

February 2013

Volume 6, Issue 85

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FJJA 2013 Adolescent Conference a Success

The 2013 Adolescent Conference, "*Public Private Partnerships: The Power to Make a Difference for Youth, Families and Communities*" was a success, with over 400 professionals attending the event.

The workshops and presenters were well received. The conference was followed by two one-day post conference workshops, which included **Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking - *the Path to Survival***, a comprehensive training event designed to build local capacity to plan and take action on behalf of Florida's trafficked and exploited children. With the passage of Florida's **Safe Harbor Act** last year, plans are being developed to ensure that child sex trafficking victims get help from child welfare professionals instead of moving into the juvenile justice system. Governor Scott has put a greater focus on this issue through a dedicated taskforce on the Children and Youth Cabinet. With more informed youth serving organizations and with new tools in place, Florida's goal to be the first state in the nation to attempt to identify victims immediately upon arrest is now possible.

Another post conference workshop, **Raising our Voices for Girls: Building a Movement**, showcased the ongoing and future collaboration of the *Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center* and *The Children's Campaign* as they continue to lead the effort that started years ago and which now includes cutting-edge research, training and education and advocacy on issues of girls and young women.

This one day intensive training included information about the latest research trends, showcased best practices and shared current advocacy priorities relating to girls in the juvenile justice system.



Pam Alvarez and Dale Thompson, Conference Planning Chairs, Karen Miller, Awards Chair

FJJA Recognizes Eckerd Family Foundation in their Final Year

Preparing to sunset the foundation later this spring, Eckerd Family Foundation President Joe Clark took the opportunity to reflect on the work of the Foundation at the this month's 2013 Adolescent Conference Awards luncheon.

Based in Tampa, the Eckerd Family Foundation was founded 15 years ago by Ruth and Jack Eckerd and endowed with \$100 million. Over the years, the Foundation has done pioneering work in supporting and advocating for Florida's most vulnerable children, particularly youth in the juvenile justice and foster care systems.

See Eckerd Family Foundation, page 2



BOARD MEETING

DATE HAS CHANGED TO

Wednesday, April 10th

9 am to 4 pm

DISC Village, Tallahassee

- FJJA Visioning Session with entire membership
- Lunch provided by Twin Oaks Juvenile Development and Capital City Youth Services
- Discussion with DJJ Secretary Wansley Walters

Stay tuned for more info

The FJJA Newsletter is published monthly

Cathy Craig-Myers, Editor
Lynn Redmond, Publisher

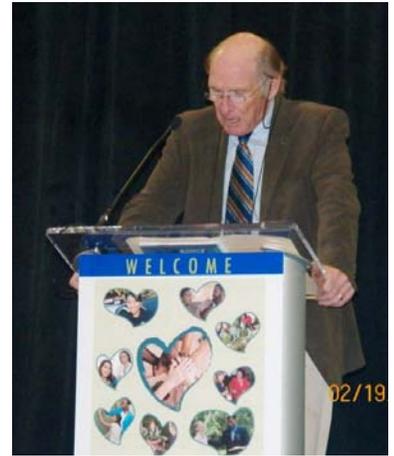
Deadline is the 4th of each month
Send your news to lynn@fjja.org

Eckerd Family Foundation, from page 1

Gaining a national reputation for its work, EFF has left a considerable footprint here in Florida, by providing startup funds for innovative programming and supporting advocacy efforts for systemic change in foster care, juvenile justice, and education.

Mr. Clark shared with the audience that he hoped the Foundation's legacy would include continuing to work together, building on current success, paying attention to the research, using data to drive all efforts, and growing capacity to ensure sustainability.

Youth from the Prodigy program created artwork for Eckerd Family Foundation staff. Leadership from the Department of Juvenile Justice was on hand to thank to recognize the Foundation role in the efforts of the Governors Blueprint Commission which laid the foundation for DJJ's current reform efforts and efforts to promote civil citation.



