



Newsletter

November 2010

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FJJA Sets New Legislative Agenda

The 2010-2011 FJJA Legislative Agenda was developed using member feedback and input received during the FJJA annual retreat in June, discussion at the September Board meeting with final approval at the recent November Board meeting.

As we prepare to begin another legislative session with a budget deficit now projected at close to \$3 billion, with a new Governor and new legislative leadership, plus 44 freshmen House members and 13 freshmen Senators, the board agreed that it was essential to create an clear agenda that focuses on the most important task at hand: *maximizing the investment in juvenile justice to ensure public safety.*

One-Day Special Session Held to Override Crist Vetoes

Senate President Mike Haridopolos and House Speaker Dean Cannon convened a one-day special session to override some of Gov. Charlie Crist's vetoes.

The Legislature overrode eight vetoes and adopted two new measures, including SM 4A, a statement to Congress that Florida plans to revise its Medicaid program to save money.

Governor Elect Scott Announces Juvenile Justice Transition Team

Governor-Elect Scott recently announced his transition team to review juvenile justice. The team includes current FJJA members, Tom Olk and Wansley Walters. Tom is the founder of DISC Village as well as the founding member of the Florida Juvenile Justice Association. Wansley is the Director

FJJA 2010-2011 Legislative Agenda

Maximize Florida's investment in a balanced juvenile justice system to ensure public safety to:

- Reduce crime.
- Reduce victimization and related costs.
- Reduce need for future prison construction.
- Reduce flow of juveniles into adult prison system.

FJJA Long Term Legislative Priorities

- Balance the Juvenile Justice Continuum
- Enhance Gender Specific Programming
- Reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact
- Ensure Legal Representation
- Develop Alternatives to Secure Detention

of Miami Dade Juvenile Services, a model system which has achieved world-wide recognition for its success, including the White House. Additionally, David Dennis of Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Bob Klock, chair of Bay Point Schools, (another FJJA member agency) and Bertica Cabrera-Morris round out the team. Also represented in the Scott transition team are individuals familiar with the juvenile justice system including Judge Irene Sullivan, Sheriff Bob White, Linda Mills, among others. FJJA hopes to meet with transition team members soon to share provider perspective on how we can enhance the current system.

Mark Your Calendar
FJJA Board Meeting
Thursday, February 2011
 (Date/Time TBA)
Disney's Contemporary Resort

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

Governor-Elect Scott Announces Transition Leadership

Chair, Transition Team

Enu Mainigi

Executive Director, Transition Team

Mary Anne Carter

Transition Advisory Committee

Members

Toni Jennings

U.S. Senator George LeMieux

Representative Bill Galvano

Mayor Maurice Ferre

Kathleen Shanahan

Senator Paula Dockery

Representative Mike Weinstein

Mayor Manny Marono

Sally Bradshaw

Transition Department Directors

Christopher M. Kise, *Counselor to the Transition*

Susie Wiles, *Liaison to the Legislature and the Governor's office*

Adam Hollingsworth, *Director of Agency Reviews*

Pamela Pfeifer, *Director of Policy*

Edward Miyagishima, *Director of Scheduling and Operations*

Brian Burgess, *Director of Communications*

Economic Advisory Council Members

Donna Arduin

Tad DeHaven

The Honorable Talmadge Heflin

Dr. Randall G. Holcombe

Dr. Arthur B. Laffer

Dr. Robert McClure

Legislative Committee Chairs Selected

Senate Policy Committee

Children, Family and Elder Affairs — Ronda Storms, Chair

Criminal Justice — Greg Evers, Chair

Education and Pre K-12 — Stephen Wise, Chair

Judiciary — Anitere Flores, Chair

Senate Appropriations

Budget Committee — J.D. Alexander, Chair

Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations

— Mike Fasano, Chair

Subcommittee on Health and Human Services Appropriation

— Joe Negron, Chair

Subcommittee on Education and Pre K-12 Appropriations

— David Simmons, Chair

The House will select committee Chairs in early December.

FAMU Opens Juvenile Justice Research Institute

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and FAMU Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) celebrated the grand opening of the Juvenile Justice Research Institute (JJRI). DJJ has directed \$400,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention to support the work of the JJRI, at the recommendation of Florida's Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group.

