



## **Juvenile Justice Circuit 13 Advisory Board**

### **Implementation Plan**

**2015 - 2018**

January 7, 2015  
(Updated December 15, 2017)

### **Background, History and Accomplishments of the Hillsborough County Juvenile Justice Community**

The leaders in Hillsborough County have been addressing juvenile justice issues for over two (2) decades. Before the development of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and the local boards and councils, the community came together to identify problems and develop proactive solutions. In 1992, the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County spearheaded an effort to develop a workgroup to explore the issues of juvenile delinquency and crime. At that time, there was an increase in auto thefts in the County. The workgroup continued to meet and developed goals and strategies to address the issues of juvenile delinquency. The workgroup then asked the community to take ownership of the goals by approaching community-based organizations and groups to implement the strategies. This was the early beginning of a juvenile justice council and strategic plan.

During the 1993 legislative session Representative Elvin Martinez, Sr., a Hillsborough County leader and juvenile justice workgroup member, introduced the legislation that created the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. This community was already organized and meeting on a regular basis when the juvenile justice councils were mandated and forming throughout the State. The formalized Hillsborough County Juvenile Justice Council continued to work at the state and local level to support the development of the Department of Juvenile Justice and to address local issues such as: auto theft diversion, court system improvement, gender specific issues and minority over representation within the juvenile justice system.

The Council continued to grow and expand. Committees and an infrastructure were developed and in 1996 the Council embarked on a planning process that resulted in a comprehensive 5-year plan. That plan was updated annually and the Council has become a Circuit Board of community stakeholders and interested partners. The Juvenile Justice Board of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit has a strong history of bringing the community together to solve tough issues related to youth and delinquency. The Board has always advocated for prevention and early intervention programs as the primary method for reducing juvenile delinquency and as a cost saving measure for the community. Through 2017, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board and Executive Juvenile Justice Board continued to meet monthly (alternating every other month). An array of informative speakers are customarily given the opportunity to share their mission and events at the bi-monthly Board meetings.

Below is a brief list of the Board’s accomplishments:

- Provided oversight and allocation responsibility for the DJJ Community Partnership, general revenue and Invest in Children grants.
- Developed an ongoing truancy initiative and task force.
- Development and expansion of the PACE Center for Girls.
- Partnerships with the Hillsborough County School System’s Alternatives To Out-of-School Suspension (ATOSS) programs and Community Service Work Incentive Program.
- Developed partnerships with Alternative Education Programs and with the school board.

- Provided numerous training opportunities for the community (Human Trafficking & Faith Leadership).
- Provided numerous community forums on juvenile justice issues.
- Created strong partnerships with the business community and other governmental agencies (i.e. Department of Children and Families).
- Supported and worked closely with DJJ staff on DJJ Week Activities (i.e., tours, picnics, community forums, speakers, etc.) – Now Youth Success Day/Week.
- Partnered with Youth Investment and Chrissie’s Closet at Gary Adult Learning Center.
- Initiated and supported critical analysis studies on truancy, lockouts, out-of-school suspensions, out-of-home placements of girls, etc.
- Worked closely with agencies to address gaps in services and develop new programs for youth.
- Influential in legislative process (funding and laws).
- Supported the operations of the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) as well as the development of the Truancy Center.
- Partnered in the creation and operation of the school-based Civil Citation Program, now operational countywide, including expansion to include misdemeanor marijuana possession and other offenses.
- Involved in the planning, organization and implementation of the Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative’s (JDAI) 8 Core Strategies.
- Involved in the creation of mental health diversion programming as well as early identification efforts to address mental health issues in the detention/court system.
- Involved in the Youth at Risk Initiative of the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (CFBHN) to proactively address potential lock out situations and the needs of crossover system involved youth.
- Assisted with initializing Red Flag Staffings for children 12 years of age and younger.
- Worked closely with Crossover Court (Dual Status Youth).
- Supported Respite Domestic Violence (DV) beds.
- Supported the ATSD Alternatives to Secure Detention Program.
- Supported the Pro-Active Program for youth and families at the Detention Center.

