

CIRCUIT 15 JUVENILE JUSTICE BOARD



JUVENILE JUSTICE STRATEGIC/ PREVENTION PLAN

**September 2008
Revised June 2010
Adopted June 10, 2010**

VISION

The children and families of Florida will live in safe, nurturing communities that provide for their needs, recognize their strengths and support their success.

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.

Introduction

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.

In developing this Plan, the Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Board, hereafter referred to as the “Board” adopts the recommendations for comprehensive prevention services recommended by the Florida department of Juvenile Justice January 2008 Blueprint Commission Report, the Department of Children and Families Five Year Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Neglect and Abandonment 2005-2009 and incorporates the Florida department of Juvenile Justice Long Range program Plan 2008-2012 and the Disproportionate Minority Contact Benchmark Report January 2010.

This Plan incorporates three principal components:

- Preventing all youth from becoming delinquent through prevention programming to support healthy youth development (programs and services for all youth) and early intervention strategies (services to support the reduction of risk or mitigate the influence of risk) for youth with one or more risk factors.
- Services for youth identified at risk, first arrest, and services for youth and their families involved in the juvenile justice system.
- Improving the Juvenile Justice System response to delinquent offenders through a system of graduated sanctions and a continuum of treatment alternatives that include immediate intervention, intermediate sanctions, community-based corrections, and aftercare services.

Following the lead of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, this Plan incorporates the philosophy of balanced and restorative justice by employing restitution, community service, and other restorative justice programs when appropriate and is guided by six principals for preventing and reducing high risk behaviors:

1. Strengthening family management in its primary responsibility to instill moral values and provide guidance and support to children.
2. Supporting core social institutions [schools, faith based organizations, youth service organizations, and community organizations] in their roles to develop capable, mature, and responsible youth.

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3. Promoting delinquency prevention as the most cost-effective approach to reducing juvenile delinquency.
4. Intervening immediately and effectively when delinquent behavior first occurs to prevent delinquent offenders from becoming chronic offenders or from progressively committing more serious and violent crimes.
5. Establishing a system of graduated sanctions that holds each juvenile offender accountable, protects public safety, and provides programs and services that meet identified treatment needs.
6. Identifying and controlling the small percent of serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders who commit the majority of juvenile felony-level offenses.

A primary goal of this Plan is to create a seamless continuum of juvenile and family services within a strategic prevention framework and programs within Palm Beach County. This “continuum of care” begins by providing proven prevention services for all youth and ensuring targeted programs for youth at greatest risk. For juvenile offenders, it provides immediate interventions. For youth who have committed more serious or repeated delinquent acts, graduated sanctions are required that combine accountability and rehabilitation components designed to deter future delinquency and protect the community.

A primary objective of this plan is to unify and enhance existing programs and services and to develop a systematic approach for

- Identifying and reaching populations in need for prevention services.
- Increasing communication and information sharing among all participating agencies and services.
- Coordinating and strengthening existing effective research based programs.
- Instituting new programs to fill identified service gaps in the current prevention and graduated sanctions continuum.
- Monitoring and evaluating the implementation and impact of processes and its policies, systems, and services.

The process of planning and implementing a comprehensive community strategy to reduce juvenile delinquency involves several interrelated and ongoing steps:

1. Mobilizing the community, its key leaders, and other stakeholders and familiarizing them with the goals, principles and elements of the comprehensive strategy process.
2. Conducting community assessments by analyzing risk factors, existing systems, and resources.
3. Identifying, implementing, and coordinating appropriate services and monitoring their effectiveness.

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Reducing juvenile delinquency requires all segments of the community ~ schools, government agencies, law enforcement, courts and corrections, public and private social service agencies, businesses, civic organizations, the faith community, and private citizens ~ to cooperate in a coordinated and comprehensive approach to the problems and needs of juveniles in the neighborhoods and the community at large. Commitment from community leaders is crucial to the success of a coordinated effort. Such leaders must both understand and champion the principles and goals of the comprehensive continuum of services and the strategic prevention framework and be willing to commit resources.

As noted above, a risk-focused planning approach to reducing juvenile delinquency is the cornerstone for success. Thus, all programs submitting applications for grant funding must include a risk/protective focused approach. Additionally, all grant applications shall include strategies designed to reduce the disproportionate representation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system in Palm Beach County. This countywide plan serves as the foundation for planning. Each proposed program will be required to use research which list priority risk factors as well as protective factors that support the well-being of the family.

Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Board as Prevention Policy Board

The Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Board is the Prevention Policy Board for this Plan. Juvenile justice boards are vehicles for collaboration, communication and community partnerships to increase public safety. The boards and councils facilitate two-way communication for the department by (1) disseminating information to the community and (2) soliciting public input about issues and activities. Boards and councils focus on evidence based or proven juvenile delinquency prevention programs and services, such as mentoring, teen courts, partnership grants, after-school programs, violence reduction programs, anger management programs, family empowerment programs and public forums. Since the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) was established in 1994, partnership with the boards and councils has been a part of its mission. The boards and councils have participated in various department efforts and collaborate with local

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activities to address community needs. Membership is determined by state statute, however, all interested citizens are encouraged to attend board meetings.

Description of Community

Palm Beach County is one of the largest of the 67 counties in Florida. The eastern edge of the county is renowned for its beaches with approximate 45 miles of shoreline and a thriving urban area. The western edge is more rural with wetlands covering the southwestern part and agriculture dominating the northwestern end. Over 1.3 million people claim the county as home.

There has been an increasing demand for information about delinquency referrals at local and community levels. While this data was unavailable in previous years, files with up-to-date data on juvenile crime and delinquency are available from the Department of Juvenile Justice through their internet web page at <http://djj.state.fl.us> or <http://myflorida.com>. Data is available statewide, by circuit, and by zip code. The PACT (Positive Assessment Change Tool) data for Palm Beach County referrals serves as a guiding factor for program development and services in the county.

Comprehensive Needs Assessments

The prevention component of a comprehensive strategy is based on a risk/protective focused delinquency approach. This approach states that to prevent a problem from occurring, the factors contributing to the development of that problem must be identified and then ways must be found [protective factors] to address and ameliorate these factors.

There have been several recent comprehensive needs assessments conducted in Palm Beach County so there was no need to duplicate with an additional needs assessment. Instead, the Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Board adopts the assessments of

1. The statewide Florida Youth Tobacco Survey
2. The update to the school report, Gathering Storm III (*Available from the Palm Beach County School District and Children's Service Council*)

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3. The DJJ Prevention & Strategic Plans [Available on the internet at the DJJ home page at <http://www.djj.state.fl.us> and www.myflorida.com]
4. **The State of the Child** as reported by the Children’s Services Council.
5. The Department of Children and Families Strategic Plan.
6. The comprehensive Communities that Care assessment conducted by the Palm Beach County Substance Abuse Coalition funded by the Florida Substance Abuse Mental Health office, District IX.
7. The 2008 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey
8. Anecdotal reports from local law enforcement, the Palm Beach Sheriff’s office, the State’s Attorney, and the Palm Beach County School District
9. Referral data from 211
10. Benchmark report: Disproportionate Minority Youth
11. The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, Casey Foundation
12. From the Schoolhouse to the Jailhouse on student suspensions which is correlated to zero tolerance

COMPARATIVE DELINQUENCY DATA -- PALM BEACH COUNTY FY 2003-04—FY 2007-08

	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08
Diversion from court	3258	2682	2757	2886	2637
Felony delinquency referrals	2779	2589	2564	2734	2470
Misdemeanor/delinquency referrals	4216	3845	3788	3780	3711
Transfers to adult court	420	375	432	637	609
Juvenile Probation	2147	2074	2236	2249	2286
Commitments to Residential	573	599	557	477	411
Judicial Dispositions	3885	3910	4033	4034	3898

PERCENT MINORITY PBC YOUTH AT EACH STAGE OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM FY 2008-2009

	W	B	H	O
At Risk (N=127, 102)	52	23	22	3
Referrals Received (N=7267)	33	45	14	8
Judicially Disposed (N=3441)	29	48	14	9
Non Judicially Disposed (N=4810)	35	44	13	8
Detained (N=2452)	24	51	15	10
Committed (N=402)	21	50	17	12
Transferred to Adult Court (N=528)	22	55	17	6

Risk and Protective Factors

Risk factors result from the breakdown in four influential domains in juveniles' lives: community, family, school and peer and individual.

While all of these domains affect juveniles, the Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Board prioritized the influential domains for this Juvenile Justice Plan based on the effect they could have over all domains. The 15th Circuit Court Board endorses a multi-systemic approach to addressing youth and family issues and supports the implementation of a holistic approach using a solution focused strategy.

Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- Surveyed students reported a substantial reduction in past-30-day cigarette use. The rate dropped from 18.0% in 2000 to 7.5% in 2008.
- No respondents in middle school reported past-30-day usage of steroids.
- Among Palm Beach County middle school students, the past-30-day prevalence rate for prescription pain relievers (1.7%) is less than 2.0%. Among Palm Beach County high school students, past-30-day prevalence rates for Ecstasy (1.2%), LSD or PCP (1.6%), hallucinogenic mushrooms (1.6%), cocaine (1.9%) and prescription amphetamines (1.1%) are all less than 2.0%.
 - Among Palm Beach County middle school students, past-30-day prevalence rates for club drugs (0.4%), LSD, PCP or mushrooms (0.2%), cocaine or crack cocaine (0.5%), methamphetamine (0.8%), heroin (0.1%), depressants (0.5%) and prescription amphetamines (0.3%) are all less than 1.0%. Among Palm Beach County high school students, past-30-day prevalence rates for Rohypnol (0.6%), GHB (0.6%), ketamine (0.4%), crack cocaine (1.0%), methamphetamine (0.7%), heroin (0.3%) and steroids (0.2%) are all 1.0% or less.
- Relatively few students reported that they would be seen as “cool” by their peers if they drink alcohol regularly (10.8%), smoke cigarettes (5.5%) or smoke marijuana (10.7%).
- A substantial proportion of students indicated that it would be “wrong” or “very wrong” for someone their age to smoke cigarettes (82.1%), smoke marijuana (79.9%) or use other illicit drugs (95.8%).
- A majority of respondents reported that each of the following behaviors poses a “great risk” of harm: smoking a pack or more of cigarettes every day (69.1%) and regular use of marijuana (56.3%).
- Middle school students reported particularly low rates of risk for two risk factor scales that are directly associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drug use: *Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use* (46%) and *Perceived Availability of Drugs* (46%). High school students reported particularly low rates of risk for two risk factor scales that are directly associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drug use: *Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use* (36%) and *Perceived Availability of Drugs* (41%). High school students

reported particularly low rates of risk for two risk factor scales that are directly associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drug use: *Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use*•

- Prevalence rates for *Carrying a Handgun* (4.4%), *Attempting to Steal a Vehicle* (2.8%), *Being Arrested* (4.9%) and *Taking a Handgun to School* (1.2%) are all less than 5.0%.

Opportunities for Improvement

- With overall prevalence rates of 54.2% for lifetime use and 31.3% for past-30-day use, alcohol is the most commonly used drug among Palm Beach County students.

- After alcohol, students reported cigarettes (24.7% lifetime and 7.5% past-30-day) and marijuana (21.7% lifetime and 11.7% past-30-day) as the most commonly used drugs. Prevalence rates for other drugs are substantially lower.

- Among Palm Beach County middle school students, 40.8% reported being verbally bullied within the past 30 days.

- Palm Beach County students reported some of their lowest rates of protection for two reward-based protective factor scales: *School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement* (43%) and *Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement* (50%). This means that schools and families need to provide additional positive feedback to students, to help them form prosocial bonds in their schools and families.

- Disapproval of alcohol use seems to have weakened over time. The percentage of students reporting that it would be “wrong” or “very wrong” for someone their age to drink alcohol regularly decreased from 67.9% in 2000 to 63.9% in 2008.

- Of surveyed Palm Beach County students, 16.3% reported *Getting Suspended* and 13.1% reported *Attacking Someone with Intent to Harm*.

These key findings illustrate the complexity of drug use and antisocial behavior among Palm Beach County’s youth and the possible factors that may contribute to these activities. While some of the findings compare favorably to the national findings, Palm Beach County youth are still reporting drug use and delinquent behavior that will negatively affect their lives and our society.

RISK FACTOR SCALE SCORES 2006 COMPARED TO 2008
FLORIDA YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE SURVEY

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	County 2006		County 2008	
	Middle School	High School	Middle School	High School
Community				
• Low Neighborhood Attachment	55	55	*	47
• Community Disorganization	56	48	49	49
• Transitions and Mobility	60	64	60	61
• Laws And Norms Favorable to Drug Use	54	47	46	36
• Laws and Norms Favorable to Handguns	49	47	*	21
Family				
• Poor Family Supervision	58	56	52	52
• Family Conflict	57	51	44	48
• Family History Of Antisocial Behavior	54	48	*	43
• Parental Attitudes Favorable toward ATOD Use	51	48	20	37
• Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behavior	56	49	*	43
School				
• Poor Academic Performance	47	48	42	44
• Lack of commitment to school	61	56	53	47
Peer and Individual				
• Rebelliousness	59	51	*	40
• Friends' Delinquent Behavior	59	51	*	45
• Friends' Use of Drugs	51	47	*	40
• Peer Rewards for Antisocial Behavior	53	50	39	43
• Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior	64	53	46	47
• Favorable Attitudes toward ATOD Use	54	51	38	42
• Low Perceived Risks of Drug Use	53	49	40	46
• Early initiation of Drug Use	52	45	35	33
• Sensation Seeking	54	50	*	46

* *Eliminated from survey.*

Note: A score of 50 indicates the average for the normative population, with scores higher than 50 indicating above-average scores, and scores below 50 indicating below-average scores. Because risk is associated with negative behavioral outcomes, it is better to have lower risk factor scale scores, not higher.

