

# Juvenile Justice Circuit Boards and County Councils Highlights



## A Statewide Overview for FY 2011-12

*Rick Scott, Governor*



*Wansley Walters, Secretary*

*Wanda Finnie, Assistant Secretary*



### 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.

The logo for the Juvenile Justice Circuit Boards features a stylized purple building with columns and a pediment, set within a yellow circular frame. Below the building, the text "Juvenile Justice Circuit Boards" is written in a light purple font.

Juvenile Justice  
Circuit Boards

#### ***Section 985.664 Florida Statute***

#### ***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.*

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### JUVENILE JUSTICE CIRCUIT BOARDS AND COUNTY COUNCILS

1st Circuit Board	Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton
2nd Circuit Board	Franklin, Wakulla, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty
3rd Circuit Board	Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor
4th Circuit Board	Nassau, Duval, Clay
5th Circuit Board	Lake, Marion, Citrus, Sumter, Hernando
6th Circuit Board	Pasco, Pinellas
7th Circuit Board	Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns, Volusia
8th Circuit Board	Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, Union
9th Circuit Board	Orange, Osceola
10th Circuit Board	Polk, Hardee, Highlands
11th Circuit Board	Miami-Dade
12th Circuit Board	DeSoto, Manatee, Sarasota
13th Circuit Board	Hillsborough
14th Circuit Board	Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf
15th Circuit Board	Palm Beach
16th Circuit Board	Monroe
17th Circuit Board	Broward
18th Circuit Board	Seminole, Brevard
19th Circuit Board	Indian River, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin
20th Circuit Board	Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, Collier

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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 were 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*

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*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 juvenile justice stakeholders, including: district school superintendents, local government officials, local school system, including administrators, teachers, school counselors, parents, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) administrator, local law enforcement, the judicial system, business community and interested officials and groups, such as children services councils, public or private providers of justice programs and services, students and advocates. The membership on the circuit board is comprised of representatives from the councils within the circuits.

The statutory purpose of each juvenile justice circuit board and 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 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

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early intervention programs and service for 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 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**

Currently, there are 20 circuit boards and 45 county councils, covering all 67 counties. The Boards and Councils are active throughout the state with various levels of participation. 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 DJJ contracted services providers.

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 (*See Board and Council Committee Involvement, page 24*). The Boards and Councils provide a valuable volunteer resource in Florida's fight against juvenile crime.

## **CIRCUIT BOARDS AND COUNTY COUNCILS COORDINATION**

The Office of Circuit Boards and County Councils was established in 2008, for the purpose of creating an effective line of communication between the boards and councils and DJJ headquarters office. The Office of Circuit Boards and County Councils provides oversight, technical assistance, support, and coordination of statewide activities. Some of the supportive activities coordinated for the boards and councils are organizing statewide meetings,

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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 improve communication and advise the boards and councils of various initiatives and priorities with a statewide perspective or impact.

DJJ Executive Leadership Officials often attend statewide board chairs meetings and local circuit meetings. This interaction with local communities provide an opportunity for DJJ officials to advise the Boards and Councils on statewide initiatives and provides a means by which the circuit boards and county councils can address issues with the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Assistant Secretaries.

Local DJJ staff serves as a liaison between the department and the boards and councils and is available to provide limited support and assistance. DJJ staff provides information and serves as a resource for the boards and councils and is available to assist boards and councils in their mission to work on juvenile justice issues with the department.

## **STATEWIDE BOARD AND COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

The boards and councils have engaged in a number of coordinated activities throughout the state. These activities resulted 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 2010-11 Fiscal Year.



### **Legislative Conference Calls**

In order to assist the boards and councils during the legislative session, the department attempts to keep them advised of activities and issues that arise. Prior to the start of each legislative session, each board and council chair is provided with a copy of the department's legislative budget request and substantive proposals for the upcoming session. Information regarding the Governor's recommended budget is also distributed when it becomes available. Additionally, the department sends information to each of the board chairs regarding legislative committees and key legislative contacts.

During the legislative session the department utilizes Legislative Conference Calls to inform the boards and councils about the status of bills and other legislative activities of interest. The conference calls are held on a regular basis to provide information about bill activity that has

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taken place and the proposed schedule for upcoming meetings. The conference calls are used to advise the boards and councils about a specific issue, agenda item, or vote that may be of particular interest or may require more immediate action. Following the legislative session, the department prepares a “wrap-up report” which includes information about substantive and budgetary juvenile justice issues approved during the session.

During the 2012 legislative session eight (8) informational conference calls were held. 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 and community stakeholders to improve information sharing and communication with the DJJ headquarters office. The Circuit Boards were taken through a process of submitting their recommendations for the DJJ’s Legislative Budget Request (LBR) for FY 2012-13. Likewise, the development of the DJJ’s substantive legislative issues also provided for input from the Boards and Councils. All conference call minutes were posted for review on the department’s website.

## **Local Legislative Activities**

### **Circuit 4 (Clay, Duval, and Nassau)**

#### **Duval County**

- DJJ Staff and Jim Clark, Circuit 4 Board Chair provided continuous updates on the legislative process for the 2011-2012 session. Council members supported FJJA legislative events held in December 2011. DJJ contracted programs provided information to elected officials in attendance.

