Juvenile Justice
Circuit Boards and
County Councils Highlights

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A Statewide Overview for 2009-10

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INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF REPORT

The Juvenile Justice Circuit Boards and County Councils (Boards and Councils) were created by the 1993 Florida Legislature to involve local communities in the planning and development of the local juvenile justice system. Since their establishment in the state, the boards and councils have involved hundreds of local leaders and citizens in addressing the issue of juvenile crime in their communities. As partners with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the boards and councils have participated in various DJJ efforts and have undertaken local initiatives to address specific needs in their communities.

In accordance with Section 985.664 Florida Statute, the Boards and Councils are required to develop annual reports. This report was developed based on the information presented in the circuit annual reports submitted by the Boards and Councils and from information obtained through local DJJ staff. It is an attempt by DJJ to provide a statewide overview of the Boards and Councils and their varied activities. It is not feasible to provide an in-depth or detailed report on all the specific initiatives and activities throughout the state. This report is an effort to provide an overview of the Boards and Councils and their activities; discuss how the DJJ and the Boards and Councils have worked in partnership on various issues; and, provide a sampling of the types of local efforts and initiatives that have been undertaken by the Boards and Councils around the state.

In reviewing the information in this report, it must be kept in mind that the Boards and Councils continue to evolve in their organization and development. This report is intended to provide a “snapshot” of these groups throughout the state – rather than an in-depth review and analysis.

HISTORICAL AND LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

The Boards and Councils were established by the “Criminal Justice Act of 1993” Chapter 39.025 Florida Statutes, and revised in 2005, Section 985.664 Florida Statute.

The Legislative intent when the Boards and Councils was created:

- to authorize and encourage each of the counties of the state to establish a comprehensive juvenile justice plan based upon the input of representatives of every affected public or private entity, organization, or group;

- to allow representatives of school systems, the judiciary, law enforcement, and DJJ to acquire a thorough understanding of the role and responsibility that each has in addressing juvenile delinquency in the community, that the county juvenile justice plan reflect an understanding of the legal and fiscal limits within the plan must be implemented, and that willingness of the parties to cooperate and collaborate in implementing the plan be explicitly stated; and

- that county juvenile justice plans form the basis of and be integrated into circuit
juvenile justice plans and that the prevention and treatment resources at the county, district, and regional levels be utilized to the maximum extent possible to implement and further the goals of their respective plans.

The membership of the county councils provides for board participation and involvement of the “stakeholders” in the juvenile justice system, including: district school superintendents, local government officials, representatives of the local school system including administrators, teachers, school counselors, parents, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) administrator, representatives of local law enforcement, representatives of the judicial system, representatives of the business community and interested officials, groups, such as children services councils, public or private providers of justice programs and services, students and advocates.

The statutory purpose of each juvenile justice circuit board and each juvenile justice county council is:

- to provide advice and direction to the DJJ in the development and implementation of juvenile justice programs;
- to work collaboratively with the DJJ in seeking program improvements and policy changes; and
- to address the emerging and changing needs of Florida’s youth who are at risk of delinquency.

The membership of the circuit board is comprised of representatives from the councils within the circuits. The role and functions of the circuit boards, as provided for by 985.664 Florida Statute, are outlined below.

- Circuit boards shall collaborate with county councils to develop a comprehensive plan for the circuit that is based upon the county plans in the circuit.
- Participate in facilitating interagency cooperation and information sharing.
- Advise and assist DJJ with the evaluation and award of prevention and early intervention grants, including the Community Juvenile Justice Partnership Grant Program and proceeds from the Invest in Children license plate annual use fees.
- Advise the DJJ and the Secretary of the DJJ regarding the development of the legislative budget requests for juvenile justice programs and obtain funding for prevention and early intervention programs and service, and children who are at-risk of delinquency within the circuit or region.
- Provide a written annual report on the activities of the board to the DJJ. The report should also include county council information and highlights. Suggested inclusion in

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the report is an assessment of the effectiveness of juvenile justice programs and services in the circuit, recommendations for elimination, modification, or expansion of existing programs, and suggestions for new programs or services in the continuum that would meet the needs of children and families in the circuit.

OVERVIEW OF THE BOARDS AND COUNCILS

The Boards and Councils are established and active throughout the state with various levels of participation, including 55 county councils, covering all 67 counties and 20 circuit boards. While the size and structure of the groups vary, statewide the boards and councils have active memberships consisting of local stakeholders directly involved in addressing juvenile justice issues in their communities. One of the unique characteristics of the juvenile justice boards and councils is the direct involvement of elected officials. While some of the groups have a limited involvement of elected officials, the participation of local officials, such as school board members, sheriffs, judges, city and county commissioners — many of whom hold leadership positions with the board or council — has allowed the boards and councils the ability to impact the local juvenile justice system through the direct involvement of major community decision-makers. The Boards and Councils also involve juvenile justice providers, including the DJJ and agencies contracting with the DJJ to provide services.

