

March 2012

Volume 6, Issue 75

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## Register Today!

Early Bird Rates

Expire 3/31

2012 Adolescent  
Conference



April 23-25, 2012  
Orlando, Florida

The FJJA Newsletter  
is published monthly

Cathy Craig-Myers, *Editor*  
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Deadline is the 4th of each month  
Send your news to [lynn@fjja.org](mailto:lynn@fjja.org)

## Join us at the 2012 Adolescent Conference!

This year's Adolescent Conference theme: *Unsung Heroes: Making a Difference* acknowledges the thousands of men and women who work every day with at risk youth. The 2-day conference will be held at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando on April 23-24, 2012. The conference offers an array of presentations and workshops which highlight promising practices, evidence-based programming, and clinical strategies that effectively serve at-risk, delinquent and substance involved youth. *Early Bird Deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>.*

"National Girls Institute Day" will be held on April 25, 2012, the third day of our Annual Adolescent Conference. The "National Girls Institute" is the national training and technical assistance provider for OJJDP and provides multi-level training and technical assistance to improve job performance of individuals and service delivery systems of organizations working with justice involved girls and their families. For more info, [click here](#).

## Featured Speakers

**Jaiya John, Ph.D.** — Nationally recognized inspirational speaker; poet; author; youth mentor and advocate. Dr. John, of African American and Blackfeet and Cherokee descent, grew up immersed in New Mexico's American Indian and Latino cultures has a deep appreciation for the spiritual and communal passions that spring from these worlds. This spirit he ingrains in his messages about our social world. He also speaks with the voice of a person who grew up in the foster care system.

**Shay Bilchik, J.D.** — Founder and Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute. The Center's work aims to focus the nation's leaders, across systems of care and levels of government, on the key components of a strong juvenile justice reform agenda. A particular focus of the Center's work is on youth known to both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, also known as "crossover youth."

**Wansley Walters** — Secretary, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. Secretary Walters earned national recognition for her work in Miami-Dade County. Working with law enforcement and social service agencies, and through the use of civil citation, to nonviolent first-time juvenile offenders were diverted, saving taxpayers millions of dollars. From 1998 to 2008, arrests fell by 46 percent, with re-arrests by 80 percent.

## Workshops at a Glance

- The New Face of Gangs
- Pharmacology Update: The Latest Trends in Substance Abuse
- Identifying and Treating Florida's Sexually Exploited Children
- Avatar Assisted Therapy
- The Adolescent Brain and High Risk Behaviors
- A Community on the Frontline Preventing Suicide
- Xbox, Hip-Hop and Dreadlocks: Not Your Father's Child
- Taking Good Care of Ourselves So We Can Take Good Care of Others
- Learning From the Field: Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation for Youth
- Bullying or Intentional Meanness: What's the Difference?
- Girl Matters: Savvy Sister Overview

For more workshops, [click here](#).



### ***Girl Differences: Honoring Each Girl and Young Woman's Lived Experiences***

On April 25, 2012, The National Girl's Institute (NGI), a partnership between NCCD's Center for Girls and Young Women and OJJDP, will facilitate a one-day intensive Post Conference at the 2012 Adolescent Conference. The Post Conference Training Event, entitled *Within Girl Differences: Honoring Each Girl and Young Woman's Lived Experiences* will include workshops that highlight the within girl differences of young *women* of color; the needs of girls with lived experiences of trauma and loss; and effectively providing interventions for meeting the needs lesbian, bisexual, questioning and transgendered youth. Additionally, a workshop that focuses on Staff Matters® will be presented that provides strategies for finding personal and professional balance as caregivers to girls and young women.

#### [Workshops and Speakers](#)

##### **VALUING DIFFERENCES: Creating Culturally Competent Programs and Services**

Girl-services organization(s) must commit to promoting the development of a healthy-cultural identity for the young women they serve. Providing effective services is impossible without the knowledge, understanding and respect of the culture and background of girls and their families/caregivers. It is no exaggeration to say that a culturally competent provider can mean the difference between a girl "making it" or "falling through the cracks." What do within-girl cultural differences look like? This workshop will help staff develop specific strategies and skills for providing culturally competent services to young women of color and their families/caregivers. What does it mean to be gender-responsive and culturally competent? What are the barriers to providing culturally competent services? What are the opportunities? What does it look like in day-to-day practice in juvenile justice programs? What resources are available?