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

- In preparation for the legislative session the Circuit 5 Board hosted a “Provider Fair” in 2011 and invited the community, Circuit 5 providers and legislators to attend. During a public speaking session, providers were given an opportunity to showcase services they provide. The event was well attended and received local media coverage.

### **Circuit 9 (Orange and Osceola)**

- The Circuit 9 Board collaborated with Orange County Council, Home Builders Institute and the Florida Juvenile Justice Association (FJJA) for the FJJA meeting and information event in November 2011.

#### **Osceola County**

- Osceola County Council provided information to local legislators regarding issues resulting from the closure of the Osceola Juvenile Detention Center in June 2011.

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### **Orange County**

- Orange County Council collaborated with, Home Builders Institute and the Florida Juvenile Justice Association (FJJA) for the FJJA Legislative meeting and information event on November 2011.

### **Circuit 15 (Palm Beach)**

- Circuit 15 Board participated in several special meetings to discuss the proposed Zero Tolerance legislation and youth records. Positions were taken on both items and every member of the legislative delegation, education and juvenile justice committees were contacted on the zero tolerance recommendations.

### **Circuit 17 (Broward)**

- The Circuit 17 Legislative committee developed legislative language for a bill submitted by legislators from the Florida House and Senate and represented juvenile justice issues in Broward County during the Legislative Session.

## **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Week – January 29<sup>th</sup> through February 3, 2012**

For the past 17 years, the only true broad-based promotion of children and family issues in Florida has been Children's Week. Children's Week develops and implements over 200 community events and activities statewide, bringing thousands of parents, children, policy makers, professionals, community leaders and concerned citizens together to share valuable knowledge and information about children's issues in each community across the state and at the State Capitol. Gov. Rick Scott and Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll joined DJJ Secretary Wansley Walters at the Capitol to celebrate Children's Week. DJJ participated in the "Hanging of the Hands" Dedication Ceremony at the Capitol and DJJ set up an Information Booth in the Capitol Rotunda. DJJ also joined with Children's Week to celebrate the success of juvenile justice-involved youth as they work to build a brighter future, and the partnerships that make youth achievement possible. DJJ recognized several outstanding young adults for their accomplishments. Concerned citizens, stakeholders and service agencies from across Florida came to the Capitol to share valuable information concerning children's issues. Several statewide activities occurred during the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Week:

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

### **Santa Rosa County**

- The Youth Success Celebration was well attended. Nine (9) youth received an award this year. Donations were received from Sweet Frog (frozen yogurt company), Firehouse Subs, and Publix, Inc. The Santa Rosa Press Gazette took pictures and wrote an article for the paper. Judge Robert Hilliard was the speaker for the evening. The council and community agencies all played a part in planning and setting up for the event.

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

- Circuit 3 Board chair, Curt Jenkins attended DJJ activities at the Capitol during Youth Success Week.

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

- Circuit 5 Board participated in the Community Garden Planting project in Lake County and the Provider Fair held in Marion County for Youth Success Week. In support of Youth Success Week, representatives from the Circuit 5 Board coordinated youth from Lake and Sumter Teen Courts attending activities at the Capitol during Youth Success Week. Youth were able to tour the capitol and interact with legislators. In addition, during Youth Success Week the board prepared a resolution that was delivered to Secretary Walters in support of the direction of the department and requested for the agency to be “held harmless” with any future cuts, specifically prevention funding.

### **Lake County**

- To celebrate Youth Success Week, Lake Council recognized the local Juvenile Probation Officers and thanked them for their efforts. A planting event was scheduled for the community garden with council member participation. Lake County Teen Court took youth volunteers to the Capitol. They met with legislators, got their picture with Governor Scott, listened to Secretary Walters speak, and participated in Children’s Capitol for a Day sponsored activities. The Juvenile Justice Council also had a DJJ involved youth speak at a meeting about his experiences and positive interventions.

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

### **Flagler County**

- Flagler Council participated in several Youth Success Week activities in January 2012. The Trauma Informed Care workshop Speaker Carl Coalson led an informative workshop

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on the need for Trauma Informed Care, including how to identify indicators leading to the treatment of persons using Trauma Informed Care tools and or guidelines.

- Children’s Day provided many activities for local youth to showcase talents and have fun celebrating childhood. Face painting, dinner, games and performances by different youth groups were held at the Governments Services Center from 4-7pm. The event was coordinated by Katrina Townsend, Flagler Council member and Flagler County School personnel.
- Flagler County Youth Break Out Dance was held for local youth and hosted by the Flagler County Youth Center. The event was for 7th-8th graders and all proceeds benefited the Teen Court participants in Mock Trial costs.
- Youth Recognition Ceremony (Youth Success Week Event) was held in February 2012 - First annual Youth “Turn It Around” Recognition Dinner. This event recognized youth who have made significant strides in turning their life around. Approximately 75 parents, youth, teachers, Kiwanis Members and community service organizations attended.
- Teen Court Mock Trial (Youth Success Week Event) Teen Court Presented Mock Trial students from Rymfire Elementary and Bunnell Elementary attended. The event was held at the Kim C. Hammond Justice Center.

