

December 2012

Volume 6, Issue 83



Holiday Message
We wish you happy holidays and best wishes for a wonderful new year.
Cathy & Lynn

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FJJA Leads Juvenile Justice Panel at the 2012 Justice Summit

The 2012 Justice Summit was convened this month and was an excellent opportunity for thought leaders across Florida interested in justice reform to discuss and promote smart justice initiatives. FJJA worked to develop the Summit's Juvenile Justice panel as well as the Pre-Summit meeting that took place in mid- November. Both events provided attendees with the opportunity to hear more about FJJA's plan to introduce legislation this upcoming session to better address the educational needs of DJJ youth. FJJA members who served as panelists included Jeff McSpaddin of Twin Oaks Juvenile Development, Phil Amorgianos of Gateway Community Services, and George Pesta of G4S Youth Services.



November's Pre-Summit meeting provided the opportunity for an all day discourse relating to juvenile justice. Topics included the *Roadmap to System Excellence*, DJJ's reform plan, current juvenile justice data and trends, the new focus on prevention, early intervention, diversion, and alternatives to detention, reconfiguring local juvenile justice boards and councils, and reducing disproportionate minority contact. The Department of Juvenile Justice provided brief updates on expansion efforts of Civil Citation, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and the Juvenile Justice Systems Improvement Project with Georgetown University.

Other topics included rightsizing residential commitment, improving education for DJJ youth, redesigning transition and reentry services, meeting the needs of youth with substance abuse, mental health, or gender specific needs, maintaining public safety and reducing direct file of youth.



From left: Sheriff Susan Benton, Highlands County, Patricia Pieri, Assistant State Attorney Hillsborough County, Phil Amorgianos, Gateway Community Services, Cathy Craig-Myers, FJJA, Jeff McSpaddin, Twin Oaks Juvenile Development, Mark Greenwald DJJ, George Pesta, G4S Youth Services.

2013 Adolescent Conference
Feb 19-21, 2013
Florida Hotel and Conference Center
Orlando



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



Legislative News

Update on Florida Revenue - Looking Up

State forecasters are now predicting the state will collect \$400 million over original revenue estimates in the next 18 months. Forecasts also warned that the Florida's fragile economy could suffer with the pending fiscal cliff. Other risks to the good news about revenue include the current recession in Europe, the upcoming legal ruling on pension plans for Florida state employees. If the state were to lose that case, it could wreak havoc on the budget.

As the Governor develops his budget to be released in January, only \$236 million of the \$400 million over estimates will come in this fiscal year with the balance (\$155 million) to arrive next fiscal year.

Along with the reserve set aside at the end of last session, the state will see a surplus of almost \$829 million.

Upcoming DJJ Town Hall Meetings Planned

DJJ plans additional town hall meetings in Escambia, Bay, Duval and Lee Counties to gain feedback on the *Roadmap to System Excellence Proposal*. Dates have not yet been set but will be announced soon. For more information, click here:

<http://www.djj.state.fl.us/roadmap-to-system-excellence/calendar-of-town-hall-meetings>

Reports of Interest

Update on *Pathways to Desistance* Study

A bulletin released by OJJDP focuses on a new study updating findings from the original Pathways to Desistance study about the effects of transfer from juvenile court to adult court on a sample of serious adolescent offenders in Maricopa County, AZ.

Findings show that most youth in the original study who were sent to adult prison returned to the community eventually varying widely in their levels of adjustment. Studies have shown that transferred youth are more likely to recidivate than youth that remain in the juvenile justice system. To read more, bulletin, [click here](#).

FJJA 2013 Legislative Agenda

The Road to Success:

A Comprehensive Educational System

ENSURE that meaningful educational and vocational opportunities are available to all youth served in DJJ programs, including youth in residential settings and small juvenile justice schools.

Invest in Proven Programs with a ROI:

Prevention, Intervention and Diversion Services

ENSURE that prevention efforts are evidence and research-based, and include universal and targeted services, the use of civil citation programs, the expansion and enhancement of Juvenile Assessment Centers (JACs) and existing intervention services, and the use of arbitration, mediation and Teen Court.

Keep the Public Safe and Youth Accountable:

Community-Based Residential Services

ENSURE that Florida's juvenile justice continuum includes an appropriate amount and variety of residential commitment services, the use of evidence-based risk and criminogenic assessments, and specialized residential services that include mental health and substance abuse treatment. SUPPORT adequate funding of evidence-based services for specialized populations which produce positive outcomes and reduce recidivism.

Ensure Youth Go on to Succeed in Life:

Aftercare/Continuing Care

ENSURE that comprehensive aftercare services begin at initial identification by the juvenile justice system and follow youth throughout their continuing care. EXPAND and ENHANCE existing aftercare/continuing care services, and SUPPORT adequate levels of funding for transitional housing and independent living services in the community.