PROTECTIVE FACTOR SCALE SCORES 2006 COMPARED WITH= 2008
FLORIDA YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE SURVEY

	2006		2008	
	Middle School	High School	Middle School	High School
Community				
• Community Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	30	34	*	34
• Community Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	43	48	54	61
Family				
• Family Attachment	46	49	*	51
• Family Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	44	49	56	48
• Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	44	47	50	49
School				
• School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	41	44	52	56
• School Rewards for Prosocial Involvement	39	47	43	54
Peer And Individual				

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• Religiosity	47	44	53	61
• Social Skills	44	52	*	60
• Belief in the Moral Order	35	47	*	58

**Eliminated from survey.*

Note: A score of 50 indicates the average for the normative population. Protective factors are associated with better student behavioral outcomes, therefore it is better to have protective factor scale scores with high values.

**PACT DATA PALM BEACH COUNTY INDICATES THE FOLLOWING RISK FACTORS FOR YOUTH
PACT ASSESSMENT**

Risk Factor	Number of Youth Assessed
Assessed as Moderate –High Risk	1091
Assessed as High Risk	668
Assessed with Prior Suspensions/Expulsions	4346
Assessed with Antisocial Peers	4425
Assessed Who Use Alcohol	2065
Assessed With an Alcohol Problem	432
Assessed Who Used Drugs	3065
Assessed With a Drug Problem	985
Assessed Who Used Marijuana	1291
Assessed With a Mental Health Problem	668
Assessed With an Anger Problem	3603
Assessed Traumatic Experience	706

Disproportionate Minority Contact

The Department of Juvenile Justice three year plan states that in the State of Florida, minority youth in general and African-American youth in particular, are overrepresented at every stage of the juvenile justice system. As evident in the Referrals and Dispositions to Each Stage of Florida’s Juvenile Justice System African-American youth made up only 22% of Florida’s youth population, but accounted for nearly half of the juvenile delinquency referrals to Florida’s juvenile justice system. This overrepresentation tends to increase as the sanctions become more severe (residential commitments and transfers to adult court). In Florida, Hispanic youth and other minority populations are not overrepresented in the juvenile justice system. Palm Beach County is one of the seven counties throughout the state with the highest number of juvenile arrests. These counties are Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Orange. These seven (7) counties make up nearly half of all juvenile delinquency referrals to the system.

Contributing Mechanism to DMC

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- Indirect Factors: Reflects economic status, education, location, and a host of risks factors associated with delinquent behavior, among other factors, that are linked with race and ethnicity. These factors are related to delinquent activity or contact with the juvenile justice system.
- At-Risk Factors: Are correlated with race and ethnicity, may lead to differential offending issues. Risk factors such as poor school performance or living in disorganized neighborhoods are more likely to occur to minority youth, putting them at a greater risk of system involvement.
- Access to Services: May be limited by geography, hours of operations, or other means. For example, if a program is located in an area of a community that is not accessible through public transportation, the unintended outcome maybe that only families who have access to private automobiles may participate.
- Decision Making Factors: Youth who have private legal representation and a responsible parent appear in court proceedings have a different response from the judiciary than youth represented by the public defender and without a parent/guardian present.

In Palm Beach County, the rate of black youth to be referred was 3.0 times higher than the rate of white youth to be referred in FY2008-09. This measure was a 8% increase from FY2004-05 and 1.1 times higher than the statewide average of FY2008-09. In addition, compared to the statewide averages of FY2008-09, black youth in Palm Beach County were more likely to be judicially disposed, more likely to be detained, more likely to be committed, and less likely to be trialed as adults.

In Palm Beach County, the rate of Hispanic youth to be referred was slightly lower than the rate of white youth to be referred in FY 2008-09. This was a 5% decrease from FY 2004-05 and 1.3 times higher than the statewide average of FY 2008-09. In addition, compared to the statewide averages of FY 2008-09, Hispanic youth in Palm Beach County were more likely to be judicially disposed, more likely to be detained, more likely to be committed, and more likely to be trialed as adults.

