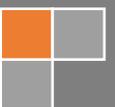


2017

# Department of Juvenile Justice - Circuit 12 Comprehensive Plan



## Introduction

In accordance with Florida Statute, Section 985.664(2), Circuit 12 (Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto Counties) submits the following plan for the Circuit to include our mission statement, benchmarks, a SWOT analysis, key performance indicators, an operations plan and an executive summary.

The goal of this Plan is to develop a continuum of services that comprise a strategic prevention framework of programs proven by research to reduce risk factors in youth and the community and to implement a collaborative system of proven programs and graduated sanctions that provide a full range of dispositional alternatives to reduce juvenile crime.

### Section 1: Mission Statement

**DJJ's Mission:** To increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth.



**Circuit 12 Mission:** To reduce delinquency within our counties through persistent and effortful application of our knowledge, resources, and status as members of the community and juvenile justice advocates.

### Section 2: Benchmarks

**Benchmark #1:** Decreasing Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC):

Research has demonstrated that minority youth are disproportionately involved with the Juvenile Justice System. The purpose of the DMC initiative is to ensure equal and fair treatment for every youth in the juvenile justice system, regardless of their racial and ethnic background. If there is an identified issue of minority overrepresentation in the system, it serves as an alert for operations. The issue requiring attention may occur within one stage or multiple stages of the system.

### **Section 3: SWOT Analysis**

#### **(Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats)**

**Strengths:** The number of youth arrest for Circuit 12 is lower for 2015-16 when compared to the prior year. Circuit 12 is currently conducting PACT assessments to determine the level of risk and needs of juveniles with contact with the juvenile justice system and are able to assess the level of risk for re-offending. The PACT Risk to re-offend for all youth received in Circuit 12 indicate a large percentage of low risk youth when compared to the total offenses. Additionally, counties in Circuit 12 are using Civil Citations for first time misdemeanor offenses. The Civil Citation is one way to help reduce DMC and align with alternatives to arrest. Other benefits include: Improved public safety, increased youth outcomes and saved taxpayer dollars.

Circuit 12 continues to increase the number of youth who are issued Civil Citations. There were 682 youth identified with first time misdemeanor offenses eligible for Civil Citation in Circuit 12 from October 2015 to September 2016. The percentage of civil citations issued for 682 eligible youth in Circuit 12 is 40% compared to 21% in the previous year. Of the 682 eligible youth in Manatee County, 40% were issued a civil citation, Sarasota County 61%, and Desoto County 28%.

**Weaknesses:** The number of Black youth receiving Civil Citations, however, is still disproportionate. In 2015-1016, of the 173 black eligible youth, only 54 received Civil Citations (31%), compared to 40% of white youth.

While the number of arrest have declined for all youth as well as Black youth in 2014-2015 when compared to 2013-2014, the RRI for Black youth is still higher for Circuit 12 when compared to the State of Florida RRI for Black youth arrest at 2.9. The RR1 for Desoto County is 2.4 (state ranking 47); Manatee County 3.1 (state ranking 29); and Sarasota County 4.2 (state ranking 15).

**Opportunities/threats:** Circuit 12 has the opportunity to decrease DMC with Civil Citations and other preventive and awareness strategies. Other opportunities exists for each county to work with the Advisory Board and the Faith-Based Sub Committee to develop effective cohesive strategies to facilitate successful communications of civil citation and other outreach and prevention opportunities.

**Which areas need focus:** All counties in Circuit 12 need direct attention and focus as it pertains to increasing the use of civil citations as one method to reduce DMC. The lack of awareness and inconsistencies in how the citations are issued for youth with their first misdemeanor offenses is an area of focus. Sarasota County does not issue civil citations and has chosen to use its teen court for pre-arrests. By doing so, the numbers reported at the State level for citations issued does not include the county numbers in reporting usage. Funding is an area of focus to bring in funding to support youth programs that can be used for prevention and awareness. The lack of training, education, and funding regarding such services causes setbacks in such areas.

## **Section 4: KPI's** (Key Performance Indicators)

### **1. Issues:**

For 2014-2015 the Relative Rate Index (RRI) for the Disproportionate Minority Contact Statewide for Florida is 3.2 for Black Youth Arrests in the state, which is an increase from 2.9 in 2012-2013. When the RRI is higher than 1, the rate of occurrence for minority youth is greater than the rate of occurrence for white youth at that point in the Juvenile Justice continuum of services. When the RRI is less than 1, the rate of occurrence for minority youth is less than that for white youth. The RRI for counties in Circuit 12 are as follows for Black Youth Arrests:

Desoto County – RRI 2.4 (State Ranking 47)  
Manatee County – RRI 3.1 (State Ranking 29)  
Sarasota County – RRI 4.2 (State Ranking 15)

While the number of arrest have declined for all youth as well as Black youth in 2014-2015 when compared to 2013-2014, the RRI for Black youth is still higher for Circuit 12 when compared to the State of Florida RRI for Black youth arrest at 2.9.

