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Inside this Issue:

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| In the News | 2 |
| Of Interest | 2 |
| New FJJA Leadership | 5 |
| Board Meeting Change | 5 |
| Adolescent Conference | 5 |
| DJJ to Review Statutes | 6 |
| Upcoming Events | 7 |
| Member News | 6 |
| Sponsorships Available | 10 |

SAVE THE DATE
2012 Adolescent Conference



April 23-25, 2012
Orlando, Florida

2012 Adolescent Conference
Sponsorship Opportunities Still Available!

See page 10

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

DJJ, FJJA and Florida Network Celebrate Youth Success

This month, agencies serving juvenile justice involved youth joined together to celebrate Juvenile Justice Youth Success Day as part of annual Children’s Week in Tallahassee. Events included an auction of art created by DJJ youth, a press conference with Secretary Walters, FJJA and the Florida Network and a reception co-sponsored by the Florida Juvenile Justice Association and the Florida Network to recognize youth success.

Across the state, provider agencies and DJJ honored youth success through local recognition ceremonies, community service projects, food drives, literacy reading events, essay contests, and other local events to emphasize the strong partnerships between the Department of Juvenile Justice, private providers, faith based and community organizations.

Meet DJJ’s 2012 Youth Ambassadors

Rebecca Dugger, is a 2007 graduate of the PACE Center for Girls. After graduating, Rebecca received the Bill Bankhead Scholarship. She attended Tallahassee Community College, where she received an AA degree. She is now a senior at FSU, where she is a double major in English and Philosophy. She graduates this year, and plans to join Teach for America, where she can help children discover their love of a subject in school and help them to continue their own education.



Kiana Gadson, received services the Tampa Housing Authority Youth and Family Services Program where she found care and compassion. In her own words, she said that “things were very difficult and I really didn’t see a future for myself past high school, much less for my family.” Kiana recently graduated from high school and is working in Hillsborough County Schools, inspiring other young people to realize their dreams. She is enrolled at Hillsborough Community College.

Daniela*, received a civil citation by the Leon County Sheriff’s Office. She was assigned to serve fifty hours of community service and participated in various treatment services at DISC Village in Tallahassee. She has completed all requirements is dual enrolled in high school and community college and works part time. (* last name omitted upon request)

Claricia Williams, recently graduated from Okeechobee Girls Academy, and Home Builder’s Institute. Claricia will be starting Hillsborough Community College soon with a goal to get an AA degree (and eventually a BA and MA degree) in criminal justice. She would also like to become a certified boxer and a gospel singer. She loves to sing gospel as it helps her to work through her problems. Her motto is “Anyone who has made up their mind and wants to change can do it. Now I say have a bad moment, not a bad day.”

Of Interest

OJJDP & NCCD Launch National Girls Institute Website

Founded in 2010, The National Girls Institute (NGI) is a federally-funded partnership between the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). NGI is a research-based training and resource clearinghouse designed to advance understanding of girls' issues and improve program and system responses to girls in the juvenile justice system. NGI activities include conducting a national assessment of training and technical assistance needs; developing standards of care; providing access to relevant resources; and providing gender-responsive training and technical assistance. NGI provides direction for advancing the application of research and information to practice to improve national, state, and local responses to girls, and assists agencies to improve capacity by providing training and technical assistance along the entire continuum of services to better meet the needs of girls and staff who work with them. For more information, <http://www.nationalgirlsinsitute.org>.

FJJA is hosting "National Girls Institute Day" on April 25, 2012 the third day of our Annual Adolescent Conference.

For more information, <http://www.adolescentconference.org>.

U.S. Department of Justice: *Fact Sheet on Bullying*

Bullying includes repeated harmful acts and a real or perceived imbalance of power. Bullying creates a climate of fear in schools, on playgrounds, in neighborhoods, in juvenile detention facilities, and in gangs. Some 13.2% of survey participants reported having been physically bullied during the previous year. In the United States, 13% of 6th- through 10th-grade students bully and 6% are both victims and bullies. In a survey of American middle and high school students, 66% of bullying victims believed school professionals responded poorly to bullying problems. Bullying takes place more often at school than on the way to and from school. Male bullying declines after age 15 and female bullying after age 14. Of student victims, 25% were bullied about their race or religion. *Click here for factsheet.* http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/newsroom/factsheets/ojpfs_bullying.html

U.S. Department of Justice: *Fact Sheet on Mentoring*

Mentoring is based on the premise that predictable, consistent relationships with stable, competent adults can help youth cope with challenges and steer clear of high-risk behaviors. Of the 17.6 million young people who could benefit from having a mentor, only 2.5 million were in formal, one-to-one mentoring relationships in 2005. Most mentoring relationships last an average of 9 months, but 38% of mentors spent at least 12 months with their mentees. Only 16% of mentors had mentees in the juvenile justice system, but 67% of mentors expressed a willingness to work with this population. According to a study of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program, little brothers and little sisters were 46% less likely than their peers without mentors to initiate drug use during the study period.

