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SAVE THESE 2012 IMPORTANT DATES

- January 29 – February 3
Children's Week
- January 30 –
FJJA Board Meeting
DISC Village,
Tallahassee
- January 31-
"FJJA Day at the
Capital
- January 31 –
DJJ "Youth Success
Day"

Make your plans now!

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

FJJA Members Meet To Chart Direction

FJJA Board members spent three days this month reviewing activities of the past year, identifying critical priorities going forward and charting our direction for this coming year.

In the coming weeks, we will be convening workgroups to develop activities to support our priorities. Please refer to the FJJA June 2011 Retreat Update for more information. We will be providing more information in the coming weeks.

FJJA Develops 2011-2012 Legislative Agenda at Retreat

Since legislative session will start two months early next year, FJJA members finalized and approved the 2011- 2012 Legislative Agenda at the annual retreat.

In the August newsletter we will be updating members on our legislative timeline, local events and other activities that will take place during the summer and fall.

NCCD Conducts Listening Session at the FJJA Annual Retreat

Lawanda Ravoira, director of the NCCD Center for Girls and Young Women recently held a listening session at the FJJA Annual retreat. The goals of the listening session were to capture the experiences, suggestions and concerns identified by service providers and stakeholders about girls involved with the juvenile justice system.

NCCD hopes this OJJDP funded project will inform improvements to the standards of care for all girls programming by better identifying the resource and information needs of girls.

Information learned from the session will be merged with input from around the country and presented at the OJJDP national conference being held in Washington D.C. in October 2011. FJJA will provide members with the presentation by NCCD later this year.

FJJA 2011-2012

Legislative Agenda

No Cuts to Juvenile Justice

Maintaining funding will:

- Reduce crime, victimization and other related costs;
- Reduce the flow of youth into adult corrections and need for future prison construction.

Increase Investment in Community Based Services

Increase funding for:

- Prevention, early intervention and diversion programs;
- Community based residential services;
- Transition, reentry and aftercare services;
- Education, vocational training and job placement.

Investing in Florida's Juvenile Justice System Ensures Public Safety

Key Points:

- Last year, DJJ received the largest funding cut in public safety.
- Very few resources have been earmarked for reinvestment into community based services.
- Of the \$77 million cut, only \$5 million will be reinvested.

After 36 Years, Outward Bound Shuts Down The STEP Program

The Short-Term Expedition Program (STEP) was closed last month as a result of policy changes within the Department of Juvenile Justice as they work to serve more misdemeanor youth in their home communities.

The Yulee Outward Bound program, which operated for 36 years in Florida, had served teens throughout the state, and was the only such program in Florida for teen delinquents.

The program was geared to male and female teens from 14 to 18 who had been arrested for minor misdemeanors up to first-degree felonies - crimes such as shoplifting and petty theft.

Youth who were sentenced to the program were chosen on a case-by-case basis, excluding a history of violence with a weapon. The program graduated over 9,000 participants. The program had

great partnerships with the community through its community-service work. Youth in the program volunteered in the local community, doing trail maintenance at Fort Clinch State Park, working with animals at White Oak Plantation and serving meals at the Clara White Mission in Jacksonville, as well as local nursing homes.

Jon Howard, Director of At-Risk Programs for Outward Bound said, "There are lots of former alumni who say the course changed their life."

There are two remaining Outward Bound programs in Florida, one in Brevard County that serves non-delinquent teens struggling with home and school environments, and a program in Monroe County that is an alternative school that serves students in grades 7-12.

DJJ Partners with Georgetown University in Effort to Improve Juvenile Justice

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice has been selected to participate in a national initiative to improve its juvenile justice system by translating "what works" into everyday practice and policy. The Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project (JJSIP), administered by Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, will provide a framework for implementing best practices throughout the entire juvenile justice system. Pinellas County has been selected as the demonstration site for the project.

"We are deeply grateful for this opportunity to improve outcomes for youth in our care and are honored that Georgetown recognized Florida's suitability for this project," said Secretary Wansley Walters. "Historically, juvenile justice programs have been evaluated with respect to recidivism rates. After this project is complete, we will have a better understanding of why some programs have better outcomes than others. This will ensure continuous quality improvement of services for all our youth."

The project will produce an evaluation tool to identify any shortcomings in juvenile programs or services, evaluate how closely those programs or services align with the most prominent research in the field to help identify concrete recommendations for improvement. The Georgetown team will work with prominent criminologists to provide technical assistance to the state throughout the 18-month

project period beginning later this summer. The team will evaluate DJJ's services to ensure an adequate range of graduated sanctions with interventions designed to reduce the risk of committing future offenses. At the end of the process, Florida will have implemented the JJSIP fully in Pinellas and work to implement it statewide.