Upcoming Conferences



Webinars and Trainings

ARISE Drop it at the Door online training will be available in 2013. This is a 40 hour self-guided course. Instructors are available to assist during this training. Watch for it at <http://at-riskyouth.org/>

Upcoming Life Skills and Drop It At The Door Trainings

- January 15-16, 2013 - 2-Day ARISE Life Skills Training
- February 4-8, 2013 - 5-Day ARISE Life Skills Master Training
- March 11-12, 2013 - 2-Day ARISE Drop it at the Door Training
- April 24-25, 2013 - 2-Day ARISE Life Skills Training
- May 22-23, 2013 - 2-Day ARISE Drop it at the Door Training
- June 10-14, 2013 - 5-Day ARISE Life Skills Master Training

All sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Seacoast National Bank, 3001 PGA Blvd, Palm Beach Gardens Florida.

To register for this training, call Yasmin Isaacs at **ARISE**, 561-630-2021

In the News

Atlanta Journal Constitution: *State turns focus to juvenile justice reforms*
<http://www.ajc.com/news/news/state-turns-attention-to-juvenile-justice-reforms/nTTxx/>

Tampa Tribune: *Strengthening Florida's Juvenile Justice System*
FJJA Editorial

<http://www2.tbo.com/news/opinion/2012/dec/09/vwopino1-strengthening-floridas-juvenile-justice-s-ar-580002/>

New York Times: *Tennessee agrees to changes in juvenile justice system*
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/18/us/tennessee-county-agrees-to-changes-in-juvenile-justice-system.html?_r=0

Associated Press: *Kansas governor orders merging of juvenile justice, adult corrections agencies*

<http://cjonline.com/news/2012-12-10/brownback-plans-reorganization-juvenile-detention>



Important Dates to Remember

January

- Jan. 14, Legislative Committee Week
- Jan. 21, Legislative Committee Week

February

- Feb. 4, Legislative Committee Week
- Feb. 11, Legislative Committee Week
- Feb. 18, Legislative Committee Week

Feb 19-21 FJJA Hosted Activities in Orlando

- Feb 19-20, 2013 Adolescent Conference
- **Public Private Partnerships: *The Power to Make a Difference for Youth, Families and Communities***
- Feb 21, 2013 (2) Post Conferences
- **Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: *The Path to Survival***
- **Raising Our Voices for Girls: *Building A Movement***
- Feb. 21, FJJA Board Meeting, 1:30-3:30 pm

The Florida Hotel & Conference Center, Orlando

March

- March 5, 2013, Legislative Session begins

April

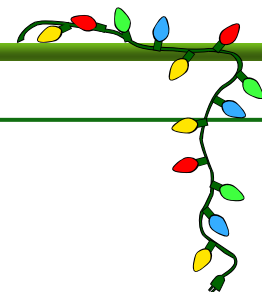
- April 3, 2013, FJJA Executive Committee
Location TBA
- April 4, 2013, FJJA Board Meeting
DISC Village, Tallahassee
- April 7-12, 2013, Children's Week and DJJ Youth Success Week, Tallahassee

May

- May 3, 2013, Legislative Session ends
- May 16, 2013, Executive Committee
Visioning Session, TBA

June

- June 12 -14, 2013, FJJA Annual Board
Retreat, Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa



Adolescent Conference Update

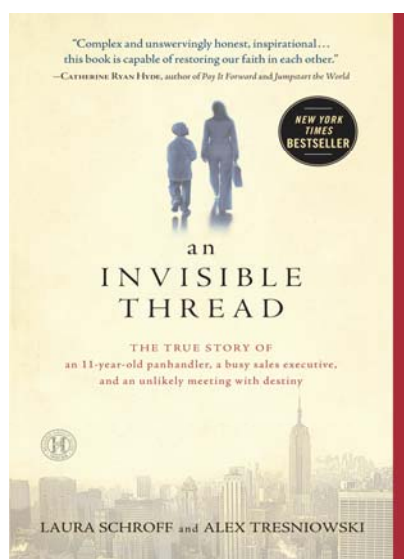
Marc Fomby Selected as 2013 Adolescent Conference Keynote

For over twenty years, Mr. Fomby has enthusiastically provided instruction to many people and organizations throughout the United States and the Virgin Islands. On Tuesday, February 19, 2013, Mr. Fomby will open the 2013 Adolescent Conference as the first keynote speaker. His message will tell us that, increasingly, more communities are feeling the impact of youth who have little or no support system - no village.

"It is important that more individuals understand their role and comprehend that they have a stake in the village's future, particularly the young who will eventually grow up to make a contribution," he emphasized.

