



Newsletter

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Inside this Issue:

DJJ News	2
In the News	3
Dates to Remember	3
Upcoming Conference & Training Events	3
Recent Reports	4
Member News	5-7

OJJDP and MacArthur Foundation Collaborate to Provide Mental Health Training to Juvenile Justice Systems Across the Nation

The MacArthur Foundation has announced a partnership with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) in a new training initiative designed to create sustainable mental health training capacity within state and local juvenile justice systems. Ten sites were competitively selected for this initiative: Alaska, Maricopa County, Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, New Mexico, New York City, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Using a Train the Trainer model, the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice will train juvenile detention and residential trainers using the Mental Health Training Curriculum for Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ) - a new training tool developed by the Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Action Network.

The curriculum provides staff with basic information about adolescent development, mental health disorders common among youth in the juvenile justice system and practical strategies for supervising youth with mental health needs.

An evaluation component will evaluate not only the Train the Trainer but follow-up trainings that the selected sites convene over the next year. Trainings are expected to begin in the fall of 2012 and run through 2013. It is anticipated that close to 5000 juvenile justice staff will be trained on the MHTC-JJ as a result of this effort.

Office of Economic and Demographic Research Releases Economic Overview of Florida

A report released this month by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) shows that Florida's overall economy is starting to slowly recover, but state economists added that it will take a few more years to climb completely out of the hole left by the recession. Other highlights of the report include:

- Foreclosures in Florida are up 23 percent for the first six months of 2012 over the previous year, the fifth-highest foreclosure rate in the nation.
- Florida's unemployment rate would stand at 9.5 percent - higher than the latest snapshot of 8.6 percent - if not for a huge drop in the labor force, primarily by Floridians who have exhausted their unemployment benefits and are no longer looking for work.
- Existing home prices are rising and building permit activity is on the rise, but existing home sales are "sputtering."
- Population growth is forecast to be relatively flat and is expected to average less than 1 percent between 2011 and 2014.
- Florida's personal income grew 0.7 percent in the first quarter of 2012, ranking the state 38th in the nation.

Economists believe that the economy will continue to improve with help from lower home prices that may attract buyers as the state's population starts growing again as baby boomers begin to retire.

Mark Your Calendar!
FJJA Board Meeting
Wednesday, Sept 12, 2012
Largo, Florida
Operation PAR

Planning for the 2013 Adolescent Conference has started!
Stay tuned for information in upcoming newsletters!

The FJJA Newsletter is published monthly
Cathy Craig-Myers, Editor
Lynn Redmond, Publisher

Deadline is the 4th of each month
Send your news to lynn@fjja.org

DJJ News

Administrative Law Judge Rules Against DJJ on Detention Costs

An administrative law judge has ruled that Florida DJJ is illegally shifting millions of dollars in juvenile detention costs to the state's 67 counties. The Department of Juvenile Justice is reviewing the decision and has not yet decided whether to appeal.

Judge W. David Watkins sided with Nassau, Okaloosa, Bay and Pinellas counties. The case evolved around how DJJ interpreted a state law that requires counties to pay detention costs before court "disposition" of juveniles' cases. DJJ has interpreted the requirement to mean counties are responsible for the costs until juveniles are committed to state detention facilities.

DJJ Begins Process to Review Juvenile Justice Statutes

Secretary Wansley Walters recently hosted a series of calls to introduce the process that the department will institute for the review of Chapter 985, juvenile justice statutes. Online feedback is being received to be rolled up for review by a yet to be named oversight group. FJJA will be making formal presentations to DJJ. More information coming soon.

Governor Scott Appoints Sixteen to Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group

Governor Scott has appointed sixteen citizens to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention State Advisory Group. This group represents a panel of people from across Florida with training, experience, or special knowledge of the juvenile justice system.

Working with DJJ, SAG members are responsible for the administration and management of federal money allocated for delinquency prevention research, planning, programming and evaluation, according to the Department of Juvenile Justice website. *Congratulations to FJJA member Kristen Early, of Justice Research Center for her appointment.*

DJJ Conducting Online Transitional Services Survey

Over the coming weeks, DJJ will be surveying providers, stakeholders and communities to get feedback which DJJ hopes to utilize in the identification of necessary support services to probationary youth and their families.

The brief survey is available on the DJJ website, specific to the needs of youth returning home from residential commitment. To take the survey, click here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/T-Services> Feedback is confidential.

State Juvenile Justice Agencies Brace Themselves for Budget Reductions on the Federal Level

State juvenile justice agencies continue to be concerned about Congress's proposed levels of funding for delinquency prevention programming. According to the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, since 2002, Title II funding has been slashed by more than 50% from (\$88.8M to \$40M.)

Advocates fear that if federal funds shrink any further, states will have little incentive to meet federal guidelines for keeping juveniles from penetrating the adult prison system.

