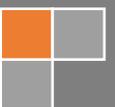


2015

Department of Juvenile Justice - Circuit 12 Comprehensive Plan



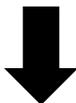
Introduction

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):

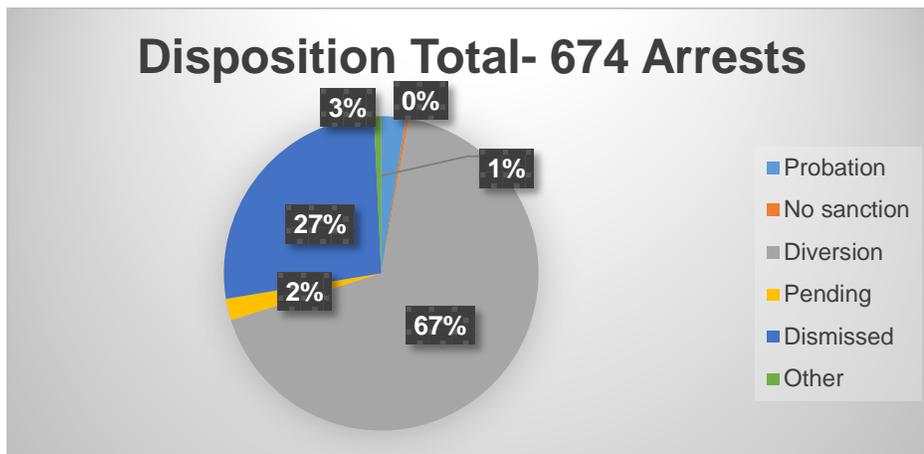
Research has demonstrated that minority youth are disproportionately involved with the Juvenile Justice System. The purpose of the DMC initiative is to ensure equal and fair treatment for every youth in the juvenile justice system, regardless of their racial and ethnic background. If there is an identified 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 2012-13 when compared to the prior year. The yearly change is -15% from the 2011-2012 year for all offenses. 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 1,099 youth when compared to the total offenses of 1,846. Additionally, some 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. The recidivism rate for civil citation 2011-2012 is 4%.

Weaknesses: There were 714 youth identified with first time misdemeanor offenses eligible for Civil Citation in Circuit 12 from October 2013 to September 2014. The percentage of civil citations issued for 714 eligible youth in Circuit 12 is 6% from October 2013 to September 2014. The number of Black youth eligible for civil citations total 189, of that number 16 were issued the civil citations, representing 8% of those eligible for the civil citations. Of the 441 eligible youth in Manatee County, 6% was issued a civil citation, and Desoto County issued civil citations to 56% of the 71 eligible youth. Sarasota County has not utilized civil citation and had 200 eligible youth. Instead Sarasota uses its Teen Court for pre-arrests and referred 371 juveniles in 2014.

The disposition of the 674 youth identified as eligible for civil citation and not referred for Circuit 12 are as follows:



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:

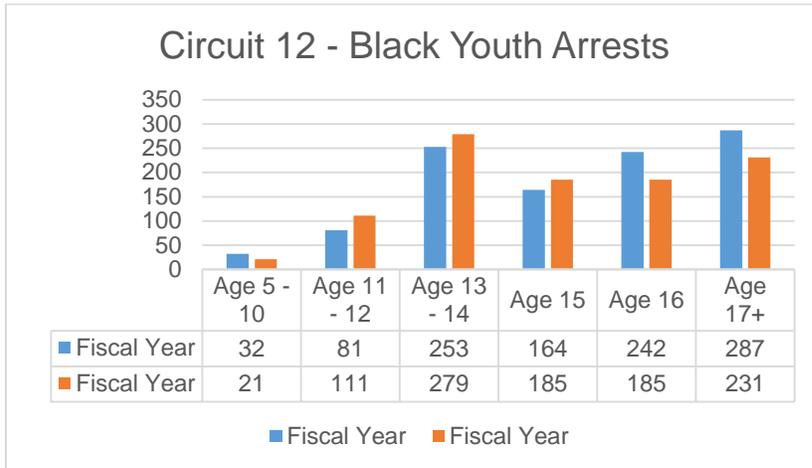
For 2012-2013 the Relative Rate Index (RRI) for the Disproportionate Minority Contact Statewide for Florida is 2.9 for Black Youth Arrests in the state. When the RRI is higher than 1, the rate of occurrence for minority youth is greater than the rate of occurrence for white youth at that point in the 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
- Manatee County – RRI 3.0
- Sarasota County – RRI 4.3

While the number of arrest have declined for all youth as well as Black youth in 2012-2013 when compared to 2011-2012, 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 following charts provide the rates for the aforementioned timeframe.





Desoto County had 3,474 youth between the ages of 10-17 years old. Black youth represented 13.7% and Hispanic Youth represented 41.7%. The arrest rate for Black youth was 30.8%.

Manatee County had 30,075 youth between the ages of 10-17 years old. Black youth represented 14.1% and Hispanic Youth represented 24.5%. The arrest rate for Black youth was 32.6%.

Sarasota County had 28,552 youth between the ages of 10-17 years old. Black youth represented 9.5% and Hispanic Youth represented 15.3%. The arrest rate for Black youth was 32.7%.

2. Improvements/regressions:

The number of arrest rate decreased in Circuit 12 from the 2012-2013 year. Manatee and Desoto County used the civil citation to reduce the number of arrest for youth. Focus on reducing DMC for Circuit 12.

When reviewing the number of youth eligible for civil citations and those who were arrested, the opportunities to have placed in civil citation over arrest would have saved \$5000 per youth for the juvenile justice system costs.

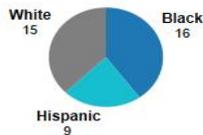
Civil Citation Dashboard

Florida Department of JUVENILE JUSTICE
Our Children, Our Future

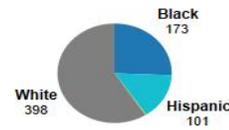
Civil Citation by Race/Ethnicity & Gender October 2013 - September 2014

Circuit 12 County All Gender All Race/Ethnicity All Case Type All

Eligible Youth Served by Civil Citation Race/Ethnicity

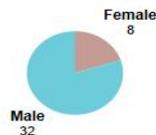


Eligible Youth Arrested Race/Ethnicity

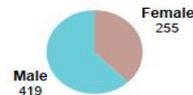


Race/Ethnicity	Arrested%	% Eligible Issued a Civil Citation	Eligible Youth
Black	92%	8%	189
Hispanic	92%	8%	110
Other	100%	0%	2
White	96%	4%	413
Grand Total	94%	6%	714

Eligible Youth Served by Civil Citation Gender



Eligible Youth Arrested Gender



Gender	Arrested%	% Eligible Issued a Civil Citation	Eligible Youth
Female	97%	3%	263
Male	93%	7%	451
Grand Total	94%	6%	714



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.

Arrange for Civil Citation Coordinator to speak at community events on a rotating schedule and Circuit 12 Advisory Council Meetings annually. 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.