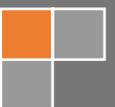


2018

# 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

**Department of Juvenile Justice's (DJJ) 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 arrests for Circuit 12 is lower for fiscal year (FY) 2016-2017 when compared to the prior fiscal year. Circuit 12 continues to conduct 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. In FY 2016-2017, there were 643 youth identified with first time misdemeanor offenses eligible for Civil Citation in Circuit 12. The percentage of Civil Citations issued for the 643 eligible youth in Circuit 12 is 66% compared to 40% in the previous fiscal year. Of the 643 eligible youth, 72% were issued a Civil Citation in Manatee County, 63% in Sarasota County, and 19% in Desoto County.

The number of Black youth receiving Civil Citations is improving. For example, in FY 2015-2016, of the 173 black eligible youth, only 54 received Civil Citations (31%), compared to 40% of white youth. However, in FY 2016-2017, of the 179 black eligible youth, 116 received Civil Citations (65%), compared to 66% of the white youth.

**Weaknesses:** While the number of arrest have declined for all youth as well as Black youth in FY 2016-2017 when compared to previous fiscal year, the Relative Rate Index (RRI) for Black youth is still higher for the counties in Circuit 12 when compared to the State of Florida RRI for Black youth arrest at 3.3, with the exception of Desoto County. The RRI for Desoto County is 1.7 (state ranking 58); Manatee County 3.9 (state ranking 21); and Sarasota County 4.3 (state ranking 17).

**Opportunities/threats:** Circuit 12 has the opportunity to decrease DMC with Civil Citations and other preventive and awareness strategies. Other opportunities exist 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. 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 Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-2017 the Relative Rate Index (RRI) for the Disproportionate Minority Contact Statewide for Florida is 3.3 for Black Youth Arrests in the state, which remained flat from the previous fiscal year, but has increased over the previous four years, from 2.9 in FY 2012-2013, to 3.1 in FY 2013-14, to 3.2 in FY 2014-2015, and to 3.3 in FY 2015-16. 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. For FY 2016-2017, the RRI for counties in Circuit 12 are as follows for Black Youth Arrests:

Desoto County – RRI 1.7 (State Ranking -58)  
Manatee County – RRI 3.9 (State Ranking -21)  
Sarasota County – RRI 4.3 (State Ranking -17)

While the number of arrest have declined for all youth as well as Black youth in FY -2016-2017 when compared to -FY 2015-2016, the RRI for Black youth is still higher for counties in Circuit 12 when compared to the State of Florida RRI for Black youth arrest at 3.3, with the exception Desoto County which is 1.7. Data for FY 2016-2017 is shown below:

Desoto County had -3,477 youth between the ages of 10-17 years old. Black youth represented 12.5% of the total youth population and Hispanic Youth represented 44.9%. The arrest rate for Black youth was 26.10% (compared to 36.9% from the previous year), showing a positive trend.

Manatee County had 31,711 youth between the ages of 10-17 years old. Black youth represented 13.7% of the total youth population and Hispanic Youth represented 29.7%. The arrest rate for Black youth was 41.2% (compared to 39% from the previous year), showing a negative trend.

Sarasota County had 28,494 youth between the ages of 10-17 years old. Black youth represented 9.2% of the total population and Hispanic Youth represented 18.5%. The arrest rate for Black youth was 31.2% (compared to 31.8% from the previous year), showing a slightly positive trend.

### 2. Improvements/regressions:

For the past three fiscal years, the number of arrests have decreased in Circuit 12. All counties used the Civil Citation to reduce the number of arrest for youth with a fFocus on reducing DMC. Civil Citations increased 19% from –FY 2014-15 to FY 2015-2016, and an additional 26% from FY 2015-2016 to FY 2016-2017. Furthermore, there was a 34%

increase in civil citations for the black youth population from FY 2015-2016 to FY 2016-17 as shown below:

	<b>Black</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><u>2014-15 Circuit</u></b>				
Eligible Youth	172	91	375	638
Arrested	131	64	307	502
Civil Citation Issued	41	27	68	136
<b>% Civil Citation</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b><u>2015-2016 Circuit</u></b>				
Eligible Youth	173	87	418	678
Arrested	119	38	251	408
Civil Citation Issued	54	49	167	270
<b>% Civil Citation</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b><u>2016-2017 Circuit</u></b>				
Eligible Youth	179	90	374	643
Arrested	63	25	126	214
Civil Citation Issued	116	65	245	426
<b>% Civil Citation</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b><u>% Increase in</u></b>				
Civil Citations from 2014-15 to 2015-16	<b>7%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>19%</b>
Civil Citations from 2015-16 to 2016-17	<b>34%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>26%</b>

The breakdown of Civil Citations issued by county for the FY 2016-2017 is shown below. In Sarasota County, the overall percentage of Civil Citations issued increased to 63%, compared to 40% from the previous fiscal year. In Manatee County, the overall percentage of Civil Citations issued increased to 72%, compared to 40% from the previous fiscal year. In Desoto County, the overall percentage of Civil Citations issued decreased to 19%, compared to 28% from the previous fiscal year.

	<b>Black</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><u>2016-17 Circuit</u></b>				
Eligible Youth	179	90	374	643
Arrested	63	25	126	214
Civil Citation Issued	116	65	245	426
<b>% Civil Citation</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b><u>2016-17 Sarasota</u></b>				
Eligible Youth	48	34	161	243
Arrested	28	7	55	90
Civil Citation Issued	20	27	106	153
<b>% Civil Citation</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b><u>2016-17 Desoto</u></b>				
Eligible Youth	7	6	14	27
Arrested	7	6	9	22
Civil Citation Issued	0	0	5	5
<b>% Civil Citation</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b><u>2016-17 Manatee</u></b>				
Eligible Youth	124	50	196	370
Arrested	28	12	62	102
Civil Citation Issued	96	38	134	268
<b>% Civil Citation</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>72%</b>

Note: the decrease in Civil Citations issued in Desoto County is partly due to a processing error, whereby law enforcement was directly referring youth to a diversion program without being issued a formal Civil Citation, therefore this diversion data was not collected by the DJJ. This issue has now been resolved.

### 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 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.