The membership of the Boards and Councils are volunteers who have other positions and duties outside of their membership on the Boards and Councils. While a board or council meeting may last 1-2 hours, it must be noted that there are also a large number of additional meetings held by committees, task forces, and other local groups working as a part of the juvenile justice boards and councils. The Boards and Councils provide a valuable volunteer resource in Florida’s fight against juvenile crime.

CIRCUIT BOARDS AND COUNTY COUNCIL COORDINATION

The efforts of the circuit boards and county councils are coordinated and supported by the DJJ staff to provide limited support and assistance to the circuit boards and county councils on both administrative and programmatic functions. The primary purpose of the DJJ staff involvement in a circuit board or county council is to provide information and serve as a resource, rather than in a leadership role. The boards and councils secretary position currently involve more activity in the coordination of board and council support. This change has allowed the boards and councils to be more manageable as work continues to be done on behalf of DJJ (see attachments).

THE OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COUNCILS

Created in 2008, the purpose of the Office of Boards and Councils is to filter an effective line of communication between the boards and councils and DJJ headquarters office. The Office of Circuit Boards and County Councils remain as a site where statewide activities are coordinated and efforts to improve communication with the Boards and Councils continue. This has allowed

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DJJ to continue efforts to provide technical assistance and information to the Boards and Councils throughout the state. The Office of Boards and Councils coordinates several supportive activities to the boards and councils, some of which are organizing statewide meetings, completing statewide reports, organizing legislative phone conferencing, coordinating technical assistance, and organizing meetings and phone conferencing with the DJJ Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Assistant Secretary. All of which is intended to advise the boards and councils of various issues with a statewide perspective or impact.

COORDINATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DJJ Officials continue interaction with local communities. DJJ Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Assistant Secretary have attended circuit board meetings either in person or via phone conferencing. Quarterly state-wide board chairs meetings provide an opportunity for DJJ officials to advise the Boards and Councils on statewide issues and provide a means by which the circuit boards and county councils can address issues with the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Assistant Secretary.

STATEWIDE BOARD AND COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

There have been a number of coordinated activities that have engaged the boards and councils throughout the state. These activities result from either statutory duties and responsibilities, or DJJ's policies or procedures for a particular program, which provides for the involvement of the boards and councils. The department scheduled numerous informational conference calls to assist the boards and councils in participating in these efforts. This section will briefly provide a recap of the various programs and activities that the Boards and Councils have been involved in during the 2009-10 FY.

Circuit Boards and County Councils Statutory Review

The implementation of the statutory review process was initiated March 2010. This was the first formal review process to ensure that all boards and councils continue to be structured according to 985.664 Florida Statute. All juvenile justice circuit boards and county councils were encouraged to participate in the statutory review process. Following the formal review, each board and council received a written document of the findings. The boards and councils were rated on several areas pertaining to the statute such as, membership, bylaws, prevention plan, annual report, etc. The boards and councils received a rating of in compliance with 985.664, partial compliance with 985.664, or not in compliance with 985.664 for each area addressed. Membership - The reviews reflected several challenges the boards and councils are experiencing as it strives to fulfill the statutory requirements of membership. The importance of maintaining membership in accordance with the statute continues to be encouraged. The review reflected that 50% (10) of circuit boards are in total compliance with having three (3) statutory members on board (chief judge, state attorney, public defender or its designee); 45% (9) of circuit boards were identified to have partial compliance with one or two statutory

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members on board; and 5% (1) having no statutory members on board. **Prevention Plan** - Prevention is one of the most important and fundamental missions of DJJ. In accordance with statutory requirements, the Boards and Councils must develop local juvenile justice plans to address community needs and priorities. It is important for boards and councils to develop an effective prevention plan. The prevention plan is critical in the boards and councils progress towards planning and developing programs in the circuits. Of the twenty circuit boards, 40% (8) were identified as having a prevention plan that incorporates the county council plan if applicable, while 35% (7) were identified as partially compliant having a prevention plan that doesn't incorporate the council plans, 25% (5) reported as having no prevention plan in place.

**Bylaws** - As the operation of the boards and councils evolve and move forward, it is necessary that the bylaws be updated in a timely manner referencing the current Florida Statute. Based on circuit board reviews, 100% (20) have established bylaws, while 10% (2) received a partial compliance for not reflecting additional members in bylaws. **Annual report** – The annual report speaks to the works that the boards and councils have engaged in during the year. It should be used as a recruitment tool for new board and council members. During the 2009-10 FY, 95% (19) of circuit boards submitted annual reports to DJJ.