#### **Putnam County**

- Carl Coalson, SEDNET and Putnam County AntiDrug Coalition, along with the Department of Juvenile Justice held a Youth Success Day, recognizing youth from Putnam County. Seminars were held, dinner followed and numerous youth were presented certificates of accomplishments. Tom Townsend, Superintendent of Schools was the keynote speaker. Pastor Karl Flagg, former mayor, presented a leadership seminar and Michele Garner, Juvenile Crime Prevention Office and Cindy Starling, CDS Family and Behavioral Services held a seminar providing information on drug awareness and substance abuse. More than 200 youth attended the day’s activities.

#### **Volusia County**

- Youth, Volunteer and Employee of the Year Award Luncheon was held in February 2012. The Volusia Council was able to receive donations and prepare a wonderful luncheon for the youth, volunteers and employees that were recognized in Volusia in conjunction with Children’s Week in Tallahassee (Youth Success Day). One youth was recognized and was presented with a Wii that was donated to Volusia Council. All volunteers and

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staff also received a certificate as well as a gift card. The Honorable Judge Grimes was the guest speaker. There were approximately 80 people in attendance.

### **Circuit 9 (Orange and Osceola)**

#### **Osceola County**

- Osceola Council participated in Youth Success Week events by providing information to local community members.

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

#### **Bay County**

- Youth Success Week - January 31, 2012 – Bay Council observance of the week was celebrated by a Proclamation signing and photo opportunity with Panama City Mayor, Greg Brudnicki. The week included a host of activities celebrated throughout the week by a number of organizations. During Youth Success Week, the After School Assistance Program (ASAP) kids participated in an International Fair sponsored by Gulf Coast State College.

#### **Washington County**

- Washington Council and Wal-Mart partnered during Youth Success Week to honor three youth selected for improved behavior and attitude. The students were recognized with a \$25 gift card and a certificate honoring each for their improvement. All three recipients made major changes and were modeling the theme of the week, "Taking Responsibility of Me."

#### **Circuit 16 (Monroe)**

- Youth Success Week event included Open House and Youth and Partner Awards Ceremony with guest speaker, Ms. Lois Salton, South Residential Regional Director. RaiEtte Avel, retiring Chief Probation Officer, was presented with a plaque from the Department of Juvenile Justice for her many years of service to the youth and families of Monroe County. Approximately 100 people attended the event. The event also included 15 partners who displayed programs and eligibility criteria during the Open House and Youth and Partner Award Ceremony.

### **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

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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 their local 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.

- Prevention and intervention DMC programs were maintained in the seven (7) high delinquency referral counties (Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Orange, and Duval).
- DMC prevention workshops were held with multiple Law Enforcement entities throughout the state. Development of a Law Enforcement/Youth communication model for awareness and education to Law Enforcement Officers, Youth and Court Officials
- According to the 2011 Benchmark Report, Florida experienced a 28% increase, statewide, in the Relative Rate Index (RRI) for black youth from FY 2000-2001 to 2009-2010.
- Alachua county experienced a 13% decrease in the RRI for black youth from FY 2005-2006 to 2009-2010

### **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

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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.

- Currently, more than 1,800 faith communities and faith-based organizations serve as Faith Partners providing services such as mentoring, tutoring, after school programs, pastoral care and counseling.
- The (6) hour Volunteer Chaplaincy Basic Training was held in numerous communities around Florida. The purpose of the training is to ensure all of our Faith Partners, Chaplains and volunteers are prepared to successfully serve the youth and families within the juvenile justice system. To date, (624) volunteer Chaplains and faith volunteers have completed the Chaplains Basic Training.
- A Faith Community Network/Chaplaincy Leadership Team has been developed in each of the 20 Judicial Circuits to provide oversight and support to Faith Network Partners and volunteer Chaplains in their designated circuit area. Currently, a Chaplain has been designated in each detention center and state operated residential program. Chaplains are in the process of being recruited in the remaining residential programs.
- To date partnerships with statewide organizations include the 11<sup>th</sup> District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Florida Catholic Conference, Sports World Ministries, Trinity Broadcast Network, Kenneth Copeland Ministries, One Hope Ministries, All Pro Dads, Meet the Need.org, and Upward Bound Outreach Ministries.
- The Department of Juvenile Justice has developed a partnership with the Department of Children and Families to extend the circle of care to at-risk youth through the Faith Community Network. This partnership extends faith-based services to other areas such as homelessness, foster care, adoption and domestic violence and closes the gaps in service for many at-risk youth and their families.
- More than 280 faith volunteers, juvenile justice staff and faith partners participated in the “Our Children, Our Future” Faith and Community Symposium held November 8-9, 2011 in Altamonte Springs, Florida. (35) workshops were held that focused on raising awareness of issues impacting at-risk youth and their families, educating faith communities on the juvenile justice system, connecting resources of community and faith based organizations, as well as providing training to improve and enhance faith and community based programs and services to at-risk youth. This second annual symposium was a collaborative effort of the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Department of Children and Families.

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## 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. DJJ anticipates awarding a total of \$1.2 million in partnership grant funds to all counties in Fiscal Year 2012-13.

## Invest in Children License 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 2011-12 fiscal year generated \$289,949.

## LOCAL INITIATIVES OF THE BOARDS AND COUNCILS

During FY 2011-12, 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 were accomplished during the year 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 Circuit Boards 2011-12 Annual Reports.



