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# E-Newsletter

October 2013

Volume 7 - Issue 89

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## Upcoming FJJA Meetings

**NOVEMBER 2013**  
Executive Committee  
Meeting  
8:00 - 9:00 am  
Thursday, Nov 14, 2013

## SAVE THE DATE

### FJJA 2014 Adolescent Conference *The Way Forward: Our Communities, Our Youth, Our Future*

FJJA has announced the 19th Annual Adolescent Conference, "*The Way Forward: Our Communities, Our Youth, Our Future*" to be held on May 12-15, 2014 at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando.

This year's conference will build on our ongoing efforts to highlight the important role of local communities in meeting the needs of youth. The conference will provide attendees with the opportunity to network and share useful tools to help youth follow a crime free path. Our goals include promoting effective programming, increasing knowledge of youth development trends and recognizing leaders making an impact with youth.

Watch Your Email! A call for workshop presentations (CFP) will be released on October 28th. FJJA will be looking for engaging workshop sessions which share effective models and best practices and which address the multi-faceted needs of justice involved youth.

Additionally, this year we will be hosting a youth conference during our annual Adolescent Conference. Our annual awards luncheon will also recognize youth leaders with the awards nomination process to be launched on the FJJA website in November.

For more information, contact Lynn Redmond, FJJA Project Director, at [lynn@fjja.org](mailto:lynn@fjja.org) or 850-671-3442.

## Legislative Committees Begin to Meet in Preparation of Upcoming Session

The second legislative committee week included criminal justice meetings that brought attention to the current financial challenges facing the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Quarterly FJJA Board Meeting  
9:30 - 4:00 pm  
Thursday, Nov 14, 2013

**Location:**

Center for Drug Free Living  
5151 Adanson Street  
Orlando, Florida

**DECEMBER 2013**

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

[FJJA Meeting Calendar](#)

**Newsletter Archives**

[April 2013 FJJA Newsletter](#)

[March 2013 FJJA Newsletter](#)

[February 2013 FJJA Newsletter](#)

[January 2013 FJJA Newsletter](#)

As a result of two recent decisions, one a court decision, the other a federal decision, the budget for Florida's Juvenile Justice system took an unprecedented hit early in the fiscal year. In a June ruling by the 1st District Court of Appeals, DJJ must now pay for a much larger share (68%) of pre-dispositional detention, effectively reducing the cost share (32%) of local counties significantly. This amounts to a \$54.5-million reduction to the agency

At the same time, DJJ learned Behavioral Health Overlay Services (BHOS) which had been a critical component of DJJ residential programs since 1998, would be discontinued. The Agency for Health Care Administration estimates the fiscal impact to DJJ to be \$19 million for 2013-2014.

A recent 2010 evaluation of Florida's Behavioral Health Overlay Services (BHOS) by the Louis de la Parte Florida, Mental Health Institute at USF found that children who did not receive BHOS services in DJJ programs were 62 times more likely to be placed in Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program at a cost of \$406 per day. Outcomes for juvenile justice involved youth who received BHOS were considerably better compared to youth who did not receive BHOS while in DJJ programs.

**DJJ Presents Proposed Revisions to Chapter 985 Juvenile Justice Statute**

Also during the second committee week, a legislative committee meeting was convened by the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee to workshop DJJ's proposed revisions to Chapter 985.

Cathy Craig-Myers, FJJA Executive Director provided the committee with a brief overview of FJJA's guiding principles of the 985 review and shared some of the Associations's fifty-seven (57) recommendations.

To watch video of the committee meeting, click here <http://thefloridachannel.org/video/10913-house-criminal-justice-subcommittee/>

**Agencies Release Their Legislative Budget Requests**

This month state agencies submitted their budget proposal requests to the Governor's Office.

Highlights of DJJ's request includes expanding prevention services through the funding of a new PACE Center in Clay County, shifting funding to cover deficits brought on by recent Detention and Medicaid shortfalls, funding to comply with the Federal PREA standards and funding to repair detention facilities.

**To read [DJJ's Budget Request \(LBR\) and Schedule VIII-B Reduction Proposal](#)**

**To read [DCF's Budget Request \(LBR\) and Schedule VIII-B Reduction Proposal](#)**

Additionally, the Department of Education has requested in their budget request \$1.6 million dollars specifically to fund Juvenile Justice programs for GED, post secondary Ed, and industry certifications for eligible providers and local school districts.

