



Newsletter

May 2010

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Session Ends; Budget on Gov. Crist's Desk

The 2010 Legislative Session ended Friday, April 29th with the passage of a \$70.4 billion budget. The budget is now on the Governor's desk. Governor Crist is expected to sign this year's budget into law by Memorial Day weekend.

Looming large were two very different plans by the House and Senate to reform Medicaid, which currently represents one fourth of the state budget. However, SB 8 passed, empowering the Chief Financial Officer to investigate Medicaid fraud. For the first time, 27,000 high-level state employees and lawmakers must pay a portion of their health insurance premiums. Pay cuts for state workers and potential layoffs came off the table, as did efforts to push education reform. DMS will not be dismantled, but will now report to the Governor and the Cabinet. DOH will see some reorganization. OPPAGA will see a big cut in funding this year, which will most likely limit the number of reports released.

To fill the \$3 billion budget hole, the Legislature pumped in \$2.6 billion in remaining stimulus dollars, \$433 million from the Seminole gambling compact, \$507 million from various trust funds, and \$270 million from an anticipated FMAP dollars. For reserves, legislators put away \$1.4 billion, hoping that another \$730 million of FMAP will come down from Congress.

Both the House and Senate agreed to stash away \$1.8 billion in reserves with the possibility that another \$600 million could be added to that if Congress approves enhanced FMAP Medicaid dollars for states.

Although we are waiting for Governor Crist to sign the budget, DJJ's budget for 2010-11 will be reduced by \$14,870,449 or 2.4% from 2009-10.

Next Year May Be Worse

State economists are predicting a \$6 billion budget shortfall next year which is double the deficit this year.

Amy Baker, with the Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research says, "Next year, the budget is going to

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2010 FJJA Annual Retreat Highlights

FJJA

- Year in Review
- Legislative Wrap-up

Member Discussions

- Evidence Based Programming
- Partnering with Workforce Development Agencies
- The Political Landscape: Preparing for Next Year's Legislative Session
- Using Data Proactively
- Florida's Definition of Recidivism
- Contracting and Procurement with DJJ
- 2011 FJJA Adolescent Conference Planning
- Update on Gender Responsive Programming

Also

- Election of FJJA Officers
- FJJA "Family Night Dinner" on the Beach
- Awards
- Games

2010 Annual

Retreat

June 14-16

Casa Marina

Resort, Key West

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

Recently Released Reports

OPPAGA: Redirection Saves \$51.2 Million over the Last Five Years

OPPAGA's newest report on the Redirection Program states that it has achieved \$51.2 million in cost savings since its inception five years ago. The report states that youth who successfully completed the program were significantly less likely to be subsequently arrested for a felony or violent felony, adjudicated or convicted for a felony, or sentenced to prison after treatment than similar youth who successfully completed residential commitment programs.

This year's report included analysis that considered risk assessment data based on the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT). Additionally, OPPAGA made some new recommendations in the 2010 update. They include expanding services to serve gang involved youth and some juvenile sex offenders. Also noted, Redirection continues to significantly reduce recidivism, but the effects are not as strong as found in previous studies.

To read report go to:

<http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/MonitorDocs/Reports/pdf/1038rpt.pdf>

NOTE: Next year's budget includes \$1.6 million of non-recurring funding to maintain the expansion of Redirections.

Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform has released a report titled, *Addressing the Unmet Educational Needs of Children and Youth in the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Systems*. In this report, Dr. Peter Leone from the University of Maryland, and Dr. Lois Weinberg from California State University, Los Angeles, offer six principles to address the educational needs of "crossover youth," as well as policy and practice steps to improve their outcome.

To read report:

<http://www.reclaimingfutures.org/sites/blog.reclaimingfutures.org/files/userfiles/CJJR-Crossover-Youth-Education-PaperFINAL.pdf>

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be much tougher, and not because the economy isn't growing and showing good signs of life. But when that stimulus goes away, how do you replace it?" Other concerns include Florida's current unemployment rate, which continues to rise, and how lawmakers will be able to pay back the trust funds which they have raided for the last two sessions.

During the last two sessions, the Legislature debated the value of closing loopholes in tax exemptions, taxing purchases on the internet, and other ideas to generate more revenue for the state. Despite these discussions, very little tax reform has taken place. Discussions this year, as an election year, did not advance further than the year before.

However, with upcoming budget deficits like we have never seen, no remaining stimulus dollars and now no potential revenue from oil leases in the Gulf, next year will likely become the year where legislators will be forced to look at real solutions no matter how painful the discussion will be.