During the statutory review process, 30 county councils answered the call to participate in the formal review process. The county councils were rated on the same areas as the circuit boards. Based on the 30 county council reviews received by DJJ: 100% (30) reporting county councils were in line with the statute by having several representatives as council members, 100% (30) of reporting county councils were confirmed to have prevention plans, 93% (28) were confirmed to have established bylaws, and during the 2009-10 FY, 93% (28) county councils submitted annual reports to DJJ.

In December 2009, the Circuit Board Chairs Meeting was held in Tampa, Florida. Circuit Board Chairs received the **Leadership Development Training** through the DJJ. All Board Chairs were afforded the opportunity to attend the training that covered Circuit Board Leadership, Effective Communication, Team Process, and Roberts Rule of Order. The **Official Circuit Board Logo** was unveiled at the December 2009 Circuit Board Chairs meeting. Because the Office of Prevention and Victim Services is dependent upon local communities and community-based organizations to provide a range of prevention services, this logo was chosen to exemplify that the Office of Prevention and Victim Services must continue to work in partnership with circuit boards and councils.

In January 2010, the **Circuit Board Chairs and State Advisory Group (SAG) joint meeting** was held in Orlando, Florida. The circuit board chairs participated in discussions and provided input with SAG members. Informational updates were provided on legislation, DMC Report, and DMC Research. SAG members were also invited to attend circuit board meetings in their circuits.
Legislative Process – Informational conference calls were held during the regular 2010 legislative session. The DJJ Office of Legislative Affairs provided bi-weekly updates with the purpose of involving the boards and councils in DJJ’s legislative process and improving DJJ’s communication efforts. This is one of the many efforts that DJJ is involved in with the Circuit Boards to improve information sharing and communication with DJJ HQ office. The Circuit Boards were taken through a process of submitting their recommendations for the DJJ’s Legislative Budget Request (LBR) 2010-11. Likewise, the development of the DJJ’s substantive legislative issues also provided for input from the Boards and Councils.

Annual Children’s Week - In April 2010, Florida observed Children’s Week with many circuit programs participating. In collaboration with the Annual Children’s Week, DJJ celebrated Youth Success Day by highlighting youth who have been served by the Dept. of Juvenile Justice, the Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation, and the countless service providers, who have gone on to be successful. DJJ continues a long tradition of showcasing its grassroots efforts and those of its providers and partners to strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth. Youth Success Day also included a Press Conference at the Historic Capitol, educational exhibits and activities at the Capitol Rotunda. The designation of this week provided an opportunity to increase public awareness and recognition of juvenile justice issues throughout the state and its successes. The juvenile justice boards and councils use Children’s Week as an opportunity to initiate numerous events in local communities throughout the state. The boards and councils were able to demonstrate exactly how local communities can work in a collaborative manner to address juvenile issues and celebrate successes. Some of these efforts are outlined in the following section on Local Initiatives.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Initiative

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) is defined in the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act as existing when the proportion of juveniles detained or confined in secure detention facilities, secure correctional facilities, jails, and lockups who are members of minority groups exceeds the proportion such groups represent in the general population. In Florida, 98% of counties have black youth overrepresented in the juvenile justice system. Each circuit board is encouraged to have a DMC Committee that advocates addressing the issue of DMC in the community. The committee plays a crucial role in ensuring that minority youth receive prevention and intervention services in their community. Strategies to address DMC must be community-led and citizen-driven. The purpose of the DMC Initiative is to ensure fair and equitable treatment of youth regardless of their racial or ethnic background. During the 2009-10 FY, DMC Community Forums were conducted in all 20 circuits. Services were solicited for Prevention and Intervention Services aimed at DMC reduction in the seven (7) high delinquency referral counties (Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Orange, and Duval).
Faith Community Network (FCN) & Chaplaincy Services

The Faith Community Network (FCN) and Chaplaincy Services program is flexible by design. Because each community has its own unique needs and resources, the Faith Community Network is composed of individual initiatives in each judicial circuit working collectively to help prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency across the State of Florida. The Circuit Faith Community Network Steering Committee is encouraged to organize itself in a manner that will address the issues of children in their specific geographical area. The organization, direction and efforts of the local Faith Community Network should support the Prevention Plan as established by the Juvenile Justice Boards and Councils.

Each circuit board is encouraged to have a Faith Representative that serves as a member of the Faith Community Network & Chaplaincy Services program. The FCN partnership with statewide faith and community-based organizations is critical to ensuring that programs and services for youth are available in their local communities and neighborhoods, especially during times of family crisis. The FCN representative on the circuit board is key to communicating the message and raising awareness of issues impacting at-risk youth and their families in the local community.

More than 1,200 faith communities and faith-based organizations serve as Faith Partners providing services such mentoring, tutoring, after school programs, pastoral care and counseling. In addition to having a designated Chaplain in each detention center and state operated residential program, a Lead Chaplain has been recruited in each of the 20 Judicial Circuits. Regional Volunteer Chaplains Basic Trainings were held in nine locations across Florida. To date, 254 Volunteer Chaplains and faith volunteers have completed the Chaplains Basic Training.

