

**Bay County
Juvenile Justice Council Meeting
11/7/12**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Bryan Russell (Chairman, Boys & Girls Club), Ann Wing (Florida Therapy Svcs.), Michael Johnson (City of Panama City/ASAP), David Taylor (CARE), Connie Evans (Bay County Sheriff's Office), Quentin Broxton, (State Atty's Office), Ed Bell (State Atty's Office), Leanne Schmitt (Big Brother, Big Sister), Mark Carroll (AMIKIDS PCMI), Lee Stafford (Bay County Schools), Janet Hollomon (Anchorage Children's Home), Ivy Bacon (Big Bend Community Based Care), Myron Guilford (Bay Count Sherriff's Dept.) .

DJJ STAFF PRESENT

Lydia Breaux-Davis (DJJ Prevention), Marcia Reightnour (DJJ-Probation), Fred Womack (DJJ-Probation), Michelle McCaskill (DJJ-Probation).

ITEM #1 – CALL MEETING TO ORDER

11:45 a.m. – Meeting called to order by Chair, Bryan Russell. Mike Johnson motioned to accept minutes of October 10, 2012, seconded by David Taylor.

ITEM #2 –JJC Secy. Update - BOARDS & COUNCILS – Legislative Bill Workshop

DJJ has written a draft bill changing the name of circuit boards to circuit advisory boards which will primarily eliminate the councils. According to DJJ, this would be more of a consolidation in county councils and circuit boards instead of elimination. Right now, there are only 44 councils and 20 boards (67%) active out of a 67 counties throughout the state. And with so many boards and councils contacting only (1) Coordinator (Yvonne Woodard), things become a little unmanageable and councils dysfunctional.

According to the proposal, the purpose of the circuit advisory boards will be to advise DJJ in matters that relate to the development and implementation of juvenile justice programs and promote public understanding of DJJ goals and initiatives by collective and talented individuals. The board will serve as a conduit designed to assist with bringing DJJ's mission to reality. This way the department will have a group that serves as a point of interface between DJJ and the community, promote public understanding & support for the needs of youth in the community and direction of DJJ. The change from JJC's is supposed to provide a stronger voice for counties and local communities in juvenile justice related issues, encourage stronger collaboration at the local level, remove cumbersome statutory requirements, and allow for stronger community-based partnerships.

There are several concerns here:

1. How was DJJ able to write draft legislation without input from any of the boards and councils;
2. How was this legislation proposed; and, by whom?

3. Prior meeting dates for preparation of this legislation
4. Specific parties involved;
5. And meeting minutes/notes.

One of the things the Asst. Secy promised during her visit in October 2011 was that DJJ was offering more accountability and even more transparency.

Would like this taken up as an initiative and contact other councils for input and action. As part of the action, we would either create a petition to send to the legislature rejecting DJJ's proposal or develop another means to communicate with the representative for our area.

Motion to accept made by Mike Johnson, seconded by Ivy Bacon.

There is a workshop to discuss this proposal scheduled for December 10, 2012 in Tallahassee.

ITEM #3 – DJJ UPDATES –

PREVENTION - Statewide, there were a number of proposals received by the department in response to RFI #V2036. No decision made yet on which programs will receive funding – perhaps before the month is out, a list of recipients will be available. Scores are being tallied – contact person is Teresa Millan.

Question – will the timeline of when applications were submitted be taken into consideration? The start date for funding was supposed to be October 1 since it is now November 7. Hopefully, funding will begin by the first of the year and extend for one year, e.g., Jan 1 through December 31.

On November 15th, Secretary Walters will begin her “Roadmap to System Excellence” to several communities. The Roadmap builds on reforms already underway at DJJ and guides Florida to the path to becoming the national model for juvenile justice administration. The goal is to make sure the needs of at-risk youth are put first before anything else is done. The Roadmap is currently a draft, but the public may comment. Starting the 15th, Secretary Walters will lead a series of meetings across Florida to hear from the public, employees and other stakeholders about the Roadmap. The location of the first meeting is scheduled for Tallahassee from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Also, Bay County has been selected as a site for one of the Secretary's stops. Times and date are scheduled for some time after the first of the year – will provide information as soon as it becomes available.

Prevention has been tasked with putting together a teen focus group in the area. Will be reaching out to members of the council to nominate or recommend names to sit on a panel - looking to develop a team panel of approximately 20 youths, from the ages of 14 to 18 to sit down with law enforcement and/or police officers, to discuss (1) their perception of law enforcement and how they see them as working in the community; (2) whether teens and other community members are approachable; (3) and whether they feel they are being stereotyped in some way.

PROBATION – Working on 759 kids – of those 539 are referrals.

ITEM #4 – PROGRAM UPDATES

Youth Alcohol Coalition - The coaches were eliminated - the National Guard will be serving in that role instead. Initially, when you go back into history and when the Coalition first started, the National Guard was involved in training, etc.