The Institute, established at FAMU, will draw together the collaborative efforts of Bethune-Cookman University, Edward Waters College, Florida Atlantic University and Florida Memorial University. The JJRI will examine and address minority over-representation in Florida's juvenile justice system, commonly referred to as Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC). In addition to researching the causes and remedies to DMC, the Institute will promote a college student mentorship program with local DJJ facilities.

State Agencies Celebrate Partnership to Recognize Trauma Informed Care

The departments of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Children and Families (DCF), Health (DOH), the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) recently celebrated their partnership in recognizing and addressing the impact of trauma on the children, youth adults and families they serve.

Trauma-Informed Care also is being integrated into the both delinquency and dependency systems. Both DJJ and DCF have conducted statewide trainings over the summer for state and provider staffs to incorporate Trauma-Informed Care principles into their services.

OPPAGA Report: Juvenile Justice Students Face Barriers to High School Graduation and Job Training

Although most high school youth earn academic credits while in juvenile justice programs, those who enter the system with substantial academic deficits generally do not earn enough credits to resolve their deficits. Such students are at high risk of dropping out of school upon their release. While many of these youth could be prepared for employment after release by earning General Educational Development (GED) diplomas while in their programs, relatively few do so. Similarly, few programs provide job training needed to ensure these students have the skills and competencies for employment upon release. There are wide variations among juvenile justice facilities in their practices of offering GED and job training services to the youth they serve. Barriers to these services include competing academic priorities, students' poor reading ability, short lengths of stay, security issues, and insufficient information and coordination among providers. Many of these barriers could be addressed by clarifying funding issues and improving interagency planning.

<http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/MonitorDocs/Reports/pdf/1055rpt.pdf>

DJJ Reports Record Drop in Florida's Delinquency Rate

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice has released the annual Delinquency Profile, which shows double-digit and record declines in key juvenile delinquency measures. Florida's delinquency rate is at an all-time low and violent youth offenses are down.

Data from the past five fiscal years are compiled in the 2010 Delinquency Profile, showing encouraging trends at several stages in the juvenile justice system. Positive trends in delinquency referrals at the statewide level have been found in almost every major category.

The Delinquency Rate, which is the number of delinquency referrals per thousand youths between the ages of 10-17, is now 65. At its peak in fiscal year (FY) 1994-95 it was 123. In FY1991-92, when the tracking this statistic began, it was 111. Juvenile arrests that are referred to DJJ continue to decrease at an accelerating rate.

In FY2007-08, law enforcement referred 145,598 juvenile arrests to DJJ, which dropped 5% in FY2008-09 to 138,308. The number of referrals fell an additional 12% in FY2009-10 to 121,689.

The number of youths referred to DJJ continues to decrease at the same rates as referrals, falling 5% from 90,009 in FY2007-08 to 85,221 in FY2008-09 and decreasing another 12% to 75,382 in FY2009-10. The number of youths placed under DJJ-supervised probation declined more than 9% between FY2008-09 and FY2009-10, and totaled 21,666 last year. The number of youths court-ordered to residential commitment programs is 5,476 for FY2009-10, a decline of 14 % since FY2008-09. In FY2009-10, the number of youths transferred to adult court fell to 2,752, the lowest annual total since FY2005-06.

FJJA 2010-2011 Key Messages

Florida's juvenile justice system is one of the most comprehensive in the country and is always improving.

- We have nationally recognized programs and services throughout the state which serve the needs of each local community.
- Florida is a leader in prevention, early intervention and diversion services helping to reduce the number of youth from penetrating the system.

A responsive and balanced juvenile justice continuum is good for Florida and good for the youth who need services.

- Public safety is the most important goal, and a variety of services delivered locally ensure that the right service for the right youth at the right time occurs.
- Wise investments in the juvenile justice system pay off now and in the future and stop the flow of youth into the adult prison system.

Building on our successes saves dollars that won't be spent on prisons and will prevent future victims.