Secretary Walters Rounds Out the DJJ Executive Leadership Team

Secretary Walters has announced new additions to her leadership team, including naming Michael McCaffrey, former director of Staff Development and Training, as the new assistant secretary of Probation and Community Intervention. Wanda W. Finnie has been named as assistant secretary of Prevention and Victim Services. New to the department, Wanda served as a prosecutor and public defender in Pennsylvania and New Jersey before moving to South Florida, where she worked at the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department as Special Projects Administrator. Last month, Robert Woody was named as the new Deputy Secretary of the department.

FJJA Announces 2011-2013 FJJA Executive Committee

We are pleased to announce the election of new FJJA Executive Committee members. As we begin our new year, we have identified opportunities to build on our accomplishments and have already identified some areas of focus to benefit our membership. The FJJA Executive Committee works as a team and makes every attempt to leverage each member's individual area of expertise to maximize our success. This is very important given the diverse organizations that make up FJJA.

Congratulations to Chris Perkins, Pam Alvarez, and Babette Hankey, our three new Executive members who bring considerable new expertise to the table. Members include:

President	Jon Howard, Outward Bound, Inc.	At-Large	Babette Hankey, The Center for Drug Free Living
President Elect	Donnie Read, Twin Oaks Juvenile Development		Debbie Moroney, PACE Center for Girls
Past President	Jeff Kaplan, Gulf Coast Youth Services		Frank Alarcon, Henry and Rilla White Foundation
Treasurer	Tadar Muhammad, Home Builder's Institute		Jim Hill, G4S Youth Services, LLC
Secretary	Chris Perkins, Sequel Youth and Family Services		Lori Britt Tomlin, Human Services Associates
			Pam Alvarez, Bay Area Youth Services
			Tom Camp, Operation PAR

Recently Released

VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE: *Setting an Agenda for Family-Focused Justice Reform*

<http://www.vera.org/files/FJP-advisory-board-report-v6.pdf>

CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM: *Safety, Fairness, Stability: Repositioning Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare to Engage Families and Communities*

<http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/pdfs/famengagement/FamilyEngagementPaper.pdf>

COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE: *Safeguarding the Future: Strategic Investments to Secure the Safety of America's Youth, Families and Communities*

According to report Since FY 2002, federal investments in programs that prevent and reduce delinquency have decreased by 50%. Over that same period, federal spending on policing, prosecution and incarceration has increased by more than 60%. For every \$1 invested in prevention and family and community based interventions, taxpayers save up to \$8 in immediate and future juvenile and criminal justice costs. To read report: http://juvjustice.org/media/resources/public/resource_617.pdf

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: *Highlights of the 2009 National Youth Gang Survey*

This fact sheet presents findings from the National Gang Center's 2009 National Youth Gang Survey, which collects data from a large, representative sample of local law enforcement agencies to monitor the size and scope of the national gang problem. The prevalence rate of gang activity increased slightly from 32.4% in 2008 34.5% in 2009. Over the entire survey period, three trends are apparent in the prevalence rate of gang activity: a sharp decline throughout the late 1990s, a sudden upturn beginning in 2001 and continuing until 2005, and a relative leveling off thereafter. Larger cities exhibited a large and stable prevalence rate of gang activity from 2005 to 2009, while the less populated areas reported a smaller rate with a more fluctuating pattern. To read the report:

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/233581.pdf>

The Girls Haven't Gone Bad, Mr. Epps: They Just Need Help

Editorial by Lawanda Ravoira, Director of the Center for Girls and Young Women, a division of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) - Reprinted from Youth Today

As the Director of the Center for Girls and Young Women, I am deeply disturbed by recent remarks of Charles T. Epps, Superintendent of the Jersey City Schools. On April 13th, Epps announced to a group of interdenominational pastors that the girls of Jersey City are responsible for the community's problems. "Our worst enemy is the young ladies," he said. "The young girls are bad. I don't know what they're drinking today, but they're bad." Just as disturbing, it seems that no one in his audience spoke up to disagree.

How can we empower our girls to succeed when public leaders place the blame for societal problems squarely on their young shoulders? Rather than assigning blame, Epps should be addressing the challenges and traumas that can cause young women to begin a pattern of difficult and even dangerous behavior.

Young women are the fastest growing segment of the juvenile justice population, and their juvenile justice involvement is a result

of circumstances distinctly different from those of males. Research demonstrates that up to 92 percent of the girls in the juvenile justice system are victims of physical or sexual abuse. Yet policies and procedures focus overwhelmingly on punishment; often further traumatizing girls who have been pushed into the system by victimization. As a community leader, Epps should understand that many troubled girls suffer in a system that lacks the knowledge and resources necessary to serve their needs.