Recommendations of the Benchmark Report 2010:

- Provide at-risk and delinquent minority youth greater access to alternatives, such as prevention, early intervention programs, diversion programs, alternatives to secure detention, and alternatives to secure confinement. {Implemented through Project MIND, SDPBC and the JDAI project. The Program Committee is collaborating with 211 to identify programs designed to meet the needs of this at risk population.}
- Constantly provide law enforcement and juvenile justice personnel cultural

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competency training to increase knowledge about different traditions and values, and address racial and ethnic biases and stereotypes. {Discussed by the Public Awareness Committee}

- Revisit the procedures, policies, and rules that define how the juvenile justice system operates, such as diversion guidelines, detention risk assessment instrument validation, and sentencing guidelines. {Detention risk assessments a subcommittee of the JDAI project; Child Welfare and SAMH implementing the GAIN.}

The Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Board shall integrated strategies to reduce the number of minority youth in the juvenile system throughout its discussions of programs, collaboration and practice. The initial steps have begun and the Board will continue to explore proven and evidence based practices to address the multiple dimensions of this issue.

Why we choose it?

As stated by the National Youth Violence Resource Center “numerous factors can contribute to and influence the range of behaviors that are defined as youth violence. It is important to consider these factors in order to develop a comprehensive understanding of the nature of the problem. It is also necessary to understand those factors that build resiliency and potentially "protect" youth from engaging in violence. Current research indicates that the presence of a single risk factor in an individual does not, by itself, cause antisocial or violent behavior. Rather, it is now generally believed that multiple factor combine to contribute to and shape behavior over the course of adolescent development. Studies suggest it is the confluence of certain "risk" factors that contribute to violent behavior, and the existence of certain "protective" factors, that create resiliency. The design of effective prevention and intervention strategies should take into consideration the dynamics and inter-relationship of both types of factors.” Listed below are the beliefs of the Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Board.

KEY PHILOSOPHICAL ELEMENTS OF A YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

(from *Reconnecting Youth and Community: A Youth Development Approach*)

Adolescence is a turning point in the overall life development process and therefore an opportunity for communities to support young people in positive directions	Young people can and should begin to take charge of their destiny through learned decision-making and an enhanced understanding of the choices available to them. They also should be provided the support necessary to deal with the consequences of those choices.
Adolescent development is natural, evolving, and complex. Youth development occurs in the context of family, community, and country.	Even adults struggle in some developmental areas. Every individual has different skills and abilities, and matures at a different pace.
Young people’s maturation process is influenced by their surroundings and affected by relationships with key people, such as parents, teachers, and peers.	Not all young people start at the same place developmentally because of economic circumstances, family problems, or personal differences.
The youth development approach includes services, opportunities, and support for all young people.	Developmental activities must be tailored to meet the needs of young people who are in disadvantaged circumstances so that they receive the resources necessary to address the limitations in their life circumstances.
Young people’s development is supported through involvement with other people or places that offer intellectual, spiritual, and emotional nurturing.	Youth development is dependent on family and community development.

National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth, July 1996.

Resource Assessment

Strengths

Prevailing strengths for juvenile justice in Circuit 15 / Palm Beach County are the historic cooperation, collaboration and caring of the people, agencies and funders. Examples of this is the tax funding by referendum approval for the Children’s Service Council and the Health Care District; the collaborative effort of funders for multiple initiatives including the Resource Development Initiative, the two school health initiatives for school nurses and behavioral health, and publishing the “Florida Family Almanac ... The Complete Family Resource Guide” for free distribution; comprehensive assessments of needs and service gaps to provide better data for decision making including the current Comprehensive Countywide Assessment 2001; and active participation of the Juvenile Justice Board.

Family HOPE, a SAMHSA funded project to the Department of Children and Families developed a single point of access for mental health services for children with severe emotional disorder, emotional disturbance or at risk of either and families.

A second initiative, Safe School Healthy Students SOBEIT, implemented a single point of access through a multidisciplinary team, the School Based Team, at each school site. This data driven early identification and intervention process integrates youth's academic and social emotional programs and services at the school site. The structured process identifies youth at risk of academic failure and/or youth with behavioral issues that can be reduced through the implementation of school based structured and monitored interventions.

The Palm Beach County Substance Abuse Coalition *was* developed as a community education and advocacy coalition to address the risk factors of youth and their families in Palm Beach County.

Recently the community was selected as a Casey Foundation site for the development of a community based alternative to detention program. The JDAI process requires the collaboration of community partners to review, discuss and implement local strategies to reduce the number of youth in detention services. Multiple committees have been developed to integrate the principles of the Casey Foundation in multiple aspects of system change.

DMC REPORT 2010 LISTS THE FOLLOWING ASSETS IN PBC

The Department of Children and Families identified the following community assets and strengths in the development of a comprehensive community need assessment.

- **Strong Community Partnerships** between the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, United Way of Palm Beach County, Quantum Foundation, the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, the Health Department of Palm Beach County, and the School District of Palm Beach County have led to successful early intervention programs in schools
 - ❑ School nurse program
 - ❑ School behavioral health program (grades K-3)
 - ❑ Safe Schools – SOBEIT Program – school-based interdisciplinary teams

- **Strong partnership** between DCF and the law enforcement community has led to a joint protocol for responding to abuse calls and has opened the door for collaboration earlier in the process.