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

#### Walton County

- The Walton Council advocated for local law enforcement efforts to remove Synthetic Marijuana and Bath Salts from local stores. These efforts were spearheaded by the DeFuniak Springs Police Department.
- Walton Council members participated in developing coordination of services through the Women Intervention Services program and the Henry and Rilla White Foundation

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

### **Franklin County**

- Franklin Council members organized the Franklin County School student supply drive.
- Franklin Council members took an active role in Career Day at Franklin County Consolidated School. Collaborations included: Franklin County Consolidated School; The Refuge House; JASP (Juvenile Alternative Sanctions Program); Friends of Franklin County Public Library TIGERS; Renovation and Education Program; DARE Program, Franklin County Health Department Tobacco and Students Working Against Tobacco program.
- Franklin Council members addressed the issue of bullying in the county schools and took steps to initiate and address anti-bullying task force.

### **Leon County**

- Leon Council members participated in Project Payback. The program was developed and implemented by the Henry and Rilla White Foundation. It is utilized by the White Foundation, AMIKids, Alternative Sanctions and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Any youth who owes restitution to victims or fees to the Crime Victims' Compensation fund and are supervised by one of our juvenile agencies is eligible. Approximately \$26,135 was contributed by the McKenzies to date with over \$14,388 restitution paid to victims. Leon Council presented a plaque to the McKenzies for their contribution and a certificate of appreciation to HOPE House/Big Bend Homeless Coalition.
- Leon Council members assisted and participated in the Soul Santa event at the Walker Ford Center which included collaboration with Tallahassee Police Department and Tallahassee Fire Department along with several agencies donating toward gifts for all children.
- Leon Council members contributed and helped collect items for the Leon County Sheriff's Department Coat Drive along with other clothing items. The items were donated to struggling families and their children to assist during the cold winter months.
- Leon Council members participated in the Leon County Chapter of the American Cancer Society's RELAY for LIFE event. Local youth and council members volunteered and participated during the event in April 2012.

### **Liberty County**

- Liberty Council members partnered with the Liberty County Sheriff's Office on implementing the Civil Citation program.

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- Liberty Council has been working closely with the Liberty County Community Coalition. A county needs assessment has been distributed and results are currently under review.

#### **Wakulla County**

- Wakulla Council partners with Disc Village, Inc. the Sheriff's Office and School District, among others. The council is dependent on the partnership/collaborative to develop prevention/juvenile justice capacity. The council's data-driven, shared vision and shared leadership approach to planning and implementation of appropriate evidence-based practices have consistently demonstrated good outcomes.
- The Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, primarily through School Resource Officers issued 77 Civil Citations in the two year period 2009-2011. Of these 77, thirty-one were referred to Teen Intervene.

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

##### **Madison County**

- Madison Council members were involved in an Anti-Bullying rally to promote a community stance against bullying. This successful event was sponsored by the Safe Schools/Healthy Student Initiative, business owners, and the faith based community. The event was announced on television and an article was published in the local newspaper.

##### **Circuit 4 (Clay, Duval, and Nassau)**

##### **Duval County**

- Duval Council currently has a SAMHSA System of Care grant that has provided resources to the community to infuse the system of care core principals in service provision. The council is a forum for the exchange of information regarding this endeavor.

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

- Circuit 5 Board hosted its Annual Juvenile Justice Conference in May 2012. The event included a varied agenda that was appealing to providers, law enforcement, the Department of Juvenile Justice staff, and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) staff. During the event, the board recognized the Juvenile Probation Officer of the year for the Circuit and each county in Circuit 5. A Juvenile Detention Officer of the year was recognized from Marion Regional Juvenile Detention Center and DCF staff was also recognized. This event was FREE to all participants and approximately 300 attended.

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## **Lake County**

- Lake Council brainstormed alternative ways for youth to earn community service hours due to difficulty in finding worksites due to age, lack of transportation, or rural isolation. The project ideas were designed to make the youth think “outside of themselves”. Some of the projects include: creating a family disaster plan or disaster preparedness kit, conducting a home energy audit, researching contrasting opinions of animal testing or captivity, living below the poverty line; complete a lifesaving course, and serve as a caretaker. This resulted in the youth having more than 50 ways to earn community service hours on their own.
- Lake Council utilize guest speakers as a part of their meetings to keep members informed of what is going on, what’s needed and how to work together to improve the lives of our youth. Speakers discuss areas of concern; synthetic marijuana, underage drinking, risky youth behaviors (sex and STD’s), as well as to inform group members of new services being provided.

## **Circuit 6 (Pasco and Pinellas)**

### **Pasco County**

- Pasco Council sponsored the Turnaround Awards Program. The youth recognized were those who have turned to more positive behaviors.
- Pasco Council participated in a Pill Drop event sponsored by the Alliance For Substance Abuse Prevention, Runaway Alternatives Project (RAP) House –River Run, Cook in
- Pasco Council participated in PACE Opening-Ribbon Cutting (new facility) and Award Presentation recognizing Senator Mike Fasano for his support.

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

### **Flagler County**

- Flagler Council members made a presentation to Flagler County School Board on Juvenile Delinquency. The council and district representatives spoke to Flagler School Board about Juvenile Delinquency statistics and the impact on Flagler County.
- Flagler Council members participated in the Community Garden: United Way “Make a Difference Day” in October 2011. DJJ Juvenile Probation Officer, Woody Douge coordinated a work day at the Flagler DJJ Community Garden. There were 28 Volunteers, which included 18 youth and 10 Adults who worked hard for three hours and “Made a Difference” at Flagler’s DJJ Community Garden.

