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G4S Teacher Named Florida's Juvenile Justice Teacher of the Year

The Florida Department of Education, in conjunction with the National Dropout Prevention Center, has announced the Florida Juvenile Justice Teacher of the Year at the Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference held in Orlando, Florida, October 14-17.

Ms. Rocio French, mathematics and reading teacher at Avon Park Youth Academy won the Teacher of the Year Award for 2011-12. Teachers from all over the state competed for this year's award, and out of five regional nominees, Ms. French was chosen as the best juvenile justice teacher in the state of Florida.

Ms. French, whose native country is Peru, has earned teacher certifications and endorsements in reading, mathematics, exceptional student education (ESE), gifted education, English to speakers of other languages (ESOL), middle grades integrated curriculum, and Spanish. She is obviously a consummate learner and now recognized throughout the state as an exceptional teacher.

During Ms. French's acceptance speech in front of a large audience of educators, policymakers, and keynote speakers, she thanked Avon Park Youth Academy administrators and colleagues for their support. She also described how her love of learning, and student learning, in particular, has motivated her to provide students with a learning environment in which they can acquire the knowledge and skills needed to be successful once they leave the academy.

As one student put it in his nomination letter, "I would like to tell you about one of the best teachers I've ever had in my life. The teacher I'm talking about has taught me so much since I have been in her class. I used to fall asleep all the time in school, but when I came to this teacher's class, I actually stayed awake and learned... She makes the students actually want to come to her class and learn [because] she makes learning very fun and interesting, not to mention that you can really tell that she cares about her students and her job. She doesn't just work at teaching as a job. You can tell by the way she treats us and teaches us. I just wish all the teachers I've had in the past were just like Ms. French because if they were, I could have been the next Albert Einstein by now."

Congratulations to Ms. French for a well-deserved award which is a reflection of her admirable and unyielding commitment to teaching and student learning.



From left, Dr. John Zeuli, Rocio French, and Jerry Neely

FJJA Board Meeting
Thursday,
Nov. 8, 2012
Orlando, FL
Center for Drug Free Living



Justice Summit

Dec 12-14, 2012
Orlando, FL



The FJJA Newsletter
is published monthly

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Deadline is the 4th of each month
 Send your news to lynn@fjja.org

Pending Budget Cuts May Threaten Ability to Comply with JJDP

Unless Congress agrees on a different budget by the end of this year, stopping a so-called "sequestration" budget, federal spending on juvenile justice programs will fall by around 8 percent. "Sequestration" refers to the automatic, across-the-board cuts that are scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2013 under the terms of the 2011 Budget Control Act and is intended to force the government to save money and help reduce the national deficit.

Without a different budget a total \$21 million would be sliced out of Juvenile Justice Programs under the federal Department of Justice alone, according to the White House Office of Management and Budget's report on sequestration. Other spending that has some effect on juvenile welfare, such as state grants from the federal Administration for Children and Families are also in line for cuts of around 8 percent.

Following next month's national election, everyone will be watching to see if Congress will take action to avoid these automatic cuts during the lame duck session.

FJJA to Announce Activities to Support Juvenile Justice Youth Success Day

Soon FJJA will announce the details of Youth Success Week 2013. Every year, agencies across the state serving juvenile justice involved youth join together to celebrate Juvenile Justice Youth Success Day as part of annual Children's Week in Tallahassee.

Last year, events included an auction of art created by youth at the Volusia Detention Center and the Prodigy Cultural Arts Program, supporting the efforts of the Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation. Another event was a reception co-sponsored by the Florida Juvenile Justice Association and the Florida Network to recognize youth success.

We hope to keep the focus on the successful efforts of state and local youth serving organizations across the state, and to highlight youth success through local recognition ceremonies, community service projects, food drives, literacy reading events, essay contests, and other local events.

In next month's newsletter we will be announcing how FJJA will showcase youth success and emphasize the strong partnerships between the Department of Juvenile Justice, private providers, faith based and community organizations, and local communities.

Any organization who plans to launch activities in support of Annual Youth Success Week can send information to lynn@fjja.org for inclusion in our Youth Success calendar of activities.

