



E-Newsletter

November 2013

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FJJA Sets 2014 Legislative Agenda

Maintain a Focus on Prevention, Diversion and Intervention Services

- Support prevention, diversion and intervention programs that are evidenced-based and utilize Civil Citation, Juvenile Assessment Centers, juvenile diversion services, gender responsive and other programs.

Ask: Maintain investment of \$16.5M shifted to front end services during 2012-13 Legislative year.

Support the Passage of HB173 Juvenile Justice Education Bill

- This legislation and funding will provide DJJ youth with GED, post secondary and industry certification opportunities, increasing their success, lowering recidivism rates, and realizing a return on investment for Florida taxpayers.

Ask: Support funding of \$1.6M- currently in DOE Legislative Budget Request (LBR)

Support Funding for DJJ Youth Who Need Medical and Behavioral Health Services

- A shortfall of funding will impact the availability of non-routine medical and behavioral health services for youth in DJJ residential programs.
- Outcomes for DJJ youth who received BHOS services were considerably better than youth who did not receive BHOS services.*

Ask: Support funding of \$18.2M- currently in DJJ Legislative Budget Request (LBR)

Improve and Expand Reentry and Transition Services for DJJ Youth

Visit the newly redesigned FJJA website.
www.FJJA.org

Upcoming FJJA Meetings

DECEMBER 2013

Executive Committee
Conference Call
10:00 am
Dec 10, 2013

JANUARY 2014

Executive Committee
Meeting
8:00 - 9:00 am
Thursday, Jan 14, 2014

Quarterly FJJA Board
Meeting
9:30 - 4:00 pm
Thursday, Jan 14, 2014

Location:
DISC Village
3333 W. Pensacola St
Tallahassee, Florida

FEBRUARY 2014

Executive Committee
Conference Call
10:00 am
Feb 4, 2014

[FJJA Meeting Calendar](#)

Newsletter Archives

[April 2013 FJJA
Newsletter](#)

[March 2013 FJJA
Newsletter](#)

[February 2013 FJJA
Newsletter](#)

[January 2013 FJJA](#)

help youth stay crime free and prevent return to juvenile justice system or adult system.

- 30% of current DJJ residential youth do not receive aftercare/re-entry services.**

Ask: Maintain investment of \$11.3M for transition and reentry services.

Ask: Support funding of \$3.75M for enhanced reentry services and to serve the 30% of DJJ residential youth who do not receive transition services.

Support Revisions to Juvenile Justice Statute 985

- Important revisions to the statute include expansion of prevention and intervention services, alternatives to detention, protection of juvenile records, enhanced career and technical education, and improved reentry system.

FJJA Seeks Workshop Presenters for the 2014 Adolescent Conference

The Florida Juvenile Justice Association is actively seeking presentation proposals from individuals and/or organizations wishing to present during the 2014 FJJA Adolescent Conference, *The Way Forward: Our Communities, Our Youth, Our Future*, to be held May 13-15, 2014 at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando FL.

This year, in addition to relevant and/or emerging issues relating to serving at-risk youth, we are also including workshops designed specifically for youth ages 13-19.

For more information, [FJJA Call for Presentations](#)

Broward County Revises Zero Tolerance Policy

Data shows that youth who enter the juvenile justice system are more likely to drop out of school, and be incarcerated as an adult, compared with youth with similar problems who avoid the system.

The Broward County schools district, the seventh largest school district in the nation, is known for sending the highest number of students into Florida's juvenile justice system, mainly for minor school code infractions. This

[Newsletter](#)

**Interested in FJJA
Membership?**

FJJA recently expanded membership categories to accommodate individuals, stakeholder and community organizations and vendors.

For more information about membership and benefits, [click here](#)

launched at the beginning of the school year to change that reputation.

In partnership with local law enforcement and the NAACP, the school district revamped their "zero tolerance" policy and embarked on a new tiered plan for misbehavior. In the past, students were routinely arrested for minor offenses such as starting a food fight, violating the dress code, talking in class, throwing spitballs and disorderly conduct. Of those youth, minority and disabled children were the most likely to be arrested.

Now offenses such as trespassing, harassment, petty theft, and possession of marijuana or alcohol are directed to guidance counselors and mentors. Students are still punished and required to make restitution, but suspensions, expulsions, and arrests are a "last-resort" option. Since launching this new policy this year, Broward has experienced a forty one percent (41%) drop in school arrests since the new approach went into effect at the beginning of the school year.

Recently, Clayton County in Georgia attempted to do what Broward is now doing, and the results have been impressive. Recent data shows a twenty percent (20%) increase in graduation rates and an eighty seven (87%) percent reduction in student fights.

Agency and Providers Tour Missouri Program

Secretary Walters, agency leadership and a select group of residential providers traveled this month to St. Louis, Missouri to meet with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and leaders from the Missouri Department of Public Safety, which houses the state's Juvenile Justice Program. The visit provided all the opportunity learn firsthand about Missouri's system of juvenile justice.

The group learned how Missouri has moved toward a more therapeutic approach to residential services. This approach includes small facilities close to the youth's home; individual care within a group treatment model, engagement of families, and focus on aftercare.

In the News

Miami Herald:
[School Districts Right to Divert](#)

Jacksonville Time Union:
[New Hope Smart Justice Regarding Girls](#)

Herald Tribune: [Juvenile Sentences Revisited](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange: [South Florida Squeezes School to Prison Pipeline](#)

Stateline.org: [Criminal Case Puts Focus on Bullying Laws](#)

Upcoming Events

Webinars

Recruitment, Re-engagement, & Re-entry: Incorporating the Youth Voice into Juvenile Justice Reform, November 21, 2013 3:00 - 4:15 pm. Hosted by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

[To Register](#)

Family Centered Treatment, December 4, 2013. Hosted by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

[To Register](#)

Conferences

2014 FJJA Adolescent Conference "The Way Forward: Our Communities, Our Youth, Our Future" May 12-15, 2014 at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando. E-mail Lynn Redmond at lynn@fjja.org for additional information.

2014 Smart Justice Summit - "Smart Alternatives for a Safer Florida." The 3rd annual Summit is an opportunity for thought leaders across the state interested in justice reform to discuss and promote smart justice initiatives. January 27-29, 2014, Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs 350 S. Northlake Blvd, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701, (407) 830-1985 Reservation Code - FSJS14

Fact Sheet Series on Juvenile Suicide

The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention ..

resources to support professionals who work with youth in the juvenile justice system.

Suicide is the leading cause of death for youth in confinement and youth in residential facilities have nearly three times the suicide rate of peers in the general population. This guide discusses how juvenile justice officials can implement effective screening and risk assessment tools, as well as draft model policies in collaboration with other child-serving agencies, particularly those addressing mental health issues. [To read guidebook](#)

For Detention and Secure facility, staff, [read fact sheet:](#)
For Probation staff, [read fact sheet](#)

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