



E-Newsletter

March 2013

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**APRIL 2013
BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 10th
9 am to 4 pm
DISC Village,
Tallahassee**

- FJJA Visioning Session with entire membership
- Meeting Hosted by DISC Village, Twin Oaks Juvenile Development and Capital City Youth Services
- Discussion with DJJ Secretary Wansley Walters
- Update with DJJ Leadership
- FJJA Updates

RSVP to Lynn at Lynn@fjja.org

The FJJA Newsletter is published monthly

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

FJJA Focus on Strengthening Juvenile Justice Education Aligns with National Trends

Here in Florida, the Florida Juvenile Justice Association is working hard to encourage the passage of HB441 and SB1406. Our focus on improving educational opportunities for justice involved youth aligns with recommendations recently presented to Congress and the Obama administration.

Increased educational opportunities for DJJ youth will lower recidivism rates, which results in future cost savings and higher public safety. Small programs do not have the economy of scale to offer DJJ youth a variety of educational programming that larger traditional public schools have. This limits educational opportunities for DJJ youth to receive a variety of educational interventions that are tailored to their academic and career needs. These opportunities include remediation courses, credit recovery, GED, Post-Secondary courses and CTE programs that lead to a credential.

The National Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Coalition, a collaborative array of youth- and family- serving social justice, law enforcement, corrections, and faith-based organizations, makes the following recommendations as Congress reviews the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: for renewal:

- Require states to create a way to assess and identify the educational needs of youths who enter the upon juvenile justice system;
- Require states set to procedures for the prompt reenrollment of youth in schools once they exit juvenile justice placement;
- Require states to establish procedures for the prompt transfer of educational records and credits earned during students' time in the juvenile justice system;
- Authorize federal money for innovative practices aimed at ensuring the educational success of students reentering school from the juvenile justice system;
- Require local education agencies to allocate a portion of Title I, Part D funding for youth reentry;
- Implement sanctions for states and school districts that don't provide required or appropriate educational services upon reentry or remove barriers to reentering school;
- Hold schools more accountable for graduation rates and including juvenile justice-involved youth in state accountability systems.

For FJJA's briefing materials on HB441, and SB1406, [click here](#).

Highlights of HB 441/SB1406

- Enhances transition services
- Enhances career and technical training
- Creates accountability system
- Provides GED to post-secondary pathway
- Requires state and federal educational dollars to follow the youth who generate them

Florida Juvenile Justice News

Joan Wimmer Named Assistant Secretary

DJJ has announced the appointment of Joan "Joni" Wimmer as Assistant Secretary of Probation and Community Intervention. Joni was the Director of the DJJ Office of Education, and previously was the chief of policy and planning for the Office of Residential Services, where she was responsible for developing and overseeing new programs and policies.

DJJ Youth Success Day Activities Have Changed

Each year, Florida DJJ, the Florida Juvenile Justice Association (FJJA) and the Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation (FJJF) celebrate *Youth Success Day* at the Capitol. At the same time, organizations across the state serving juvenile justice youth celebrate locally as well. Youth Success Day will be held on Tuesday, April 9 with a press conference scheduled for early afternoon and legislative visits following the press conference.

However, the DJJ reception spotlighting youth success that evening has been cancelled.

In the News

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange: [Shake-up Underway at Federal Office of Juvenile Justice](#)

New York Times: [Better Care for Young Offenders](#)

Reuters.com: [Tavis Smiley Examines an Educational System Under Arrest - Experts Say Locking Up An 11-year-old For Any Length Of Time Doesn't Make Sense](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange: [In Georgia, the Right and the Left Coming Together Over Juvenile Justice Reform](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange: [New Jersey Credits JDAI for 50 Percent Decrease of Detention Population](#)

News Tribune: [Washington State Votes to Seal Most Juvenile Court Files](#)

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.

Support HB441—SB1406

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 Events

Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) 2013 National Conference Making Children and Families a Priority: Raising the Bar, Washington, DC, April 14-17, 2013, [click here for details](#).

Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Spring Conference, Washington, DC, USA May 1-4, 2013, <http://www.juvjustice.org/2013conference.html>

National Girl Bullying & Other Forms of Relational Aggression Conference Las Vegas, Nevada, June 30 - July 2, 2013, <http://www.stopgirlbullying.com/>

Trainings

ARISE Drop it at the Door ONLINE training

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

- 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

Reports of Interest

Strategies for Youth: If Not Now, When? A Survey of Juvenile Justice Training in America's Police Academies

Strategies for Youth (SFY), a national policy and training organization dedicated to improving police/youth interactions, conducted a nationwide survey of the quantity and quality of juvenile justice training provided to cadets during their basic training in police academies. This survey was conducted after the release of an International Association of Chiefs of Police's report noting the absence of in-service training in juvenile justice for police officers. According to survey results, most state police academies' devote less than 1% of total curriculum time to teaching about juvenile justice. In fact, five states – Alaska, Kentucky, West Virginia, New Hampshire, and Colorado – require no juvenile justice training in the academy at all. The training that does exist emphasizes the juvenile code, rather than practical skills and best practices for working with youth that are grounded

in developmental psychology. Officers do not receive training on how to recognize and respond appropriately to prevalent mental health issues among teens. *To read report, [click here](#)*