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- Flagler Council members participated in Putnam County Correctional Facility Visitation by a group of At-Risk Youth in April 2012. The tour was led by faith based representative, Pastor Charles Silano. Youth met with staff in visitation center and discussed prison life and the loss of freedom.

#### **Putnam County**

- Replication of Putnam County's BEST Program: The history of the news began with two Putnam Council members, Dietrich Champagnie and Diane Weller giving a presentation of the Beasley Educational Support Team (BEST) program to the Circuit 7 Juvenile Justice board. A booklet about their programs, partnerships and services was shared which was created by the Putnam Juvenile Crime Prevention Office.
- Through Circuit 7's Disproportionate Minority Contact committee, a strategic plan and training has been developed with assistance from Carl Coalson of SEDNET in which he prepared a power point presentation and presented to the Putnam Council. The training has been shared with council members who will share with their staff and the community.

#### **St. John's County**

- The St. Johns Council hosted a Trauma Informed Care Training, facilitated by Carl Coalson, SEDNET. More than 50 people attended the training and learned to focus on the trauma that triggers certain behaviors and the role that childhood experiences play in the later years of life.
- A Re-Entry Team was formed this year and meets prior to the county council monthly meeting. Several agencies are collaborating with the council to ensure a more productive transition from detention back into society for our youth. This work has facilitated an even more cooperative relationship among agencies to help the youth of our community.

#### **Volusia County**

- Volusia Council participated in the 2011 Health and Human Services Summit at the Ocean Center. Council members were able to educate those in the community about the council's role with the juvenile justice system as well as share information on the progress of the council's Disproportionate Minority Contact steering committee.
- Volusia Council's Disproportionate Minority Contact subcommittee participated in Juneteenth 2012 event that hosts local providers of healthcare, mental health and other various health/human services. Providers were able to display their information in order to get the word out to the teens of Volusia about the services available in their

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area. The council utilized the event as a kickoff to disseminating DMC information to Volusia County residents.

- Volusia Council members volunteered at the Substance Abuse Task Force Community Forum. Council members assisted in setting up for forum and served as greeters. The forum addressed the overwhelming epidemic of prescription abuse and the impact that it's having on the community. Approximately 300 people attended the event which also received media coverage.

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

- DJJ Secretary Wansley Walters spent November 9-10, 2011 in Alachua County. Circuit 8 Board members demonstrated support of DJJ by attending multiple meetings and events planned during Secretary Walters visit. Secretary Walters was presented with a Signed Resolution by board members and requested that DJJ not sustain any further funding cuts as the department has taken significant cuts previously and wished to be held harmless during the next session.

#### **Circuit 9 (Orange and Osceola)**

##### **Osceola County**

- Osceola Council participated in Annual Statewide Teen Court conference held in December 2012.

##### **Orange County**

- Orange County Government (Wraparound Orange / The Oaks Community Intervention Program, the Orange County Council, DJJ/Circuit 9 and other Youth and Family Services Programs) sponsored the "2nd Annual Healthy Minds Healthy Lives Event" to educate the community on various social services available in Orange County. Approximately 400 adults and children attended this free event. The event included forty (40) social service vendors who provided the public with information related to mental health services, delinquency prevention, mentoring, substance abuse counseling, and dependency information. Sixty-seven (67) youth earned community service hours for their assistance throughout the day. A total of 469 hours of community service were performed during the event by juveniles under the supervision of the Department of Juvenile Justice or the Oaks Program.
- On behalf of Orange Council and The Power Promise Organization, Tekoa Puerie held various gender specific and Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) events throughout the year. A DMC information event was held at the Orange County Sheriff's Administration building with law enforcement, probation officials, and other community

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partners. At that event, Sheriff Jerry Demings restated his commitment to juvenile justice and DMC issues facing the black community.

- Orange Council, Oaks Community Intervention Program, and DJJ Circuit 9 staff sponsored thirteen (13) families who received Thanksgiving family dinners. Families were sponsored who lived in economically deprived zip codes with a meal in order to relieve some stress associated with Thanksgiving due to the families not being able to financially afford a decent dinner. Donations from community partners made the event possible and demonstrated that when various agencies work together, positive achievements occur.