"It makes the entire village stronger when youth have the proper tools and support to be successful at home, school and in life. As parents, educators, law enforcement personnel, community leaders, social workers, and counselors we all want safer neighborhoods, good educational opportunities, and brighter futures for our children. We want our youth to know we are there for them as much as we can be. However, to have a positive impact on the lives of our youngest villagers, we need to develop our "response ability" by better understanding youth culture and what influences it," according to Mr. Fomby.

Mr. Fomby has worked extensively at both the local community and state levels in Alabama and Mississippi developing strategic prevention and/or behavioral health care plans. Marc has also developed curriculum and programs for high-risk youth and families as well as instructional guidelines for behavioral health education and prevention. He is a member of the Recovery School District of New Orleans, a national initiative committed to breaking the cycle of violence and providing support assistance to youth and the Metro Jackson Community Prevention Coalition, dedicated to youth life skills and peer education training. Marc is also a consultant and advisor to the Executive Director of the National C.A.R.E.S. Movement and received his Bachelor's degree in business management from Belhaven University.



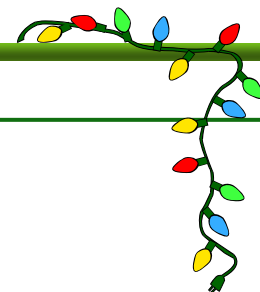
Adolescent Conference Keynote Laura Schroff's Best Selling Book to be Given Away at Conference

We are happy to announce that the first 500 attendees of the 2013 Adolescent Conference will receive a copy of *An Invisible Thread*, the true story of an 11-year-old panhandler, a busy sales executive, and an unlikely meeting with destiny.

This chance encounter, followed by a simple lunch shared between strangers, became the foundation for a weekly ritual and a life-changing friendship of shared experiences.

Following her keynote on the second day of the conference, Laura Schroff will be on hand to personally autograph copies of her best selling book for conference participants.





Workshop Topics, Leaders, Dates and Times

Workshop Session A, Tuesday 10:15 am - 11:45 am

An Evidence-Based Model for Planning Integrated Substance Abuse and Health Coaching for At-Risk Youth

Chudley Edward Werch, PhD, President and Research Director, Brief Programs for Health

There is an unmet need for evidence-based models that cost-effectively integrate substance abuse and health strategies for at-risk youth. The innovative Behavior-Image Model (BIM) will be described for planning strengths-based brief motivational interventions like health coaching. Steps in applying BIM to plan coaching strategies that prevent and reduce co-occurring substance use behaviors, while increasing health enhancing behaviors, positive image and goal setting skills will be discussed.

The Chosen Family: Characteristics and Interventions for At-Risk Female Gang Members

Julie Michalowski, Florida School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, Tampa

Statistics show that there has been an increase in the number of female gang members and violent crimes committed by female gang members. We will report on characteristics of the family of origin, highlighting risk and protective factors that set the stage for young, at-risk females to seek out gang membership. We will discuss familial relationships and caregiver behavior, attachment to school and peers, effects of substance use by caregiver, and the influence each has on creating an at-risk environment for young females. We will discuss the function of 'independent female gangs' (female only) versus 'separate-but-together female gangs' (sister gangs affiliated with male dominated gangs) and will provide participants with an understanding of the function that various gang situations play in the life of a female gang member. We will portray the lifestyle and general membership structure, shed light on the expectations of female gang members and the resulting behavior. The presentation will wrap up with a discussion about current, evidence-based intervention treatments and prevention programs that can be utilized by parents in the home setting and by clinicians in the therapeutic setting.

A Look Into Poverty: Through a New Lens

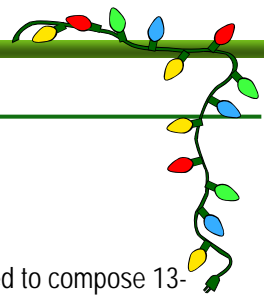
Elena Aldridge, Training and Staff Development Manager, FamiliesFirst Network

When we consider issues of diversity, we usually think of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or culture. This presentation looks at diversity through the lens of economics, class and family-centered practice. Utilizing some of the concepts of Ruby Payne and Philip DeVol as well as family-centered constructs, it is a starting point where one can develop accurate mental models of poverty, middle class and wealth. It is a new lens through which one can view themselves, the families they work with and the community. With this information, we can begin to work on front-line staff skills and develop new program designs in order to improve relationships and outcomes. The presentation explores causes of poverty, hidden rules of class, the importance of language and how this information ties to Family Centered Practice. It offers a new way to think about class and gives insight into how our mental models influence our work with families. For youth it is important to be exposed to the hidden rules and ways an upbringing in generational poverty can hinder or help future goals. This workshop will provide insight and valuable information for those who work with at-risk youth as well as tools to support looking through this new lens.