Eckerd Family Foundation
President Joe Clark

FJJA Recognizes Excellence at the 2013 Adolescent Conference

FJJA held two events to honor direct care staff during the conference. A private dinner was held on the first evening of the Adolescent Conference to celebrate the award winners with special guest Laura Schroff, keynote speaker and author of the NY bestseller *An Invisible Thread*, conference sponsors, and FJJA board members who served on the planning committee.

A larger awards luncheon recognized the following individuals: Allen Hazellief, Home Builders Institute, runner up, Creativity/Innovation Award, Chiquita Collins, The Power Promise Organization, Public Service Award, Megan Stone, Marion PACE Center for Girls, Creativity/Innovation Award, Sam Cerezo, Columbus Juvenile Residential Program, Unsung Hero Award, Darrell Barfield, Circuit 2 Probation, Florida DJJ, runner up, Public Service Award, Roberta Pace, Home Builder Institute Program Manager, Gary Martin, Dade Juvenile Residential Program, Client Services Award, Elizabeth Marden, Bay Area Youth Services, runner up, Client Services Award and Anthony Garcia, Okeechobee Juvenile Offender Correction Center, runner up, Unsung Hero Award.



A few of the FJJA Award winners with *Invisible Thread* Author Laura Schroff.

In The News

The News Herald: *Juvenile justice chief wants more use of civil citations*

<http://www.newsherald.com/news/crime-public-safety/juvenile-justice-chief-wants-more-use-of-civil-citations-1.87191>

Lakeland Ledger: *Polk County Jail Target of Juvenile Justice Bill*

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20130207/NEWS/130209459>

Florida Times Union: *New juvenile justice plan offers smart possibilities*

<http://jacksonville.com/opinion/letters-readers/2013-02-26/story/lead-letter-new-juvenile-justice-plan-offers-smart>

Palm Beach Post: *Advocate raises three issues with juvenile justice in Florida*

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/local/expert-juvenile-justice-a-travesty-in-florida/nWYCx/>

Florida Juvenile Justice News

DJJ Releases Report on Psychotropic Medications Management

DJJ has released a report on administration of medications to children in DJJ care. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) report was requested by Secretary Walters in May 2011, prompted by a series of articles in the Palm Beach Post. The OIG reviewed DJJ's documents, practices, policies, rules and statutory requirements related to the use of psychotropic medications among youth, as well as doctors' backgrounds, work histories and employment eligibility and facilities' medical records.

The review found some mistakes and errors, but also found little or no evidence to support any of the serious allegations made in the Palm Beach Post. However, the investigation did find one case where a provider failed to run a background check on a doctor who shouldn't have been allowed to work at DJJ facilities; that records of parental consent for using the drugs didn't exist or weren't in order; and that in rare instances employees made mistakes in administering drugs to the children. However, the report states that allegations of overprescribing medicines "inconclusive." The report acknowledges that a DJJ employee who falsified records was fired after this review. DJJ also contracted with the University of South Florida (USF) to study psychiatric care of youth in all facilities.

FJJA Partners with DJJ and the JJ Foundation to Support Juvenile Justice Youth Success Day on April 9, 2013

Youth Success Day will be held on Tuesday, April 9 with a press conference scheduled for early afternoon, legislative visits following the press conference and a reception spotlighting youth success that evening.

FJJA urges your support of DJJ Youth Success activities. Please let us know if you have events planned to celebrate Youth Success Day with local recognition ceremonies, community service projects, food drives, literacy reading events, essay contests, and other events. We will highlight them in our monthly newsletter. We are happy to announce local events. Email lynn@fjja.org to include your event in our Youth Success Day calendar of activities.

See FJJA Partners with DJJ and JJ Foundation, page 4

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*

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.