#### **Circuit 10 (Hardee, Highlands, and Polk)**

- Circuit 10 Board members supported the “Rudolph Roundup” for all children being dually served with DJJ and Child Welfare. Circuit 10 Board members were responsible for collecting donations. Heartland for Children leads this event and ensures that the children receive gifts during the holiday season.
- The Boyz 2 Men Conference was held in July 2011 to educate young boys on gang awareness with key speakers revealing their own involvement with gangs which contributed to them spending time in federal/state prison. This is an annual event which is open to Polk, Highlands and Hardee youth and is sponsored by Save Our Sons and the Department of Juvenile Justice.
- Circuit 10 Board found the Crossover Youth Initiative to be one of the most exciting and unique activities. Circuit 10, DJJ, Heartland for Children, and Community Based-Care Agency were selected by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at the Georgetown University’s Public Policy Institute, to be 1 of 3 sites in the State of Florida and 1 of 13 sites in the country to implement the Crossover Youth Practice Model. This initiative focused on youth who were being dually served by DJJ and Child Welfare and how to improve outcomes for these children. There were several board members that actively participated in the implementation of the model.
- Circuit 10 Board members promoted Teen Summit 2012 – Polk County’s Teen Pregnancy Prevention Alliance and Department of Juvenile Justice and over 100 community partners utilized music, dance, dramatic skits and special guest appearances to help bring awareness to and educate more than 500 local youth and adults. Presentations included Straight Talk, Young Leaders, Polk Work Force, Zumba, Laws of the Land, and Sexting and Human Trafficking. The event was free for youth 10-19. Participants received a free lunch, T-shirts and thousands of dollars in incentives were given to participants throughout the day including lap tops, digital cameras, and gift certificates.

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Teens discussed and learned about life issues, as well as listened to several presentations. This was a true collaboration of over 100 partner agencies/organizations and volunteers.

#### **Circuit 11 (Miami-Dade)**

- Circuit 11 Board scheduled two community meetings, one in South Dade and one in North Dade area of Miami-Dade County. The purposes of the meetings were to bring community awareness of the Circuit 11 Board, its initiatives and to collaborate with local community-based organizations, local agencies, parents, youth and schools. Both meetings were well attended and each of the communities was interested in working with the Circuit 11 Board in addressing the needs of the youth. The State Attorney's Justice In Motion (JIM) Mobile Unit participated in the activity in the North Area. The unit was available to assist interested parties with sealing an expungement of criminal records. Youth received community service hours for their assistance in helping to setup for the meeting and clean up after the meeting.

#### **Circuit 13 (Hillsborough)**

- Circuit 13 Board was a partner in the creation and operation of the school-based Civil Citation program in Hillsborough which was previously served by a 3-year federal grant award. The program was continued by utilizing existing community funding and resources and has spread countywide.
- Circuit 13 Board has been a co-sponsor of an annual training event along with the Hillsborough Healthy Teen Network for the past few years. The Board arranges the training segment focusing on topics pertinent to today's juvenile justice professionals.
- Circuit 13 Board is a co-sponsor of the Annual Domestic Violence Conference. Training topics are relevant to today's intervention for DV professionals and receive rave reviews from participants.
- Circuit 13 Board is active in the Youth at Risk Committee that is a collaboration of multiple agencies and providers that deal with cross-system children's issues.

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

- Circuit 14 Board was an instrumental force in the research and success of Phase 1 of the Circuit's Detention Screening project. The group's ongoing involvement with the program will ensure its continued growth and ultimate success.

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### **Bay County**

- Bay Council continue advocating for funding towards evidence-based prevention programs related to underage drinking; a portion of the fine from open house party violation increase goes into a prevention education trust fund.
- Bay Council is excited to have new agencies represented on its council. Catholic Charities/Bridges to Circles is an initiative that works with families who are living in poverty. The program provides support for families and a 15-week training program that evaluates their reasons for being in poverty. Participants receive volunteer support to assist with their goals. Also, Bridging the Gap is grounded in the Twelve Steps as well as true evidenced-based approaches to counseling and therapy.

### **Holmes County**

- Holmes Council participated in several prevention based activities throughout the 2011-12 FY. In July 2011, the council participated in the Annual Patriotic Program which is sponsored by local churches and in September 2011 the Picnic in the park was held. Members hosted a Thanksgiving dinner in November 2011 and in December 2011 council members collaborated with the local coalition, churches and business to sponsor the Annual Holiday Celebration.

### **Washington County**

- On behalf of DJJ, Charlene Miller volunteered with the Washington County School Health Program and Washington County Schools to speak to youth about actions that can contribute to a law violation. She presented to all homerooms of 6th graders at two middle school health fairs.

### **Circuit 15 (Palm Beach)**

- On May 15<sup>th</sup> the first Education-Justice Partnership meeting was held. Secretary Wansley Walters, Chief Judge Peter Blanc, the Superintendent of Schools, E. Wayne Gent, school board members, state attorney's office, public defender's office, school administrators, and building principals discussed juvenile justice issues and areas of mutual concerns and potential solutions.
- Circuit 15 Board members are studying Disproportionate Minority Contact, Racial Ethnic Disparity and assessments. A new committee is in formation to explore options for respite care and youth charged with domestic violence

### **Circuit 17 (Broward)**

- Harmony Development Center (HDC), located in Circuit 17 provides prevention services to siblings of delinquent youth and their families. HDC attends Circuit 17 Board meetings

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to discuss Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) issues in the county. Circuit 17 Board supports HDC by assisting with DMC referrals. The Department of Juvenile Justice has been instrumental in the outreach efforts by participating in various diversion, community meetings, and forums. HDC has served one hundred twenty-three disproportionate minority youth and their families. The continued partnership with Circuit 17 Board will ensure the success of reducing the disproportionate minority over representation in Broward County.

#### **Circuit 18 (Brevard and Seminole)**

- Circuit 18 Board members participated in the Annual Statewide Teen Court conference held in December 2011.