Florida's budget appears to be healthy, so much so that Governor Scott plans to include tax breaks valued at \$500 million into his proposed budget for next year. A recent report approved by the Legislative Budget Commission projects an \$845.7 million surplus in the budget year that begins July 1.

At the last LBC meeting, amendments to the current year budget were approved, including one to help close a \$35.5 million deficit at the Department of Juvenile Justice created by a recent court ruling requiring DJJ pay a larger share of the detention costs.

### **Report Identifies Twenty Three States Working to Remove Youth From the Adult System; Florida not Included**

According to *The Campaign for Youth Justice* (CFYJ), a national advocacy organization dedicated to ending the practice of trying, sentencing, and incarcerating youth under 18 in the adult criminal justice system. Florida is included in the , Florida is one of four states

The report, *Removing Youth from the Adult Criminal Justice System*, takes a look at states that have, and are taking steps to remove children from the adult criminal justice system.

According to the report there are still too many children in the adult criminal justice system, an estimated 250,000 in adult court every year, and nearly 100,000 youth placed in adult jails and prisons each year.

Half the states have not yet undertaken reforms at all. These states include Florida, New York, Wisconsin, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia.

[Campaign for Youth Justice Report](#)

### In the News

**New York Times:**

[\*Time To Affirm What We Mean By Juvenile\*](#)

**Juvenile Justice Information Exchange:**

[\*Nearly Half of U.S. States Have Enacted Juvenile Justice Reform\*](#)

### Upcoming Events

**National Girl's Justice Day, October 23, 2013**, hosted by the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, Voices for Florida Girls, and the Children's Campaign, Friday Musicale, 645 Oak Street, Jacksonville Florida, 1:00-4:00 pm. [To RSVP](#)

**"Our Children, Our Future: Restoring Hope, National Faith Symposium, November 6 2013**, presented in partnership by the Department of Children and Families, Department of Juvenile Justice and the Florida Faith- and Community-Based Advisory Council. [DJJ Faith Symposium](#)

**2014 FJJA Adolescent Conference "The Way Forward: Our Communities, Our Youth, Our Future"** will be held on **May 12-15, 2014** at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando. E-mail Lynn Redmond at [lynn@fjja.org](mailto:lynn@fjja.org) for additional information.

**2014 Justice Summit** - The 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, Orlando Airport Marriott, 7499 Augusta National Drive · Orlando, Florida 32822 <http://smartjusticealliance.org/>.

### Member News

**The Cypress Creek Juvenile Offender Correctional Center Launches Vegetable Garden and Greenhouse**



The Cypress Creek youth have broken ground on their new vocational area. The youth have the opportunity to learn how to prep and maintain a vegetable garden and greenhouse.



All harvested plants and food will be donated as part of the facilities "Restorative Justice" campaign. The youth will be working in the garden on a daily basis under the supervision of facility staff members. The facility also plans to utilize plants that are grown within the class throughout the facility and living units.

### **Daniel Memorial Success Story**

Through the Behavior Management Program, Daniel works with the Department of Juvenile Justice to provide at-risk youth under the age of 18 the support and skills they need to succeed. \*Madison is a one of their success stories.

Madison was able to gain insight into her negative behavior and how her behavior affected those around her through the in-home services Daniel provides to youth on probation. She was referred to our program when she was 17, and turned 18 while in the program. She graduated high school, got her driver's license and even purchased her first car.

Daniel truly helped her turn her life around! Through treatment, Madison was able to recognize and address the traumatic experiences that happened in her past. She was able to use the new coping skills she learned to improve her self-esteem which helped her to make positive changes in her life.

*\*Client's name has been changed to protect her identity.*

### **University Area CDC Hosts Prodigy's First All-Styles Dance Battle**

Prodigy is known for its annual showcases and special events set in place to display the various talents of our dedicated youth. Recently, the University Area Community Development Corporation hosted Prodigy's first ever all-styles dance battle.

Prodigy youth participated to represent our 34 different locations within 7 Florida counties. Over 150 people

attended the event and there was a great deal of community support.