**The Current Juvenile Justice Board of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit**

The Juvenile Justice Board of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit continues to have a very strong presence in the community. Board membership includes comprehensive community involvement. The Board has consistent participation and support from: the judiciary, law enforcement, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Public Defender’s Office, the State Attorney’s Office, the Hillsborough County Commission, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the School Board of Hillsborough County, and local service providers. Past chairs include a County Commissioner, Juvenile Court Judges, the Public Defender, a representative of the State Attorney’s Office, a

Juvenile Justice Consultant, a Lieutenant from the Tampa Police Department, and a Captain from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

**Mission Statement**

*The Juvenile Justice Board of the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit exists to provide leadership that fosters collaboration among citizens, neighborhoods and community partners to eliminate juvenile delinquency.*

**Vision Statement**

*The Juvenile Justice Board of the 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit envisions a safer community where people experience the benefits of life resulting from the reduced risk of harm caused by juvenile delinquency.*

**Board Leadership / Executive Committee (FY 2017-2018)**

Chair: The Honorable Barbara Twine Thomas, Circuit Court Judge  
Chair Elect: Elvin Martinez Jr., BAYS Florida, Director of Community Relations  
Vice Chair: Samuel "Kert" Rojka, Lieutenant at the Tampa Police Department  
Secretary: Rocky Brancato, Bureau Chief, Office of the Public Defender

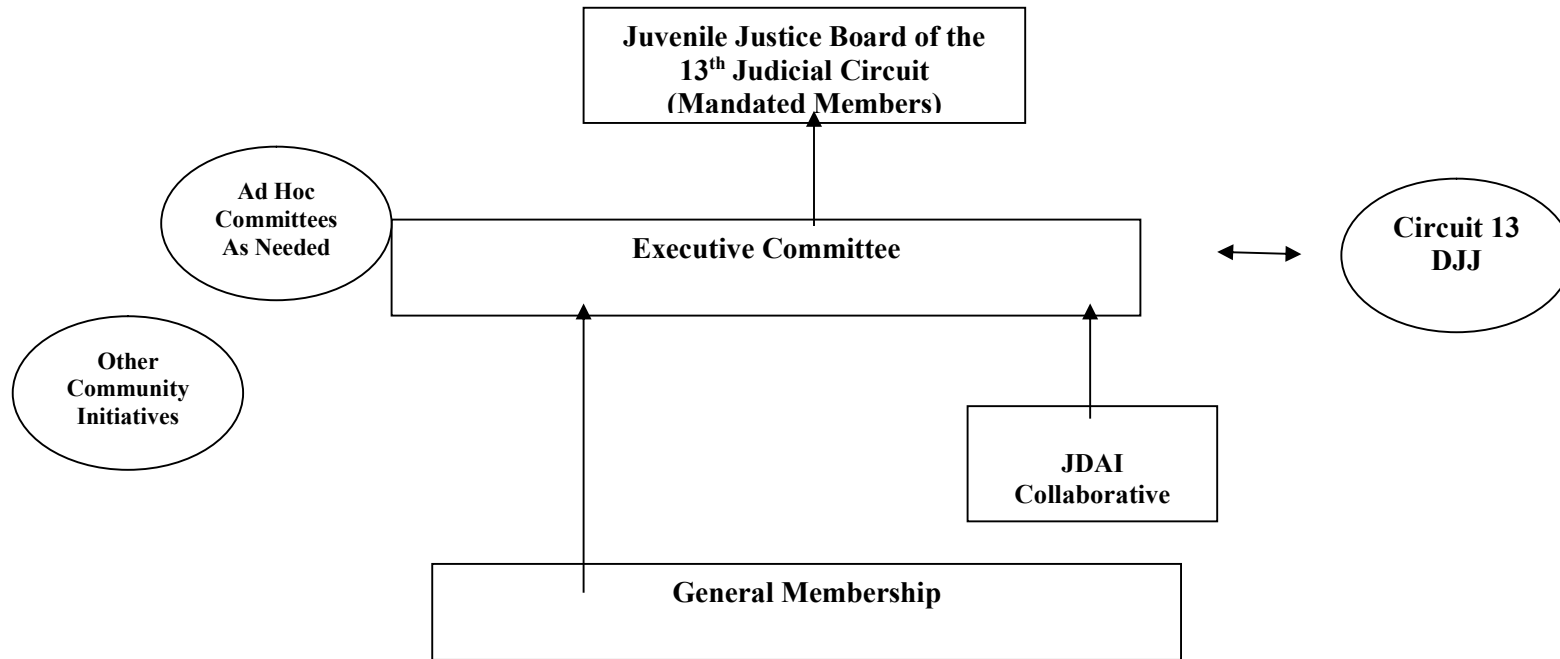
**Board Partnership Representatives**

JDAI Collaborative: Sarah Blumberg, JDAI Coordinator  
Hillsborough County Children's Services: Rhonda Rhodes, Director of Clinical Services  
Hillsborough County Criminal Justice Office: Rob Parkinson, Criminal Justice Liaison  
CFBHN Youth at Risk Committee: Elvin Martinez Jr., BAYS Florida  
Safe & Sound Hillsborough: The Honorable Julianne M. Holt, Public Defender