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

- Circuit 19 Board participated with the Circuit State Attorney's office in the conceptualization and development of a Circuit Civil Citation Program video presentation that will be utilized for training.
- Circuit 19 Board supported and assisted one of the county councils in advocating against a zero tolerance policy adopted by a local school board.
- Circuit 19 Board collaborated with the State Attorney's office to support the development of a circuit-wide policy for addressing parental responsibility for system involved youth.

#### **Indian River County**

- Indian River Council devoted one of its meetings for a special presentation by the Multi-Agency Criminal Enforcement (MACE) Unit who spoke about the SPICE problem in Indian River County. The media was present at the meeting and provided coverage in the local newspaper.
- Indian River Council devoted one of its meetings to "The State of Juvenile Justice in Indian River County." Presentations were made by the Juvenile Judge, the State Attorney and DJJ Probation.

#### **Martin County**

- Martin Council supports the efforts of Tykes and Teens in addressing youth alcohol and drug issues and supports the civil citation program to divert youth from the court system. The council works closely with the schools and the Shared Services Network in reviewing the results of the Youth Substance Abuse Survey and supporting programs designed to improve outcomes. The council also supports the efforts of Wavecrest in

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outreach to youth and prevention services for youth experiencing problems within the family setting.

- Martin Council is partnering with the Shared Services Network to create a database of information on arrests, school suspensions, accidents and injuries and other data that will help identify needs and service gaps in the community.
- Martin Council promotes events organized by Project Northland, United Way, Tykes and Teens and the Shared Services Network. The council supports the Sheriff's Office Operation Medicine Cabinet, which allows safe disposal of expired or unused medications.

## **BOARDS AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT**

During FY 2011-12, the boards and councils were involved in several committee meetings and activities as they worked on juvenile justice issues. Many functions of the boards and councils outlined in Section 985.664 Florida Statutes, call for the involvement of individuals with varied backgrounds and expertise. Using a committee approach to meet these functions allow the boards and councils to multiply its resources and involve volunteers who may not wish to attend regular meetings of the board or council. The following section is only a sampling of some of their committees and will look at some of the specific committee efforts that were used to fulfill their mission of working on juvenile justice issues with the department. The information in this section was obtained from the boards and councils 2011-12 Annual Reports.

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

#### **Santa Rosa County**

- Santa Rosa Council's Public Information/ Public Relations Committee created a Facebook page which is managed by Jessica Milstid, Santa Rosa Council Chair. It is updated continually with pictures from events and reminding people of upcoming meetings. The committee can also make announcements on the Facebook page.

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

#### **Wakulla County**

- Wakulla Council engages its youth in the council through the Fearless Youth Leaders Committee. The name was adopted by Wakulla High School Teens. Their preamble reads, "We are teens who live, work, play and attend school in Wakulla County. We understand the value of sharing our opinions in all matters and initiatives that involve youth, and the importance of providing a forum by which youth service throughout the community connects to a greater community good. Our health and well-being is

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inextricably linked to the health and well-being of individuals and families throughout Wakulla County and beyond. We seek to serve.”

- An on-going Fearless Youth Leaders project involves development of a guide to volunteer service in Wakulla County for 1) teens seeking service as Bright Futures Scholars, 2) teens completing community service as a requirement of their Civil Citation or as part of a juvenile justice sanction. The guide will include all non-profit sites in Wakulla County who host teens in service. The guide will provide sections on expectations and ideal outcomes for both the teen and the non-profit agency in order to provide meaningful and rewarding outcomes for both the volunteer and the non-profit host site.

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

- Circuit 3 Board uses its Public Information/Public Relations and Outreach committee as opportunity for agencies to share concerns, events, updates and fundraisers happening at their quarterly meetings.

### **Circuit 4 (Clay, Duval, and Nassau)**

- Duval Council uses its Public Information, Public Relations, Outreach Committee to engage providers and community behavioral and social service providers in participating in informational and outreach activities.
- Duval Council has implemented a Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) committee to ensure council members are kept abreast of DMC issues and concerns affecting Duval County.

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

#### **Volusia County**

- Volusia Council established a Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) subcommittee. This committee is involved with educating and engaging the community and reports to the Circuit 7 DMC Steering Committee. The primary goal is to educate the community and continue to recruit members. The committee has met with the NAACP as well as local faith based partners that have agreed to be involved.
- Volusia Council Grants Review Committee is in the planning stages and offered guidance in the development and follow up of: Basic Center Grant funded by the Federal Administration on Children, Youth and Families and was received by Stewart Marchman Act (SMA) BEACH House, the Juvenile Electronic Monitoring (JEM) was a Federal BYRNE grant received by the Daytona Beach Police Department, and submitted a Department of Labor Grant by the Center for Business Excellence (RWB) for services for local DJJ

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youth and the Safe Schools Grant awarded to the County of Volusia in partnership with the Volusia Sheriff's Office, Volusia County School District and the Boys and Girls Club.