Click here for factsheet http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/newsroom/factsheets/ojpfs_mentoring.html

In the News

Capital Weekly: [Trying youths in adult courts proving ineffective](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange: [High-Needs Kids and Juvenile Justice Reforms](#)

New York Law Journal: [Time Is Ripe for Reforms in Juvenile Justice](#)

Miami Herald: [Drug Use among Florida Youth drops](#)

CBS News: [Nearly 1 in 3 U.S. youths will be arrested by age 23](#)

Of Interest

Dept of Justice: *You're an Adult Now: Youth in Adult Criminal Justice Systems*

Juveniles transferred to adult corrections systems reoffend at a higher rate than those who stay in the juvenile justice system, according to a new report from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). The report also found insufficient evidence that trying youths as adults acts as a crime deterrent.

Youth transferred to the adult corrections system recidivate at a higher rate than those kept in the juvenile justice system. Pretrial, post-conviction, and community supervision corrections systems face challenges keeping youth safe, effectively providing for their services and supervision, and containing costs required to serve youth appropriately. Due to these and other challenges corrections systems face when managing these youth, the transfer of juveniles in adult institutions might run counter to correctional and rehabilitative goals. To overcome these challenges, a number of states and localities have developed innovative ways of managing youth when they have been charged, convicted, and committed to the adult corrections system. These changes are helping improve public safety, contain costs, successfully rehabilitate youth, and help them transition to adulthood. [Click here for report.](#)

National Association of State Directors of Special Education: *Reentry Programs for Students with Disabilities in the Juvenile Justice System: Four State Approaches*

Evidence strongly supports the idea that juvenile offenders, both with and without disabilities, are significantly more likely to experience successful reentry into their home schools and communities if appropriate programs and supports are in place. This document defines reentry, describes recent federal efforts to support successful reentry for youth, discusses the prevalence of youth with disabilities in the juvenile justice system, explains why reentry programming matters, and summarizes recommended strategies for successful reentry. It also describes four states' efforts (Arizona, Georgia, Hawaii, and Oregon) to support the successful reentry of juvenile offenders into their home schools and communities. [Click here for report.](#)

FJJA 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.

President Obama Releases Juvenile Justice Budget Proposal

President Obama's proposed budget increases spending at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

| Funding | President's Proposal | Current Year- 2012 |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|
| Formula grants to states (Title II): | \$70 million | \$40 million |
| Delinquency prevention grants: | \$40 million | \$20 million |
| Block grants to states (JABG): | \$30 million | \$30 million |
| Mentoring programs: | \$58 million | \$78 million |
| Community-Based Violence Prevention: | \$25 million | \$8 million |
| NEW: Evidence-based demonstration program for juvenile justice reform. | \$20 million | n/a |

PACE Founder To Be Recognized By Governor Rick Scott

Florida Governor Rick Scott has selected three outstanding Florida women for induction into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame; Dr. Ruth H. Alexander, Elizabeth "Budd" Bell, and Vicki Bryant Burke. Governor Scott chose the three women from a list of 10 distinguished nominees selected by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women for making significant contributions to the improvement of life for women and all citizens of Florida.

Governor Scott will conduct the ceremony for the Hall of Fame on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the Capitol Courtyard in Tallahassee. The founder of PACE Center for Girls, Vicki Bryant Burke, is one of the recipients.

Realizing that institutionalization or incarceration was often the juvenile justice system's response to addressing the needs of girls who committed delinquent acts and/or status offenses, Ms. Burke founded PACE Center for Girls; the first and only non-residential program for troubled adolescent females in Florida in 1985. Following the success of that single program, juvenile judges began requesting that PACE expand to their cities, and Ms. Burke led a statewide expansion to include PACE Centers in Bradenton, Orlando, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Pensacola, and Tallahassee.

Today, PACE has 17 centers throughout Florida, and has helped over 29,000 young women. Ms. Burke is still working with females; she is currently working with female ex-offenders helping them transition back into their community, find meaningful work, and lead productive lives.