Reports of Interest

ACLU report: *Growing Up Locked Down- Youth in Solitary Confinement in Jails and Prisons across the United States*. To read report, [click here](#).

OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin: *Underage Drinking: Practice Guidelines for Community Corrections*
To read bulletin, [click here](#).

In the News

The Daily Beast: [Florida May Put 13-Year-Old Away for Life: Supreme Court Says Not So Fast](#)

The Jurist: [Restoring Rehabilitation to the American Juvenile Justice System](#)

The Grio: [Delinquent behavior criminalized rather than diagnosed](#)

Jacksonville.com: [Florida is poorly equipped to deal with juveniles accused of murder](#)

Jacksonville.com: [New Organization to help at-risk girls to be named after former Jaguars owner Delores Weaver](#)

Tampa Bay Times: [Researchers find more graves at Dozier than state said existed](#)

FJJA Welcomes New Members!

Paxen Learning Corporation
Quality Assurance Solutions

2013 Adolescent Conference Website Goes Live Featuring the Call for Presentation, Award Nomination Request Form and Sponsorship Information

The [2013 Adolescent Conference](#) website is live! This conference, convened by the Florida Juvenile Justice Association and now in its 18th year, attracts hundreds of attendees from across Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina addressing a multidisciplinary audience of professionals working with at-risk youth. This year's theme, *Public-Private Partnerships: The Power to Make a Difference*

for Youth, Families and Communities, emphasizes the value of partnerships, which bring together state and local agencies, businesses, philanthropies, faith based institutions, schools and service providers to improve services for youth.



We need YOUR expertise!

We are currently searching for experts to conduct workshops, all of which are listed on the Call for Presentation. If you are interested in conducting a workshop, the deadline to submit your information for consideration is November 2, 2012.

[Click here](#) to go to the Call for Presentation information.

We are looking for nominations!

There will be an awards luncheon to celebrate the work of men and women who give so much of themselves to enrich the lives of all of our children. They see the potential of "what lies beneath" in the most vulnerable of at-risk youth and are dedicated to helping get youth back on track. And yet, we often forget to acknowledge their sacrifice. Often times, their work often goes unnoticed, unless they fail at it. This year we plan to recognize public and private sector staff who make a difference.

A person can be nominated for special and/or unique contributions in one of the four areas below. Each category will have one top award and one runner-up.

- **Public Service Award** - participation in community initiatives that educate and foster understanding of issues that youth at risk face. This may be through training, education, or volunteering in human service projects.
- **Creativity/Innovation Award** - participation in the development and/or implementation of creative and innovative approaches that impact their agency.
- **Client Services Award** - demonstration of enthusiasm, resourcefulness and compassion in the response to client need, concerns and emotional well-being. This person should also have a good working relationship with peers and internal customers, is cooperative and has a positive, friendly attitude.
- **Unsung Hero Award** - this individual's *extraordinary* actions resulted in a positive impact and sets this person apart from others. This person may have participated in a life saving situation, or may have show exceptional courage in the face of unusual circumstances.

Please take this opportunity to share a story about someone you know who deserves recognition. The top winners will receive a complimentary registration to the [2013 Adolescent Conference](#) and will be honored at the awards banquet during the 2013 Adolescent Conference.

[Click here](#) to go to the enter your nomination!

Juvenile Justice News

Remaining DJJ Residential Programs to Become Privatized

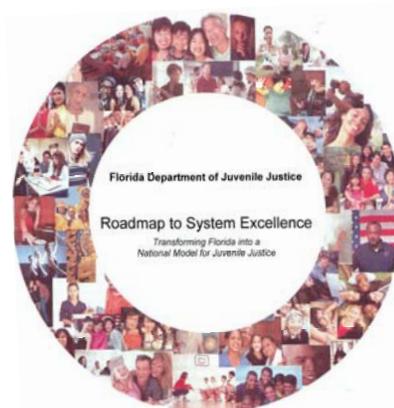
Florida DJJ has announced plans to transition its five remaining state-run residential facilities to private operation by October 1, 2013. Currently, about 95% of state-operated residential beds are privately run. The bid process for the affected programs will begin this month. The programs, along with the beginning operational dates are as follows:

- Pensacola Boys Base (Escambia County) – May/June 2013
- Duval Halfway House (Duval County) – July 1, 2013
- Britt Halfway House (Pinellas County) – July 1, 2013
- Les Peters Halfway House (Hillsborough County) – October 1, 2013
- Falkenburg Juvenile Correctional Facility (Hillsborough County) – October 1, 2013

DJJ Launches Roadmap to System Excellence and Website

The Roadmap to System Excellence, a plan that DJJ hopes will build on reforms already underway, has been posted on their website for comment. Over the last few weeks, Secretary Walters has personally met with providers and other stakeholders to begin the process of taking input. At this writing, the department is already working to incorporate some of the feedback received and is planning a series of community forums across the state in the next several months to gain community input. The first meeting will be held on November 15th. Guiding principles include:

- Providing the right service to the right youth at the right time
- Reserving the most serious sanctions for youth who pose the greatest risk to public safety
- Serving more youth in their communities with the least restrictive sanction
- Keeping youth out of the deeper end of the juvenile justice system while not compromising public safety
- Using data to measure effectiveness and outcomes of services
- Basing procurement on what's best for youth
- Working with juvenile justice stakeholders to increase the availability of community-based prevention and diversion services to at-risk youth
- Putting kids and their families first in all we do



For more information, <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/roadmap-to-system-excellence>

DCF and DJJ include “Social Impact Bonds” in Agency Long Range Plans

Earlier this year, a financing tool used in Great Britain to address serious social problems that challenge government agencies was introduced as a potential solution here in the U.S.

Commonly called “Pay for Success” bonds, SIBS are different than the traditional funding model, where government agencies define the outcomes they want to achieve, and do not pay unless the goals are achieved.

The way it works: private investors pay the costs of a new program in its early years or startup phase, and the government later repays the investors, often with a bonus, as long as the program meets its goals. If it fails, taxpayers pay nothing.

Both DJJ and DCF make reference to this financing option in their long range plans submitted to the Governor this month.

Upcoming Conferences

National Faith Symposium, *"Our Children, Our Future: Restoring Hope"* will be held October 23-26, 2012 at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando. This symposium is an initiative of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's Faith Community Network and Volunteer Chaplaincy Services program, in partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families.



The Florida Smart Justice Alliance, a coalition dedicated to building consensus on alternatives to enhance public safety, reduce costs and improve

outcomes, will be convening the 2012 Florida Justice Summit to be held on December 12-14 at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando. The Summit is an opportunity for thought leaders across the state interested in justice reform to discuss and promote smart justice initiatives.

A series of pre-summit meeting have focused on law enforcement, community corrections, and the courts, as well as an upcoming meeting specific to juvenile justice. The Pre Summit Meeting on Juvenile Justice will be held November 14, 2012, Tampa Bay Museum of History. FJJA is a sponsor of the event. For more information go to <http://justicesummit.org/>

2013 FJJA Adolescent Conference - *"Public-Private Partnerships: The Power to Make a Difference for Youth, Families and Communities"* will be held on February 19-20 2013 at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando. E-mail lynn@fjja.org for additional information on this event.

Webinars and Trainings

Girl Matters® & SAVVY Sister Workshops, Jacksonville, FL, October 22-26, 2012. The SAVVY model is designed to inform, provide healthy choices, shared power and positive options aimed at creating safe, healthy productive futures for girls. This workshop will review the SAVVY Sister model components: (1) SAVVY Sister Curriculum (group/individual counseling lesson plans); (2) SAVVY Treatment and Care Management Services; (3) SAVVY Positive Performance to challenge professionals to rethink their level systems/behavior, for more info, [click here](#).

ARISE 2 Day Certified Life Skills Instructor Training, Palm Beach Gardens, FL, November 5-6, 9 am to 4:30 pm .To register for this training at no cost, call Yasmin Isaacs at ARISE, 561-630-2021.