U.S. House Signals Readiness to Reauthorize the JJDP

The U.S. House of Representatives appears ready to introduce legislation that would strengthen and better fund the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP). A hearing on the reauthorization was held on April 21, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., before the full House Education & Labor Committee. The JJDP expired in 2007 and is two years overdue for reauthorization.

The U.S. Department of Justice recently released a position letter voicing strong support for the reauthorization.

To read letter, click here:

<http://ojdp.ncjrs.gov/enews/10juvjust/DOJViewsLetterS678.pdf>

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act is the federal legislation affecting youth in juvenile justice systems across the country. It is the legislation that sets the standards for state and local juvenile justice systems, and provides direct funding for states, research, training and technical assistance, and evaluation.

Nominations Sought For Two Open FJJA Executive Committee Positions

The FJJA nominating Committee, chaired by Past President Jim Hill, has developed a slate of nominees for vacant positions coming available on July 1. *However, the floor will be open for nominations during the Retreat.* The election will be held on June 16, 2010 at the FJJA annual retreat.

Available are Board Secretary and one At-Large position, both serving on the Executive Committee. Those not attending the retreat may vote via e-mail, telephone or proxy according to the FJJA By-Laws. There is one vote per Agency Membership. Associate Agency Members and Ex Officio Members do not have voting privileges.

Those elected will serve for a period of two (2) years. Ballots and voting instructions will be emailed to members, along with Retreat Board packets, in the next two weeks.

DJJ Announces Changes To Dozier

DJJ announced this month changes relating to the Dozier School for Boys. Assistant Secretary Darryl Olson recently announced a plan that will reduce the school's budget by \$2.5 million annually. Changes also include shedding the Dozier name, which has been a source of controversy for years and especially since a group of men came forward with stories of abuse.

The facility will be called the North Florida Youth Development Center and will include merging the adjacent Jackson Juvenile Offender Correction Center. The capacity of the school will be reduced to 151 beds from 199. Sixty-four staff positions will be eliminated, of which only 27 were currently filled.

The facility will also now serve developmentally disabled males who need behavioral treatment. This year, the Legislature introduced proviso language that will ensure oversight by community leaders to help monitor progress and address concerns of the legislature, advocacy groups and the media.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW!

Members will be receiving membership renewal invoices in the next few weeks.

In order for the Association to continue to advocate on behalf of your organization, please make sure to remit your membership dues as soon as possible and no later than July 1, 2010.

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

Helpful Florida Websites

Florida Office of Economic Recovery — <http://flarecovery.com/>

Florida Fiscal Portal — <http://floridafiscalportal.state.fl.us/>

Sunshine Spending Vendor Payment Search — <http://flair.dbf.state.fl.us/approot/dispub2/cvphsrch.htm>

Office of Office of Economic & Demographic Research — <http://edr.state.fl.us/> (Revenue Estimates)

Calendar of Events

Girl Matters: Training of Trainers

June 7-11, 2010, Friday Musicale Community Building
631 Oak Street, Jacksonville, FL.

For information, go to

[Girl Matters Training of the Trainers.](#)

FJJA Retreat

June 14-16, 2010

Casa Marina Resort, Key West, Florida

In the News

Washington Post - *Arrest of 3 teens in School Principal's death puts scrutiny on D.C. juvenile system*

[Arrest of three teens](#)

Boston Globe - *Massachusetts fails in Commitment to Juvenile Justice* [Massachusetts fails in commitment](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer - *Correcting Corrections*
[Editorial: Corrections correction](#)

New York Law Journal - *Reforms Proposed for Juvenile Justice* [Reforms Proposed for Juvenile Justice](#)

The Huffington Post - *Marion Wright Edelman: The Playground Jail* [The Playground Jail](#)

Illinois Times: *Kids in Prison: Fixing Illinois' Juvenile Justice System*
[Kids in prison](#)

Florida Trend: *Prison Reform- Course Correction With prisons full and a tight state budget, Florida business leaders are pushing reform as a matter of efficiency -- and public safety.* [Prison reform](#)

Los Angeles Times: [L.A.'s Homeboy Industries lays off most employees](#)