"These three women exemplify what makes Florida the best place in the country to live-the quality of our people. With selfless dedication and love they have lifted countless individuals and families, and by so doing they have lifted our state as a whole," state Governor Scott. For more information, go to <http://www.fcsw.net>, or by calling 850-414-3300.



FJJA Member Update

New FJJA Leadership

Jon Howard has resigned his position as President. of the FJJA Board of Directors. Representing Outward Bound, a founding member organization of FJJA, Jon served as a member of the FJJA Executive Committee for eight years, serving as Secretary, FJJA Legislative Chair, President- Elect and President. We thank Jon for his dedication, commitment and leadership to the Association and wish him well in future endeavors.

President Elect Donnie Read assumed the FJJA Presidency effective February 14, 2012. We will be accepting nominations for President Elect and two open Executive Committee positions in May and will hold elections at the June Annual Retreat .



Donnie Read

FJJA Board Meeting Change

The next FJJA board meeting date has been rescheduled. Our next meeting is Monday, April 23rd from 2 - 5 p.m., at the 2012 Adolescent Conference in Orlando. *More details will be coming soon.*

Adolescent Conference Update

This year's theme: **Unsung Heroes: Making a Difference** acknowledges the thousands of men and women who work every day with at risk youth. The conference offers an array of presentations and workshops that span the continuum of cutting edge topics which highlight promising practices, evidence-based programming, and clinical strategies that effectively serve at-risk, delinquent and substance involved youth. The 2-day conference will be held at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando on April 23-24, 2012 with the "National Girls Institute Day" post conference planned for Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

FJJA is proud to announce that the "National Girls Institute Day" will be held on April 25, 2012, on day three of our Annual Adolescent Conference. The "National Girls Institute" is the national training and technical assistance provider for OJJDP and provides multi-level training and technical assistance to improve job performance of individuals and service delivery systems of organizations working with justice involved girls and their families. FJJA members receive a discount rate. For more information, www.adolescentconference.org.

FJJA/DJJ to Host Roundtable Discussions at 2012 Adolescent Conference

At the 2012 Adolescent Conference in Orlando, FJJA and DJJ will be hosting roundtable discussions relating to the Georgetown University Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project (JJSIP) as well as DJJ's current activities to enhance Civil Citation efforts.

Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform recently selected Pinellas County, Florida to participate in an 18-month project, which is designed to help states improve outcomes for juvenile offenders by better translating knowledge on "what works" into everyday practice and policy. DJJ has plans to expand efforts beyond the initial pilot in Pinellas County and looks to inform thought leaders around the state on the status of this project.

In 2011, new legislation gave DJJ the responsibility of developing new guidelines on implementation of civil citation programs to 1st time misdemeanants as well as requiring data entry into the JJIS system. This roundtable discussion will take a look at current status of that effort, lessons learned and recommendations to improve going forward.

FJJA Members Participate in Art Auction to Celebrate DJJ Youth Success

FJJA Members DISC Village and Twin Oaks Juvenile Development recently partnered with the Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation to host an art auction celebrating the artistic talent of juvenile justice involved youth. The art exhibited was created by youth from the Volusia Regional Detention Center (VRDC) and Prodigy Cultural Arts Program. Prodigy, a research-based prevention, intervention and diversion program for at-risk youth ages 7 to 17, uses visual and performing arts as way to teach youth who live in high risk areas or who have been diverted or adjudicated from the juvenile justice system. Twin Oaks Dove Vocational Academy provided the catering for the reception, the Pensacola Boys Base framed various pieces of the art and PACE Center for Girls welcomed attendees to the reception.

DJJ to Announce Team to Review Juvenile Justice Statutes

In the next month, Secretary Wansley Walters will announce the formation of a cross section of stakeholders to review the current Juvenile Justice Statutes (Chapter 985 and 984) . The review team will be chaired by Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente, chair of the Supreme Court's Steering Committee on Families and Children, and Alan F. Abramowitz, Executive Director of the Guardian ad Litem Program. The review process will take place following the close of this legislative session, and will commence throughout the summer, with final recommendations ready for next legislative session. To assist the Department of Juvenile Justice in this very important endeavor, FJJA has formed a small committee to participate in this process. We will be reaching out to members for input soon.

NCCD Selected by OJJDP to Assist Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence

Launched in 2011, the National Task Force on Children Exposed is taking input from experts in the field, victims and families, service providers, and the public. The task force will identify promising practices, programming, and community strategies used to prevent and respond to children's exposure to violence. The recommendations from the taskforce will shape policy and legislation around children's exposure to violence.