Community Juvenile Justice Partnership Grants

The Community Juvenile Justice Partnership Grant Program provides funding for prevention and early intervention programs in local communities. This program is funded through the Motor Vehicle Prevention Fund, which receives a $1 portion of fees added to every vehicle registration in the state. DJJ looks to the boards and councils for recommendations on funding programs, which address the needs identified in the local plans. In fiscal year 2009-10, the partnership grant program awarded approximately $1.3 million to 30 community based programs throughout the state of Florida.

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Invest in Children Licenses Plate Funding

The Florida Legislature approved an automobile license plate, Invest in Children, specifically designed to promote community awareness of the need to prevent juvenile delinquency. The revenue generated from the sale of the tag is allocated for programs and services within each county. Proceeds collected in each county from the sale of these tags will be used in that county for juvenile justice prevention and intervention programs, based on the recommendations of the county juvenile justice council and circuit board. The process for the distribution of the Invest in Children funds is finalized by the DJJ. Specialty plate sales for the Invest in Children tag for the 2009-10 fiscal year generated $230,967.

LOCAL INITIATIVES OF THE BOARDS AND COUNCILS

During 2009-10 FY, the Juvenile Justice Circuit Boards and County Councils were involved in a broad range of local initiatives and activities. The following section will look at some of the specific local community efforts that have been accomplished and will provide only a sampling of some of their activities and community initiatives addressing juvenile justice. The information in this section was obtained from the boards and councils annual reports.

Circuit 1 (Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton)

• The Board held discussions with DJJ on the reevaluation of Domestic Violence Battery charges for non-egregious offenses for juvenile perpetrators. The Board provided a position paper on the impact of Domestic Violence Battery Charges on juvenile offenders with a recommendation of developing the option of a lesser charge of being incorrigible.

Escambia County

• Escambia County Council formed a planning committee for Youth Success Day (DJJ). Success stories of several students from each school or program were shared and each received a certificate. Each program had the opportunity to have their students create and display posters for a contest with the theme “Why crime does not pay”. An event was held at the courthouse for service providers where each was recognized for the work they do with the youth they serve.

• Efforts are being made by several members of the Escambia council to organize a gang task force for education and intervention activities. Leaders in the area attended a council meeting to educate members and encourage them to become involved in prevention and intervention measures.

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Okaloosa County

- The Okaloosa Council participated in Youth Success Day. The council provided tables for service providers and entertainment by local youth during the Mall Event. Community service hours were given to youth who attended or performed.

Walton County

- The Walton County Council identified local providers of youth services to be guest speakers at its council meetings. The Superintendent of the Okaloosa Regional Detention Center was a guest speaker and expressed a need for recreation equipment at the shared facility. Council members were able to secure some donations of materials to build equipment at the Detention Center.

Circuit 2 (Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla)

Leon County

- The Leon Council participated in the DJJ/Providers Annual Softball game in collaboration with several Leon County Agencies and a day of softball was enjoyed by all as well as food.

- For DJJ Youth Success Day, Leon Council members in collaboration with DJJ Circuit 2, the Henry & Rilla White Foundation, AMIKids-Tallahassee, Tallahassee Police Department SHOCAP unit, and PACE Center for Girls promoted and attended a Youth Talent Show.

- Leon Council members attended numerous community meetings and city and county commission meetings in support of a new DJJ/City/County Teen Center – Palmer Munroe Restorative Justice & Youth Activities Center. A presentation was made on behalf of the Council and pledged financial support. Efforts were successful and the Center will open August 2010 with a Grand Opening for the Community. The Council in collaboration with many agencies in Leon County assisted with the formation and support of the Palmer Munroe Center Youth Advisory Board that will also assist with the Youth Advisory Committee of the Leon County Council.

Franklin County

- Franklin Council members and the KIT Program youth participated in activities during Juvenile Justice Week by assembling on the Courthouse steps where the County Commission presented a signed Resolution to recognize Youth Success Week and promoting awareness to juvenile issues.

- Council members along with several collaborative partners joined to plan Franklin County’s 1st Annual “12 Days of Summer-2010” Program. Various events were highlighted during the three-month program. A Youth Forum addressed teen concerns and a talent show. Workshops were held to include topics from nutrition, skin care,
tobacco prevention, responsible fatherhood, first aid, and conflict resolution. Prevention topics included social issues, such as teen pregnancy, suicide, and alcohol and drug abuse.

- Council members collaborated with The Friends of the Franklin County Public Library's Youth Program students to assist in organizing a Thanksgiving Holiday project. Students raised money by bagging groceries to purchase fruits and make fruit platters and cards that were distributed to community members.