Partnering with Philanthropy

Maggie Gunther Osborn, Vice President, Florida Philanthropic Network

This session will explore the elements and results of successful collaborative partnerships between funders and providers. How do you seek out and build relationships that will leverage assets, skills and connection for the greatest amount of impact on the children and families we seek to serve? Join foundation representatives as they present their knowledge and experiences of real partnerships and their results.



Pride & Prejudice: How to Improve the Quality of Service for LGBT Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

Yolanda Fairell, Professional Speaker/Trainer/Community Activist

Though LGBT youth represent an estimated 5-7 percent of the nation's overall population of youth, they are estimated to compose 13-15 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system. These high rates are due in part to abandonment by their families and communities, and victimization in their schools. Tragically, many LGBT youth continue to experience, discrimination, victimization, and abandonment once in the juvenile justice system. In this training, participants explore ways to improve treatment outcomes and reduce LGBT youth recidivism. To that end, participants will be given an opportunity to explore personal biases regarding LGBT youth, learn basic LGBT terminology, and learn practices and policies that will ensure that like other youth, every LGBT youth will be treated with dignity and respect.

Session B, Tuesday 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Cognitive Behavioral Approaches for Treatment Resistant Clients: An Overview of the Moral Reconciliation Therapy Approach and Its Outcome With Adolescents

Dr. Ken Robinson, President, Correctional Counseling Inc.

This workshop will provide participants with an overview of cognitive-behavioral approaches and their use with youthful offenders. In addition, an overview of Moral Reconciliation Therapy's use with the "treatment resistant" or personality-disordered juveniles will also be presented.

Gang Awareness: Guns, Drugs, & Violence

Marc Fomby, CEO, FTC Prevention Services

What makes a gang a gang? What are gangs doing in your community? What's the difference between the 5 pointed stars and the 6 pointed stars? Which group uses which star? What do all those numbers mean? Would you like these questions and more answered? We cover it in this workshop. Traditionally, the original street gangs from the west coast (Bloods & Crips) don't have much to do with being a part of the Nation concept. What are they doing in your community? We discuss it in this workshop.

Identifying and Utilizing Faith Based Volunteers & Resources

Pastor Cindy Lane, Founder/Director of JFJ Global Ministries, JFJ Global Ministries

Learn how to identify critical Faith Community volunteers and resources. At a time when other financial opportunities are limited, you will discover the remarkable potential that utilizing the faith community has to offer. Gain informative insight in how to tap into this vital resource and innovative ways to utilize it.

Impact of Health Care Affordability

Larry Lawman, Vice President, Bouchard Insurance

The passage of healthcare reform should bring improvements to the access and scope of insurance coverage for millions of uninsured individuals. However, the impact on employers, particularly non-profit agencies, will be very significant in the way of new fines, penalties, and premium increases due to new industry taxes. Developing a strategic plan on how to contain costs and to determine the course that is best for your organization will be critical. This presentation will give a straight forward look at the direct and indirect cost impact to employers beginning this year.



Reversing the Trend of Over-Representation: A DMC Initiative

Marcus Smith, Statewide DMC Coordinator, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Prevention and Victim Services

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) is a Federal initiative recognizing the over-representation of minority youth coming into contact with the justice system relative to the overall population. DMC rates have substantially increased in recent years with the greatest disparities observed in Black and Hispanic populations. This workshop will educate and equip attendees on needed components to implement and analyze effective DMC reduction strategies.

Session C, Tuesday 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

COD: Rumours of My Death Have Been Greatly Exaggerated

Marcia Monroe & Doris Nardelli, VP of Network Development & Clinical services, Manager of Business Development & Marketing, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc.

All providers must accommodate co-occurring needs in populations served. In order to be effective and efficient managers of rapidly dwindling service funds it is imperative that barriers are eliminated and persons experiencing co-occurring disorders are provided with timely, culturally sensitive and fully integrated treatment services. The tools and methodology can be deployed within the given confines of existing systems – you don't need new money, new technologies or new anything.

The History & Progression of Girls Served in the Criminal & Juvenile Justice System

Aggie A. Pappas MSW, Executive Director, PACE Center for Girls Broward

This lecture will present the history and overview of girls' involvement in the criminal justice system as both offenders and victims. Considerable attention will be given to the treatment of girls and women in the context of our larger social system. The discussion will focus on the manner in which gender issues interconnect with race, social class, public policy, and public perceptions. Victimization patterns, gender-bias, family violence, trauma and sexual exploitation along with the developmental experiences and pathways that lead girls into the criminal justice system will also be explored. The presentation will look at the past reactions of our criminal justice system toward girls and adult female offenders, its impact on gender sentencing decisions and how we treat girls today. The ongoing development of a continuum of care that is strength-based, gender-responsive and forward thinking will be presented as key strategies to assure the sustained improvement of services and conditions for girls in our communities.

