

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
DJJ Informational Conference Call
Friday, January 20, 2012
Minutes

Welcome and Call to Order

Conference call came to order at 3:30PM. Yvonne Woodard, Board and Council Coordinator, welcomed everyone on the call.

Legislative Update

Ana Sanchez, DJJ Legislative Affairs Director

This is the second week of session and we've been moving along pretty well.

- Last week our bill was in the Senate Judiciary and it passed unanimously.
- This week the bill passed its last committee of reference in the House unanimously.
- We're hoping to have our bill in its last committee of reference in the Senate next week, which is the Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations.

Once that's done, we will go on the House floor. We did a couple of presentations in the House and in the Senate. In the Senate last week, we did a presentation on the implementation of all the bills that were passed last session. Next week, we don't have any scheduled presentations.

- Regarding the Civil Citation bill, we now have 60 counties that have a Civil Citation program. We are very proud of that.
- We have a little fewer than 3000 kids who have successfully completed Civil Citation. An update was given on allowing the Sheriffs to have their own set of rules for running detention. We did an update on keeping misdemeanants out of residential.
- The Governor recommended in his budget, money to be allocated for respite beds for youth that have been arrested or charged with misdemeanor domestic violence so they will not go into detention. They would be able to go into respite beds that we would be able to purchase.
- It's about 1.7 million dollars and about 40-43 bed slots that would be purchased around the state, as needed. It wouldn't be a physical facility in one place in the state. It would be purchased in every circuit as the need arises.

Education Bill Update

Brian McManus - Deputy Legislative Affairs Director

Education Bill sponsored by Senator Wise - We're working closely with Senator Wise and his committee as well as the Department of Education on getting the education bill into a position where it works for everyone. It's still going to change a little bit.

- It will possibly be in committee next week, but hasn't moved at all in the House. It appears they are waiting on the Senate to take the lead and get the bill in its final posture.
- As the bill stands now, it really does a lot of work in expanding virtual education in all our programs, especially Detention.
- It has a lot of performance measures built in that will rate our juvenile justice education programs.
- It gives the agencies a little more incentive to crack down on programs that are low in fulfilling performance ratings, which allows us to devote a contract to more high performance programs.

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Ana Sanchez, DJJ Legislative Affairs Director

If there are any questions regarding the legislative process or our bills please contact the Office of Legislative Affairs. Coming up next week, we will be more focused on the budget. The House has released its allocations, but the specifics to how it will affect DJJ are unknown. We will start working on that next week and the following week.

The Department is initiating a statute rewrite to propose for the 2013 legislative session. We are working internally to start looking at which areas we want to open up in the statute. As many of you know, 985 *Florida Statute* is almost 20 years old. We want to make it current so it reflects our current practices. As soon as we start calling for interested external stakeholders to participate in the statute rewrite, information will be provide to Yvonne to distribute.

Questions/Comments

Question: Stakeholder - *Do you know how the process it going to work?*

Response: Ana Sanchez - *Currently we've looked in our executive leadership team and internally we started to divide people into their specific areas of knowledge. They've started to look at the entire 985 Florida Statute specific to their areas to see which areas need to be revamped. Obviously certain areas won't be revamped because we changed them last session. For example, our interstate compact was changed last session so obviously we won't be looking at that, but all of 985 Florida Statute is up for revision. The Secretary has made it clear that it's going to be the entire statute that we will be reviewing. Once we get an idea of the areas that need to be revamped, we'll look at that and start setting up committees that will work on specific areas. Those committees will be opened up to our stakeholders and providers to be a part of those committees.*

Comment: Stakeholder - *The biggest concern, from the perspective of the councils in the panhandle, is the requirement of having all these sectors present. It isn't a bad thing, but the way the statute is written now, if you don't have those you are out of compliance. It has become a major problem.*

Comment: Ana Sanchez - *You are absolutely right. We will be looking at your expertise and other boards and councils, when it comes to the statutory section that deals with the actual functions and procedures of the boards and councils. We know some of that needs to be rewritten.*

Question: Stakeholder - *How will we go about getting on the committees?*

Response: Ana Sanchez - *Once we get the internal committees established, we will open it up to stakeholders via email. Brian McManus, will send that information to Yvonne who will forward it to the group.*

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Question: Brian Russell, C-14 - *Have you all heard anything about a bill to strengthen the Open House Party Law? It passed last year, but now they want to amend it to take out some of some of the loopholes.*

Response: Ana Sanchez - *That bill has been floating around for a couple of years now. Yvonne will send you guys the bills that we are currently tracking right now.*

- We are currently tracking two bills by Senator Wise, the Education Bill and the Zero Tolerance Bill.
- Also we are tracking an Electronic Monitoring Bill
- Human Trafficking Bills (2). One is being sponsored by Senator Flores in the Senate and Rep. Snyder in the House. The Human Trafficking Bill currently out is not dealing mostly with the victim who is being forced into the prostitution. It mostly deals with increasing the penalties for the adults that get caught forcing these women and/or children into prostitution.
- The Attorney General is also working on proposing a bill. That information will be provided to Yvonne to distribute.

For questions regarding the Education Bill or 985 *Florida Statute* rewrite, contact Brian McManus, Deputy Legislative Affairs Director at brian.mcmanus@djj.state.fl.us.

Next conference call: Friday, February 3rd @ 3:30pm
Conference call adjourned at 3:50pm