Circuit 3 (Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor)

**Madison County**

- The Madison Council was re-organized after a lapse in leadership/membership. The council re-established guidelines and by-laws for the next three years.

Circuit 4 (Clay, Duval, and Nassau)

**Clay County**

- The Clay County Council collaborated with Safe & Drug Free Schools and the Clay Action Coalition to produce the Annual Clay County School Year Calendar for Drug Free Schools, which serves as a source of useful information for parents and students in the community.

- The Clay County Juvenile Justice Council is partnering with First Coast Family Counseling and Teen Court of Clay County, FL, Inc. to offer the Healthy Teens program, a 12 week experiential program focused on helping teens developing impulse control, improving emotional management skills, & stopping substance abuse.

**Nassau County**

- The Nassau Council sponsored the Open House day for the new Nassau Juvenile Probation Office in Yulee. The Nassau Council serves as the agent for overseeing the education program provided to Nassau House by the Nassau School Board program in association with the White Foundation.

Circuit 5 (Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, and Sumter)

**Marion County**

- The Marion Council members provided speakers and served as speakers at the Annual Domestic Violence Workshop held each fall. The council members assisted with presentations, food preparation, advertising, etc. for Red Ribbon Week.

- The Council participated in Sticker Shock, an Alcohol Awareness Campaign.
- Marion County Youth Summits receive support from council members through varied venues to include: food preparation; speaker at breakout sessions; registration; etc.

Circuit 6 (Pasco and Pinellas)

**Pasco County**

- The Board in collaboration with the Pasco Council selected students who made a marvelous turnaround while involved in a juvenile justice program. Fifteen youths were awarded in a turnaround ceremony that recognized them for their hard work and accomplishments in front of a group of 70 people including program staff, family, and friends.
- The Board and the Pasco County Council collaborated with YFA RUN, PACE Center, BBBS, and Pasco Girls Academy to provide awareness and to help reduce juvenile delinquency. The Council also provided information and involvement with the SOS conference.
- The Board and the Pasco Council collaborated with various agencies to provide awareness of DJJ Youth Success Week in Pasco and Pinellas County.

Circuit 7 (Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns, and Volusia)

**Flagler County**

- Flagler Council sponsored the 2009 YES: Youth Empowerment Summit where 100, 6th-12th grade, youth participated in 1.5 days of workshops covering: Bullying, Love Shouldn't Hurt, Alcohol, Employability, and developed skits for each topic. Youth also participated in a Ropes Challenge Class and Geo Fitness.
- The Council sponsored the development, production, and distribution for the DJJ Councils Community Garden, which provides food to area food pantries, help feed Flagler's hungry, and provide an outlet for area youth to volunteer in exchange for Community Service hours.
- During DJJ Youth Success Week, the Council hosted a Community Garden “Thank You” Breakfast that was held at the Hilton Garden Inn that recognized and thanked volunteers who have worked countless hours developing the Community Garden.
- The Council also worked with Teen Court and sponsored a Mock Trial during DJJ Week in which 120 elementary youth and guests attended. The focus of the trial was “Cyber Bullying” and it demonstrated what could happen when youth carry things too far.

**Putnam County**

- In Putnam County, the Anti-Drug Coalition launched “Be the Wall” marketing campaign Sept 2009 with numerous influential guest speakers. It was videotaped and will be used for television promotions.

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• The Circuit 7 Faith Community Network Initiative & Steering Committee’s “Evening of Faith” was a success; 18 ministers were present.

Volusia County

• Volusia Council had a strong presence in the Volusia County Health and Human Services Summit October 2009 at the Ocean Center that was sponsored by One Voice for Volusia. All members brought attention to the various services each agency provided as well as provided information on the Juvenile Justice System and all it offers.

• The Council, in collaboration with other agencies, participated in Youth Success Week (April 16, 2010) by hosting their 2nd annual Employee and Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Daytona Beach Police Department allowed the use of their facility for the event and 18 people from various agencies were recognized for their outstanding performance working with the youth in Volusia County.

Circuit 8 (Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union)

• Each county on a rotating basis hosts Circuit 8 monthly board meetings. The hosting county provides a luncheon for all attendees. The youth from the hosting county is recognized for outstanding work in the community and is provided a framed certificate from the circuit board.

Circuit 9 (Orange and Osceola)

Osceola County

• The Osceola Council worked with local leaders to ensure that the Osceola Regional Detention Center would remain open.

• The Council facilitated meetings between various providers and community members and was able to identify programs for youth in need of services.

Orange County

• The Orange Council assisted with “211 in a bag”, a social services community event, which occurred on April 17, 2010 with supervision by DJJ Probation Officers and Orange County Oaks Probation Officers. It was a collaborative social service effort including mentoring pamphlets, health info from Florida Hospital, educational information from OCPS, Family Counseling, the Youth Shelter, Family Resource Program, and DJJ Prevention pamphlets. The community service hours earned by youth (probationers) while delivering the bags and putting the bags together was 343 hours.