- **Strong leadership through the Community Alliance Children/s Services Council's** focus on prevention and early intervention has provided a strong foundation for children from birth to 5 years and a targeted approach to neighborhood-based services to those children and families most in need.
- **The community recognizes** the strong support of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office in the development of school based substance abuse prevention resources (Student Assistance Counselors at 18 sites), the leadership of the Treatment Alternatives *for Safer Communities* (TASC) process, and the support for substance abuse and mental health services at school sites and the Detention Center provided through their contract agencies.
- The Palm Beach County Sheriff and the School Police of Palm Beach County are recognized for their efforts in reducing juvenile crime through the implementation of Youth Court and Youth Drug Court (SDPBC) and the JAM Unit, the Community Intervention Case Management Team and Eagle Academy (PBSO) and their collaboration with local law enforcement on the Anti-Gang Task Force.
- Palm Beach County and the Criminal Justice Commission in collaboration with the West Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, Lake Worth and the Glades have developed and funded Youth Empowerment Centers which provide programs and services for youth after school, evenings and weekends.

Challenges

A weakness for juvenile justice is the continuing growth of the county and the changing demographics of the county. The county has seen an increase in violent crime among youth 25 years of age and under as well as a significant increase in the number of and membership in highly structured gangs. These issues combined with the concern for high school drop outs, the number of minority youth dropping out of school, the disproportionate number of minority youth in the juvenile justice system, and the competition for local and state funding for youth programs and education continues to be a major concern to policy makers and program planners.

As noted in the Comprehensive Countywide Assessment 2001, their number one concern is growth with the recommendation for a comprehensive, proactive, growth-oriented strategic planning to create and maintain a healthy, resilient community. This

concern continues to this day. This continuing growth in the county force services for youth as well as the juvenile justice system into a “catch-up mode” in addressing needs and gaps in services which in the long run can prove less than effective and costly on multiple levels.

Continued coordination and collaboration of services across systems are challenged by the multiple definitions of prevention and intervention. These multiple definitions and the ensuing funding for each creates a system that often is difficult to navigate for the practitioner. Further complicated by the differing level of reimbursement rates the system continues to be a salad bowl of programs and services. An additional barrier to services is the prohibition that youth in the juvenile justice system are barred from community programs because of their involvement with juvenile justice. As a result, youth are unable to access prevention/intervention services in the least restrictive environment. Furthermore, programs such as TASC are unable to receive prevention funding.

The Palm Beach County Substance Abuse Coalition identified the following gaps in services in the Community Resource Assessment (2003). Progress has been made in closing these gaps since 2003 however, the changing needs and demographics of the county has not eliminate these concerns.

- Programs for people age 18 and older
- Use of media campaigns
- Programs for developmentally-disabled population
- Target households headed by kinship group versus two-parent head-of-household
- Programs available to high income families
- Programs delivered at a community of faith
- Ninety percent of programs operate on a one-year funding cycle
- Programs to target youth engaging in problem behaviors
- Programs that target adults at risk for substance abuse
- Programs that target adults putting children at risk

Coordinated and integration funding mechanisms are needed to address the holistic plans for youth and their families. Funds need to be allocated to support the

development of a cross system of care that encourages and enhances networking among agencies and funding streams. Community education and awareness needs to be heightened to the need for substance abuse and mental health funding and the implication of insufficient funding on the juvenile justice and corrections systems (provider focus group January 31, 2008). In summary, enhanced funding needs to be provided to support holistic, comprehensive family empowerment and youth development programs and services that are culturally competent and client friendly.

Identifiable Gaps in the Service Array

The charts in the Appendix detail the programs and services provided to youth and their families at school sites and the programs and services provided through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program office. Select additional programs, services and resources in the community provided through different funding streams are listed below:

Agency/program	Prevention	Intervention	Treatment
ASPIRA	x		
AVDA	x	x	
Big Brothers Big Sisters		x	
Boys Town of South Florida		x	x
Camelot Community Care		x	x
Center for Group Counseling		x	x
Center for Information and Crisis 211		x	
Children's Home Society			
• CINS/FINS		x	x
• Runaway Shelters		x	x
Children's Services Council			
• Beacon Centers	x		
• Funded Programs	x		
• Mentor Center	x		
• Parent Center	x		
Child and Family Connections		x	
Drug Abuse Foundation	x	x	x
Drug Abuse Treatment Association	x	x	x
Family Community Network		x	
Family Preservation Services		x	x
Hanley Center	x	x	x
Health Care District	x	x	
Institute for Family Centered Services		x	x
Mental Health Association	x		
Multilingual Psychotherapy Center		x	x
Oakwood Center of the Palm Beaches	x	x	x
Palm Beach County Health Department	x	x	
PBC Substance Abuse Coalition	x		
Parent Child Center	x	x	x
School District of Palm Beach County	x	x	
South County Mental Health Center	x	x	x