**Barbara Cheives** is the President and CEO of Converge & Associates Consulting which specializes in race and ethnic relations consulting and Cultural Competency Training. Her consulting expertise includes law enforcement and public safety; media; education; and corporations. Barbara serves on numerous boards including the National Board of the Institute of Community Peace in Washington, DC and is President of National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Beach County, from the Class of 2002. Barbara has received numerous awards.

##### **VOICES: Addressing Trauma with a Gender Responsive Approach**

The VOICES curriculum was created by Dr. Stephanie Covington, Co-Director of the Center for Gender and Justice. VOICES was created to address the unique needs of adolescent girls and young women. It encourages them to seek and celebrate their "true selves" by providing a safe space, encouragement, structure, and the support they need to embrace their journeys of self-discovery. This session will focus on the development and implementation of trauma informed services and a variety of therapeutic approaches to address the lived experiences of trauma.

**Kim Selvaggi** currently consults for local and national organizations, including The Center for Gender and Justice, The Girls Circle Association, and the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. In recent years, she has provided training and technical assistance for the National Institute of Corrections, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, The Girls Study Group, and the McArthur Foundation. Mrs. Selvaggi spent twelve years at the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division in the Center for Best Practices. During her career there, she worked within juvenile probation, juvenile detention and the network of alternative sanctions programs for adults and juveniles, where she helped reform the justice system to become more gender responsive and trauma-informed.

*National Girls Institute Speakers continued on page 3*

### National Girls Institute Speakers from page 2

#### **RESPECTING DIVERSITY: Meeting the Needs of Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Youth**

Emerging research indicates that approximately 13 percent of youth in detention facilities across the country are LGBT. Far too often, the juvenile justice system is characterized by a profound lack of acceptance of LGBT identity, based in large part on misconceptions about sexual orientation and gender identity. Scientific research finds that sexual orientation and gender identity are deep-seated, inherent aspects of personal identity. Some professionals mistake expressions of choice of hairstyle, clothing, mannerisms, and name as rebellious behavior to be corrected rather than what it is: an appropriate reflection of core identity. The workshop will provide accurate information and resources for increasing understanding on the lived experiences of lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth. Specific policies and practices will be provided as guidance for ensuring all youth are provided appropriate, fair and equitable services.

**Cindy Watson** serves as the Executive Director of JASMYN's whose mission is to support and empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and questioning youth by creating safe space, providing youth development services and bringing people and resources together to promote diversity and human rights. JASMYN is known around the country as an innovative LGBT youth center with a comprehensive array of youth programs and as an advocate for youth in foster care and educational settings. Cindy has an extensive career of advocacy and direct services to individuals who are victimized and marginalized. She worked at the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid where she administered a school-based project for victims of violence. She also served as an executive director of a rural women's center in Vermont and helped to start a battered women's shelter in Alaska.

#### **STAFF MATTERS: Finding Professional Passion and Personal Balance in Your Work with Girls and Young Women**

**Dr. Lawanda Ravoira** is a national expert, author, researcher and trainer on issues specific to justice-involved girls and young women. She is the founding Director of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency's (NCCD) Center for Girls and Young Women in Jacksonville, Florida. The NCCD Center for Girls and Young Women is a division of NCCD which is headquartered in Oakland, California, the oldest research and policy organization in the country. Under her leadership, the center provides advocacy, assessments, training, technical assistance, research and evaluations for states, local jurisdictions and individual agencies throughout the United States and internationally. Passion is a powerful and compelling emotion that has the potential to fill our personal and professional lives. This is a roll-up-your sleeves and take-off-your shoes workshop with experiential activities that provide tools and techniques you can practice to create, celebrate and sustain your passion for working with girls and young women.