• The Orange Council worked collaboratively with the Safe Schools Healthy Students grant and was able to implement a suspension center for youth, titled Youth Central. Parents
attended an evidenced based parenting group called Parenting with Love and Limits. Expansions to the program are in development.

Circuit 10 (Hardee, Highlands, and Polk)

- The Just Girls Conference “Just Letting Go” was held in September 2009 to educate teenage girls on risky behaviors.
- The Yellow Dress was presented in April 2010, which is a dramatic one actress play giving teens and adults the warning signs of teen violence and was for both girls and boys.
- In October 2009, DJJ, TPPA, and the Polk County Health Department sponsored a one-day forum that targeted professionals working with youth of all ages. “Generational Crossover, from wedding rings to nose rings” had 100 participants with nationally known speakers from North Carolina.
- A Youth Rally was held in collaboration with DJJ, TPPA, and other faith partners where approximately 200 youth participated in an evening of dancing and dramatic skits that encouraged young people to communicate for “Let’s Talk Month“.
- For the Teen Summit 2010 “Your Choice, Your Future”, the Polk County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Alliance, DJJ, and over 100 community partners used music, dance, dramatic skits, and special guest appearances to help bring awareness and educate more than 800 local youth ages 10-19 and adults about teen pregnancy and risky behaviors.
- The Faith Based Committee has been helping with transportation for families to get to court appointments; assisting families with food, clothing, housing, and counseling;
- helping families with clothing/uniforms for children who are returning to school from detention centers; and an event with free back to school supplies and “hair do’s“.
- DMC Committee worked hard to develop partnerships with law firms to represent children free of charge in court, NAACP, and other Civic organizations. They are partnering with events such as Back to school events, summer programs within high-risk areas, and taking young men on college field trips. Two trainings were held to help build mentors and families.

Circuit 11 (Dade)

- The Board, the Children’s Trust, and the University of Miami sponsored a community forum in October 2009 entitled “Cradle to Prison Pipeline”. The forum was to provide community awareness of the Juvenile Justice Circuit Board and to receive input from the community as to what they perceive as the juvenile delinquency issues that should be addressed. There were over 400 participants.
• The Faith Committee collaborated with the Faith Community Network to sponsor a Faith Forum and Chaplaincy Training June 3-5, 2010. There were approximately 100 faith partners and interested community individuals in attendance including faith partners from Stuart, West Palm Beach, and Broward County.

Circuit 12 (Desoto, Manatee, and Sarasota)

• Circuit 12 has been working on the Attorney General’s Gang Reduction Strategy in both Manatee and Sarasota. Both counties have sub-committees working on the six objectives to help the community and the youth in the community to remain free from gang involvement or to get out of the gangs and become productive citizens.

Manatee County

• Manatee County hosted its countywide event, the 15th Annual "Manatee County Children’s Summit”, a community collaboration held at the Manatee Civic Center on August 9, 2009. The Summit was free to the community and attended by approximately 10,000 children and their parents as well as Juvenile Justice Board members, County Commissioners, Mayors, Children's Services Advisory Board members, Law Enforcement, and other dignitaries. Parents were able to connect and receive information from 150-160 providers of direct human services programs.

• Desoto, Manatee, and Sarasota Juvenile Justice Councils collaborated with the Family Safety Alliance, which meets once per month as a coalition to oversee the Community Based Care (CBC) provider for the child welfare population and ensure the children's safety.

Circuit 13 (Hillsborough)

• The Board was a partner in the creation and operation of the school-based Civil Citation (CC) program in Hillsborough that exceeded their numbers until Zero Tolerance was passed so referrals went down, which is a GOOD thing. A Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee was added this year to assist with awareness and data distribution among community partners. The Board has also taken an interest in bullying in schools and is collaborating to create awareness.

• The Board has been a co-sponsor of an annual training event along with the Hillsborough Healthy Teen Network for the past few years and arranging the training segment. The Board is also a co-sponsor of the Annual Domestic Violence Conference.

• The Board was a partner in the creation of the Children of Hillsborough’s Incarcerated Parents (CHIP) and maintains an interest in its implementation and expansion. Data shows a significant percentage of juvenile justice clients have an incarcerated parent.
• The Board is heavily involved in the planning, organization and implementation of the Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative.

Circuit 14 (Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington)

Bay County

• The Bay County Council fulfilled a two-year partnership with United Way to complete a countywide needs assessment. Outcomes will be used to form coalitions and partnerships to address community needs; bring grant dollars to Bay County to assist in solving the underlying causes of human service needs within the County, and assist other funding organizations in determining where to best spend/apply their resources.