Of Interest

Models for Change: Risk Assessment in Juvenile Justice - Guidebook Implementation

This guidebook, released last November, provides a structure for juvenile probation or centralized statewide agencies striving to implement risk assessment or to improve their current risk assessment practices. Risk assessment in this guide refers to the practice of using a structured tool that combines information about youth to classify them as being low, moderate, or high risk for reoffending or continued delinquent activity, as well as identifying factors that might reduce that risk on an individual basis. Risk assessment tools help those who make decisions about youths' placement and supervision, and create intervention plans that will reduce their level of risk. The guide provides customizable documents, including office policy templates, memoranda of agreement, and presentation slides to educate stakeholders about risk assessment. *To read guidebook, [click here](#)*

OPPAGA Report: Juvenile and Adult Incompetent to Proceed Cases and Costs

To read report, [click here](#)

OJJDP Bulletin: The Northwestern Juvenile Project: Overview

This bulletin provides an overview of the Northwestern Juvenile Project in Cook County, Illinois, the first large-scale, prospective longitudinal study of drug, alcohol, and psychiatric disorders in a diverse sample of juvenile detainees. The mental health needs of youth detained in the juvenile justice system are far greater than those in the general population. The mental health needs of youth in detention are largely untreated. Among detainees with major psychiatric disorders and functional impairment, only 15% had been treated in the detention center before release. Topics covered in future series bulletins will include suicidal thoughts and behaviors among juvenile detainees, posttraumatic stress disorder and trauma within this population, functional impairment after detention, and barriers to mental health services.

To read bulletin, [click here](#)

NJJJPC: Promoting Safe Communities: Recommendations to the Obama Administration

This recently submitted report urges a focus on five priority areas, 1) Restore federal leadership in juvenile justice policy; 2) Support and prioritize prevention, early intervention, and diversion strategies; 3) Ensure safety and fairness for court-involved youth; 4) Remove youth from the adult criminal justice system; and 5) Support youth reentry. *To read full report, [click here](#)*

FJJA Partners with DJJ and JJ Foundation, from page 3

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. On April 9, 2013 the Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation will be hosting a reception celebrating *Youth Success Day*. To celebrate youth success, the Foundation is looking to auction items created by talented youth in DJJ programs. They are asking for help in identifying art, craft making, wood working or another talent that they can showcase.

Please contact Heather DiGiacomo at heather.digiacomod@dj.state.fl.us or via phone at (850) 487-1886.

Last year, event sponsors included DISC Village, Twin Oaks Juvenile Development and Prodigy who provided artwork. Local youth were also in attendance to help deliver the message of the importance and benefits of their programs to our communities; programs that change the lives of Florida youth every day. *For event sponsorship form, [click here](#)*

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

- 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

Events

2013 Florida's Kids & Alcohol Partnership for Success: the Power and Promise of Community

LiveFree! and WEDU, in partnership with community partners, will host the 9th annual Florida's Kids and Alcohol Town Hall Meeting on March 21 at the Palladium Theater at St. Petersburg College. Discussion will include: underage alcohol; synthetic marijuana use; prescription drug misuse and; and peer pressures youth face. *For more info, [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 9, 2013, **FJJA Executive Committee Location/Time TBA**
- **New Date** -April 10, 2013, **FJJA Board Meeting**, DISC Village, 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)

Of Interest

Bridging the Systems - Child Welfare, Trafficking, and Law Enforcement Working Together for Trafficked Children

Emerging from recommendations developed by a roundtable of national, state and local advocates, practitioners, and officials, this policy brief suggests a new response to child victims of trafficking, who are often foster children, runaways, and other youth once under the care of child protective services. Twenty-six recommendations address changes in policy, legislation, research, training, resource allocation, and legal representation and include recommending states ensure that the criminal records of trafficking victims can be expunged of charges or convictions that resulted from the trafficking victimization and recommending the Department of Labor and Department of Justice conduct research on the prevalence of labor trafficking and the needs of victims, including child victims. *To read bulletin, [click here](#)*

Kids Count Released: Snapshot of Youth Confinement Rate Shows 35-year low

In 1995, youth juvenile justice residential facilities held 107,637 youth. By 2010, that number dropped to 70,792. Over that timeframe the rate of youth in confinement decreased by 41% from 381 per 100,000 youths to 225 per 100,000. *Florida's rate which shows a 32 percent drop in the number of Florida's youth being sent to residential juvenile justice programs between 1997 and 2010.* Additionally, the decline has accelerated in recent years: From 2006 to 2010, the annual rate of decline was roughly three times faster than in the previous nine-year period. *To read full report, [click here](#)*