### **More Youth Achievement: Prodigy Salutes Successful Youth**

The Prodigy program congratulates Michelle, President of the Prodigy Tampa Teen Advisory Board (P-TAB), for making Student of the Quarter! Michelle is 15 years old and has been attending Prodigy since 2009.

In addition to leading members of the Teen Advisory Board in public art projects, Michele is making waves in addition to Prodigy. She will be transferring to Jefferson High School next year and has been accepted to Jefferson's Criminal Honors Program. Her goal is to be a Forensic Anthropologist. When she first started Prodigy, Michelle was very shy, and did not feel comfortable around others. She has come a long way - no one would ever guess that if they met her for the first time today. "Now I am very confident and I work better with people. Prodigy really did transform my life," she shares.

The Prodigy family is very proud of Michelle and with her determination, hard work and positive attitude – she will reach the stars. Good luck, Michelle! Your story has inspired the staff and students around you, and we look forward to celebrating even more of your future successes!

### FJJA/DJJ to Host Civil Citation Roundtable Discussions at 2012 Adolescent Conference

At the 2012 Adolescent Conference in Orlando, FJJA and DJJ will be hosting discussions on DJJ's efforts to enhance civil citation efforts. In 2011, legislation gave DJJ the responsibility of developing new guidelines on implementation of civil citation programs to 1<sup>st</sup> time misdemeanants as well as requiring data entry into the JJIS system.

This roundtable discussion will take a look at current status of that effort, lessons learned and recommendations to improve going forward.

### DJJ Prepares to Launch Review of Juvenile Justice Statutes

With legislative session over, Secretary Wansley Walters will be soon announcing the formation of a cross section of stakeholders to review the current Juvenile Justice Statutes. (Chapter 985 and 984) The review team will be chaired by Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente, chair of the Supreme Court's Steering Committee on Families and Children, and Alan F. Abramowitz, Executive Director of the Guardian ad Litem Program.

Once started, the review process will take place throughout the summer, with final recommendations and proposed changes ready for next legislative session. Secretary Walters testified to the Legislature that she will be forming an oversight group, with three specific sub-groups, which will be taking input and working specifically on any proposed changes to the current statutes. The three subgroups will look at prevention and diversion, courts and process, and re-entry and aftercare.

To assist the Department of Juvenile Justice in this very important endeavor, FJJA has formed a small committee to develop how providers can participate in this process. We will be sharing more information at the FJJA Board meeting in April.

### Reports of Interest

#### **Colorado Juvenile Defender Coalition: Redirecting Justice: *The Consequences of Prosecuting Youth as Adults***

This report maintains that the direct-file law has been used to try thousands of Colorado youth as adults, inappropriately incarcerate them in adult jails and prisons, and mark them with lifelong felony convictions. This research shows that prosecuting children as adults is counterproductive to community safety because youth are less likely to be rehabilitated and become productive members of society.

#### **Other findings:**

Contrary to the perception that direct file is only used on the most serious cases; prosecutors are more often direct filing mid-level felony cases. The research showed that only 15% of direct file cases were homicides, and only 5% of cases were charged as first degree murder (only 8 of 84 first-degree murder charges resulted in a first-degree murder conviction).

Additionally, the vast majority of direct filed youth never have their case reviewed by a judge or jury. 95% of cases are plea-bargained. Only 28% of direct file cases are convicted of the highest offense charged, and 22% of cases are dismissed.

Direct file disproportionately affects children of color. 82% of admissions to Colorado's youthful offender system in 2009-2010 were black and Hispanic youth. In contrast, 75% of dismissed cases were white youth.

To read report, [click here](#).

### Reports of Interest

#### Mid-Year State Medicaid Budget Update for FY 2012 and a Look Forward to FY 2013

As states prepared their budgets for FY 2012, almost all continued to experience the ongoing effects of high unemployment and depressed state revenue collections. Most states were forced to dramatically increase FY 2012 state spending for Medicaid by an average of 28.7% largely to replace temporary Medicaid federal stimulus funds that expired in June 2011. The outlook for 2013 and beyond remains difficult with continued pressure to find Medicaid cuts, although few options for additional savings remain. To read report, [click here](#).