• Bay County collaborated with the community during DJJ Youth Success Week and Panama City Mayor read proclamation that recognized the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice’s commitment to protecting the public by reducing juvenile crime and delinquency. Attending the reading were participants from the ASAP mentoring program as well as staff from the Bay County Health Department and the City of Panama City.

• A collaboration of concerned stakeholders, officials, and 100+ interested parties met at a community forum to answer questions concerning juvenile crime and truancy in Bay County. DJJ officials were available to provide a state perspective on juvenile delinquency and truancy, the Sheriff’s Office provided the status for juvenile crime; Bay School District, Student Services Coordinator provided a status of juvenile truancy; Panama City Police discussed what to do to reduce juvenile crime and truancy; and Pentecostal Worship Center and Family of God Church provided solutions from a community perspective.

Jackson County

• The Jackson Council collaborated with the Jackson County Health Dept and the Substance Abuse Prevention Council to host a tobacco prevention event at several of the high schools.

• The Jackson Council participated in Panhandle Area Educational Consortiums (PAEC) Sexual Violence Prevention grant. This grant continues to provide a social marketing campaign to the high schools in Jackson County to combat sexual violence in dating.

• The council also participated in PAEC Guiding Students course. This program provides evidence-based curriculum to parents and students to improve communication, reduce delinquency, and prevent substance abuse.
Gulf County

- The Gulf Council provide after school tutoring, mentoring, and counseling to youth. The council also provides a computer lab available to youth to complete their homework assignments in a safe and respectable environment conducive to learning.

Holmes County

- The Holmes Council sponsored the Annual Picnic in the Park in September to promote anti-substance use, targets youth ages 6-18 and their parents. The Council also sponsors a Christmas event in two different locations to give toys to children from birth to 12 years old.

Washington County


Circuit 15 (Palm Beach)

- In collaboration with local faith based organizations, two community forums were conducted to increase awareness of services within the faith community and to share resources in the public sector. Sixty (60+) members of the community were trained in the chaplaincy process.

- The Circuit in collaboration with the PBCSD maintains a very successful Youth Court where approximately 5,000 youth are serviced. The Drug Abuse Foundation implemented the Strengthening Families program for this population.

- The PBCSD continues to provide FACE IT, an alternative to suspension program for youth suspended for substance use on school grounds/programs. Through the support of the Court, Palm Beach County is implementing a Family Drug Court (May 2010) in addition to a Youth Drug Court, which seeks to provide services for families including children.

Circuit 16 (Monroe)

- The Circuit sponsored a Town Hall Meeting in February 2010 with a State Representative to discuss the closing of the Monroe Regional Juvenile Detention Center.

- During Youth Success Week, the Board held its 4th Annual Open House, which allows several agencies, providers, and groups to showcase what they do to help youth. Lunch was included.
Circuit 17 (Broward)

- The Circuit Board Retreat was a major accomplishment that revamped the purpose of the Circuit Board and has resulted in a drastic increase of member and community stakeholders’ participation.

- Development of the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) and the Zero Tolerance subcommittees resulted in the collaboration with the Broward County School District and the Circuit 17 Juvenile Justice Board in the restructuring of the Zero Tolerance Policy in dealing with misdemeanors. The goal is to prevent students from entering the Juvenile Justice System for behavioral infractions and concentrate on programs and practices that would lead to good citizenship.

Circuit 18 (Brevard and Seminole)

- Circuit 18 developed its comprehensive prevention plan

Circuit 19 (Indian River, Okeechobee, Martin, and St. Lucie)

Indian River County

- The Indian River Council updated its bylaws and 5-year plan this past year. Indian River County continues to have Juvenile Justice Probation Officers work closely with the middle and high schools. For the last several years a JPO has been assigned to Vero Beach High School that has proven to be a great resource for the high school, law enforcement, students, and families. A process has been developed between the DJJ and the School District of Indian River County to share relevant data needed to create an effective continuum of services.

Martin County

- The Martin Council collaborated with other agencies for Project Northland – Red Ribbon Week, Summer Smash – educational programs for youth about substance abuse, separate programs for parents, and programs in middle schools in Martin County. The Martin Council in collaboration with the Martin County Sheriffs Office, and Shared Services network provided “Operation Medicine Cabinet” that safely disposes of unused and unwanted prescription drugs to keep the drugs out of the hands of children and adolescents.

St. Lucie County

- The St. Lucie Council formed committees to address strategic planning. Developed strategies to address risk groups. The council also established a case analysis process to address gang strategy.

Statewide Overview for 2009-10
• The council involved the State Attorney to expand diversion options to include second time offenders on a case-by-case basis.

Okeechobee County

• Okeechobee County developed its comprehensive prevention plan. Okeechobee Council members actively participate in all functions and/or events pertaining to Okeechobee County youth.