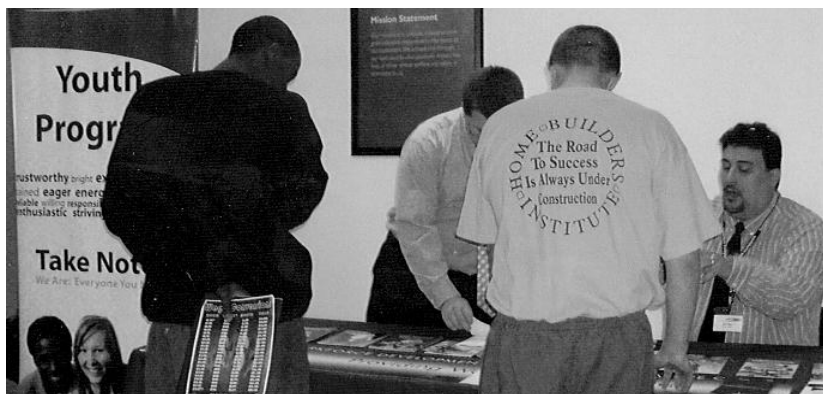
Lakeland Ledger: *High Court: No Life Without Parole for Youths Who Do Not Kill: Justices rule juveniles who do not kill may not be given life terms without parole. Currently 77 of the 129 youth impacted by this ruling are in Florida prisons.*
[No Life Without Parole for Youths Who Do Not Kill](#)

Member News

Four From Palmetto Youth Academy Earn GED



On April 16, four Palmetto Youth Academy students, dressed in cap and gown, became graduates after passing their GED test. Family, staff, peers, and special guests attended the graduation. Keynote speaker Mackie Allen spoke about his experiences and how after 26 years of incarceration, he turned his life around. Ms. Norma J. Wynn, Education Department and Facility Administrator, treated the young men to a formal celebration dinner.



Career Day Helps Prepare Youth For Future

In April, G4S Youth services partnered with Washington School District to coordinate the Okeechobee Youth Development Center Career Day. Local businesses that participated included Home Builders Institute, Home Depot, Okeechobee County Correctional Institute as well as others. Youth gathered information about different careers as well as information in preparation for returning to the community.

Member News

Home Builders Institute Earth Day Activities Make An Impact Around the State

Okeechobee Youth Development Center

For Earth Day, a conservationist visited Okeechobee Youth Development Center to talk to the HBI students. HBI students worked in groups with other OYDC students talking about conservation issues.

Orlando

On April 24, HBI students in partnership with the Coalition for the Homeless, Orange County Public Schools and community volunteers gathered to assemble Inter Shelter Domes at Lake Eola Park in downtown Orlando. Envirodomes are used as quarantine shelters, emergency relief situations and long term housing in place of temporary tents and wooden structures that do not provide safety or reliable in extreme conditions. The completed dome was shipped to Haiti to help a family in need.

Okeechobee Girls Academy

The students at Okeechobee Girls Academy built planters behind the HBI building to use for planting fruit trees and vegetables. This will teach the students the importance of growing and caring for plants. Under the guidance of the instructor, the students also built screen doors on hinges to keep pest from eating the plants. In addition, youth volunteered at a local church landscaping, cleaning, and painting.

Red Road Academy

Red Road Academy students got their staff involved by asking them to sign an Earth Day Pledge, encouraging them to turn conserve water and electricity. Students cut leaves from green construction paper and had the staff write their pledges on the leaves. Afterwards the leaves were placed on a tree poster. In addition, youth volunteered at a local church landscaping, cleaning, and painting.

Avon Park Youth Academy

On April 23, 2010, the first day of Global Youth Services Day, seven students and two landscape instructors in Avon Park Youth Academy participated in an on-going program at Hammond State Park to help eradicate exotic and invasive plants in the campground area. The park has numerous exotic and invasive plants that have no known pests or diseases that will hinder their growth and are slowly choking out native vegetation. Students removed several truckloads of plants, which has also helped to improve the function and appearance of the campground area. In return, Park Service Ranger Travis Martin gave a presentation to the students on native Florida plant species and the concern of evasive plants in Florida.

Dozier School for Boys

For Global Earth Day youth at Dozier School for Boys planted Japanese Maple trees along the entrance of the Dozier facility in an effort to add color and shade. The Japanese Maple tree is fast growing and leaves change from green to red. In addition, the students entered the tree planting awareness poster competition. Students built 10 bird feeders that were donated to 2 convalescent centers and a rehabilitation center in Jackson County and 48 birdhouses for a facility in Dothan, Alabama. They also built and donated a picnic table to the New Beginnings Worship Center's youth group in Grand Ridge, FL.

Bristol Youth Academy

At Bristol Youth Academy, gardening, part of the facility maintenance program, is taught to 40 youth per year. As part of Earth Day, these students developed a vegetable garden and recently refurbished the flower beds in front of the facility by cleaning out the old beds and prepared the soil for marigolds, begonias, yellow squash, cucumbers and watermelons.