

Holiday Message

We wish you happy holidays and best wishes for a wonderful new year.

Cathy & Lynn

E-Newsletter

December 2013

Volume 7, Issue 91



Inside this Issue

In the News	2
Legislative News	2
DJJ News	3
Upcoming Conferences, Webinars	4
Important Dates	4
Member News	5

Now Available FJJA Membership Opportunities

- Individuals
- Community groups
- Vendors



The FJJA Newsletter
is published monthly
Cathy Craig-Myers, editor

FJJA Announces 2014 FJJA Legislative Agenda

Maintain a Focus on Prevention, Diversion and Intervention Services

- Support prevention, diversion and intervention programs that are evidenced-based and utilize Civil Citation, Juvenile Assessment Centers, juvenile diversion services, gender responsive and other programs.
 - ▶ **Ask: Maintain investment of \$16.5M shifted to front end services during 2012-13 Legislative year.**

Support the Passage of HB173 Juvenile Justice Education Bill

- This legislation and funding will provide DJJ youth with GED, post secondary and industry certification opportunities, increasing their success, lowering recidivism rates, and realizing a return on investment for Florida taxpayers.
 - ▶ **Ask: Support funding of \$1.6M- DOE Legislative Budget Request (LBR)**

Support Funding for DJJ Youth Who Need Medical and Behavioral Health Services

- A shortfall of funding will impact the availability of non-routine medical and behavioral health services for youth in DJJ residential programs.
- Outcomes for DJJ youth who received BHOS services were considerably better than youth who did not receive BHOS services.* (*indicators-SIPP Placement, Baker Act, re-involvement in JJ system*)
 - ▶ **Ask: Support funding of \$18.2M- in DJJ Legislative Budget Request (LBR)**

Improve and Expand Reentry and Transition Services for DJJ Youth

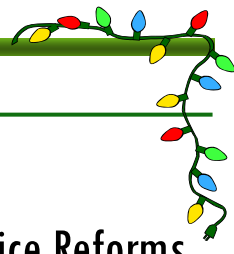
- Comprehensive aftercare services are needed to help youth stay crime free and prevent return to juvenile justice system or adult system.
- 30% of current DJJ residential youth do not receive aftercare/re-entry services.**
 - ▶ **Ask: Maintain investment of \$11.3M for transition and reentry services.**
 - ▶ **Ask: Support funding of \$3.75M for enhanced reentry services and to serve the 30% of DJJ residential youth who do not receive transition services.**

Support Revisions to Juvenile Justice Statute 985

- Important revisions to the statute include expansion of prevention and intervention services, alternatives to detention, protection of juvenile records, enhanced career and technical education, and improved reentry system.

*Louis De LaParte Florida Mental Health Institute at USF/Agency for Health Care Administration. (AHCA) Series 220-136 June 2010

**2010-2011 DJJ data: 5,160 youth completed residential, 3,563 youth (69.1%) received aftercare, 1,597 (30.9%) received no services at all
Approved November 14, 2013 by FJJA Board of Directors



Legislative News

Legislative Platforms of Partner Organizations Support Enhancing Juvenile Justice Reforms

- **Florida Association of Counties-** Support initiatives that reduce juvenile detention through prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services. In addition, support maintaining juvenile justice as the responsibility of the state; in the alternative, support state funding for the operation of juvenile detention facilities, as upheld by Florida's courts and support allowing counties to pay actual costs on a monthly reimbursement basis.
- **Florida Sheriff's Association:** 1) Support continuation and funding of Juvenile Assessment Centers (JACs). 2) Support Sheriffs' authority to operate juvenile detention facilities under current law.
- **Florida Police Chief's Association:** FPCA supports and urges sufficient funding for all aspects of the juvenile justice system including diversion, assessment centers, treatment, pretrial detention and commitment programs.
- **Florida Children's Council-** Supports prevention and diversion funding, Juvenile Assessment Centers Children in Need of Services/Families in Need of Services (CINS/FINS) and effective girls' programs. Also,
 - Promoting that juvenile records are not sold for commercial purposes, juvenile records are expunged when a juvenile turns 19 or 21 (when juvenile court jurisdiction ends.)
- SUPPORT the Department of Juvenile Justice's recommended Roadmap to System Excellence reforms that reduce the number of children held in detention and promote adequate afterschool programming and increased opportunities for career and technical education in the juvenile justice system

Governor Scott and Legislature Will Have Extra Money In Upcoming Session

This month, state economists identified \$325 million in additional tax revenues that will be collected by July 1. Adding this to the \$846 million surplus already anticipated, this will give Florida close to \$1 billion in extra dollars. A definitive number will be available soon after Education and Medicaid funding needs are determined.

