe.

The Association brings together juvenile justice system professionals and agencies and private and nonprofit corporations committed to improving Florida's juvenile justice system for children and families.

We work with and care about at-risk youth in Florida, and we are committed to improving citizens' confidence in and reliance on the effectiveness and integrity of Florida's system of justice for its young people.



The Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Inc. is a not-for-profit statewide association representing agencies which serve homeless, runaway and troubled youth ages 10 to 17 and their families. Services include: advocacy for youth, public policy development, public education, data collection and research, program certification and training and technical assistance. We are committed to promoting policies and practices that hold our member agencies accountable for preventing juvenile delinquency and child abuse through the strengthening of youth and families.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER EVENTS

Circuit 9

Orlando, November 8, 6:00-8:00 pm, Home Builders Institute, 2133 All Children's Way, Orlando, for information - ckuhn@hbi.org . *GREAT EVENT!*

Circuit 6

Clearwater, November 10, 9 am, Executive Center Office Park, 25400 US Hwy 19, Suite 245, Clearwater, for information - acoble@yfainc.org. *GREAT EVENT!*

Circuit 17

Ft. Lauderdale, November 29, 10:30 am -Noon, the African American Library and Cultural Center, Ft. Lauderdale, for information - psnow@ps-corp.net

Circuit 13

Tampa, November 30, 8:00-9:30 am, Family Justice Center, 9309 N. Florida Ave, Tampa, information - janer@ebanetwork.com

Circuit 5

Wildwood/Oxford, November 30, 2:30-4:30 pm, Oxford Assembly of God, 12114 N. US Hwy 301, Oxford, for information - njaner@ebanetwork.com

Circuit 1

Milton, December 1, 10 am-Noon, Pensacola State College, Milton Campus, 5988 Hwy 90, Milton, for information - njaner@ebanetwork.com

www.FJJA.org

www.FLORIDANETWORK.org