Member News

Dade Juvenile Residential Making Plans to Celebrate DJJ Youth Success Day

Youth and staff at Dade Juvenile Residential Facility are already making plans to support the annual DJJ Youth Success Day, via the means of a community service project. On April 9, 2013, Dade residential youth, accompanied by 4 staff members, will be volunteering their time and efforts working on the restoration program currently ongoing at the Everglades Outpost Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Everglades Outpost is a non-profit organization that seeks to rescue and rehabilitate a variety of domestic, wild, and exotic animals rescued from a variety of places. The focus of the Outpost is not only to rescue and rehabilitate these animals, but to re-integrate them back into their natural habitats, while providing the public with a place to go and become educated with such animals and wildlife.

Upon completion of the work day, all program residents will attend a recognition ceremony back at the facility with all youth that have completed community service work hours during their stay will be recognized. Special invited guests, will include the local Florida City Police Chief, Mr. Pedro Taylor and Community Resource Officer Mr. Ashon Lillie in addition to other community leaders, and members of the program's community advisory board. *What will you do to support DJJ Youth Success Day?*

Avon Park Youth Academy Partners with Avon Park Rotary Club to Assist a Local Widow

HBI PACT for Youth at Avon Park, funded by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and in partnership with G4S Youth Services, recently partnered with the Avon Park Rotary Club to assist with needed repairs to a widow's home in the local community.

The students, under the direction of their instructors, TJ Nelson and Patrick Bray, installed soffit and fascia around the entire home, painted the exterior of the home including the doors, and completed some landscaping around the home.

This community project provided HBI youth not only with the opportunity to give back, but allowed them to apply the newly acquired skills they have learned and which hopefully they will carry with them when they return home.

Youth Services International Partners with DJJ and Community Partners to Provide Vocational Education

A successful partnership with D & D Asphalt, Marion County Public Schools, Oldcastle Materials and Youth Services International is providing hands on vocational skills at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility. FJJA member Youth Services International (YSI) bought and installed the building where the class is held. YSI Senior Vice President Jesse Williams, says, "YSI is very happy to participate as a partner in bringing this project to fruition. It is additional proof that Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility continues to excel in providing quality programming."



Research has shown that job-related interventions were associated with an average 6 percent reduction in subsequent re-offending for participating youth. DJJ collaborated with Marion County Public Schools, which manages academic operations at the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility, to offer the facility's youth Core Curriculum through the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). NCCER is the industry's accrediting body and the NCCER Core Curriculum is a prerequisite to all other Level 1 craft curriculum. Once youth complete the Core Curriculum, they will have the basic skills they need to continue in any of the 60 craft areas.



HBI Youth from Avon Park accomplish good deeds.

Member News

A Door to a Good Night's Sleep

Painted, handcrafted children's beds were donated to Central Florida's charitable furniture bank. On January 25th, beds were gifted to young recipients at The Mustard Seed of Central Florida. With the help of The Home Builders Institute and several local artists, *Rebuilding Together Orlando* initiated a program that provided beds to a dozen needy children in Central Florida called, "A Door to a Good Night's Sleep."

The Home Builders Institute constructed twelve twin beds using recycled doors. Then, an army of volunteer, local artists applied their skills to painting the beds. These one of a kind beds were auctioned online as a fundraiser for *Rebuilding Together Orlando*.



The winning bidders had the choice to keep the beds or donate them to The Mustard Seed, Central Florida's largest charitable furniture bank. All of the winning donors chose to donate the beds and allow *Rebuilding Together Orlando* to award them to local children and families in need.

Accepting the beds were students from New Image Youth Center. Standing in for a family from Apopka, FL, were representatives from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice; Chief Probation Officer, Jerome Hightower and Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor, Monica Webb.