- Indicators point to the fact that today's adult prisoners are less likely to be in prison had they benefited from effective juvenile justice interventions at an early age.
- We can't afford to lose ground in these difficult economic times; we must build on what is working successfully.
- We must invest now or will pay more later.

Legislative Dates to Remember

2010-2011 Committee Meeting Schedule

Workshops	Week of Dec 6
Regular Meetings	Week of Jan 10
	Week of Jan 24
	Week of Feb 7
	Week of Feb 21
Appropriations	Week of Feb 14

2011 Regular Session

Session Convenes	March 8, 2011
Last Day of Session	May 6, 2011

Upcoming Events

Children's Cabinet

Wednesday, December 1, 2010, 1 – 5 pm
Florida Solar Energy Center , Auditorium Adjacent to
Brevard Campus of UCF 1679 Clearlake Road, Cocoa, FL
32922-5703.

Children and Youth Services Information Sharing Committee Meeting

Monday, December 6, 2010, 1 – 4 pm, Dept of Health, 4052
Bald Cypress, Room 301-AB , Tallahassee, FL.

Innovations in Treatment

Gateway Community Services 2nd Annual Spring
Conference, April 6-8, 2011, in Jacksonville. Participants
will explore the future of treatment and attitude in today's
changing world. For more information, go to
[Spring Conference](#).

2011 Children's Week Events

[For details of of the 2011 Children's Week Events, click here.](#)

- Hanging of the Hands
 - Sunday, April 3, 2011 from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rotunda
- Children's Week Community Innovation Awards Luncheon
 - Presented by United Way of Florida -Monday,
April 4, 2011 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
University Center Club
- Advocacy Training
 - Monday, April 4, 2011 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
University Center Club
- Advocacy Dinner & Reception
 - Monday, April 4, 2011 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
University Center Club
- Children's Capitol for a Day Presented by Comcast
 - Tuesday, April 5, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00
p.m. State Capitol Courtyard
- Children's Week Press Conference and Hanging of the
Hands Dedication Ceremony
 - Tuesday, April 5, 2011 fat 9:30 a.m. State
Capitol Courtyard
- Guided Tours of the Capitol
 - Monday - Wednesday, April 4-6, 2011 New and
Old Capitol buildings
- Legislative Reading Corner Presented by the Pearson
Foundation
 - Tuesday, April 5, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00
p.m. State Capitol Courtyard
- "Kids Only" Town Hall Meeting
 - Tuesday, April 5, 2011 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00
p.m. Tallahassee City Hall
- Children's Week Luncheon
 - Tuesday, April 5, 2011 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00
p.m. State Capitol Courtyard
- Youth Advocacy Workshop
 - Tuesday, April 5, 2011 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Tallahassee City Hall
- Department of Juvenile Justice: Youth Success Day
 - Tuesday, April 5, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00
p.m. State Capitol

Of Interest

Noted researcher Mark Lipsey, of Vanderbilt University, recently made a presentation during a congressional briefing hosted by The Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy at George Mason University. His presentation focused on questions relating to whether it is necessary to have a brand-name evidence-based program like FFT or MST to effectively reduce recidivism in your juvenile justice system, or whether it is just as effective to use a home-grown version, if based on general principles about what works.

One of Lipsey's findings is that "home-grown" evidence-based programs do just as well as brand-name evidence-based programs, but only if they're implemented well, paying close attention to what the research said was necessary to make them work.

To open presentation, click here:

<http://gemini.gmu.edu/cebcp/Briefings/LipseySlides.pdf>

2010 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey Results Released

Director Gil Kerlikowske, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and Director Bruce Grant, Florida Office of Drug Control, released the results of the 2010 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) in West Palm Beach on October 28. The survey is administered biennially in even years to middle and high school students, with this year's survey including 72,797 students across the state. The survey tracks trends in youth perceptions, attitudes and actual use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Overall, the 2010 survey showed improvements in the rate of youth 30-day use of alcohol and tobacco, although marijuana use has increased along with an increase in youth attitudes that marijuana is not harmful. And while 30-day alcohol use has improved, alcohol use by Florida's students continues to exceed national rates. The survey also showed a decrease in cigarette use as well as a decrease in abuse of prescription drugs and pain relievers.