All Prodigy sites were encouraged to participate in the battle either as individuals or in a group. Music production students were able to do a live performance or submit live recordings of music for participation.

Some of Prodigy sites created their own graffiti style t-shirts as a way to incorporate visual art into the event as well. The dance battle included styles of hip-hop, break-dance, and even contemporary styles.

The judges based their decisions on factors such as energy, originality, creativity, and technique. This event brought all Prodigy locations together in the spirit of both dance and of "transforming young lives".

This event truly embodied the vision of Prodigy and its aspiration for youth.

### **The Young Women of Frances Walker Halfway House Prepare for Upcoming Celebrations**

Frances Walker Halfway House, a program that provides comprehensive gender specific programming for female adolescents, ages 13 to 18 years old will be conducting its 2nd Prom of the year.

The theme for prom this November is, "A Night in Paris". The girls will begin the celebration by choosing their dresses or Tuxedos, shoes, accessories and of course hairstyle, makeup, corsages and boutonnieres. They will be served an exquisite French cuisine to go with the theme of the prom and then transitioned to Paris in our Recreation room where they will dance the night away.

The girls will also be celebrating "Drug Free" October 21st-25th by beginning the week by decorating white bed sheets with bright red paint that exemplify recovery and a drug free lifestyle. The sheets will be hung on the gate so all of the community can view and celebrate in their success. The girls will also put on a talent show with skits and poetry reading to earn prizes that depict a drug free lifestyle.

The girls will also be celebrating the oncoming holiday season beginning with Halloween. During the week of October 28th-October 31st, the girls will be decorating cupcakes for Halloween, making caramel apples. Having a costume and candy race and for the finale, they will be having a Haunted House followed by trick or treating at the facility.

## The Youth at Okeechobee Girls Academy Are Immersed in Music

This summer the students of the Cypress School at the Okeechobee Girls Academy enjoyed weekly visits from Mr. Bryan Chauncey Mays, a professional musician, arranger, composer, author, and educator. Mr. Mays is also the author of two children's books, *The Journey of Choncey Conch* and *The Adventures of Hugh Manatee*.



On his first visit to the campus, Mr. Mays played a guitar, Conch shell, keyboard, tuba, trombone, French horn, and trumpet. He shared a variety of music and discussed different musical cultures with the students, including Caribbean, Spanish, Jazz, 70's Hip-Hop and Afro-Cuban.

The students also participated in hands-on activities and also learned how to play a variety of percussion instruments, including drums, maracas, and tambourines.

As an educator, Mr. Mays also taught the students about the ocean and shared his views on protecting the ocean as a natural resource.

On a recent visit, Mr. Mays has brought additional musicians with him from the Treasure Coast including a trumpeter and a cellist.

The students and teachers are very thankful for the time Mr. Mays has spent with them and the Very Special Arts Program for the funding to make his visits possible.

## Henry and Rilla White Foundation *Paints the Town Pink*

Local Tallahassee organizations were challenged by the Tallahassee Democrat to wear pink in honor of Breast Cancer Month.



Shown in picture, Robert Durrance, the administrative services manager for the

Henry and Rilla White Youth Foundation and 12 week old Josie, recently adopted from a local shelter.

### Okeechobee Intensive Halfway House Youth know the Importance of Fathers and Male Role Models

The Okeechobee Intensive Halfway House recently held a Father/Son dinner banquet for youth in the program. The OIHH cafe was turned into a banquet hall and everyone enjoyed themselves during the event.

The banquet was an inspiration for the youth in the program because the men in their lives (*fathers, grandfathers, other male role models*) took the time to celebrate and acknowledge their hard work in turning their lives around. The event included entertainment and guest speakers.

The Father/Son banquet was a truly memorable event in the lives of OIHH youth. Three youth currently in DCF custody were glowing as well. They expressed how much it meant that the program staff have worked to fill the void of male role models in their lives.

### PACE Opens New Facility in Escambia/Santa Rosa

The new PACE Center for Girls Escambia/Santa Rosa opened on September 30th. The new facility is has tripled in size to 3,500 sq ft.



The program serve 50 girls in the Escambia/Santa Rosa county area. A grand opening will be held on January 22, 2014 as the center also celebrates 20 years of service.

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