Justice Policy Institute: Common Ground: Lessons Learned from Five States that Reduced Juvenile Confinement

This report shed light on the trend toward reduced confinement of youth nationwide. The report looks at Connecticut, Arizona, Minnesota, Louisiana, and Tennessee. *To read report, [click here](#)*

Journal of Criminal Justice: Early Starters: Which Type of Criminal Onset Matters Most for Delinquent Careers?

By the time a juvenile is arrested, or referred to the juvenile court system, chances are he or she has already displayed a pattern of antisocial behavior. The new study published in the Journal of Criminal Justice looked at 252 children in Pennsylvania juvenile detention centers. The offenders ranged in age from 14-18 and on average had committed 15 delinquent acts in the prior year. *To read report, [click here](#)*



Important Dates to Remember

March

- March 5, 2013, Legislative Session begins

April

- April 8-12, 2013, Children's Week and DJJ Youth Success Week
- April 9, 2013, Youth Success Day, at the Capitol in Tallahassee
- April 10, 2013, 9 am to 4 pm FJJA Board Meeting, DISC Village, 3333 Pensacola Avenue, Tallahassee

May

- May 3, 2013, Legislative Session ends

June

- June 12 -14, 2013, FJJA Annual Board Retreat, Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa (Arrival date is June 11)

Member News

It Was A Great PACE Day At The Capitol!

During PACE Day at the Capitol on March 14, one of the guest speakers was Eileen Cloud, wife of boxing champion Tavoris Cloud.

Like the 150 PACE girls and staff who attended the event, Eileen was at one time enrolled in the PACE Center for Girls in Tallahassee. Cloud, who now lives in North Carolina, is passionate about helping girls reach their potential through initiatives that include the American Achievers Foundation, an effort she and Tavoris Cloud support.

Debbie Moroney, founding director for the PACE Center in Tallahassee, said Cloud is one of her "favorite people." She fondly remembered her as a hopeful girl who had so much potential. She said it was a joy to see Cloud rise above her challenges and be an inspiration. Kelly Otte, current executive director for the PACE Center in Tallahassee said as soon as Cloud was in a position to give back, she did. Cloud has traveled several times between Tallahassee and North Carolina for PACE Day activities and to talk with girls.

Wanda Finnie, Assistant Secretary of Prevention for the Department of Juvenile Justice also joined the festivities. She shared the importance of believing in yourself and the importance of taking advantage of the opportunities for success the girls have through participation in the PACE program.

It was a great day at the Capitol!



Eileen Cloud with DJJ Assistant Secretary of Prevention Wanda Finnie

PACE Center for Girls of Palm Beach County Launches Culinary Program

"You don't have a kitchen that can house a culinary program? Ok, I'll get one built so I can teach the girls how to cook." That was what Ersilia Moreno, owner of Olive Oil of the World, said to PACE Center for Girls, Palm Beach County's Executive Director, Angela Clarke, at a charity fundraiser two years ago.

With generous donations collected from her friends and family, the new kitchen was installed in August of 2012. In February of 2013, the culinary program was launched.

Broken down into a 10 week introductory course that will issue a certificate in basic cooking and knife skills, the classes meet in 2 hour increments, 3 times per day on Tuesdays. To keep the classes focused with individualized attention, the 3 groups are limited to a maximum of 6 girls. Each lesson includes an educational session to discuss cooking methods and all things food and a practical application session where the girls put to use what has been discussed. Each lesson builds upon the preceding one. Some of the



girls are there out of general curiosity, others as an outlet for their desire to cook, but most attend because they want to learn to cook. The objective is to educate these young women about food to enable them to understand how to make good choices that will benefit their future health and families. The program has opened the eyes of 16 girls with its inaugural 10 week course and already Ms. Moreno has seen interest develop in some of the girls for future careers in the culinary world. Others she has seen embrace what they don't know about food and cooking to challenge themselves and their palettes.

The expectation is to encourage more advanced training in future 10-week sessions with special classes for those girls who have completed the basic course and who want to learn and cook more. The program is completely volunteer sponsored and would like to invite guest chefs and other food professionals to join Ms. Moreno in her quest to bring a necessary life skill in an encouraging and fun atmosphere to the girls at PACE. The program is in need of funding to purchase additional kitchen appliances and equipment as well as the day to day ingredients necessary to prepare the lesson recipes.

Member News

Leon PACE Girls Participate in *One Billion Rising* Event

On February 14, 2013, girls from PACE Center for Girls in Leon County joined more than 300 other women and girls at a local *One Billion Rising Event*. Being a part of this worldwide initiative, where women and men dance together for one hour in order to stand together against violence against women and girls, was a very powerful experience for the girls from PACE.



