



2012 Legislative Agenda

• No Cuts to Juvenile Justice

Maintaining funding levels will:


- Reduce crime, victimization and other related costs; and,
- 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;
- Specialized residential services;
- Transition, reentry and aftercare services; and,
- Education, vocational training and job placement.

Our Long Term Priorities

- Improve Juvenile Justice Education and Career Education
 - Develop Alternatives to Secure Detention
 - Reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact
 - Enhance Gender Specific Programming
 - Maintain Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health Overlay Services
 - Ensure Legal Representation for Youth
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Our Members

ACTS

Bay Area Youth Services, Inc.
BayCare Behavioral Health Care
Big Bend Community Based Care
Bridgeway Center
Broward County Sheriff's Office
Capital City Youth Services
Center for Drug Free Living
Crosswinds Youth Services
Daniel Memorial, Inc.
DISC Village
Eckerd Youth Alternatives
Evidence-Based Associates
G4S Youth Services, LLC
Gateway Community Services
Gulf Coast Youth Services
Home Builders Institute
Human Services Associates
Kids N Care, Jacksonville System of Care Initiative
Miami Bridge Youth & Family Services
Miami Dade Juvenile Services
Operation PAR
Outward Bound
PACE Center for Girls, Inc.
Prodigy Cultural Arts Program
PsyCare Juvenile Justice
Psychotherapeutic Services of FL
Savannah Family Institute
Sequel Youth and Family Services
TROY Community Academy
Twin Oaks Juvenile Development
The Children's Trust
The Henry & Rilla White Foundation
The Justice Research Center
Youth Crisis Center
Youth Services International
WaveCREST, Children's Home Society of Florida

Ex Officio Member

Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, Director
National Center for Girls and Young Women



FJJA 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, agencies, for profit and non-profit corporations committed to improving Florida's juvenile justice system for children and families.

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.

FJJA plays a major leadership role in Florida, collaborating with state agencies, advocacy groups and other statewide organizations in Florida to support juvenile justice reform.

Each year, FJJA develops and promotes a legislative agenda based on improving the system of care for Florida's juvenile justice involved youth.

FJJA tracks legislation and public policy and during the Florida Legislative session, provides a weekly legislative update to members.



Florida Continues to Strengthen the Juvenile Justice System by Improving All Services to Youth

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

As the current administration works to improve the system, maintaining current levels of funding will accomplish two important goals: first, ensure further success in the reduction of crime and other related costs, and second, prevent the flow of youth into adult corrections, reducing the need for future prison construction with taxpayer dollars.

Our Mission

Florida Juvenile Justice Association promotes the availability and accessibility of comprehensive, high quality services to pre-delinquent and delinquent youth and their families.

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.

FJJA Partners with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Improving Juvenile Justice – 2006-2011

FJJA continues to identify cost saving solutions and systemic improvements to further strengthen the juvenile justice system. FJJA works in partnership with DJJ, the Florida Legislature, community stakeholders, partners and all providers.

Governor's Blueprint Commission – 2006-07

FJJA was one of 3 statewide organizations who advocated for a "Blueprint Commission" to review Florida's juvenile justice system. Once the commission was convened, FJJA made recommendations for improvement and worked with DJJ and other stakeholders to staff the commission activities.

Comprehensive Rate Study – 2006-2007

In partnership with the DJJ, the Association assisted in two comprehensive rate studies to define the true costs of IDDS, conditional release, day treatment, and residential services. Bearing Point completed the Probation and Community Service study in December of 2006. The Residential Services report was completed in January of 2007.

Rate Enhancement Campaign – 2005-2006

Developed and implemented a planned strategy to secure from the legislature the resources necessary to effectively serve youth in provider care and to build and retain a competent workforce. FJJA was successful in securing resources, \$5.5 million in 2005 and \$21 million in 2006, to enhance funding across the juvenile justice continuum.

Certification for Provider Staff – 2006

FJJA was selected by the Governor to co-chair a legislative task force designed to determine the feasibility of developing a certification system for provider staff. Defined the classes to be included in a certification system and the mechanics of how such a system could be implemented based on funding.

Sexual Offender Review – 2006

FJJA was selected by the Governor to chair a task force that made recommendations to the legislature on how to classify, assess and serve juveniles who commit a sexual offense. FJJA advocated for the Florida Legislature to review how juveniles who commit sexual offenses were handled in the juvenile justice system.

Protective Action Response (PAR) – 2004

Pursued changes in PAR that reduced injury to youth and staff. Results include elimination of backward and forward roll; elimination of hammer, wrist/shoulder lock; PAR testing on-site; expanded test time and more opportunities to take the test; course broken down into sections by need to know; and a menu of techniques allowing provider choice.

Juvenile Justice Education – 1999, 2000, 2004, 2006

The Association played a leadership role in making the legislature aware of inequities in education for juvenile justice students. Three pieces of legislation were promoted and passed in 1999, 2000, and 2004 that resulted in more funding in the classroom, qualified teachers, district accountability, GED exit option, comprehensive assessment protocols, and the legislative defining of the basic parameters of juvenile justice education.

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