#### The Sentencing Project: *The Lives of Juvenile Lifers*

While the Supreme Court reviews this issue, a new report investigates the life experiences of individuals serving sentences of life without parole for offenses committed as juveniles and presents findings from the first-ever national survey of this population. It provides a comprehensive look that offers new perspectives on people who committed crimes before the age of 18. Almost 1,600 individuals responded to questions about their circumstances prior to conviction and their experiences in prison. Among the report's findings:

- One in three of the respondents were living in public housing prior to incarceration.
- 79 % reported witnessing violence in their homes.
- Almost 50% surveyed experienced physical abuse, almost 80 % of girls.
- One in five reported histories of sexual abuse, and 77.3% of female prisoners reported abuse as girls. To read report, [click here](#).

### In the News

Lakeland Ledger: [District Seeks Civil Citation Program for Misdemeanors Committed at School](#)

Reclaiming Futures: [Florida Using Horse Therapy to Rehabilitate Teens at St. Johns Academy](#)

Colorado Channel 2: [Juvenile Justice Reform Bill Clears Big Test](#)  
Huffington Post: [School-To-Prison Pipeline Targeted By Judges, Education Officials](#)

New York Times: [Juveniles Don't Deserve Life Sentences](#)

Richmond Times Dispatch: [State Must Be Smart on Youth Crime](#)

The Lakeland Ledger: [Southern Poverty Law Center's Suit Targets Polk Jails](#)

The Huffington Post: [A Rupture in the Youth Pipeline to Prison in Los Angeles](#)

SAMHSA, MacArthur: [Improve how Juvenile Justice System Responds to Behavioral Health Needs of Youth](#)



### Important Dates to Remember

#### April 2012

- FJJA Board Meeting, April 23, 2012 2- 5 pm, The Florida Hotel, Orlando.
- 2012 Adolescent Conference, *Unsung Heroes: Making A Difference*, April 23-24, 2012 The Florida Hotel, Orlando.
- National Girls Institute Day, *Post Conference Workshop*, April 25, 2012 The Florida Hotel, Orlando

#### May 2012

- FJJA Executive Committee Visioning Session, Orlando. May 9, all day, Location TBA

#### June 2012

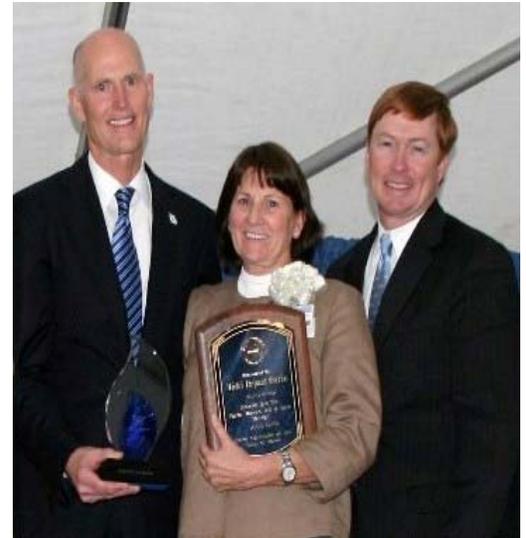
- FJJA Annual Retreat, June 10-13, 2012, LaPlaya Resort, Naples

### Member News

#### **PACE Founder Recognized by Governor Rick Scott**

This month, Governor Rick Scott recognized three outstanding Florida women for induction into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame; Dr. Ruth H. Alexander, Elizabeth "Budd" Bell, and Vicki Bryant Burke. Vicki Bryant Burke is the founder of PACE Center for Girls.

Realizing that institutionalization or incarceration was the juvenile justice system's response to addressing the needs of girls who committed delinquent acts and/or status offenses, Ms. Burke founded PACE Center for Girls in 1985. Following the success of that single program, Ms. Burke led a statewide expansion. Today, PACE has 17 centers throughout Florida, and has helped over 29,000 young women



Governor Rick Scott, Vicki Bryant Burke, Adam Putnam, FI Agriculture Commissioner



NASA Educators work with BGTH Youth

#### **NASA Educators Visit Brevard Group Treatment Home**

Last year, NASA kicked off a program in support of President Barack Obama's "Educate to Innovate" initiative in order to boost interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, education particularly for underrepresented students across the nation.