When Governor Scott's budget comes out in January, his proposal should reflect the surplus. Governor Scott has already announced an ambitious plan to cut taxes and fees by \$500 million. Once the Governor's budget proposal is released sometime in January, legislators will most likely begin to identify their priority areas.

Both Senate President Don Gaetz and Speaker Will Weatherford both went on the record urging a cautious approach.

In the News

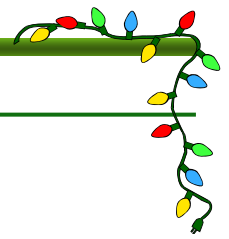
Kansas City Star: [*Case places Missouri's juvenile justice system under scrutiny*](#)

Tampa Bay Times: [*Editorial- Legislature should do its duty on juvenile justice*](#)

New York Times: [*Dropping Zero Tolerance in Schools*](#)

The Sentinel: [*The Cost of Taking Youth to Court: Juvenile Justice System is Unique*](#)

Corrections.com: [*Suicide Prevention Resources Address Critical need in Juvenile Justice*](#)



DJJ News

DJJ Rolls Out Provider Management Shared Services' Initiative to Improve Services to Youth

DJJ is responsible for the administration and operation of the statewide juvenile justice system throughout the state of which 65 % of DJJ's services are delivered by more than 150 private providers with a budgeted expenditure of roughly \$290 million annually.

To increase efficiency, DJJ has embraced a new model known as "shared services" in which a team or group provides an agreed set of activities to one or more internal customers, usually across multiple locations, with oversight and regular review to ensure quality and timeliness. For DJJ, this new structure will be organized in four different components, each representing a clearly defined part of provider-department interaction.

Amy Johnson, the Director of Program Accountability will provide a presentation on Shared Services at the January 15 FJJA Board meeting in Tallahassee.

DJJ to Launch New Online Learning System

Tallahassee – SkillPro is a new, online learning management system currently under development by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Office of Staff Development and Training (SD&T). It is scheduled to go live in January 2014.

Designed for use by juvenile justice workers in both state-run and contracted facilities, SkillPro is an important step toward fulfilling the SD&T mission to cultivate the skills and knowledge of the juvenile justice workforce. By offering easy access to professional training and development opportunities, SkillPro supports a culture of continual improvement in the care and services juvenile justice professionals provide to troubled youth.

SkillPro is a state-of-the-art online experience designed to suit various learning styles. It will have a user-friendly format with engaging, media-rich content. It will offer completely new functions for popular content, certification requirements, data reports on training compliance, personal training history and much more--so users can get exactly the information they need when they need it.

There will be no change in the cost to providers for SkillPro online learning. Provider programs will continue to annually reimburse DJJ \$35 for each user. In addition to accessing online content, users also will be able to easily register for DJJ instructor-led learning experiences.

Although there will be no additional cost for providers, SkillPro will offer far greater usefulness with value-added features. Among the many advantages SkillPro will offer:

- High value online learning for state- and provider staff.
- Dynamic, engaging content designed for diverse learning styles.
- Access to mandatory and in-service classes.
- A searchable library of online courses categorized by topic, mandatory training, and professional development interest area.
- Improved report functions for training data.

Special Information for Training Coordinators at Provider Programs and DJJ Facilities

All training coordinators will be expected to activate employees at their program(s) as users. Please visit the [DJJ SkillPro webpage](#) and click on the training coordinator checklist for important tasks and dates. To be added to the SkillPro mailing list, training coordinators can send an email request to SkillPro@djj.state.fl.us.

