



JDAI NEWS

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Newsletter
April 2018

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Efforts to Address Justice Disparities

Sergeant Paul Pardue of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office wrote an article regarding efforts to address justice disparities. He states both the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the Gainesville Police Department work toward reducing arrests—particularly for African-American—youth through new and innovative ways. Teen Court, Doughnuts with a Deputy, and Operation C.O.N.E. ice cream truck are only a few examples of the amazing work being done in Alachua county. Sergeant Pardue challenges you “to educate yourselves and assist where you can be most effective.”

To read the complete article, [click here](#).

DRAI THINK TANK



During January 2018, the statutorily required DRAI committee approved the use of a new instrument. Subsequently, a workgroup was formed to brainstorm and create new policies and procedures regarding the implementation of the new tool statewide. A DRAI Think Tank Meeting was held on April 3rd through the

5th in Tampa. Workgroup participants analyzed the new instrument, reviewed projected outcomes, and discussed outstanding issues. As a result of the Think Tank meeting, two sub-workgroups were formed to continue with implementation planning. Stay tuned for more information on the development of this work!

Pictured above (left to right): Akilya Drake, Randi Taylor, Minnie Bishop, Karin Popkowski, Marybel Cortez, Sarah Blumberg, and Amy Read.

CITIZENS' ACADEMY



The Pinellas County Juvenile Justice Citizens' Academy is holding its 4th session this Spring. This class is free and open to Pinellas County residents 18 years and older. It's a 10-week educational program that provides insight into the intricate workings of the juvenile justice system. Each week, participants will interact with professionals from different facilities that manage various aspects of the juvenile justice system. The class will get an up-close perspective of the programs and services offered to detained and at-risk youth and their families. Some of the areas to be discussed include prevention, civil citation, probation, residential commitment, community-based programs, Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center, Pinellas Regional Detention Center, Unified Family Court, the State Attorney's Office, and the Public Defender's Office.

To learn more about the Citizens' Academy, [click here](#).



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COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT (CPAR)

Broward County's Children's Services Council is creating an integrated data base with information from various stakeholders, including DJJ. As part of this development, JDAI participated in a four-day training that centered around CPAR is an approach to research in communities that emphasizes participation and action. Within a CPAR process, "communities of inquiry and action evolve and address questions and issues that are significant for those who participate as co-researchers." Based on the input of the young people who came into contact with the system, we are actively working on a research project focused on the high number of failures to appear in Broward County.

CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S LAW & POLICY



The Center for Children's Law and Policy (CCLP) is providing technical assistance Focused on reducing the unnecessary incarceration of youth, protecting public safety, and eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. CCLP utilizes a research-based approach to assess jurisdictions and to identify growth areas. Meetings were held with community stakeholders in both Broward and St. Lucie counties. Participants in these meetings included representation from both local and county law enforcement, the public

defender's office, the state attorney's office, the judiciary, county administrators, commissioners, and other community leaders. During the latest visit to Broward County, Tiana Davis and Roxana Matiella presented to the Circuit Advisory Board on racial and ethnic disparities (RED) as well as disproportionate minority contact (DMC). As a result, much interest and participation of local stakeholders was garnered. Moving forward, both jurisdictions will continue to coordinate with CCLP to complete their circuit-wide assessments, gather and analyze pertinent data, and to develop action plans to address their growth areas.

Pictured above: Tiana Davis giving a presentation to Broward county.

CIVIL CITATION DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPITE BED

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the State Attorney's Office of the Fourth Judicial Circuit and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office is piloting a Civil Citation Domestic Violence Respite Bed program with the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Youth Crisis Center (YCC). This program allows officers to issue civil citations for misdemeanor domestic violence charges—charges are diverted to Teen Court. Youth are provided with a respite placement at YCC for a "cooling off" period for up to 21 days. The goal of this program is to reduce unnecessary detention of misdemeanor domestic violence charges.





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LETTER FROM A JDAI COORDINATOR

Dear reader,

Ever find yourself wondering “What do those JDAI people do anyway?” Well, you aren’t alone! We get asked about the specifics of our work pretty often. And as any coordinator will tell you, there are several moving parts to our jobs—each with its own set of challenges. But rather than overwhelming you with a lengthy explanation about every single thing we do, I’d like to kick off these coordinator letters by touching on one piece of what I do—collaboration, collaboration, collaboration!

Because juvenile justice encompasses multiple systems, improvements require that all of these systems work together. For this reason, nearly all JDAI coordinators begin their work by creating a collaborative group that includes both system and community representatives who have the authority to make decisions on behalf of their agencies or groups.

After forming a collaborative group, the role of the JDAI coordinator is to complete a system-wide assessment of their site/area and to make recommendations regarding system changes and improvements. An effective collaborative group will develop a written work plan in which specific goals, tasks, and target dates are outlined.

At a minimum, work plans include 3 key elements: 1) Identifying what isn’t working in the current system; 2) Brainstorming what a new system would look like; and 3) Outlining steps to achieve the new system.

Of course, no two work plans will be identical. Therefore, no two JDAI coordinators will operate exactly the same. Unfortunately, there is no one size fits all in this line of work. The good news is that we produce this newsletter for that very reason! While one size certainly does not fit all, sharing what works and what is working helps to create best practices.

After reading our newsletter, we hope you gain a little bit of insight to all of the amazing work happening all throughout the state. As always, feel free to reach out to your regional coordinator for more information—that’s what we’re here for!

Enjoy this second issue. Happy reading!

—A JDAI Coordinator