The National Center for Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) is assisting the task force to convene four public hearings to learn from practitioners, policymakers, advocates, academics, and communities about the extent and nature of the problem of children's exposure to violence in the U.S. The first hearing (Baltimore) and second hearing (Albuquerque) have already been held. The third and fourth hearings will take place March 20 in Miami and April 24 in Detroit. The task force will issue a final report of findings and policy recommendations, which will serve as a blueprint for preventing children's exposure to violence and for mitigating the negative effects experienced by children exposed to violence across the U.S. The Miami hearing will be held on March 19-21, 2012, at the University of Miami, Newman Alumni Center, hosted by the University of Miami School of Law.

For more information: <http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/task-force.html>



FJJA Executive Director Cathy Craig-Myers presents Rep. Rich Glorioso, (R-Plant City) the FJJA award for leadership and commitment to improve Florida's Juvenile Justice System.

Upcoming Conferences, Workshops, & Events

25th Annual Children's Mental Health Research and Policy Conference, March 4-7, Tampa, [click here](#) for registration and information.

5-Day ARISE Life Skills Master Training, March 12-16, 2012 8 One Judiciary Square, 441 4th St. NW, Washington DC, For information contact ARISE at 1-888-680-6100, or e-mail answers@at-riskyouth.org or go to www.at-riskyouth.org

2-Day ARISE Life Skills, April 23-24, 2012. Seacoast National Bank, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. For information contact ARISE at 1-888-680-6100, or e-mail answers@at-riskyouth.org or go to www.at-riskyouth.org

75th Annual Conference of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, July 15-18, 2012, New Orleans, LA. For more information, please contact the Conference Planning and Marketing Department at (775) 784-6920.

Online Training

ARISE Two Day Life Skills Group Facilitator Training, previously delivered by senior ARISE Trainers in traditional class room settings, is now available online. Each online lesson includes video clips of the classroom training. For information contact ARISE at 1-888-680-6100, or e-mail answers@at-riskyouth.org or go to www.at-riskyouth.org

Webinars

The Promise of Juvenile Drug Courts: The Foundations, 10:30-Noon, February 29, 2012 (Web workshop). For information, please contact Jessica Pearce at jpearce@ncjfcj.org or 775-784-1661. Must have internet and telephone access to attend this webinar. [Click here](#) to register today!

The Truth About Trauma and Delinquency, 10:30 am to Noon, March 7, 2012 (Webinar) For information, please contact Jessica Pearce at jpearce@ncjfcj.org or 775-784-1661. Registration is limited to 40 people. [Click here](#) to register today!

Using Sober Support Groups in Juvenile Drug Courts (Webinar), 10:30 am to Noon, March 28, 2012. For information, please contact Jessica Pearce at jpearce@ncjfcj.org or 775-784-1661. Must have internet and telephone access to attend this webinar. [Click here](#) to register today!



Important Dates to Remember

March 2012

- Mar 9 - Legislative Session ends

April 2012

- **FJJA Board Meeting**, April 23, 2012
2– 5 pm, The Florida Hotel, Orlando.
- **2012 Adolescent Conference, *Unsung Heroes: Making A Difference***,
April 23-24, 2012 The Florida Hotel,
Orlando.
- **National Girls Institute Day, *Post Conference Workshop***, April 25, 2012
The Florida Hotel, Orlando

May 2012

- **FJJA Executive Committee Visioning Session**, Orlando.
Time/Location TBA

June 2012

- **FJJA Annual Retreat**, June 10-13,
2012, LaPlaya Resort, Naples

Member News

Gateway Community Services Appoints New Leader

Candace Hodgkins, Ph.D., LMHC, has assumed the position of President/Chief Executive Officer following the retirement of Gary Powers. Dr. Hodgkins joined Gateway in 1997 as Program Administrator. Dr. Hodgkins has more than 20 years of experience in the assessment and treatment of chemically dependent and dually diagnosed individuals, and often trains professionals in substance misuse, assessment, treatment and evidence based practices. She has been the principal investigator for federally funded grants for the treatment of chemical dependency and mental health services, and is Gateway's site principal investigator for two current protocols funded through the National Institute Drug Abuse Clinical Trials Network.

A licensed mental health counselor in Florida and Colorado, Dr. Hodgkins is also a qualified supervisor for registered interns sitting for Florida licensure. Her work in the private sector includes grant evaluation for different school districts throughout Florida, consultation and comprehensive evaluations for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.