Circuit 20 (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee)

• The Board hosted a Zero Tolerance and Truancy Roundtable in October of 2009 that was attended by over 70 individuals representing all the counties. The focus was on promising approaches as alternatives to school based arrests including civil citation, suspension/expulsion review teams to identify mitigating factors, law enforcement prevention programming, restorative conferencing, best practices in reducing truancy, CINS/FINS services, and timely processing of younger truants and adult petitions.

• In May 2010, the Board collaborated with several Lee County agencies to host “YO, DAWG!” (Youth Opportunities: Doing Away With Gangs) with over 100 people in attendance. “YO, DAWG!” provided a forum on the prevention and early intervention of youth gangs in Southwest Florida, an overview on how to identify gang members, local trends in youth gangs, how the community can assist law enforcement in addressing gang issues, a human services perspective on addressing youth gang issues.

Lee County

• The Lee Council held food drives for the schools summer feeding program and held clean-ups in neighborhood areas needing cleaning or beautification in.

Charlotte County

• The Charlotte County Council is evaluating their strategic plan and member training.

Prepared September 2010

Statewide Overview for 2009-10
OUR 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.

OUR 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.

985.664 - Juvenile Justice Circuit Board and Juvenile Justice County Council There is authorized a juvenile justice circuit board to be established in each of the 20 judicial circuits and a juvenile justice county council to be established in each of the 67 counties. The purpose of each juvenile justice circuit board and each juvenile justice county council is to provide advice and direction to the department in the development and implementation of juvenile justice programs and to work collaboratively with the department in seeking program improvements and policy changes to address the emerging and changing needs of Florida’s youth who are at risk of delinquency.
**JJ Circuit Boards** provide advice and direction to the Department in the development and implementation of juvenile justice programs; work collaboratively with the Department in seeking program improvements and policy changes to address the emerging and changing needs of Florida's youth who are at risk of delinquency; make recommendations for more effectively utilizing existing community resources in dealing with juveniles who are found to be involved in crime.

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<tr>
<td>Strive to maintain membership in accordance with 985.664 Florida statute</td>
<td>Circuit boards should conduct their business in accordance with the state laws relating to &quot;Government in the Sunshine&quot; Chapter 112</td>
<td>Advise the Department regarding the development of the LBRs for juvenile justice programs and services in the circuit</td>
<td>Ensure that circuit board operates according to adopted bylaws</td>
<td>Circuit boards are responsible for developing a written annual report to DJJ on the activities of the board and each county council in the circuit; submit annual report to DJJ</td>
<td>Develop a comprehensive plan for the circuit that is based upon the county plans in the circuit; submit comprehensive prevention plan to DJJ</td>
<td>Develop a circuit interagency cooperation and information sharing agreement that supplements county agreements and expands the scope to include appropriate circuit officials and groups</td>
<td>Advise and assist the Department in the evaluation and award of prevention and early intervention grant program</td>
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<td>May not exceed (18) members, except when bylaws revised to reflect not more than three (3) additional members</td>
<td>Provide circuit board information to the Department in the form of public meeting notice, meeting agenda, and meeting minutes</td>
<td>Provide input into the DJJ’s legislative agenda</td>
<td>Revise bylaws as needed; submit bylaws to DJJ</td>
<td>Technical assistance is available if needed by DJJ staff</td>
<td>Monitor, evaluate, and update prevention plan as needed</td>
<td>Technical assistance is available if needed by DJJ staff</td>
<td>Apply for and receive public or private grants, to be administered by one of the community partners that support one or more components of the circuit plan</td>
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**JJ County Councils** provide advice and direction to the DJJ in the development and implementation of juvenile justice programs; Work collaboratively with the Department in seeking program improvements and policy changes to address the emerging and changing needs of Florida's youth who are at risk of delinquency; make recommendations for more effectively utilizing existing community resources in dealing with juveniles who are found to be involved in crime.

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<td>Designates the county representatives to the juvenile justice circuit board</td>
<td>Conduct their business in accordance with the state laws relating to &quot;Government in the Sunshine&quot; Chapter 112</td>
<td>Advise the Department regarding the development of the LBRs for juvenile justice programs and services in the circuit</td>
<td>Revise bylaws as needed; submit bylaws to DJJ</td>
<td>The county councils are responsible for developing a written annual report and recommendations to the circuit board and DJJ</td>
<td>Develop a prevention &amp; early intervention plan for the county; collaborate with the circuit board and other councils in circuit to develop a comprehensive plan for the circuit</td>
<td>Participate in facilitating interagency cooperation and information sharing</td>
<td>Advise and assist the Department in the evaluation and award of prevention and early intervention grant program</td>
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<td>Strive to maintain membership in accordance with 985.664 Florida statute</td>
<td>Provide council information to DJJ in the form of public meeting notice, meeting agenda, and meeting minutes</td>
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<td>The duties and authority of the executive commit must be addressed in the bylaws</td>
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<td>Monitor, evaluate, and update prevention plan as needed</td>
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