- Volusia Council members continue to enhance and improve prevention and diversion services by collaborating with providers and community partners. Council members participated in and reported to the council on: Children's Home Society Independent Living Youth Advisory Board, Department of Children and Families Planning Committee on 5 Year Strategic Plan, SMA Youth Advisory Board, and the Georgetown initiative

### **Putnam County**

- Putnam Council's Faith Community Network Initiative and steering committee is led by Dietrich Champagnie, Putnam County Schools and Chris Glymph, Anti-Drug Coalition. They have worked together with DJJ, Anti-Drug Coalition and the faith community by getting adult groups and youth together for a Night of Prayer and numerous activities for the youth.
- Putnam Council's Public Information/ Public Relations committee in partnership with the United Vision Program, CDS, Putnam County Anti-Drug Coalition Juvenile Crime Prevention Office, initiated & promoted healthy communities in the media. One example is the "Stay Safe & Sober Prom" campaign. The group partnered with numerous businesses to display the "Stay Safe & Sober This Prom" message on their marquees' throughout the county.
- Putnam Council assisted in Town Hall meetings that were hosted at each high school. A panel of community representatives from various backgrounds was available to discuss the importance of kids being safe & sober during prom season and beyond. Informational material was attached to prom tickets and disseminated at local businesses where prom kids would most likely patron and see the information.

### **Circuit 10 (Hardee, Highlands, and Polk)**

- Circuit 10 Board Prevention Committee hosted the annual Just Girls Conference that was held in August 2011 and open to the community. Teenage girls are educated on risky behaviors and had the opportunity to listen to keynote speakers.

### **Circuit 11 (Miami-Dade)**

- Circuit 11 Board Planning Committee focused on community awareness and participation for 2011-12. The planning committee held one board retreat co-sponsored by the United Way, Children's Trust, and Representative Cynthia Stafford. The retreat was formatted to provide community members updates on Circuit 11 Board initiatives. Attendees were separated into four (4) work groups to address community concerns

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and provide feedback to the board. The four (4) work groups were: Legislative, School literacy, Youth Violence, and Prevention.

- Circuit 11 Board Schools Committee first met with the task of evaluating and assessing juvenile program needs, and the status of current programs, as well as the effectiveness of the policies and procedures in handling juvenile discipline and contacts with law enforcement. Program needs were reviewed both programmatically, for function and qualification, as well as for financial evidence-based results. In completing these tasks, programs requesting to contract, or already contracting, with agencies for the purpose of providing services to youth were reviewed, although not evaluated, by the committee. Gaps in services were looked for and the process for interactive communications between the agencies working with youth in Miami-Dade County.
- The Circuit 11 Board Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Committee was established with the goal of reducing the number of minorities within Miami-Dade County who come into the juvenile justice system. The initial goal was to determine the juvenile arrest zip codes that the committee would focus prevention services. The committee evaluated the goals and objectives of the program and expanded its scope to include a prevention component. The committee engaged the DMC programs funded by the DJJ and decided to target prevention services to those zip codes in which DJJ funded DMC programs targeted.

### **Circuit 13 (Hillsborough)**

- Circuit 13 Board Combined Committee (Legislative, Planning, Prevention, Diversion, Intervention, Governmental Affairs) meets as needed to address issues of domestic violence, mental health, substance abuse, as well as delinquency and dependency issues. The committee has speakers from programs and providers who can address community issues.
- Circuit 13 Board continues to work with DJJ and researchers from the University of South Florida Mental Health Institute, as well as other agencies, and the community. Sub-committee members and the Executive Board work together to track local data, DJJ delinquency profile and other state data/trends and funding sources. The committee continues to research data related to zero tolerance, Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), domestic violence, mental health/substance abuse, gun-related crime, and Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI).

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

### **Bay County**

- Bay Council members embarked on a skateboard park project that will be used as a crime prevention tool. The goal of this project will be to construct a skateboard park that is completely designed by the students. A committee will be formed to apply for a Tony Hawk Foundation grant for support.

### **Circuit 15 (Palm Beach)**

- Circuit 15 Board Legislative and Public Awareness committee held two educational forums at the Palm Beach Detention Center for members of the legislature and community leaders. The forums focused on issues related to juvenile justice in the community.
- The Legislative Committee and the Public Awareness Committee held a community forum on youth records. The forum “Avoiding a Lifetime of Consequences” was attended by more than 125 people and had representation from the school district, the public defender, the state attorney, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the state college and the community.
- The Program Committee held the first of a series of provider forums to educate providers and stakeholders on programs and services, allow for provider network opportunities and discuss juvenile justice issues.
- The Program Committee has collaborated with 211 to develop a pocket sized card with telephone numbers for services to support prevention and intervention services related to juvenile justice risk factors.

### **Circuit 17 (Broward)**

- The Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) committee was created to address DMC issues in Broward County. The goal is for minority youth in Broward County to have equitable delinquency involvement and outcomes. Collaborative partners include the Department of Juvenile Justice, Broward Sheriff’s Office, Providers (Urban league, Memorial, Orion’s Kids), School Board, ChildNet, community members, State Attorney’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, Florida Atlantic University, Circuit 17 Board, Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Coordinator and the NAACP.

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

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### **Indian River County**

- Indian River Planning Committee has worked to improve and expand the utilization of the Civil Citation Program and to enhance the services available. Several meetings were held with law enforcement, Civil Citation staff and various representatives of the criminal justice system. One of the partner agencies submitted a proposal to the DJJ to provide additional community services.
- The Planning Committee continues to address the continuum of care services available in the county and to assess what is working and what is not working in the juvenile justice system.

### **Martin County**

- Martin Council appointed a legislative committee which meets to review juvenile justice issues and to and make recommendations for items such as letters and motions of support.



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