Desoto County had 3,420 youth between the ages of 10-17 years old. Black youth represented 13.1% and Hispanic Youth represented 44.8%. The arrest rate for Black youth was 30.7% (compared to 30.8% from the previous year).

Manatee County had 30,039 youth between the ages of 10-17 years old. Black youth represented 21% and Hispanic Youth represented 24.9%. The arrest rate for Black youth was 49.9% (compared to 32.6% from the previous year).

Sarasota County had 27,694 youth between the ages of 10-17 years old. Black youth represented 9.3% and Hispanic Youth represented 17.3%. The arrest rate for Black youth was 32.1% (compared to 32.7% from the previous year).

**2. Improvements/regressions:**

The number of arrest rate decreased in Circuit 12 from the 2014-2015 fiscal year. All counties used the civil citation to reduce the number of arrest for youth. Focus on reducing DMC for Circuit 12.

Civil Citations increased 18% from the 2014-15 to 2015-2016 fiscal year, as shown below:

	Black	Hispanic	White	Other	Total
<b><u>2014-15 Circuit</u></b>					
Eligible Youth	172	91	375	3	641
Arrested	131	64	307	2	504
Civil Citation Issued	41	27	68	1	137
<b>% Civil Citation</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b><u>2015-2016 Circuit</u></b>					
Eligible Youth	173	87	418	4	682
Arrested	119	38	251	3	411
Civil Citation Issued	54	49	167	1	271
<b>% Civil Citation</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>% Increase in Civil Citations</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>18%</b>

**2015-16 Circuit**

Eligible Youth	173	87	417	4	681
Arrested	119	38	250	3	410
Civil Citation Issued	54	49	167	1	271
<b>% Civil Citation</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>40%</b>

**2015-16 Sarasota**

Eligible Youth	40	29	158	3	230
Arrested	18	9	60	2	89
Civil Citation Issued	22	20	98	1	141
<b>% Civil Citation</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>61%</b>

**2015-16 Desoto**

Eligible Youth	6	8	21	1	36
Arrested	5	5	15	1	26
Civil Citation Issued	1	3	6	0	10
<b>% Civil Citation</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>28%</b>

**2015-16 Manatee**

Eligible Youth	127	50	238	0	682
Arrested	96	24	175	0	411
Civil Citation Issued	31	26	63	0	271
<b>% Civil Citation</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>40%</b>

### 3. Solutions:

Funding can present opportunities for solutions in areas as follows:

- Preventing and diverting youth from entering the juvenile justice system by increasing the use of Civil Citation for eligible youth.
- Prevention and Awareness: Provide at risk youth with employment, training for work readiness and educational opportunities by using workforce system and local school districts to identify mechanisms already being done in the schools before behavior becomes extreme. Provide printed literature to social workers and guidance counselors regarding programs such as CINS/FINS and mentoring organizations.
- Outreach, awareness and educating the community regarding the juvenile justice system, partners and programs: Using web resources, social media, school districts, faith based organizations, and events (other community organizations, i.e. NAACP and others, college fraternities and sororities). Meet with community to understand experiences and what we could do differently to enhance relationships.

### 4. Goals:

- **Benchmark #1:** Decreasing Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC):
- **Goal:** We plan to reduce DMC by 1 factor index for the RRI over years 1 through 3 of the plan by increasing civil citation issuance, and by conducting outreach/awareness and education with the community including the school districts.

## Section 5: Operations Plan

Review DJJ County Delinquency profiles for each county on a six month basis. Provide updates to the Circuit 12 DJJ Advisory Board every six months with a yearly report of changes.

Link outreach, awareness and educating the community events to activities identified with the Circuit 12 Faith Based Sub-Committee goals tied to: event planning, network communications, resource development and program services every six months.

Provide an ongoing list of activities and ensure semi-annual updates to reports and determine effective measures to gauge success. The DMC Sub-committee will review county data every six months and work with county organizations to ensure contact with the workforce boards, representatives of the school districts and local organizations, i.e. NAACP and others to identify issues and concerns.

Provide training activities regarding Civil Citation and speaking events for Civil Citation. Discuss and monitor performance of civil citation and prepare reports per county.

Recommend over the next six months that the legislative sub-committee take up the issue of civil citation in Sarasota county to determine the effectiveness of the teen court diversions when compared to civil citations and the 4% recidivism.

During year 2, consider FL Statute 985 that created civil citation and the discretion the legislation created with saying it “may” be used instead of “shall be used”. Develop a strategy to capture the impact of youth ages 5-10 who may not be eligible for teen court but may be under the civil citation program in Sarasota County.

## **Section 6: Executive Summary**

All counties in Circuit 12 need direct attention and focus as it pertains to increasing the use of civil citations as one method to reduce DMC. The lack of awareness and inconsistencies in how the citations are issued for youth with their first misdemeanor offenses is an area of focus.

This plan is a living document. The Circuit 12 Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Board will continue to collaborate with community partners to develop a seamless continuum of services within a strategic prevention framework that addresses the needs of all youth and families within the community. Evidence based programs, promising programs and best practices models will be the focus of the community efforts and therefore this plan will be modified as the result of this collaborative community planning effort.