



Briefing Report

Domestic Violence Alternative Placement Program: Utilization Update October: 2013

Contact:

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Introduction:

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice is continuing to work jurisdictionally and in concert with the Florida Network in seeking 'respite bed alternatives' for all appropriate juvenile justice domestic violence (DV) cases. Pursuant to Florida Statute 985.03 – definitions subsection (47) "Respite" means a placement that is available for the care, custody, and placement of a youth charged with domestic violence as an alternative to secure detention or for placement of a youth when a shelter bed for a child in need of services or a family in need of services is unavailable.

The purpose of this briefing sheet is to provide an overview of detained youth charged with misdemeanor domestic violence who were potentially eligible for an alternative placement or respite bed. We also present the utilization of domestic violence beds available through the Florida Network.

Domestic Violence Project Goals:

The Domestic Violence Alternative Placement Program has three primary goals:

- Divert all appropriate youth with a DV charge from secure detention to a county jurisdictional respite facility. Additionally, the department will insure an adequate inventory of respite beds, by coordinating with the current contracted provider of respite bed facilities, the Florida Network.
- Reduce secure detention volume and associated detention costs by placing appropriate domestic violence youth in contracted alternative respite beds.
- Provide access to specialized therapeutic respite services for both the youth and family in domestic violence cases.

Supporting statutory language can be found in Florida Statute 985.24 subsection (4). The department shall continue to identify alternatives to secure detention care and shall develop such alternatives and annually submit them to the Legislature for authorization and appropriation **and** Florida Statute 985.601 subsection (3)(a). The department shall develop or contract for diversified and innovative programs to provide rehabilitative treatment, including early intervention and prevention, diversion, comprehensive intake, case management, diagnostic and classification assessments, individual and family counseling, shelter care, diversified detention care emphasizing alternatives to secure detention, diversified probation, halfway houses, foster homes, community-based substance abuse treatment services, community-based mental health treatment services,

community-based residential and nonresidential programs, mother-infant programs, and environmental programs. Each program shall place particular emphasis on reintegration and conditional release for all children in the program.

Methodology:

The Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) serves as the primary source of information for tables 1-4. These tables represent youth charged with misdemeanor domestic violence and held in a secure detention facility between April 1, 2013 and August 31, 2013. *It is important to note that these youth were legally eligible for an alternative placement; however this analysis does not assess all of the criteria necessary to determine if a respite bed was available or appropriate.* In some cases, intake screeners may have determined that the youth posed a flight risk, was further threatening the victim or was not otherwise appropriate for an alternative placement. Further research is necessary to determine the precise extent to which missed opportunities for alternate placements exist.

The Florida Network NETMIS system was the primary source of information in table 5. This table represents bed days occupied with domestic violence youth in Florida Network facilities between February and July of 2013.

Future Research Recommendations:

1. Examine/compare re-offense rates for youth detained or held in an alternative placement.
2. Clearly document the reasons why youth were detained rather than receiving an alternative.

Highlighted Results (Detained Youth between April 1, 2013 and August 31, 2013):

- Through the study period, 547 detained cases were identified as ‘missed opportunities’.
 - Missed opportunities are defined as youth who were detained, but were potentially eligible for respite alternative care.
- White youth comprised 62% ($n=364$) and black youth represented 37% ($n=219$) of the detained cases (Table 1).
- Males comprised 61% ($n=360$) and females represented 39% ($n=227$) of the detained cases (Table 2).
- Youth between 15-17 years of age represented 66% ($n=387$) of the detained cases (Table 4)

Highlighted Results (Florida Network Alternative Placements):

- Between February and July 2013 a total of 2,459 bed days were utilized with the Florida Network (Table 5).
- The average length-of-stay for youth in a Florida Network domestic violence alternative bed was 9 days.

TABLE 1 - Detained Domestic Violence Youth by Race

Race	Frequency	Percent
Alaskan Native	1	.2
Asian	2	.3
Black	219	37.3
Pacific Islander	1	.2
White	364	62.0
Total	587	100.0

TABLE 2 - Detained Domestic Violence Youth by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Female	227	38.7
Male	360	61.3
Total	587	100.0

TABLE 3 - Detained Domestic Violence Youth by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
Non-Hispanic	474	80.7
Hispanic	98	16.7
Haitian	13	2.2
Jamaican	2	.3
Total	587	100.0

TABLE 4- Detained Domestic Violence Youth by Age

Age	Frequency	Percent
10	2	.3
11	8	1.4
12	30	5.1
13	55	9.4
14	104	17.7
15	130	22.1
16	134	22.8
17	123	21.0
18	1	.2
Total	587	100.0

TABLE 5. Florida Network - Filled Bed Days (Domestic Violence Alternative Placements)

Counties	Agency	February	March	April	May	June	July	Total
Brevard	Crosswinds	15	28	21	2	8	21	95
Hillsborough	Hillsborough Co.	0	0	0	0	42	57	99
Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Baker & Nassau	YCC	9	91	62	116	79	42	399
Orange & Osceola	Orange County	0	5	35	14	40	59	153
Seminole	Boys Town	0	0	26	0	29	17	72
Palm Beach	CHS West Palm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Broward	Chrysalis	0	0	0	8	3	2	13
Broward	LSF-SE	0	0	0	7	58	9	74
Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington	Anchorage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake & Marion	Arnette House	0	2	29	52	10	50	143
Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison & Taylor	Capital City Youth Services	14	34	29	16	16	20	129
Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Suwannee, Putnam, Alachua, Gilchrist, Levy, Bradford, & Union	CDS Behavioral	0	28	0	12	31	10	81
Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee & St. Lucie	CHS TC	23	52	28	35	29	67	234
Pinellas & Manatee	Family Resources	19	29	4	36	58	78	224
Monroe	Florida Keys	0	0	0	0	0	14	14
Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa & Walton	LSF-NW	0	0	32	74	51	48	205
Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry & Lee	LSF-SW	3	9	17	6	0	0	35
Miami-Dade	Miami Bridge	28	0	14	46	39	25	152
DeSoto & Sarasota	Sarasota YMCA	0	0	0	16	0	0	16
Flagler & Volusia	SMA Behavioral	31	17	55	12	35	53	203
Citrus, Hernando, Sumter, Pasco, Hardee, Highlands & Polk	YFA	0	0	24	34	0	60	118
Monthly Totals		142	295	376	486	528	632	2,459

Source: Florida Network (NETMIS)