NASA's Kennedy Space Center education team brought attention-grabbing videos, demonstrations and hands-on learning activities to the young men at the Center for Drug-Free Living Brevard Group Treatment Home who typically would not have a chance to learn about it.

The NASA Space Camp is a great opportunity for the youth to learn about space, rocketry, aeronautics, and other science-related topics. For this event, Brevard Group Treatment Home was awarded a Best Practice Award at the March Regional Director's Meeting. NASA's next visit to BGTH will be April 23-24, 2012.

The space camp is conducted on-site every quarter at no charge. For more info: [http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/centers/kennedy/home/bgth\\_event.html](http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/centers/kennedy/home/bgth_event.html)

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### **Upcoming Conferences, Workshops, & Training Events**

2-Day ARISE Life Skills, April 23-24, 2012. Seacoast National Bank, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. For information contact ARISE at 1-888-680-6100, or e-mail [answers@at-riskyouth.org](mailto:answers@at-riskyouth.org) or go to [www.at-riskyouth.org](http://www.at-riskyouth.org)

75<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, July 15-18, 2012, New Orleans, LA. For more information, please contact the Conference Planning and Marketing Department at (775) 784-6920.

**Unsung Heroes: Making a Difference | Adolescent Conference | April 23-24, 2012**

### Two Special Training Events To Be Held During The 2012 Adolescent Conference

In collaboration with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the Florida Juvenile Justice Association is pleased to announce two special training events that will take place during the 2012 Adolescent Conference in Orlando.

**THERE IS NO COST FOR THIS TRAINING AND YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE REGISTERED OR THE ADOLESCENT CONFERENCE TO PARTICIPATE.**

#### *Basic Motivational Interviewing and Stages of Change*

This 2-day training event will take place from 9 am to 5 pm Monday and Tuesday, April 23-24. Upon completion participants will be certified in Motivational Interviewing. *Space is limited to 30 participants and is on a first come, first served basis.* Motivational Interviewing is a directive, client-centered cognitive-behavioral intervention for eliciting behavior change by helping youth to explore and resolve ambivalence. Participants will learn:

- about cognitive restructuring
- skill development
- effective communication with youth
- how to encourage youth to examine their cognitions
- how to challenge a youth's beliefs
- how to alter a youth's behaviors.

The DJJ curriculum was developed in accordance with the requirements recommended by William R. Miller, Ph.D., and Stephen Rollnick, Ph.D. and includes the use of interactive exercises to increase audience interest and encourage participation.

#### *Protective Action Response (PAR) Refresher*

The Protective Action Response (PAR) Refresher program will take place from 8 am to 5 pm Monday, April 23 and meets the requirements for the annual in-service PAR training pursuant to 63H-1.012. Space is limited and is on a first come, first served basis.

Participants will be trained to effectively maintain safety and order setting by preventing conflicts through the use of appropriate responses to the youth's behaviors and minimizing conflicts through the use of verbal de-escalation and the minimum amount of force necessary. In addition, the training helps participants to develop the personal confidence to apply DJJ-approved techniques correctly and in the most appropriate situation.

#### *How to Register*

If you are interested in becoming certified in MI or in meeting your annual training requirement in PAR, please go to Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's LMS CORE Training System at [www.itrainnow.com](http://www.itrainnow.com) or contact Gayla Marc or Karimah Wright at 850-488-8825

**SPACE IS LIMITED! THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS 5 PM, FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012 . REGISTER TODAY!**



# Unsung Heroes: Making a Difference

April 23 - 24, 2012 | Orlando

## REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE

**\$199** FJJA and FADA      **\$229** Non Members

On April 1, 2012 rates will be: **\$214** FJJA and FADAA Members **\$244** Non Members

To register visit [www.adolescentconference.org](http://www.adolescentconference.org)



## THANK YOU 2012 ADOLESCENT CONFERENCE SPONSORS