One of the girls, Adonya, 13 years old, was interviewed by the local news station, WCTV. She told the reporter that she was stunned at the number of women that raised their hands when asked how many of the people there had been victims of domestic or sexual violence. She said "I had no idea there were that many". More than 50% of girls attending PACE Centers have significant trauma histories. One of the goals of PACE is to help the girls understand that they are not alone and that there is a community of people that want to help them. Without a doubt that was the message that was delivered at the *One Billion Rising Event*.

Dade Juvenile Residential Youth Work at Everglades Outpost

Youth at Dade Juvenile Residential are now volunteering at the Everglades Outpost, a wildlife rescue and sanctuary geared at rescuing and rehabilitating wild and exotic wildlife. This has given Dade youth the opportunity to work hand in hand with the staff at the outpost while learning a valuable lesson in volunteering to help others. In addition to working with the staff members on a variety of projects, youth get the opportunity to learn about the specific animals they house there in addition to the work involved in rehabilitating them and re-integrating them back to their natural habitat.

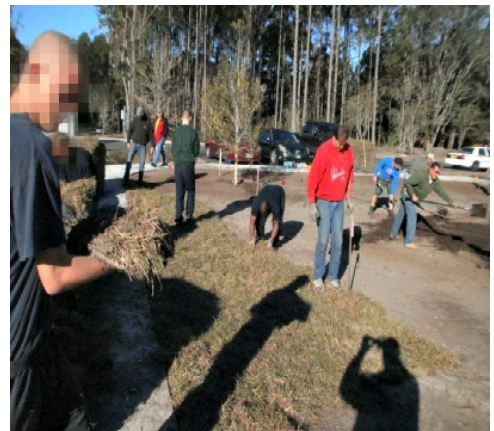


The experience has proven valuable one for the youth who has been invited back and will continue working there on a bi-monthly basis.

Bob Freer, the site director, a well known expert in the animal community who has been featured on a variety of the Animal Planet's documentaries, has spoken very highly of the quality of the work done by Dade youth saying that they are always welcome.



Hastings Youth Work with St. Augustine Youth Services



The students at Hastings volunteered at St. Augustine Youth Services with yard work on February 2, 2013.

St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS) is a nonprofit organization providing residential therapeutic services to boys from the age of six up to their 18th birthday. All have a mental health diagnosis and some have suffered abuse and/or neglect, since its inception in 1988.



Member News

A Prodigy Parent Shares Her Son's Journey

During the month of February 2013, Prodigy youth across seven Florida counties showcased their growth in ten unique Prodigy Showcases. Each showcase offered an opportunity for the community to witness how at-risk youth can attain a successful future through the Prodigy Cultural Arts Program. Attendees experienced an array of visual and performing art shows from musical performances by Prodigy drummers, guitarist, pianists and rappers as well as art galleries and a theatrical production.

During a Prodigy Showcase at one of the program sites in Hillsborough County, a parent of a Prodigy Youth, Christina Barrington, provided a poem, *A Transition in Time*, which described how the Prodigy Program changed her son's life.



One of the Hillsborough County Prodigy Showcases



Pasco County Prodigy Showcase

A Transition in Time

Aimlessly he walked, no future seen
Going through the motions, subliminal thinking
A dark path stood ahead, with no light to enter
His perception misguided, he surrendered
To a reality in mind, no reflection of hope
No purpose set forth, disconnected, revoked

Transition of purpose, he needed to see
A people of God, sent to set him free
One's that understood what it means to care
Those that will go to battle, in order to repair
He had no place that offered serenity, no place of
peace
His community was drowning, to the streets

No one wanted to help him, trashed him before they
knew
His grades were unbearable; he did what he could do
Those on his block, wanted him to join the hood
Tricked him into thinking, that it was just the
"neighborhood"
His reflection was changing, as choices were made
But an encounter was all it took, to break the trade

A building on the corner, stood tall and narrow
Lake and 2 - 8, blocked all the shadows
He heard music with beats and dances of light
A child on the mike spitting versus so tight
He heard voices of angels, sounds of serenity
A community of people filled with love and empathy

The dark path stood before him
With no light to enter
But the light of God pierced
From out that narrow window
He turned with a flash and walked on in
Was greeted with a smile, Son come on in

This is what he needed,
A rebuilding from within
A place that offered exposure and a new beginning
He continued to flourish,
All was involved
So that he would not see darkness
Blocking his pathway, at all!

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SAVE THE DATE

2013

FJJA ANNUAL RETREAT

Arrive June 11, 2013

Depart June 14, 2013



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

\$129 Hotel Rate
per night

For those who would like to extend
their visit, this rate is available from

June 9-16, 2013.

Hotel reservations will be handled through the Florida Juvenile Justice Association office this year. Please watch your email for on-line reservation information or contact Lynn Redmond at Lynn@fjja.org.