The Message in the Music: "Blame It On the Alcohol"

Marc Fomby, CEO, FTC Prevention Services

This uniquely designed workshop is excellent for individuals who are seeking a creative format to "meet the youth where they are." This workshop uses music to establish a line of communication with today's youth. By stressing the importance of media literacy this workshop provides tools to help participants critically analyze messages to detect subtle (or not-so-subtle) influences and suggestions that glorify and promote reckless, negative lifestyles, choices and decisions among today's youth.

Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy (REBT) with Juvenile Sex Offenders

Robert W. Whitford, Mr., Psychotherapy and Forensic Services, Inc.

It is well known that juvenile offenders are consistently evolving, thereby consistently changing their minds that often develop into cognitive distortions that result in negative mood states that manifests into maladaptive sexual and other behaviors. This training is designed to provide a Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment approach (REBT) that will provide the participants with a basic understanding of CBT/REBT theories and techniques that can be helpful in the assessment and treatment for adjudicated and non-adjudicated youth in treatment for sexual of-



fending and other delinquent behaviors. Much of the presentation will focus on techniques and handouts that can assist the clients and their therapist other ideas and pathways to more adaptive functioning and problem solving.

Think Trauma: A Training for Staff in Juvenile Justice Settings

Alice Conte, Manager Child Trauma Program, Gateway Community Services

Research shows that a trauma informed, trauma focused juvenile justice program decreases behavioral issues, reduces recidivism, improves job satisfaction, and decreases organizational stress. This NCTSN product, Think Trauma Tool Kit Training is a modularized, skills-based interactive trauma-focused training curriculum developed for front line juvenile justice staff which can increase staff skills and knowledge on how to support traumatized youth and their families & reduce organizational stress.

Session D, Wednesday 10:00 - 11:30 am

The Adolescent Brain & High Risk Behaviors

Michael Nerney, Michael Nerney and Associates

As research provides more information about the unique character of the adolescent brain, adults have a better chance than ever to help adolescents avoid or overcome the sometimes serious problems associated with this time of life. This workshop will help participants understand adolescent development by utilizing a bio-psycho-social model with specific emphasis on exploring the changes that occur in the brain between the ages of 12 and 24. These changes include greater levels of emotional intensity, differences in self-perception, and intriguing mechanisms of assessing and responding to risks. Participants will explore the connections between the adolescent brain and high risk behavior and discuss the allure of thrill-seeking, drug and alcohol abuse, sexuality and other high risk behaviors. Participants will explore new language structures to utilize in helping adolescents acknowledge, assess and respond to high risk situations in their lives. Participants will be able to use the information in this workshop to establish a trusting relationship that will facilitate better engagement and intervention.

Breaking the Cycle: Hope for Families Experiencing Teen Abuse & Violence

Laurie Reid, CEO/President, Breaking the Cycle Consulting, Inc.

The silent topic of teen abuse and violence toward a parent or caregiver is an all too common family secret requiring an understanding that is different from traditional domestic violence theories. This presentation will introduce an innovative parent/practitioner collaboration model, including its progression from research, to pilot, to scale implemented within the juvenile justice system to significantly reduce abuse and violent behaviors within the home.

Managing Change & the New Frontiers

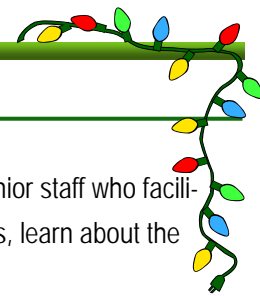
Marcia Monroe & Doris Nardelli, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc.

Major industry and market challenges face providers in the field – budgeting, evidenced based practice demands, new treatment modalities, regulations, data, special populations and doing more with less. However, there are tools and techniques to promote success – by identifying change strategies, employing principles of effective change and following proven steps.

Navigating Adolescence Through Peer Mentorship: The Boys to Men Program

Colin Poyser, Assistant Facility Administrator, G4S Youth Services, LLC

Young male offenders often lack the guidance of positive male role models in their lives. This workshop will discuss the foundations of an innovative program that has reached out and trained older juveniles in the juvenile justice system who have embraced the idea that



change is possible and developed leadership skills to assist in mentoring younger peers. The group is overseen by senior staff who facilitate building relationships of mutual trust and respect so that the young men in the program develop important life skills, learn about the world of work, plan for the future, improve school attitudes and performance and build self confidence.

Who Is My Father? The Hidden Pain Caused by an Absent Father in a Young Man's Life

Mary E. Van Benschoten, Director of Clinical Services, G4S Youth Services, LLC

Many young male offenders come into the system without the benefit of having a father or father figure involved in their life. The impact of the absence of a father in a young boy's life is often overlooked in the age of the non-traditional family. This workshop will explore and describe the hidden pain that is so frequently experienced by the young men who come to the attention of the juvenile justice system and discuss the detrimental impact this is having on our young men, their families and the community. Interventions to bridge the gap for these young men will be discussed including providing opportunities for mentorship, learning life skills and providing real world experiences to assist these young men in learning how to trust and be trusted.

