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Ex Officio Member: Dr. Lawanda Ravoira
Individual Members: Darryl Olson,
Andy Hindeman, Nicole Janer

Staff

Cathy Craig-Myers - Executive Director
Lynn Redmond - Event Planner/Membership Coordinator
3333 W. Pensacola St • Suite 204 • Tallahassee, FL 32304
(850) 671-3442

Our Guiding Principles

Balanced Continuum of Services

We believe that public safety is best served by promoting the development of a balanced continuum of juvenile justice services that include prevention, intervention, probation, commitment and aftercare.

Ethical and Professional Standards

We believe that all youth deserve services that are delivered in a manner that meets the highest professional and ethical standards.

The Right Services the First Time

We believe that all placement decisions should be individualized and based on the results of a comprehensive evaluation utilizing defined assessment protocols.

Policies and Services Research Based

We advocate for sound legislation and Department policies/procedures that are based on research and that contribute to and supports effective juvenile justice services.

Kids are Different than Adults

We recognize that the needs of children and adolescents are different than adults and we advocate for a responsive justice system that translate into effective policies, programs, and services.

Blend Public Safety and Treatment

We believe that programming is most effective when there is a balance between treatment and public safety considerations and we advocate for the least restrictive care to change lives and protect the public.

Access to Specialty Services

We believe that all youth in need of specialty services such as mental health and substance abuse must receive these services as part of the juvenile justice intervention.

Academic, Vocational Education are the Keys to Success

We understand that education is a key ingredient of a youth's success and advocate for dynamic and individualized educational and vocational services geared to the learning level of the youth served.

Adequate Funding for Quality Services

We understand that effective programming and successful public safety initiatives and the development of a professional workforce can only be achieved with adequate funding.

Florida Juvenile Justice Association

About Us

Founded in 1994, FJJA is a statewide organization that strongly supports a common sense approach to juvenile justice that treats young people fairly, holds them accountable for their actions and keeps our neighborhoods, schools and communities safe. FJJA brings together juvenile justice system professionals and agencies, organizations, and private and non-profit corporations all committed to improving Florida's juvenile justice system for children and families. Through collaboration and cooperation, FJJA presents a unified voice on juvenile justice issues.

FJJA is recognized as a proactive leader in effectively serving and addressing issues raised by the diverse agencies involved in the juvenile justice system. FJJA serves as an expert consultant to state and community organizations; supports a balanced and responsive system; advocates for uniform standards, practices and procedures in juvenile care and promotes the need for adequate resources within Florida's juvenile justice system.

Our Mission

The Florida Juvenile Justice Association promotes the availability and accessibility of comprehensive, high quality services to pre-delinquent and delinquent youth and their families.



2015 Legislative Agenda



INCREASE investments in civil citation, juvenile assessment centers, prevention, diversion, reentry, transition and gender responsive services, and career and technical education.

- ◆ Continued statewide investment is a wise course, through community partners, in local programs which yield high outcomes for youth and their families. Funding programs that work will provide a return on investment for Florida's taxpayers.

INCREASE investments for youth diverted into community based mental health and substance abuse treatment.

- ◆ DJJ should determine the costs of services to juvenile justice involved youth in the community to ensure that all communities have the adequate resources to provide mental health and substance abuse treatment.

FUND pilot projects for "crossover" DJJ/DCF youth.

- ◆ Children involved in the child welfare system are at risk of "crossing over" to the juvenile justice system and, conversely, many juvenile justice-involved youth later become involved in the child welfare system. In addition, access to education, mental health, and substance abuse treatment is difficult for this population. Two pilot projects will inform programming of this population.

ASK: \$250,000 for up to 75 crossover youth needing community based respite care, wraparound services, and a therapeutic mentor in Circuits 13,6 & 10.

ASK: \$447,125 for five (5) residential treatment beds, serving 15 - 20 crossover youth in Circuits 5, 9 & 18 who need treatment for mental health, substance use, co-occurring disorders, and physical and sexual trauma.

SUPPORT legislation that reduces direct file of youth into the adult system.

- ◆ Last year, more than 1,500 children were tried as adults in Florida. FJJA advocates a minimum age of sixteen to try a child as an adult. FJJA also supports the elimination of mandatory & discretionary direct filing, leaving waiver and indictment as the only way a child can be tried as an adult. FJJA supports only a court (not the child, legislature, or prosecutor) to decide to transfer a child's case, with any pre-trial detention of a child charged as an adult occurring in a juvenile facility rather than an adult jail.

SUPPORT legislation that assists juveniles with records expunction and clemency.

- ◆ Each year, juveniles charged with minor infractions face the stigma of their juvenile records, eliminating options for housing, higher education and jobs, placing their transition to successful adulthood in jeopardy. Legislation should prohibit the sale of juvenile records, eliminating the opportunity for FDLE to ignore the statutory regulations intended to protect certain juvenile records for public disclosure. Chapter 943 should be revised to prohibit the sale of juvenile records to eliminate loopholes that compromise juvenile confidentiality, provided the juvenile has satisfied all requirements. Juvenile arrest and court records should be automatically expunged at the age of 18 or end of juvenile jurisdiction.

FUND enhanced educational opportunities for DJJ youth to ensure success.

- ◆ DJJ youth with a GED or high school diploma should have the chance to participate in post-secondary online education. Youth should have access to career and technical education leading to occupational completion points or industry certifications, as well as dual enrollment and pre-apprenticeship and/or apprenticeship opportunities. However, some youth need additional support to begin or resume their academic and career goals. Providing DJJ students the opportunity to receive an "DJJ Youth Investment Award" to help with books, tuition, fees, transportation, school supplies, etc. will increase long-term success and reduce the likelihood of their return to the system.

ASK: \$300,000 to expand and administer DJJ Youth Investment Awards.