

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
DJJ Informational Conference Call
Friday, February 17, 2012
Minutes

Welcome and Call to Order

Assistant Secretary Wanda Finnie convened conference call at 3:30pm.

Legislative Update

Ana Sanchez, DJJ Legislative Affairs Director

- The Senate released its budget last week. There were certain items on the budget that were not in the House budget. For example, the Senate allocated \$10 million for redirection, \$7.8 million allocated for Prevention and Probation, and there were no cuts to CINS/FINS. Right now we are just in the midst of the budget. It was released on both sides. The Senate did not cut us at all. We actually got a \$1.8 million increase from the Senate, but that does not say that's what we're going to get in the end because they still have to conference to match the House budget which did give us a couple of cuts across the board to the Senate.
- We're still trying to work out on the bed cut for nonessential residential.
- DJJ bills have been going pretty well. We're still waiting for one departmental bill to be heard on the floor in the House and then heard on its last committee of reference in the Senate, which is the budget
- Zero Tolerance Bill does not seem to be going anywhere in the House and it has not been heard in its first committee of reference, which signifies that that bill is not going anywhere even though in the Senate it has moved.
- The Electronic Monitoring Bill was not heard in the House so it's dead.
- We have been proposing that if there's going to be cuts to the nonessential residential beds, that it be based on performance and not solely the cuts taken from the state operated beds. That has been our position.
- There were other budget amendments that were filed that were eventually dropped. The only one that went forward was \$600,000 for a web-based virtual training program, to be provided in residential and nonresidential programs. It was proposed by Senator Wise, on the Senate side. We still have yet to see if the House picks it up on their side during conferences.

Questions/Responses

Question: *Can you specify where the cuts were in the House?*

Response: *Ana Sanchez- In the House they did a 10% cut on CINS/FINS. They did 10% cuts across the board and they cut us 167 beds. They also cut certain member projects. The Senate actually increased us. In the Senate, there was not that 10% cut for CINS/FINS. They were actually held harmless and then they increased certain projects. That's why there's a difference, but again that is all liable to change once they start getting into conferences.*

Question: *Can you tell me what member projects were cut?*

Response: Ana Sanchez- *I actually don't have my budget breakdown in front of me right now. Some of them were cut and a couple of them were added. The ones that I know for sure that were added were several Boys and Girls Clubs that they wanted to pump money into on the Senate side for Prevention and in the House I believe it was in Pasco County. I believe it was one member project that was cut in Hillsborough. These are very specific programs. These were member projects, meaning they were leftover projects that were a member project or a legislator initiated that project. What I can do is send Yvonne a one- pager of the cuts that were done in the House and the Senate so that she can send that information to you guys. Again, all of those things are apt to change during conferences. So while there may be money added on each side, it could be taken away because the budgets are so different in the House and in the Senate.*

Question: *Is there any possibility that the Zero Tolerance Bill will be picked up in the House?*

Response: Ana Sanchez- *No. The way it works is that bill is referred to at least three committees in the House. This actual bill was referred to four committees. It has not been heard by the first committee and subsequent committees will not be meeting any longer. There are rules for a bill to be attached to another bill. If I notice that my bill is not moving I can attach it to another bill if it refers to the same statutes. I can amend my bill onto another bill as a vehicle because it's moving, but the rules say that my bill has to at least be heard once and pass for me to attach it to something else. In the House the Zero Tolerance Bill has not been heard. However, the bill's sponsor can waive its rules. The department is taking a neutral stance. We do not have a position on that bill, but it is something that concerns us so we are watching it. It has not been heard in the House and as rules stand because it was not heard in the House it cannot get attached to another bill unless the rules are waived.*

Question: *Just for clarification, what's the final date of the session?*

Response: Ana Sanchez- *The official date is the 9th, but again that's apt to change. It just depends on when they're done. As you know, the reason that session started early is because of the redistricting maps. They still have to get those maps back from the Supreme Court, which I believe they've already submitted, but they still need for them to be approved. So we have that and the budget as things that they have to do.*

Comment: Ana Sanchez- *I'll give Yvonne the breakdown of how our budget is in the House and the Senate to forward to the group.*

Next conference call: Friday, March 2nd @ 3:30pm