In the News

Jacksonville.com: Georgia Governor says Entire Juvenile Justice System up for Overhaul

<http://jacksonville.com/news/crime/2012-07-17/story/georgia-governor-tells-group-entire-juvenile-justice-system-overhaul>

The Sentencing Project: Despite Supreme Court Decision, Racial Disparity in Juvenile Justice Remains

http://www.sentencingproject.org/detail/news.cfm?news_id=1330

Salt Lake City Tribune: Budget Ax Falls on Utah's Juvenile Justice System

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/54449998-78/youth-center-county-juvenile.html.csp>

Upcoming Conferences & Training Events

National Conference on Addiction Disorders (NCAD), September 28-October 2, 2012, Orlando, FL, Contact:

http://www.accp1.org/meetings_welcome.shtml

Moment of Change-Intervention: Approaches for Professionals , October 8-11, 2012, Palm Beach, FL. Contact:

<http://www.foundationsrecoverynetwork.com/events/index.htm>



Important Dates to Remember

September

- Sept 11 - FJJA Executive Committee
Location TBA
- Sept 12 - FJJA Board Meeting
Operation PAR, St. Petersburg/ Largo

November

- Nov 7- FJJA Executive Committee Mtg
Location TBA
- Nov 8 - FJJA Board Meeting
The Center for Drug-Free Living, Orlando
- November Elections
- Legislative Organizational Session

December

- Legislative Committee Weeks

January

- Legislative Committee Weeks

February

- Legislative Committee Weeks
- 2013 Adolescent Conference Orlando
 - ⇒ FJJA Executive Committee Mtg,
 - ⇒ FJJA Board Meeting, 1/2 day

March

- March 5, 2013 - Legislative Session begins

April

- April 3, 2013 - FJJA Executive Committee
Location TBA
- April 4, 2013 - FJJA Board Meeting
DISC Village Tallahassee
- April 7-12, 2013 - Children's Week and Youth Success Week, Tallahassee

May

- May 3, 2013 - Legislative Session ends
- May 3, 2013 - Executive Committee Visioning Session, TBA

June

- June 10-12, 2013, FJJA Annual Board Retreat, Location TBA

Thank You

For Renewing Your Membership!

Your support of the Association makes it possible for us to continue to advocate on behalf of your organization.

We appreciate your support!

For information, call Lynn Redmond, Project Director, 850-671-3442 or email lynn@fjja.org

Recent Reports

Center for American Progress Report: *Unfair Criminalization of LGBT Youth*

A disproportionate number of LGBT teens are represented in the nation's juvenile justice system, possibly making up as much as 15 percent of the total juvenile justice population in the United States, according to a representative of the Center for American Progress.

The findings were discussed last month in Washington, D.C. at an event sponsored by the National Council on Crime & Delinquency. To read report, [click here](#).

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Report: *Promoting Recovery and Resilience for Youth in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems*

A recent report details the extent to which traumatic events impact youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

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

John Jay College of Criminal Justice: *Pioneers of Youth Justice Reform: Achieving System Change Using Resolution, Reinvestment, and Realignment Strategies*

This report describes the history and implementation of the most well-known reform initiatives that draw upon one or more of these mechanisms to achieve system change and it considers their impact on juvenile confinement at the state and local level.

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

MODELS FOR CHANGE: *Mental Health Screening within Juvenile Justice: The Next Frontier*

The emergence of systematic mental health screening has been one of the most significant advancements within the juvenile justice field for youth with mental health needs. To read report, [click here](#).

National Institute of Justice: *One Third of Americans Arrested by Age 23*

As the Florida DJJ begins a comprehensive review of the juvenile justice statutes, with a focus on juvenile records/confidentiality, a new study shows that nearly one-third of American adults have been arrested by age 23. Among the nearly 14 million arrests recorded in 2009, only 4% were considered among the most serious violent crimes (which include murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault). Another 10% of all arrests were for simple assault; these do not involve a weapon or aggravated injury but often include domestic violence and intimate partner violence. The remainder of the arrests in 2009 were for: property crimes, which accounted for 18% of arrests; drug offenses, which accounted for 12% of arrests; and other offenses including disorderly conduct, loitering, driving under the influence, and weapons violations, which accounted for 56% of all arrests.

To read more, go to <http://www.nij.gov/journals/270/criminal-records.htm>

ARISE Foundation News

Due to budget cuts and funding restraints, the **ARISE Foundation** can no longer conduct trainings on-site at DJJ and Provider programs without cost.

However, to compensate for this and to continue to make this training available and stay true to their mission, **ARISE** has created an online training program that is now available for download at the **ARISE** website – www.at-riskyouth.org.

This program is offered for free. The program includes **ARISE** evidence based downloadable curriculum/posters, etc. which are also offered free of charge to all Florida DJJ programs.