PCMI - New director is Mark Carroll – replaced Rusty who has since retired and doing a trade show business. Mark started with PCMI 29 years ago a sea instructor - use to run program in Pasco County. On Saturday, they set the ironman course – about 2,000 swimmers – had a blast. In September they had a great group of kids go on a white water rafting trip in NC. Looking forward to getting other field trips or something exciting for the kids. A dive trip to the Keys in July – in a couple of months have something called Olympics coming up – kids get to participate in anything from a spelling bee to basketball competition , swimming, running – this is great for the kids and a real motivational experience.

Big Brother/Big Sisters – Holiday season has started and they are focusing on how they plan to take care of the families they have so far. The list for kids is growing – 22 right now, 19 are boys – main focus is to get male mentors for the boys. The Annual Wild Game Supper may be a great place to obtain matches since 2,000+ men participate. Also working on marketing strategies to get more male mentors. They end up turning kids away every day because matches are not available. If you know of anyone interested, please contact her at the Bay County office (850) 763-5437.

Big Bend – there are a lot of foster kids right now. There is a marketing campaign going on now about adoptions - over 9 kids were adopted last week. For some reason, there seems like a lot of kids running away and ending up at the Hidle House. As a service learning project, have some of the kids participating in the Christmas parade. Mostly, kids ranging from 15 to 18, are the ones having major issues right now.

Florida Therapy Services – not a lot going on right now but did want to mention that SPARE (Suicide Prevention Awareness Resistance Education) has a candlelight vigil scheduled for Saturday, November 7 – ceremony begins at 5:30.

Anchorage Children’s Home – due to a cut in funding the SOAR program will no longer exist. Since Anchorage did not receive funding for the Street Outreach Program (SOAR), they will not be able to provide this service any longer.

State Attorney’s Office – Quentin Broxton attended meeting – welcome back! Good to be back – has only been in the office the last 3 days. Things are pretty much the same – if anything its getting worse – Seems they are dealing with more kids with serious problems. Before, felt there was a solution to the problem, but now seems there are more kids than solutions – difficult to determine exactly what they need. Does know that it’s going to stem from the parents – parents cannot agree on anything – they dislike one another and that flows down to the children.

Kiwanis Club just approved for Bay Haven Charter School to get a KEY (Kids Educating Youths) Club.

Bay District Schools – The School District has been working very closely with Big Bend and DCF on a data sharing plan. It's always been in the interagency agreement to share data on children, but there hasn't been a protocol for doing that, but now addressing steps in order to accomplish. The interagency agreement will be presented before the School Board on November 15th. What they do is allow designated staff access to their database system which will allow a faster response time to address the needs of the children. Very pleased with outcome – first step was with Big Bend and DCF - also plan to go back to the table to expand to other agencies.

Bay County Sheriff's Dept. – Sgt. Myron Guilford is now in charge of community policing for the Sheriff's office – housed at the Cedar Grove substation. Main focus is community outreach, as well as gang task force coordinator and neighborhood watch. Also in charge of the 376 sexual predators located in Bay County. This will be a new experience for Sgt. Guilford especially dealing with the predators and he expects to encounter a number of challenges. Happy to be involved and working with the schools and being community oriented in what the Sheriff's office can offer the business community, DJJ or anyone else interested in youths.

ASAP – have been approved for the DOE 21st CCLC grant for FY2012-13 which will provide up to \$112k in funding to expand the program. This grant was originally awarded 3 years ago, but each year must renew. Other recipients of the grant within Bay County include the Boys & Girls Club, Oscar Patterson, and Cedar Grove Elementary.

ITEM #5 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

- November 14, 2012 – Gang Awareness Seminar @ Chipola College – sponsored by the Florida Gang Association
- November 15, 2012 – Annual Wild Game Supper @ First Baptist Church of Panama City – Rick Burges from Rick & Bubba is the speaker of the night – dinner starts at 5:30 – tickets are \$6 per person/groups of 5 or more, tickets are \$5 per person – about 2,500 men and boys expected - more information can be found at firstbaptistpc.com.
- November 17, 2012 Chocolate Challenge @ the Blue Heron – Chef Konrad Jochum from the Boatyard Restaurant – tickets are \$10 each. All proceeds benefit the Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center.
- November 17, 2012 – Grills Gone Wild event – Gulf State College – 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. – Proceeds benefit Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center.
- November 17, 2012 - SPARE (Suicide Prevention Awareness Resistance Education) candlelight vigil – ceremony begins at 5:30.

ITEM #4 - ADJOURNMENT

12:24 p.m. Motion to adjourn meeting made by David Taylor; seconded by Mike Johnson – no meeting planned for December - next meeting scheduled for January 9, 2013 – joint with Circuit 14 Board Chair Meeting.