**DJJ Representatives**

DJJ Chief Probation Officer-Circuit 13: Judy Roysden  
DJJ Assistant Chief Probation Officer-Circuit 13: Kelly Hammersley  
DJJ Detention Services Representative: Marcus Wilson  
DJJ Prevention Services Representative/Delinquency Prevention Specialist: Audrey McGhee

**C13 Juvenile Justice Advisory Board Organizational Chart**



**Overview of Hillsborough County – 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit**

Hillsborough County is located on the Gulf coast and is bordered by Tampa Bay and by Pinellas, Polk, Manatee, and Pasco counties. The county spans 1,062 square miles and has 39 square miles of water. Hillsborough County has a population (estimate) of 1,376,238 (census.gov July 2016.) Tampa is the largest city in Hillsborough County, but tremendous growth has occurred in unincorporated areas (i.e., Temple Terrace, Plant City, Brandon, Town-n-County, Palm River, Riverview, etc.)

*The 2010 Census Report* provides the following age breakout:

	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Number of children under the age of 18</b>	294,208
Age 0-5	96,320
Age 6-11	97,262
Age 12-17	100,626

***2010 Census Data***

- 63,978 children under the age of 18 live at or below the poverty level
- 35.3% of those children reside in single parent households

***2016 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (Statewide)***

- 4.4% Middle School; 12.6% High School youth surveyed reported using alcohol in the past 30 days
- 1.2% Middle School; 3.7% High School youth surveyed reported smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days
- 3.1% Middle School; 16.1% High School youth surveyed reported using marijuana in the past 30 days
- 2.4% Middle School; 1.1% High School youth surveyed reported using inhalants in the past 30 days

***2015-2016 School Year (Florida Department of Education) Hillsborough County***

- 214,787 students enrolled in public school education (pre-k – 12) (2016-2017)
- 131,292 students eligible to participate in free/reduced lunch programs
- 79.1% graduation rate (2016-2017)
- 583 non-promotions (12<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- 3.8% drop out-rate
- 17,961 in-school suspensions
- 12,938 out-of-school suspensions
- 396 Placement in Alternative Education Setting

***2016 Florida Department of Health Birth Statistics (Hillsborough County)***

- 844 births to mothers under the age of 20
- 8 listed births to 10-14 year olds
- 836 births to 15-19 year olds
- 131 repeat births to 15-19 year olds

**Delinquency Data Review and Analysis**

The Juvenile Justice Board has utilized the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice – Bureau of Data and Research’s Data Base (Delinquency Profile) to obtain the following profile of Hillsborough County.

***Hillsborough County / Statewide Delinquency Referrals***

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Hillsborough County Number of Referrals</b>	<b>Statewide Number of Referrals</b>
2011-12	8,198	97,237
2012-13	7,332	85,408
2013-14	6,910	78,287
2014-15	6,194	75,087
2015-16	6,078	69,749

***Hillsborough County Referrals by Race and Gender***

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>White Males</b>	<b>Black Males</b>	<b>Hispanic Males</b>	<b>Other Males</b>	<b>White Females</b>	<b>Black Females</b>	<b>Hispanic Females</b>	<b>Other Females</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Total</b>
2011-12	1,554	3,498	1,196	22	611	986	315	16	0	<b>8,198</b>
2012-13	1,344	3,219	1,028	20	493	917	307	4	0	<b>7,332</b>
2013-14	1,165	3,265	920	16	484	789	262	9	0	<b>6,910</b>
2014-15	1,104	2,932	849	15	389	702	199	4	0	<b>6,194</b>
2015-16	986	3,082	708	8	385	657	247	5	0	<b>6,078</b>

***Hillsborough County Referrals by Gender***

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
2011-12	6,270	1,928	<b>8,198</b>
2012-13	5,611	1,721	<b>7,332</b>
2013-14	5,366	1,544	<b>6,910</b>
2014-15	4,900	1,294	<b>6,194</b>
2015-16	4,784	1,294	<b>6,078</b>

***Hillsborough County Referrals by Age***

<b>Age</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
5-12	402	309	289	309	296
13-14	1,690	1,611	1,475	1,338	1,243
15-16	3,803	3,242	3,176	2,830	2,779
17+	2,303	2,170	1,970	1,717	1,760
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,198</b>	<b>7,332</b>	<b>6,910</b>	<b>6,194</b>	<b>6,078</b>