Session E, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Barely Legal: Dangerous Substances Under Regulatory Radar

Michael Nerney, Michael Nerney and Associates

An emerging trend in substance abuse is the reformulation and packaging of intoxicating products specifically designed to skirt current drug laws. Many of these substances, including bath salts and marijuana substitutes, are effectively marketed via the internet in a way that highlights their legal status and accessibility, and ignores the significant risks associated with their use. This workshop explores the various types of quasi-legal substances, the names under which they are marketed, what makes them attractive to users, and the risks they present. Participants will also consider strategies that may be effective in preventing the abuse of these products.

Changing the Paradigm of Service Delivery

Dan Jurman, Executive Director & CEO, University Area Community Development Corporation

UACDC has recently attracted over 60 businesses, non-profits and government agencies to a comprehensive Partners Coalition. This team of colleagues will work together through UACDC's Neighborhood Transformation Strategy, bringing their varied wisdom, skills and resources to bear on the complex problem of poverty and its many symptoms in the University Area Community. With UACDC acting as the "general practitioner," the care of the neighborhood will be coordinated with and among these "specialists" through referral and ongoing review. Our presentation will discuss the core components of changing the paradigm of service delivery to provide a collaborative, holistic level of service and prevention in our most at-risk communities.

Dealing with the Terrorist in Your Family

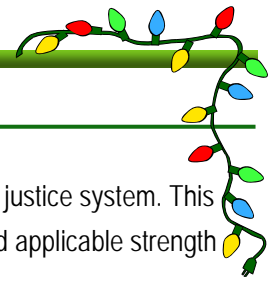
Mitchell E. Wallick, Executive Director, Professional Training Association @ CARE

A hands on interactive presentation in which participants will develop skills for understanding and working with families in the area of co-dependency and enabling. This workshop will present skills and techniques that can be used to address family and clients. It will also focus on breaking denial and techniques to help convince families to stop enabling.

Developing Therapeutic Relationships: A Strength Based & Gender-Responsive Approach

Julie Bennett Barrow, Counselor, PACE Center for Girls, Inc.

PACE Center for Girls, Inc. uses a holistic, strength-based and asset building model specifically responsive to the needs of girls that has



been among one of the most effective programs in the country for keeping girls from entering or re-entering the juvenile justice system. This interactive workshop will highlight the benefits of creating positive therapeutic relationships and will provide practical and applicable strength based and gender responsive tools for attendees to bring back to their programs.

Using Restorative Justice to Keep Youth in School & Out of the System

Dr. Mara Schiff, Associate Professor, Florida Atlantic University

Zero tolerance disciplinary policies directly expand the "school-to-prison pipeline" while disproportionately affecting minority students. Restorative justice (RJ) is a best-practice alternative to punitive school disciplinary policy that can accomplish system-wide change in schools. RJ can keep students in school, redefine the roles of justice professionals, educators, neighborhood and private partners, and directly impact the numbers and rates of minority youth being pushed out of school.

Session F, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Building the Road of Success: Developing Collaboration from Treatment to Transition

Robert (Ruben) Drake LMHC NCC CAP, Sam Cerezo (Chaplain), Director of Clinical Services, Community Case Manager, G4S Youth Services, LLC, Columbus Juvenile Residential Facility

Research has shown that recidivism rates can be reduced by attending to the mental health needs of at risk youth. It is also evident that community resources designed to assist at risk youth is vital to their continuing success. This workshop will discuss the development of an alliance between mental health treatment and community support that is in practice today. Mr. Drake will discuss the provision of therapeutic services while keeping transition needs in focus. Mr. Sam Cerezo will provide a history of community resource development from the start of his career until the present time. This workshop is intended to help others trying to start or improve their existing service delivery. It is expected that individuals working with youth will gain useful ideas and strategies that they can take and use with the clients they serve. There will be a question and answer period following this presentation.

Engaging Parents as an Alternative to Expulsion: the Back on Track Model

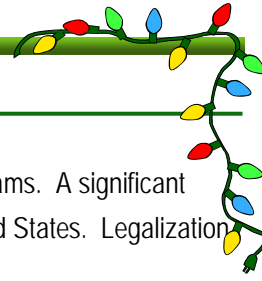
Dawn J. Whitestone, LMHC, Program Manager, Center for Drug-Free Living

Increase parent involvement, reduce expulsions and decrease substance-related discipline infractions! For over ten years, Back on Track has partnered with Orange County Public Schools in an innovative and inexpensive approach to substance abuse intervention. Parents and students engage in a five-session format that has successfully met the goals of the school system and parents. Come discover how your school or organization may be able to implement this model.