NCCD's Center for Girls and Young Women is working to reform social and juvenile justice systems that have failed to meet the specific needs of girls and young women. The Center is listening to girls across the country, identifying their real concerns, and working with juvenile justice practitioners to find ways to address their needs. As we do so, we need public leaders to help us change a system that is failing young women who deserve treatment and support – not vilification and blame. The time has come for our leaders to take responsibility for protecting young girls and providing them with the tools they need to succeed.

Instead of tearing them down further, Superintendent Epps – and all of us – should support our girls and help them to thrive.

In the News

The Statesman: *Take Lessons from Past in Juvenile Justice Reform*

Although reform of the juvenile justice system was "the feel-good story of the recent Texas legislative session," state leaders would "do well to avoid the mistakes of a previous generation of juvenile justice reformers.

<http://www.statesman.com/opinion/bush-take-lessons-from-past-in-juvenile-justice-1535532.html>

The Lakeland Ledger: *Polk Jail to House More Juveniles Awaiting Trial*

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20110618/NEWS/110619376?Title=Polk-Jail-to-House-More-Juveniles-Awaiting-Trial->

TBO.com: *Invest in Youth to Boost Economy*

<http://www2.tbo.com/news/opinion/2011/jun/30/MEOPINO2-invest-in-youth-to-boost-economy-ar-240733/>

Los Angeles Times - *A Juvenile Justice System that's Adrift*

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/opinionla/la-ed-juvenile-20110706,0,3151563.story>

Reclaiming Futures: *Reversing the Federal Divestment of Effective Juvenile Justice Programs*

<http://www.reclaimingfutures.org/blog/juvenile-justice-system-Coalition-for-Juvenile-Justice-federal-funding-shrinking-alarmingly>

FJJA Welcomes New Associate Members

FJJA welcomes new members: Capital City Youth Services, Tallahassee, Youth Crisis Center, Jacksonville, and the Kids N Care, Jacksonville System of Care Initiative.

Upcoming Conferences, Workshops, & Events

Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Abuse, July 27-29, sponsored by Florida's Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort, Orlando, Florida. For more information, go to

<http://www.fncac.org/index.php?s=3043>

Health Care Reform Workshops, August 19, September 28, September 29, October 20, November 30, and December 16, is sponsored by The Florida Department of Children and Families and the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association. For topics and locations, go to <http://www.fadaa.org/workshops/hcreform/index.asp>

Making Lives Better: The Force That Unites Us, August 24-26, 2011, the 2011 Annual Conference sponsored by Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association and Florida Council for Community Mental Health, will be held at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress, Orlando, Florida. For more information go to <http://www.makinglivesbetter.org/>.

Upcoming Webinars

ARISE Webinars

- *Listening to Each Other* - July 27, 2011
- *Assess Your Stress* - August 24, 2011
- *Manage Time, Manage Stress* - September 21, 2011
- *Just Say Om* - October 26, 2011

To register or for more information contact ARISE at 1-888-680-6100, or e-mail answers@at-riskyouth.org

OJJDP Webinar on Disproportionate Minority Contact

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) National Training and Technical Assistance Center will host the webinar, "*Disproportionate Minority Contact: Issues and Trends at the National, State, and Local Level*," on August 3, 2011 at 2 p.m. (EDT). The webinar will describe the issues that state and local communities face when trying to reduce disproportionate minority contact. To join the event, [click here](#).



Important Dates to Remember

September

- September 15 - **FJJA Board Meeting**
Operation PAR, Operation PAR
13800 66th Street, Largo Florida
Young Center, Building B (Great Room)
- September 19 - Legislative Committee Week

October

- October 3 - Legislative Committee Week
- October 17 - Legislative Committee Week
- October 31 - Legislative Committee Week

November

- November 8 - **FJJA Board Meeting**
The Center for Drug-Free Living
3670 Maguire Boulevard, Orlando, FL
- November 14 - Legislative Committee Week

December

- Week of December 5 - Legislative Committee Week

January

- January 10th 2012- Legislative Session starts
- January 29 - Feb 3- Children's Week
- January 30 - **FJJA Board Meeting**
DISC Village, Tallahassee
- Jan 31 - DJJ "Youth Success Day"
- Jan 31 - "FJJA Day at the Capital"

March

- March 1, 2012 - **FJJA Board Meeting**
DISC Village, Tallahassee

April

- April 2012 - Adolescent Conference, TBA
Half Day FJJA Board Meeting
Half Day Executive Committee Visioning Session

May/June

- **FJJA Annual Board Retreat**, Date, Location TBA