***Hillsborough County Offense Category Referrals Totals***

	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Felonies	2,393	2,080	2,033	2,282	2,416
Misdemeanors	3,473	3,124	3,015	2,568	2,521
Other Offenses	2,332	2,128	1,862	1,344	1,141
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,198</b>	<b>7,332</b>	<b>6,910</b>	<b>6,194</b>	<b>6,078</b>

***Hillsborough County Felony Offense Breakout Referrals Total***

<b>Offense</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Murder/Manslaughter	2	6	1	2	1
Attempted Murder	4	3	2	3	1
Sexual Battery	56	42	40	51	37
Other Felony Sex Offenses	21	30	24	24	26
Armed Robbery	58	65	74	94	89
Other Robbery	89	92	112	141	110
Arson	18	13	10	19	11



Burglary	855	701	624	713	979
Auto Theft	64	39	48	67	103
Grand Larceny	236	258	265	223	212
Stolen Property	11	7	12	11	14
Firearm	163	150	159	207	149
Aggravated Assault/Battery	498	400	403	434	404
Forgery	20	19	19	16	15
Felony Drug	169	144	120	140	132
Escape	3	3	1	1	4
Obstruct Justice	26	25	27	32	31
Obstruction of Justice with Violence	21	18	17	14	7
Felony Vandalism	39	25	25	36	30
Other Felony	34	32	39	48	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,387</b>	<b>2,072</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>2,276</b>	<b>2,400</b>

***Hillsborough County Misdemeanor Offense Breakout Referrals Total – (Arrests)***

<b>Offense</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Assault / Battery	1,112	868	847	791	817
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses	4	9	7	9	5
Petit Larceny	692	780	656	469	507
Misdemeanor Weapon/Firearm	41	24	21	22	13
Misdemeanor Drug	770	704	757	652	605
Disorderly Conduct	160	125	113	111	77
Vandalism	103	97	86	67	72
Trespassing	232	179	207	152	158
Loitering and prowling	72	58	44	53	52
Hunting Fishing Boat Laws	0	1	0	0	0
Alcohol Offenses	31	49	24	19	13
Misdemeanor Obstruction of Justice	238	216	242	211	194
Other Misdemeanor	18	14	11	12	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,473</b>	<b>3,124</b>	<b>3,015</b>	<b>2568</b>	<b>2519</b>

### **Significant Findings– Circuit 13**

- Delinquency referrals continue to decline.
- Overall, delinquency referrals for both males and females have significantly decreased over the last 5 years.
- In terms of age, referrals are highest amongst 15 to 16 year olds; thus prevention has to target the 10-14 age range (elementary/middle school ages).
- Felony referrals have increased in each of the last two years.
- Burglary continues to be the number one felony offense over the five-year period.
- Misdemeanor drug offenses and assault/battery continue to share the top two misdemeanor offenses over the five-year period (often related to juvenile domestic violence.)
- The 12 and under population has decreased over the five-year period from 402 in 2011-12 to 296 in 2015-16.
- Felony burglary and aggravate assault/battery account for 1,383 (57%) out of 2,416 total felony offenses in FY 2015-16.
- Misdemeanor drug offenses rank as the second highest misdemeanor offense (24%) for FY 2015-16.
- Misdemeanor theft represents 20% of all misdemeanor arrest referrals; and misdemeanor assault/battery represents 32% of the arrest referrals for FY 2015-16.
- Hillsborough County community has embraced juvenile justice issues as a focal point as evidenced by
  - Multiple child servicing groups are planning around juvenile justice issues.
  - Proactive approaches to issues such as lock-outs, truancy, domestic violence, detention diversion, and civil citation program expansion and utilization have been implemented.

### **GAPS in Services**

- Families unable to access resources efficiently due to lack of awareness (i.e., sex offender services).
- Lack of accessible Medicaid mental health services.
- Lack of capacity in respite care for domestic violence offenders in lieu of detention.

### **General Functions of the Board**

Authority for the Board comes from Chapter 985.664, Florida Statutes, as created in 2014, which authorizes each judicial circuit to establish a juvenile justice circuit advisory board. The circuit advisory board is an agency of the state and serves the Department of Juvenile Justice, hereinafter referred to as the “department”, and is subject to part II of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes.

The purpose of the circuit board is to:

- Provide advice and direction to the department in the development and implementation of juvenile justice programs.
- Work collaboratively with the department in seeking program improvements and policy changes to address the emerging and changing needs of Florida's youth who are at risk of delinquency.
- To participate in facilitating interagency cooperation and information sharing.
- Provide recommendations for public or private grants to be administered by one of the community partners that support one or more components of the comprehensive circuit plan.
- Advise and assist the department in the evaluation and award of prevention grant programs, including the Community Juvenile Justice Partnership Grant program authorized in s.985.6764 and Invest in Children license plate proceeds.
- Provide an annual report to the department describing the activities of the circuit board.

The Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Board of Hillsborough County will continue to work in accordance of the Florida Statute but will also focus on addressing the following strategic issues and accomplishing the stated goals and objectives.

The Board has also adopted the following **Guiding Principles**:

1. Delinquency cannot be addressed in isolation of other systems (school, family, medical, mental health, substance abuse, etc.). Youth are shared by multiple systems and methods must be developed to share information, improve communication and increase the effectiveness of the service delivery system.
2. Juvenile justice advocates cannot plan in isolation and must integrate data, research, resources and needs with other community planning efforts and bodies.
3. The Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Board organizational structure must be flexible to address limited resources in the community and to develop mechanisms for solving systemic process and problems.
4. The Juvenile Circuit Advisory Justice Board must continue to work closely with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the federal Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the community to support initiatives aimed to target high-risk populations (i.e., Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), female offenders, juvenile domestic violence offenders, juvenile sex offenders, etc.).

Goals	Objectives	Strategies
<p>1. Utilize the Juvenile Justice Board to highlight successful intervention and provide a forum for information sharing, problem solving and supporting the vision of the Department of Juvenile Justice.</p>	<p>1. Provide is televised board meeting per year.  2. Provide letters of support for community agencies seeking funding to support data findings and community needs.  3. Executive Juvenile Justice Advisory Board meetings are alternated months (starting in February).</p>	<p>1. Ensuring that statutorily mandated members participate.  2. Invite cross-system representation to attend and/or present issues, needs or resources available.  3. Provide letters of support for community agencies seeking funding to address data findings and community needs.</p>
<p>2. Represent the Juvenile Justice Board and delinquency issues on various committees, council and boards within the community.</p>	<p>1. Integrate juvenile justice data, research and needs into existing community planning and problem-solving bodies to promote service integration and system improvements.</p>	<p>1. The Board Chair will work with the Executive Board to identify appropriate committees and boards that do not currently address delinquency issues within their service delivery system.  2. The Board Chair will assign members to the Board to serve as representatives of the juvenile justice community and report information back to the Board.  3. The Board will extend invitations to a variety of community groups to join the board and its committees.  4. This strategic plan will be shared with other community planning bodies to ensure that delinquency data, issues and needs are integrated into other community plans.</p>

<p>3. Garner community support for youth and programs designed to address delinquency behaviors.</p>	<p>1. Utilize board members to connect community volunteers and groups with agencies and programs in need of volunteers, sponsorships, etc.</p>	<p>1. Develop board ad hoc committee to identify interested community groups.  2. Identify agency/program needs.  3. Link interested parties with agencies/programs.  4. Utilize media to publicize needs and results.  5. Publicize opportunity to support youth through the Youth Investment Award.</p>
<p>4. The Juvenile Justice Board will use data to identify community trends, needs and gaps in services.</p>	<p>1. Review delinquency data on a quarterly basis.</p>	<p>1. Provide data to other groups focused on juvenile justice issues.  2. Use data to drive policy changes.  3. Use data to advocate for funding to address gaps and needs.  4. Use data to educate decision makers on the delinquency status of Hillsborough County.</p>
<p>5. Improve the JAC that provides a wide range of services into the delivery system of youth served.</p>	<p>1. Develop ad hoc committee to establish.</p>	<p>1. Provide data to other groups focused on juvenile justice issues.  2. Use data to drive policy changes.  3. Use data to advocate for funding to address gaps and needs.  4. Use data to educate decision makers on the delinquency status of Hillsborough County.</p>
<p>6. Conduct an annual review and update of plan as needed.</p>	<p>1. Address needs as they arise.</p>	<p>1. Utilize data to address concerns as they arise and report back to board.</p>

### **Data Sources (Reports and Plans)**

- Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Profile of Florida Delinquency (FY 2011-2015) Bureau of Data and Research
- Juvenile Justice 13<sup>th</sup> Circuit Board of Hillsborough County – Strategic Plan 2012-2015
- Directory of Juvenile Services / Hillsborough County Directory of Community Resources
- 2016 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey – Hillsborough County (DCF)
- Florida Department of Health Birth Data Comparison Data Base
- Florida’s Children at a Glance - Center for the Study of Children’s Futures, 2009 (FMHI-USF)
- Florida Department of Education Website, 2017
- Kid’s Count, 2009
- U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Data
- Profile of Alcohol and Drug Indicators for Hillsborough County, FL., June 2017
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation – 8 Core Strategies - <http://www.aecf.org/work/juvenile-justice/jdai/>