Marijuana: Not A Benign Drug

Jason Baker Fields MD, University of Florida Fellow in Addiction Medicine & Medical Services Manager, DACCO

Marijuana is still the most abused illicit substance. It is often the first drug of use (or "gateway") for many youth and there is abundant evidence that the earlier the onset of use, the more likely the complications from it use. Many adolescents perceive marijuana as a harmless drug and perception of risk is directly correlated to likelihood of use. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to the significant problems associated with regular use of marijuana. Early use of marijuana can prevent adolescents from reaching their developmental potential, puts them at risk of academic failure, increases criminality, and significantly increases the likelihood of a future substance use disorder (abuse or dependence). In addition there are significant long-term medical complications of regular use of marijuana, especially with psychopathology. It is critical that



older children and adolescents are educated about the real risks of marijuana use with effective, timely prevention programs. A significant threat to preventing marijuana use is the legalization movement that has become very active in recent years in the United States. Legalization would increase the availability of marijuana to youth and would enhance the perception that marijuana is a benign drug.

Suicide Prevention in Florida's Juvenile Justice Facilities

Gayla Sumner, Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Joy Bennink, Clinical Director, Twin Oaks Vocational Academy

Leslie Swanson, Senior Behavioral Analyst, The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Panel discussion of successful suicide prevention practices in Florida Department of Juvenile Justice facilities. The panel will be comprised of Office of Health Services staff and clinical directors in FDJJ residential programs. The panel discussion will focus on practical information and strategies for effective implementation of suicide prevention procedures in residential settings.

The Transition from Commitment to Community: Re-Entry Partnerships

Megan Smith, Statewide Transition Coordinator, The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Jeannie Becker-Powell, The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Billy Starke, The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Bridging the gap from commitment to community can be challenging for youth and their families and far too often can lead to unsuccessful outcomes. The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice is working hard to address this demanding need through collaborative community partnerships. This workshop will focus on specific steps taken while a youth is in a commitment program and through careful preparation for a successful release home by wrapping them with the best resources within their community.



FJJA Announces Two Post Conference Trainings Dedicated to Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking and Raising Our Voices For Girls

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking - *The Path to Survival*

Sponsored by the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services and hosted by the Florida Juvenile Justice Association

Convene to intervene at the 2013 FJJA Adolescent Conference for a comprehensive training event to learn, plan, and take action on behalf of Florida's trafficked and exploited children. Join policymakers, service providers, and experts from the field as we highlight the best practices for screening, identifying and serving minor victims of domestic sex trafficking.

This one-day event will include:

- Dynamic speakers who are on the front lines of serving youth impacted by exploitation, and who are changing the perception of these children and young people through public policy, services, and advocacy.
- Workshops focusing on Advocacy, Screening & Identification, & Programs and Services by nationally recognized experts.*
- Facilitated dialogue to exchange ideas, examine current barriers to intervention, and connect with new partners and resources.

From prevention, to intervention, to freedom from exploitation- we all stand somewhere on the victim's path to survival. Join us, and tell us where you stand. *CEU's and training certificates provided.*

About the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services: The Florida Network works with agencies that serve homeless, runaway and troubled youth ages ten and older and their families.

Raising Our Voices for Girls: *Building a Movement*

Sponsored by the Doris Barr Weaver Policy Center and hosted by the Florida Juvenile Justice Association

This one day intensive is designed for anyone interested in learning more and participating in a dialogue about the latest research trends, best practices and advocacy priorities for young women and girls in the juvenile justice system. Discussions will include:

- the latest research trends
- best practices in empowering girls and young women by sharing power and establishing policies and practices to create the opportunities for girls to be equal partners
- the nuts and bolts about advocacy

Leading the discussions will be Lawanda Ravoir, President and CEO, The Doris Barr Weaver Policy Center. Other speakers include Roy W. Miller, President, Children's Campaign; Linda Alexionok, Executive Director, Children's Campaign; Vanessa Lydia Patino, Director of Research and Planning, Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center; and Bonnie Rose, Director of Model Programs, Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center. *CEU's and training certificates provided.*

About the Doris Barr Weaver Policy Center : The Center provides research, training education and advocacy in support of the needs of girls in the juvenile justice system



Join the list of prestigious 2013 Adolescent Conference sponsors and exhibitors! For information on sponsorships, [click here](#).