For more information,

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/samh/publications/fysas/>



2010-2011 Meeting Calendar

Board of Directors Meetings

- February 14-16, 2011
Orlando – Adolescent Conference, Disney's Contemporary Resort, date and time TBA
- Thursday, April 6, 2011
Tallahassee - (DISC Village)
- June 12-15, 2011 (Wed - Fri) Board Retreat,
LaPlaya Resort, Naples, FL

Executive Committee Meetings

- Monthly Conference Call
1st Monday of every month, 2 pm
- Legislative Session
Conference Call Every Monday, 2 pm
- Meetings prior to board meetings 2/2011,
and 4/5/2011

Thanks for Renewing!!

Your membership helps the Association to continue to advocate on behalf of your organization.

We Appreciate Your Support

For information, call Lynn Redmond, Project Director, 850-671-3442 or e-mail lynn@fjja.org.

In The News

The State: *Judge Bill Byars: the Heart of South Carolina's Juvenile Justice System Transformation*

<http://www.thestate.com/2010/10/14/1511892/bolton-the-heart-of-djj.html>

Indianapolis Star: *Breaking the cycle of crime: Offering support for juvenile offenders can turn lives around*

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20101102/NEWS02/11020319/Helping-juvenile-offenders-to-get-their-lives-on-track?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Communities>

Natchez Democrat: *Many options available to find right fit for troubled youth*

<http://www.natchezdemocrat.com/news/2010/nov/15/many-options-available-find-right-fit-troubled-you/>

Ft. Myers News Press: *More Lee youths stay clean, out of trouble*

<http://www.news-press.com/article/20101022/CRIME/10220385/More-youths-stay-clean-out-of-trouble>

WFTV.com: *Marion County Juvenile Offenders To Move To Adult Jail*

<http://www.wftv.com/news/25748940/detail.html>

Naples News: *Collier Sheriff's Office opens resource center for at-risk youth*

<http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2010/nov/10/collier-sheriffs-office-opens-resource-center--ris/>

Baltimore Sun: *More time in school means less juvenile crime: Police, school and corrections official say cooperative efforts may be paying off*

http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2010-11-13/news/bs-ci-dropout-and-crime-rate-20101113_1_juvenile-crime-dropout-rate-ceo-andr-s-alonso

SAVE THE DATE

2011 Adolescent Conference

We are happy to announce the conference will be held on

February 14-16, 2011

at Disney's Contemporary Resort in Lake Buena Vista Florida.

www.fadaa.org/adolescent_conference

Hosted by:



Member News

Redirection Provider Obtains Grant to Expand Program for At Risk Youth

The Redirection project is growing in the Florida Keys with the help of a grant received through the Department of Children and Families. The \$750,000 grant will provide funding for the county to plan, implement and increase the accessibility and effectiveness of treatment services, such as Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT), for at-risk juveniles who have a mental illness and substance abuse disorder. BSFT is one of three nationally recognized therapy models used as part of the Redirection project, which is managed by Evidence-Based Associates (EBA) through the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

"We are very happy to have been part of the process," said Billy Davis, executive director and founder of A Positive Step. "These are families that otherwise did not fit the criteria and BSFT was not an option. Now they will receive the help they need to change their lives."



Civics Day Teaches Youth Value and Empowerment of Voting

On Thursday, October 28th, the Okeechobee Youth Development Center (OYDC) and Okeechobee Intensive Halfway House (OIHH) hosted a Civics Day with local governmental representatives in attendance to speak about the importance voting and to explain local, state, and federal governmental processes. Guests included, from left, Joseph Hasselback, facility administrator, Joey Hoover, county commission, Jim Vensel, OYDC/OIHH Community Advisory Board, Terry Burroughs, candidate for county commission, Brian Culpepper, candidate for county commission and Jerry Ferrar and Alyce Hundley, both members of he OYDC/OIHH Community Advisory Board. Others in attendance were Sheriff Paul May, Undersheriff Noel Stephen and Maggie Thresher, human resources for OYDC/OIHH. Also, 27 youth from OYDC and OIHH completed voter registration forms that were processed by the Okeechobee Supervisor of Elections allowing them to become registered voters.