Important Dates to Remember

November

- Nov 6 - VOTE today! November Elections
- Nov 7- FJJA Executive Committee Mtg
Homewood Suites, Maitland/Orlando
- Nov 8 - FJJA Board Meeting
The Center for Drug-Free Living, Orlando
- Nov 20- Legislative Organizational Session

December

- Legislative Committee Weeks

January

- Legislative Committee Weeks

February

- Legislative Committee Weeks
- Feb 19-21 - 2013 Adolescent Conference
Public-Private Partnerships: The Power to Make a Difference for Youth, Families and Communities, The Florida Hotel & Conference Center, Orlando
⇒ FJJA Executive Committee Mtg
⇒ FJJA Board Meeting, 1/2 day

March

- March 5, 2013 - Legislative Session begins

April

- April 3, 2013 - FJJA Executive Committee
Location TBA
- April 4, 2013 - FJJA Board Meeting
DISC Village Tallahassee
- April 7-12, 2013 - Children's Week and DJJ
Youth Success Week, Tallahassee

May

- May 3, 2013 - Legislative Session ends
- May 16, 2013 - Executive Committee
Visioning Session, TBA

June

- June 12-14, 2013 - FJJA Annual Board
Retreat, Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa
(Arrival date is June 11)

Member News

PACE Girls Lunch, Learn While Pretty in Pink

PACE Marion girls were pretty in pink on Oct. 9 during a luncheon celebrating health and breast cancer awareness. Hosted by the Young Leaders' Society of the United Way of Marion County, the program included personal testimonies from local women who were part of the YLS and from health care professionals who were guest speakers. In a nod to the symbolic color of breast cancer awareness, all presenters, staff and girls wore pink for the luncheon.



The PACE girls were encouraged to ask questions and to speak to the professionals individually if they wanted. Activities included self-esteem games and hands-on exercises, such as using plastic models to learn the proper way to inspect breasts for suspect lumps. In addition, the importance of health and learning the symptoms and prevention of cancers such as skin, lung and cervical was presented. The girls were empowered to make wise health decisions which impact them both now and in their future.

Dr. Lawanda Ravoira to Head New Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center

A grant from the Community Foundation in Jacksonville has established the *Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center*, which will provide research, training education and advocacy in support of the needs of girls in the juvenile justice system. The Policy Center will be headed by Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, the founder of the NCCD Center for Girls and Young Women. While focused locally and in Florida, it is expected that the Center will serve as a national model for community-based, comprehensive reform.

Findings from the recently released research study "*Voices From the Field: Findings From the National Girls Institute Listening Sessions*," co-authored by Ravoira, underscored the urgency for a far-reaching, community-driven approach to overcome the disparate policies and practices of a system that further traumatizes girls who often enter it due to abuse, neglect and other victimization.

The Policy Center will lead the effort through cutting-edge research, training and education and advocacy. The advocacy initiative will be led through a partnership with The Children's Campaign.

Prodigy: Partnering a Transformation

During the month of September the St. Pete Prodigy Site partnered with Dunkin Doughnuts to showcase the youth artwork for the entire month. Often times in high risk neighborhoods the act of subsisting erodes admiration for the talents exuded by the youth residing in the neighborhood. This partnership boosted the confidence of those whose artwork remained on exhibit for the entire month. September was a true opportunity for youth to experience the tangible opportunities that are available to them and their talents ripened through the Prodigy Program. In addition to the partnership a talent show was held with an appearance by the Mayor of St. Pete and City Commissioner. The mayor took time to embroil a sense of self-worth as he took time to commune with the children at the show.

With school recently commencing in late August, Prodigy sites across seven counties have assembled events and showcases to pre-

pare the youth of Florida for a year of success. Both sites, East Tampa and St. Pete, have held independent "Back to School" events and bashes.

The Orlando Prodigy plans on exhibiting artwork at the Community Leadership Conference at the end of October. All sites have begun the preparations for the Annual Prodigy Cultural Arts Showcases during the month of February 2013. This year's theme, "*CommUNITY begins with...*" will pay tribute to over 100,000 people who have been influenced by the Prodigy Cultural Arts Program since 2001.

Carving out a way for achievement in the lives of at-risk youth through the teachings of life skills and cultural arts, the Prodigy program is looking forward to the closing months of 2012.