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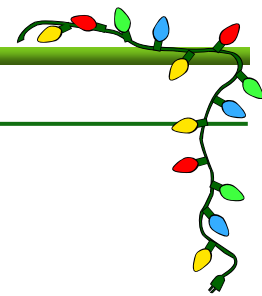


PsyCare Juvenile Services



OUTWARD BOUND





Member News

Giving Back, Giving Thanks

On November 17th, youth and staff members of the Dade Juvenile Residential Facility partnered with the Florida City Police Department for their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. The event was successful and provided over 500 warm meals to residents in the local Florida City Community. Program youth assisted in all aspects of the event including preparation of the meals and coordinating delivery of meals to two assisted-living facilities. The event presented youth with the unique opportunity to positively interact with those in the law enforcement community and most importantly the opportunity to give back to the local community. Several local businesses played a role in the contribution of goods. Program staff at Dade were successful in securing 10 large turkeys, the trays needed to make the meals, and eight (8) cases of baked goods that were donated by the local Publix. This undertaking was made possible by the efforts of our Business Manager, Mrs. Cassandra Etherly, Food Services Director Janice Taylor, as well as Florida City Police Officer Ashon Lillie who coordinated the event.



A Brush With Talent

Diana Hardy, Human Resources Coordinator, recently visited Pasco Girls Academy to partake in "Paint Night at PGA". She brought friends from *1of1 Customs*, a custom paint shop based in St. Petersburg who taught the girls how to paint a sunset step-by-step. Diana said, "It was great watching the girls work through the frustrations that came from what they perceived as major mistakes while they completed the project." She added, "They all stuck with it and put their own unique twist on their paintings." Diana and the guys from *1of1 Customs* are looking forward to working together again in the near future.

Headscarves For Haiti orphans

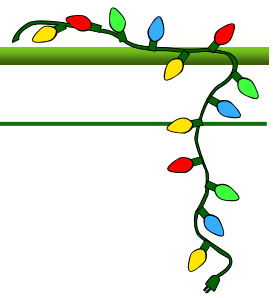
Stacey Torrens (left) recently took over 100 headscarves to an orphanage in Haiti. The little girls seen in the photo were just two of the recipients who received headscarves from the sewing program at Pasco Girls Academy. The sewing program at PGA has been busy preparing for Stacey's trip to Haiti. This year's goal included making over 100 headscarves in six (6) months. Awesome job girls of PGA! Special thanks to Pastor Cindy Lane for sharing this photo.



PACE Center for Girls in Pasco County Gives Back

Girls from the PACE Center for Girls in Pasco County recently decorated a tree that was auctioned off to raise money for a local charity, The Good Samaritan Health Care Clinic. The Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Pasco, Inc. is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization that provides quality, non-emergency medical and dental services free-of-charge to eligible residents of Pasco County.

From left to right the girls in the photo are Rachel H, Cari W, Sam H, Randi F and Cierra R



Member News

Prodigy... Focused on Transforming Young Lives

The transformation of young lives continues through the month of November with special acknowledgment by the Mayor of Saint Leo and participation in the Land O' Lakes Swamp Fest.

The walls of the Saint Leo Town Hall have become a canvas for Prodigy youth, with a Prodigy Art Exhibition that will be hosted by the town hall until February of 2013. Sculptures, paintings, and videos crafted by the youth will adorn the town hall. Prodigy will conduct rotational exhibits in concert with monthly town meetings.

St. Leo Town Hall has not only opened up its walls to Prodigy artwork, but also its doors to Prodigy youth through a town hall tour. Transforming the walls of the Saint Leo Town Hall into an exhibition of Prodigy art work mirrors the transformation of the lives of youth that are taking place behind the walls of the Prodigy classroom.

HBI Mentoring Infused into HBI's Pre-Apprenticeship Training at Avon Park

HBI (Home Builders Institute) is a national leader for career training in the building industry. Through certification programs, mentoring, pre-apprenticeships and job placement services, HBI prepares its students – including at-risk and underserved populations such as youth, veterans, ex-offenders and displaced workers – with the skills and experience they need for successful careers in the building industry. All the students now enrolled in HBI's Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training (PACT) at Avon Park Youth Academy will now also be enrolled in HBI Mentoring, providing students an additional tool to prepare them for reentry and success in the job market.

HBI uses a career-focused approach to mentoring. Nationally, HBI Mentoring matches teens, ages 13-18, with industry mentors recruited from home builders associations, National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Student Chapters, business organizations and local communities. At APYA, mentors include facility staff, instructional staff and volunteers from the local community. There are many benefits to children who meet regularly with a mentor. They are more trusting of their parents and guardians, and less likely to skip school, use drugs, and drink alcohol.

Feeding An Army in Need

During the month of November, youth and staff from Daytona Juvenile Residential Facility conducted a food drive to support the Salvation Army. Staff and families donated non-perishable food goods to the facility.

Youth assisted the food drive by creating labels for the food items that read "*A Gift from the Youth of Daytona Juvenile Residential Facility.*" Bridgette McLeod from the Salvation Army spoke to our youth about how the donations will help others in this time of need and how this was a great community service project.