SAMH District IX (contract agencies)	x	x	x
United Way of Palm Beach County	x	x	x
Urban League	x		
Weed and Seed	x		
Youth Court		x	x
New Initiatives Added			
Alternative to Out of School Suspension (ATOSS)		x	
Cooperative Agreements with Agencies	x	x	x
DATA Counselors at School Sites (SAP)	x	x	
Gang Task Force	x		
MH and SA counselors at the Detention Center		x	x
PACT Assessments (DJJ)		x	
Youth Intervention Specialists (PBSO)		x	
Underage Drinking Task Force	x		
School Based Teams	x	x	
Unified Family Court		x	x
Youth Drug Court		x	x
Family Drug Court		x	x
Education Court Liaisons		x	x
Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (Casey)	x	x	
Disproportionate Minority Contact Grant (SDPBC)	x	x	

Even with all these services there are still insufficient resources for:

- ❖ Early prevention and intervention programs for middle and high school age students
- ❖ Programs specifically identified to serve the needs of adolescent girls
- ❖ Programs for all youth at risk not eligible for services using public dollars
- ❖ Programs that support positive youth development for all county youth
- ❖ Programs that provide opportunities for youth service throughout the county
- ❖ Mentorship programs for all youth
- ❖ Youth shadowing programs for all youth
- ❖ Respite care for youth involved in domestic/family violence
- ❖ After school programs
- ❖ Home visits and services for all at risk newborns
- ❖ Subsidized child care
- ❖ Education and community awareness of and services for youth involved in gangs.

The community lacks a vision of services for youth. This unfocused service array and lack of sufficient and coordinated services results in breaks in services, restrictiveness of some services, differences in the geographical distribution of services and accessibility and eligibility issues.

Proposed Strategies for Addressing Gaps – Systemic intervention

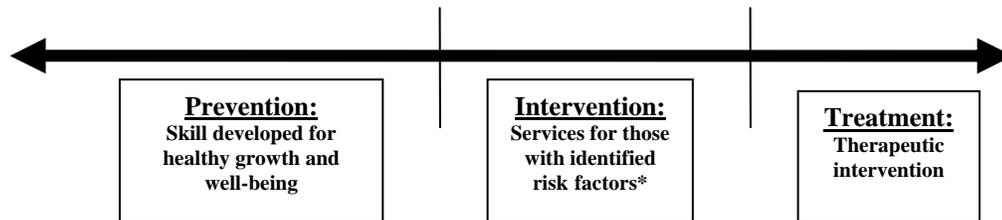
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Best Practices for Violence Prevention (www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/bestpractices.htm) identify four

comprehensive strategies for combating the problem of youth violence and offers specific suggestions for implementation. These four strategies are:

- Family-based strategies that combine training in parenting skills, education about child development, and exercises to help parents develop skills for communicating with their children and resolving conflict non-violently. (Primary Prevention)
- A home visiting strategy that brings community resources to at-risk families in their homes, especially for pregnant and first time parents. (Prevention)
- A social-cognitive strategy that helps children develop the skills they need to deal effectively with difficult situations by teaching nonviolent methods for resolving conflict and establishing (and strengthening) nonviolent beliefs in young people. (Prevention)
- A mentoring strategy that emphasizes the importance of a positive adult role model in reducing risk for violence and delinquent behavior. (Intervention)

The collaboration among the Department of Juvenile Justice with the School District of Palm Beach County, the Children’s Services Council, the Health Care District, Circuit 15, Florida District IX Substance Abuse and Mental Health Office and the Department of Children and Families results in programs that implement these four strategies in targeted communities, schools, and, facilities within the community. Ideally these strategies should be employed throughout the county.