Dr. Candace Hodgkins CEO of Gateway Community Services, left, and Senator Audrey Gibson (D) of Jacksonville.

Prodigy Teens Attend Children's Week Events at the Capital

Prodigy Youth from Hillsborough, Pinellas, Sarasota, Orange and Pasco counties recently returned from a life-changing trip to the state Capitol speaking with lawmakers. For some of these teens, this trip was the first time they traveled outside of Tampa. For others, it was their first stay in a hotel. And, most importantly, it was the first time they had an opportunity to shake hands with state lawmakers who hold the decision making power over funding Prodigy, the very program that has transformed their life.

The trip was a part of the annual "Children's Week" when a coalition of organizations from across Florida who unite together to advocate for children and family issues to the state legislature.

In addition to meeting directly with legislators, and a picture with the Governor, the youth participated in a packed agenda that included an Old Capitol tour, a visit to the Challenger Learning Center to experience a space flight simulator and IMAX film, and a tour of Florida State University. Prodigy youth who participated in this Tallahassee trip ranged from 13 to 17 years old, and live in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Sarasota, Orange and Pasco counties. For more information, www.TransformingYoungLives.org.



Member News

Home Builders Institute Project Craft

(HBI) Project CRAFT-Okeechobee Youth Development Center (OYDC) already is working hard in 2012 to exceed the success of its 2011 community outreach. The students are building toys and furniture for local non-profits. They also are assisting the Kiwanis Club with its Adam Bryant Regatta fundraiser, which raises money to send a local student to EMT and firefighter school, and its efforts to help local disabled children and young adults fulfill their dreams. HBI Project CRAFT-OYDC is reaching out to different vendors, businesses and individuals to support these efforts.

The students continue to maintain the HVAC systems at the center throughout the winter months and take advantage of the time normally spent doing lawn maintenance to work on finishing the computer lab. This month they built a raised floor, installed new vinyl composite tile and window treatments in the lab. As they complete the finishing touches, the computer lab is now presentable, functional and fully occupational. The lab allows students to research jobs and educational opportunities prior to going home, so they can increase their success. One former student, who still lives on campus, currently is enrolled in online classes at the local Indian River State College (IRSC). Another student was able to pre-enroll in college prior to leaving and will start classes when he returns home.

The young men enjoyed a presentation presented by Mr. Bruce Chesser from the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Mr. Chesser explained the array of employment opportunities they could be eligible for at SFWMD. Many of the positions are directly related to what the students are learning in HBI facility maintenance training. He emphasized that regardless of their histories, they can still find a successful career.

Ensuring a Good Night's Sleep

HBI Project Craft Orlando recently partnered with *Rebuilding Together Orlando*, a national nonprofit working to preserve affordable homeownership and revitalize communities, the Mustard Seed and the Furniture Bank in Central Florida, to launch "a Door to a Good Night's Sleep" bed project.

This project, using a variety of recycled material such as wooden doors and discarded bed frames, created a solution to provide a good night's sleep for children in need.

HBI Orlando Instructors Frank Franco and Brian Andrews worked with HBI students to manufacture beds, which would be given to deserving families. HBI was able to manufacture 50 bunk beds.

The beds were taken to the JW Marriot Grande Hotel in Orlando Florida to be assembled as a Team Building challenge for Hospira Pharmaceutical Company's "Helping Hands of Hospira 2012 Outreach Program". Hospira used this project as their community service event. HBI students and staff worked alongside 850 Hospira workers and volunteers to assemble and paint the beds. To accommodate all 850 volunteers the event was staged in the parking lot of the hotel. As the sun cast down and a cool breeze blew, the DJ played heart pumping music as HBI students worked alongside Hospira teams to assemble beds.

HBI's Vice President Dennis Torbett, Senior Director of Operations John Hattery, and Director for Special Projects Tadar Muhammad were on hand for the event. This was truly a most memorable event for all involved but most importantly for the children that will benefit from the project by getting a "Good Night's Sleep"!





Unsung Heroes: Making a Difference

April 23 - 24, 2012 | Orlando

REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE

\$199 FJJA and FADA **\$229** Non Members

On April 1, 2012 rates will be: **\$214** FJJA and FADAA Members **\$244** Non Members

To register visit www.adolescentconference.org

JOIN THE ESTEEMED LIST OF 2012 ADOLESCENT CONFERENCE SPONSORS

OPPORTUNITIES STILL AVAILABLE, CALL LYNN REDMOND AT 850-671-3442

