

# **About Us**

Many of our members provide services to youth in the juvenile justice system through a continuum of care, with services ranging from early intervention, prevention, diversion, day treatment, gender specific services, detention screening, specialized residential treatment, transitional aftercare, conditional release, mental health services, substance abuse services, vocational education, and career preparation.

Other members represent advocacy groups, law enforcement, the judiciary, schools, and share the commitment to improving services to justice involved youth while safeguarding public safety. From promoting proven practices to tracking legislation, our organization has a proud history of advocating for system-involved children.

For the past eighteen years, our annual FJJA Adolescent Conference has been recognized as a premier professional development event, attracting participants from across Florida and presenters from across the nation.

# **An Effective Juvenile Justice Strategy**

An effective juvenile justice strategy improves the lives of Florida's citizens and youth by wisely investing, through community partners, in local programs and services that work, and that yield high returns for youth and their families. The FJJA supports policies that promote accountability, fairness, justice, equity, responsibility and effectiveness, and that create a foundation for academic achievement, responsible citizenship and economic productivity.

An effective juvenile justice strategy promotes public safety and saves the state money. By funding quality prevention-based programs, the state can help to reverse the need for costlier deep end programs, thereby reducing the burden to taxpayers.



## **Our Members**

### **Agency Members**

ACTS, Inc. **Bay Area Youth Services** Center for Drug Free Living Daniel Memorial, Inc. **DISC Village Evidence-Based Associates** G4S Youth Services, LLC **Gateway Community Services Gulf Coast Youth Services** Home Builders Institute **Human Services Associates** Miami Dade Juvenile Services Operation PAR, Inc. Outward Bound, Inc. Paxen Learning Corporation PACE Center for Girls, Inc. **Prodigy Cultural Arts** PsyCare Juvenile Justice **Psychotherapeutic Services** of Florida, Inc. Seguel Youth and Family Twin Oaks Juvenile Development, Inc. The Henry & Rilla White Youth

### **Associate Members**

Marjorie Anders, Office of State Attorney 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit Bridgeway Center, Inc. Broward County Sheriff's Office **Capital City Youth Services** Miami Bridge Youth & Family Services, Inc. Jon Mark Howard Consulting Partnership for Child Health **Quality Assurance Solutions** Savannah Family Institute The Children's Trust The Justice Research Center Youth Crisis Center WaveCREST. Children's Home Society of Florida

### **Corporate Members**

AFLAC
USI Consulting Group
Lassiter Ware Insurance

#### **Ex Officio Member**

Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center

# **FJJA Staff**

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# **Setting the Standard**

The Florida Juvenile Justice Association (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.

The Association brings together juvenile justice system professionals, state and local agencies, private

and non-profit organizations and other stakeholders committed to improving Florida's juvenile justice system for children and families.

We work with and care about at-risk youth in Florida, and we are committed to improving citizens' confidence in the effectiveness of Florida's juvenile justice system.

With the support and collaboration of the Florida Juvenile Justice Association, national and statewide advocacy groups and Florida's business community, Florida is now positioned to embark on system wide improvement to the delivery of services to juvenile justice involved youth.

Working together to improve the system will ensure further success in the reduction of crime and other related costs, and prevent the flow of youth into adult corrections, reducing the need for future prison construction with taxpayer dollars.

# **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.

# **Invest in Proven Programs with a ROI:**

Prevention, Intervention and Diversion Services
ENSURE that prevention efforts are evidence and research
based, include universal and targeted services, the use of
civil citation programs, the expansion and enhancement
of Juvenile Assessment Centers (JACs) and other existing
intervention services, incorporate gender responsive
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.

### Make Sure 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.

# Keeping the Public Safe While Not Giving Up on Our Youth: Investing in a Comprehensive and Robust Continuum of Services

### **Preventing Crime**

Effective programming can prevent crime. Redirecting funds from incarceration to education, counseling, treatment and job training for young offenders is the best investment in the system. Programs that provide help and skills can enable youth to become productive citizens.

### **Not Giving Up on Youth**

Almost all youth who commit crimes have the potential to change. Second chances save lives.

### **Community-Based Programming**

Programs and services that are family centered and community-driven are proven to work.

### **Adequate Funding**

Appropriate levels of funding for evidence-based policies and programs that incorporate best practice models reduce recidivism and allow youth to go on to succeed in life.

# **Advocacy**

Leading in the spirit of collaboration, FJJA plays a major leadership role, working with state agencies, advocacy groups and other statewide organizations in Florida to support juvenile justice advocacy. Our leadership is reflected in effectively serving and addressing issues raised by our diverse member agencies serving youth across the juvenile justice continuum of care.

### Legislation

Each year, FJJA develops and promotes a legislative agenda based on improving the system of care for Florida's juvenile justice involved youth. FJJA promotes legislation and public policy and during the Florida Legislative session provides a weekly legislative update to members.

#### **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.