Conferences and Webinars

2014 FJJA Adolescent Conference "The Way Forward: Our Communities, Our Youth, Our Future" May 12-15, 2014 at the Florida Hotel and Conference

Center in Orlando. E-mail Lynn Redmond at lynn@fjja.org for additional information or <http://fjja.org/adolConferenceInfo.php>



2014 Smart Justice Summit - "Smart Alternatives for a Safer Florida." The 3rd annual Summit is an opportunity for thought leaders across the state interested in justice reform to discuss and promote smart justice initiatives. FJJA will be hosting the juvenile justice discussion. January 27-29, 2014, Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs 350 S. Northlake Blvd, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701, (407) 830-1985 Reservation Code - FSJS14



2014 National Mentoring Summit, Jan 30-31, 2014, Arlington, VA, Crystal Gateway Marriott, [register now](#)

2014 Coalition for Juvenile Justice, Jun 18-21, 2014 6/18/2014 - 6/21/2014, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC

Reports of Interest

Coalition for Juvenile Justice:

[National Standards for the Care of Youth Charged with Status Offenses](#)

AECF: [Making Detention Reform Work For Girls](#)

New on the FJJA Website

- 2014 FJJA Legislative Agenda
- FJJA: Who We Are & What We Do: 1994-2013
- Applications for new expanded membership categories



2014 Important Dates to Remember

January 2014

- Jan 6 Legislative Committee week
- Jan 13 Legislative Committee week
- Jan 14 AC Workshop Committee meets
- Jan 15 FJJA Executive Committee Meeting
- Jan 15 FJJA Quarterly Board Meeting DISC Village, Tallahassee

February 2014

- Feb 3 Legislative Committee Week
- Feb 4 Executive Committee Call
- Feb 10 Legislative Committee Week
- Feb 17 Legislative Committee Week

March 2014

- Mar 4 2013 Legislative Session begins
- Mar 26 FJJA Executive Committee Meeting
- Jan 15 FJJA Quarterly Board Meeting DISC Village, Tallahassee

April 2014

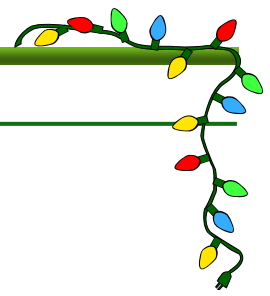
- April 8 Executive Committee Call

May 2014

- May 2 Legislative Session ends
- May 13 Executive Committee meeting
- May 13-15 FJJA Adolescent Conference

June 2014

- June 12 -14, 2014, **FJJA Annual Board Retreat**, Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa (Arrival date is June 11)



Member News

HBI Students Help Raise Money to Benefit Community

The Home Builders Institute (HBI) PACT Training for Youth programs in Okeechobee Florida at Okeechobee Youth Development Center (OYDC), Okeechobee Intensive Halfway House (OIHH), and Okeechobee Girls Academy (OGA) participated in the Adam Bryant Minimal Regatta for the third consecutive year. HBI students and staff have spent the past four months in preparation for the event. The fundraiser is sponsored by Kiwanis of Okeechobee and the purpose is to raise scholarship money to send a high school graduate to Fire Fighter and EMT School.

The Regatta is a competition and a race, each sponsor receives one ¼” sheet of plywood, two 2”X 4” pieces of lumber, one pound of 1 ¼” drywall screws and one roll of duct tape to design and build a miniature boat to race at the event. There is a captain’s dinner the Friday before the event race that all the boats are judged and the best ones receive awards for construction and design, creativity and decoration, and team spirit.



This year HBI was able to seek sponsorship for nine boats, at \$200 each. HBI students built seven of the nine



boats, and decorated three of them. The students and staff also designed and built furniture and games for a silent auction to be held at the event. The students built two swing sets, two picnic tables, four Adirondack chairs, one out door planter, and four corn hole board sets to be sold in the HBI sponsored auction. All materials were donated through local businesses and community members that have been HBI supporters for the past three events. In a combination of ticket sales, boat sponsors and the silent auction HBI directly raised over \$4500 netting a little over \$3200 all of which went to the event. The scholarship that is awarded to the

recipient totaling \$10,800 any additional proceeds will go towards a special needs park to be built in Okeechobee for handicapped children.

HBI was also able to participate in an education booth that was supported by a \$7,000 education grant that was applied for the local Kiwanis, the booth had to provide educational services at the event. HBI staff taught event attendees how to read a ruler, use a square and level and identify different features of a construction. There were over 3,000 attendees at the event and it even brought in attendees from surrounding areas boosting the local economy for the weekend. All the HBI students and staff really enjoy participating in the event each year watching it grow, and being part of all the good that it does for the community.



save THE DATE

2014 ADOLESCENT CONFERENCE MAY 13-15, 2014



HOSTED BY



THE FLORIDA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

AT THE FLORIDA MALL
1500 SAND LAKE ROAD
ORLANDO, FL 32809

