

**Florida Department of Juvenile Justice  
DJJ Informational Conference Call  
Monday, January 9, 2012  
Minutes**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Conference call came to order at 3:35PM. Ms. Wanda Finnie, Assistant Secretary for Office of Prevention, welcomed everyone on call. She thanked everyone for opportunity to talk about what the department will face regarding the legislative session

**DJJ HQ Officials& staff**

Andy Hindman, Faith Based Initiative, Yvonne Woodard, Board and Council Liaison, Rhyna Jefferson Deputy Manager, Ana Sanchez, Director of DJJ Legislative Affairs

**Introduction of DJJ 2012 Legislative Package - Ana Sanchez, DJJ Legislative Affairs Director**

Good afternoon everyone. I'm glad that everyone is able to get on the call and as you know this will be the start of our bi-weekly calls because the way session falls this year, it starts early so we are doing this first one on Monday. I've spoken with Yvonne Woodard and we'll have it during the regularly scheduled time which is bi-weekly on **Fridays at 3:30pm**.

DJJ's only has one bill. As many of you know, this year is redistricting and that is one of the reasons why our legislative load is a lot lighter than it has been in previous years. This is because we know that the legislature will be focusing more on the redistricting and the number of bills filed this legislative session is a lot lower than it has historically been.

Another reason why we only have one bill this year is because the Secretary has been planning for us to do a rewrite of 985 *Florida Statute* next session. So that means everything in 985 *Florida Statute* will be open and up for review. We plan to have a massive comprehensive bill that makes changes to all of 985 introduced next year. With that being said, we are currently in the process of working internally to get that in order and have our people monitor that because we will be opening that up to the public and having stakeholders, judges, state attorneys, sheriffs, police officers, public defenders, and anyone else that's touched by 985 *Florida Statute* to be a part of the workgroup that addresses everything that's under 985 *Florida Statute*. I will be having more specific details as to how you can sign up to be a part of the workgroup and what that's going to look like later on. Again that's what we are planning to do and that's one of the reasons why our legislative bills are so limited.

We have one bill this year that's House Bill 173/Senate Bill 504. It's being sponsored by House Representative Pilon and Senator Evers. That Bill comprises two main parts. It deals with our Wings Program, which is a program down in Miami. It's the only one that we have in the state and it would give us statutory authority to have those mothers to be in this program. Right now under statutory authority, you are only allowed to hold adjudicated youth and infants fall outside of that scope. We have been running this program and we're thankful that we're able to run this program, but this would give us more coverage and it would give us statutory authority to house these infants. The second part of the bill deals with the paying of funeral expenses. This summer we had the unfortunate death of Eric

Perez at the detention center in Palm Beach. We ran into some issues when we tried to pay for the funeral expense. We were told that we did not have the authority to pay for those funeral expenses even though in the past we have been able to pay for them. This would give us that authority to be able to pay for those expenses, which we feel that we should be allowed to do as done in the past.

That's basically our legislative bills and we'll be focusing on the budget which the Governor has released recommendations in regards to DJJ. We are hoping to minimize our cuts by a huge percentage compared to where they were last year. As you know we were cut by almost 80 million dollars last year. Hopefully this year we'll be cut by less than 10 million.

Our one bill has passed its first committee of reference in both the House and the Senate unanimously. It will be heard in the Senate Judiciary this week on Thursday. We don't expect any problems, but as you know with the legislative session you never know what's going to happen. We don't anticipate anything, but we are prepared just in case anything comes up. Hopefully it will be heard sometime next week in the House. That's our main focus and our main push because of the special nature of this session with redistricting and our big overhaul of 985 *Florida Statute*.

### **Questions**

*Question: What are some of the major changes you anticipate in 985?*

*Answer: We are not anticipating any major changes to 985 Florida Statute. We are going to organize a workgroup, which again we'll open that up to stakeholders, to look at 985 Florida Statute. The whole statute will come up for review and whatever changes need to be made will be made. Obviously there are several things that we probably won't touch because we've addressed them. For example last year we dealt with the interstate compact, which probably won't be touched because we have fixed that last session. Everything under 985 Florida Statute will be under review. That statute is almost 20 years old and it needs to be revised.*

**Next conference call: Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30pm**