The community representatives on the Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Board will work diligently with system partners to chart community programs across systems along a continuum from prevention to treatment. Definitions will be collapsed to reflect a more “user friendly” approach to comprehensive planning. The three phases of the continuum of service will reflect the following broad definitions



*identified as “prevention” services by the Department of Juvenile Justice

Goals/Objectives for Prevention Programs

A. System Outcomes – Requirements for Programs

All programs applying for funding under this plan must include the following

- 1. Assessment:** A comprehensive community/neighborhood risk and protective assessment for the specific area proposed for services as this plan is for the entire county and not a particular or specific community or neighborhood.
- 2. Collaboration:** Collaboration with all funders is necessary for a continuum of prevention and intervention services for youth. Collaboration is essential to reduce duplication of services and increase the effectiveness of services provided. A holistic treatment plan shall be developed including all system components to address identified needs of youth and the youth's family system. Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Board will pursue such collaboration. All DJJ funded, included JJDP funding, programs must include evidence of such collaboration. The collaboration component must include the commitment of resources by the collaborative agencies of in-kind or cash funding as part of the cost sharing.
- 3. Protective Factors:** Programs may include a plan/strategy to develop "protective factors."
- 4. Successful Programs:** Programs must be evidence based and evaluation must be completed in accordance with the research.

Palm Beach County is one of the largest counties in the State, an area of 2200 square miles. Funding is allocated by state, county and circuit basis. Programs having a expanded focus should be prioritized for funding. This does not mean a program must serve the entire county, but rather that the program may serve the entire county or be part of a countywide plan, initiative, or focus. Examples include the countywide PBSO Youth Services Intervention program, after school programs for middle school students that collaborate with an existing elementary or middle school programs, and collaboration of programs for females. Programs should not be "stand alone" individual programs serving a limited population but rather be part of collaborative venture.

B. Desired Outcomes

1. Problem Behavior Outcomes

a) School

- Increased GPA and attendance
- Decreased discipline referrals
- Increased participation in school activities

b) ***Delinquency***

- Decrease the amount and/or degree of serious of delinquent behavior
- No new arrests or delinquency referrals while in program
- No new arrests or delinquency referrals for 6 months following program
- If new arrests, for crimes of lesser degree of seriousness

c) ***Family*** [includes parents, guardians, care takers, extended family, etc.]

- Decrease in family arguments and/or violence
- Increase in family participation in activities involving

d) ***Individual***

- Increase in social and leadership skills
- Decrease in associations with friends having delinquent behavior or using drugs
- Increase in favorable attitudes to ATOH use
- Increase in amount of time before reaction to stimuli [time to think]

2. **Risk Factor Outcomes**

- Decrease in the risk factors that can be changed.
- Increase in protective factors in domains for risk factors that cannot

3. **Protective Factor Outcomes**

- Increase in the protective factor scores in domains where risk factors high
- Increase in the protective factor scores in domains where protective factors low

C. **Evaluation Plan**

A long-term plan is not complete without a process for assessing how well it is implemented and whether it reached its desired outcomes. Implementation of a comprehensive strategy may involve many changes in decision-making, resource allocation, service and programmatic goals, case processing, information sharing and use, and other aspects of the human services and juvenile justice systems. Implicit in this data-driven approach to planning is a framework for ongoing evaluation of whether the desired programmatic and systems changes have occurred and whether they are having the desired effects.

A cornerstone of comprehensive strategy is its data-driven framework for planning and decision-making in the provision for youth services. Collecting data is an integral and necessary task. The Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Board shall develop a plan to review youth crime statistics and the programs within the community to address the needs of youth entering the system as identified through the Positive Assessment Change Tool. A longitudinal study shall be developed to assess and report the rate of recidivism of youth entering the juvenile justice system.

Board Priorities For 2009-2011

The Board developed the following priorities. These priorities reflect the Board's desire for increased advocacy, linkages and partnerships to address the challenges and strengths of youth and their families.

1. Pubic Awareness

- Newsletter (increased distribution, newspaper in print, advertisements to generate funding for printing)
- Raise awareness of juvenile justice issues to Palm Beach County residents through the following means: TV/media, internet (possible Board website), radio
- Develop ongoing communication with legislators on youth issues.
- Implement community awareness and education programs on the multifaceted issues related to disproportionate minority contact.

2. Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) / Detention Center (DC)

- Explore private / other funding for maintenance and a new JAC
- Raise awareness (to public, legislators) of the need for a new JAC and maintenance of an existing DC
- Develop a strategic plan to maintain the programs and services at the JAC after 2016.
- Enhance systemic collaboration to reduce duplication of assessments and record keeping
- Reduce the number of minority youth in detention and commitment programs

3. Programming/Planning

- Research community-based programs and new model/evidence-based programs
- Explore funding opportunities for new and existing programs (grants, etc)

- Re-Entry and Recidivism: issues and support
- Reduce duplication of services
- Increase awareness of all system partners of programs and services within the community
- Develop a matrix of services along the prevention to treatment continuum for the community stakeholders in collaboration with 211.
- Reviewing data on a quarterly basis to assess status of referrals, diversion, and commitment

Summary

This plan is a living document. The Circuit 15 Juvenile Justice Board will continue to collaborate with community funders and 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.