



## **Briefing Report**

### **Analysis of Youth Transition Surveys**

**Contact:**

**[Mark A. Greenwald, M.J.P.M](#)**

DJJ Research and Planning

## **Description:**

The Department surveyed individuals who have had involvement with transitional services at various capacities about their experiences with transitioning back into the community. Three surveys were circulated, two of which captured information solely from youth for transitional services at a residential level and those who returned home, and a third capturing an overall assessment of transitional services. The purposes of these surveys were two-fold. First, we wanted to determine the extent to which youth are preparing for their ultimate transition back to the community. Second, to acquire input from youth, the community, and stakeholders on services and programs they felt would be most beneficial to future success.

## **Executive Summary:**

### **Youth Preparing for Transition – Residential**

Between July 27, 2012 and August 27, 2012, almost 2,300 committed youth responded to the survey. This is an excellent response rate; (approximately 88% of all committed youth).

The Residential Survey given to youth consisted of nine questions on varying topics from contact with Juvenile Probation Officers (JPO) to what needs the youth will have when they return home.

#### **Demographics:**

- 2,290 youth participated in the survey
- The majority of youth who answered the survey were from:
  - Broward County
  - Duval County
  - Miami-Dade County
- 88% of youth were male
- 49% of youth were black
- 78% of youth who participated were age 16 or older

#### **Strengths:**

- 82% of youth have a social security card

#### **Weaknesses:**

- 64% of youth felt they could call their JPO if they needed help
- Only 15% of youth were prepared with a resume
- Only 22% of youth had spoken to staff about how the victim feels
- Only 27% of youth had an ID or a driver's license
- 53% of youth spoke to their JPO rarely or not at all

- 29% of youth felt they could not call their JPO when they needed help

### **What are the kids telling us they need?**

The top five item youth indicated were:

- Help finding a job (75%)
- Help from their family (49%)
- Job training (42%)
- Help with schoolwork (38%)
- Transportation (36%)

### **Youth Preparing for Transition – Transition Youth in the Community**

Between July 27, 2012 and October 16, 2012, 563 youth responded to the survey.

The Youth in the Community Survey consisted of ten questions on varying topics from contact with Juvenile Probation Officers (JPO) to what needs the youth currently have.

#### **Demographics:**

- 563 youth participated in the survey
- The majority of youth who answered the survey were from:
  - Miami-Dade
  - Pinellas
  - Escambia
- 86% of youth were male
- 49% of youth were black
- 51% of youth who participated were age 17 or older

#### **Strengths:**

- 78% of youth have a social security card
- 77% of youth have a birth certificate
- 84% of youth spoke with staff about education prior to program release
- 95% of youth feel that they can call their JPO when they need help

#### **Weaknesses:**

- Only 28% of youth were prepared with a resume
- Only 31% of youth had spoken to staff about how the victim feels prior to program release
- Only 26% of youth had an ID or a driver's license
- Only 56% of youth spoke to their JPO weekly or daily

### **What are the kids telling us they need?**

The top five item youth indicated were:

- Help from their family (64%)
- Having an adult they can talk to (49%)
- Counseling (40%)
- Having the right clothes (36%)
- Housing – a place to live (38%)

### **Youth Preparing for Transition – Staff, Providers and Stakeholders**

Between July 27, 2012 and August 27, 2012, 984 individuals responded to the survey. This was the shortest of the three surveys and only included four basic questions.

- The vast majority of respondents were a DJJ employee (46%) or provider (29%).
- The top five needs in the community (statewide) were:
  - Vocational Training (58%)
  - Family Support Services (56%)
  - Mentoring for youth (53%)
  - Employment skills training (51%)
  - Employment assistance (46%)
- When asked to choose between several services, transitional housing (60%) and transportation (55%) were identified as the greatest need in the community