In return, **ARISE** requests is the following commitment:

1. **ARISE** Groups must be conducted at least one hour a week.
2. Submit **ARISE WEEKLY REPORTS** by email – showing the number of hours **ARISE**

Groups have been conducted each week and the number of youth participating in the **ARISE** Group sessions.

For further information or to receive your password enabling participation in this complimentary **ARISE** program, call Yasmin toll free 1-888-680 6100 or email her at yisaacs@arisefoundation.org



Member News

Agency for Community Treatment Services (ACTS) Part of Four Organization Merger

Joining Mental Health Care Inc., Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services Inc., and Tri-County Human Services Inc. , the Agency for Community Treatment Services Inc. has announced the formation of GRACEPOINT.

The four regional providers have 165 years of combined experience in behavioral health announced their intent to merge and improve access within the entire Tampa Bay area. Experts believe that the merger allows GRACEPOINT to continue its specialty focus in behavioral health, substance abuse and developmental disabilities.

Driving the decision was the reality that state agencies have been clear that they plan to gain efficiencies in their operations by selecting providers who are large and offer a broad spectrum of services to children and adults.

Tampa Prodigy Program Highlights Youth

Nick has been a Prodigy student for about a year and has made a big impact in the program. His excitement for music shows as he comes to Music Studio class early every day and helps to engage his peers in each lesson! Nick is currently working on making a powerful beat and lyrics for Prodigy to use in order to reach out to the community. He wants to help keep teens off the streets by letting them know about Prodigy and other programs and services that the University Area Community Development Center offers. When asked what he wants the world to know about him he said "I will be the greatest music producer ever!"

Recently, Nick was signed to a music label with a producer in Orlando. His Prodigy instructors believe that he will not only be one of the greatest producers of music, but that he will continue to grow into a young man of great character. Nick will be attending Blake High School this school year to further his knowledge in music production, learn about TV production and to try out for the football team, (he wants to be a running back)! Congratulations Nick...Keep up the great work!

Member News

Prodigy in the Community- Tampa, Sarasota/Manatee

In addition to appreciating and living out the arts, Prodigy is also environmentally conscious. In honor of Earth Day, the youth hosted a green event to celebrate their beautiful planet and learn of ways they can take care of it! The community theme was "Spring is HEALTH" so the youth took it to the next level and focused on taking care of their bodies as well. Everyone was invited to enjoy a free Zumba demonstration in addition to food, music and other performances! Prodigy thanks TECO, Green Fiber, Hartline, Inspire Your Environment, the Bicycle Club at U.S.F. and Southwest Florida Water Management for coming out to educate youth on environmental stewardship.

Tampa Prodigy staff and youth also participated in the beautification of the Center Place community apartments by planting a garden of flowers. The event gave the youth a great experience in giving back to the community while the apartment residence saw firsthand how the Prodigy Program is impacting the lives of our community youth in a positive way.

Sarasota and Manatee County Ward Temple Prodigy participated in several events such as the Bradenton Boys & Girls Clubs' National Night, a Community Block Party and Summer Showcase/Open House at Ward Temple, the Tallevast Community Center Showcase and an Ice Cream Social. Participation in these events highlights the presence of Prodigy in the community and their commitment to the



community. As a result of these events Prodigy recruited and enrolled new youth, and yielded over 175 family & friend contacts. State Representative Jim Boyd visited and toured the Ward Temple Prodigy site, where he sat in on a music class.

He was able to witness in person how youth benefited from being a part of the Prodigy program and how his advocacy & support can help us to continue serving high-risk youth in Manatee County.

Prodigy youth also attended a live performance at the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe of "A Raisin in the Sun." Following the show, youth had an opportunity to meet the actors and express their pleasure with the show.



Member News

HBI and G4S Youth Services Partner with Habitat for Humanity

The Home Builders Institute (HBI) students at Okeechobee Girls Academy (OGA) funded by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and in partnership with G4S recently participated in a local project for Habitat for Humanity of Okeechobee.

The girls were given the opportunity to help a local family, a single mother and her three children. The students hung doors, painted the interior and exterior of the home, changed out hardware throughout, installed door knobs, replaced electrical covers and caulked around the counter tops, bathtub, and window sills. The students worked hard and diligently in making the repairs to the home.

The students were able to see firsthand how their trade skills and hard work combined with dedication helped a family in need.

The girls had the opportunity to attend the dedication of the home for the family.



During the dedication a hand crafted picnic table built by the HBI students, was donated to the

family as a gift for their new home. Attendees at the dedication were Roberta Pace, Project Coordinator (HBI), Shannon Shirts, VST Coordinator (HBI), Allen Hazellief, Vocational Instructor (HBI), Tierra Allen, Direct Care Staff (G4S), Demetria Refoure, Facility Administrator (G4S) and George Newsome, Regional Director (G4S).

Home Builders Institute, the Workforce Development Arm of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), is dedicated to advancing the quality of CRAFT education and training programs, promoting career opportunities and serving the general needs of the housing industry.



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