



JDAI NEWS

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative Newsletter
July 2018

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Evening Reporting Center Update

Palm Beach County recently opened a network of three evening reporting centers (ERC) in Belle Glade, Lake Worth, and Riviera Beach.

Established through a collective agreement, target areas were selected through zip code analyses to identify youth eligible for this level of pre-adjudicatory home detention supervision.

Previous piloting of an ERC in Riviera Beach boasted successful outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Overall, 90% of youth did not reoffend or fail to appear in court while under supervision. Moving forward, Palm Beach is hopeful for similar outcomes and continued success.

BLACK FAMILY SUMMIT

On April 25th, the St. Johns County RED/DMC Committee and Juvenile Justice Council held the 3rd Annual Black Family Summit. This year's focus was to discover, learn, participate, and recognize RED/DMC issues throughout Florida. Secretary Christina Daly and State Attorney R.J. Larizza served as keynote speakers. Additional presenters included: Theda Roberts, Statewide Civil Citation Coordinator; Andria George, Prevention Specialist; Cheryl Massaro, Federal Advisory Council of Juvenile Justice; Amy Read, NE Regional RED/DMC Coordinator; Will Halvosa, Gainesville Police Department DMC Coordinator; and Mike Forester and LaTika Smith, Family Integrity Program. Each speaker represented a different aspect within the juvenile justice system and presented on their field's efforts to improve Racial and Ethnic Disparities. The summit closed with a discussion panel centered around the community faith initiatives for black youth in St. Johns County.



MEET OUR NEWEST COORDINATOR

LaMone Gibson was born in Buffalo, New York. In 2013, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Canisius College. Professionally, LaMone has dedicated his career to the rehabilitation and development of young people. He was a Youth Counselor for at risk youth in Cheektowaga. Additionally, he served as a New York State Certified Law Enforcement Officer where he specialized in gangs. LaMone relocated to Florida in March of 2017 and joined the Department of Juvenile Justice as a Detention Officer. His high priority on juvenile delinquency lead him to the founding of Saving Our Sons Inc. Currently, LaMone is the Youth Pastor of St. Paul AME Church and is working towards his master's degree in Divinity.



[LaMone Gibson](#)
NW Florida



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STATE OF EMERGENCY CONCERNING OUR YOUTH

On May 4th, the Circuit 2 RED/DMC Workgroup hosted their first community awareness event titled “State of Emergency Concerning Our Youth.” The event took place at the Florida Public Safety Institute. Participants included community stakeholders as well as local high school students. The day began with Assistant Secretary Alice Sims’ opening remarks, then continued with informative presentations, special performances from the In The Faith Liturgical Dance Team, and lunch with a peaceful atmosphere created by Harpist William Alexander. To close the event, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives delivered an interactive presentation titled “The Law in Your Community.” Youth were encouraged to ask questions about their rights and they participated in role plays to learn about positively interacting with law enforcement officers.

A special thanks to Assistant Secretary Alice Sims (Prevention & Victim Services); Will Halvosa (Gainesville Police Department DMC Coordinator); Theda Roberts (Statewide Civil Citation Coordinator); Verla Lawson-Grady (Statewide Community Engagement Coordinator); In the Faith Liturgical Dance Team; William Alexander; National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives North Florida Chapter; Attorney Cydnee Brown; and the Circuit 2 RED/DMC Work Group.



SAFE SUMMIT



The Hillsborough Safe and Sound Committee, a local violence prevention initiative, held their 2nd Annual SafeSummit on May 19th. This year’s focus was on cultures and effects of violence—how we learn violence, the context of violence, and culturally impacted responses to the root of violence. SafeSummit participants spent the day discussing various issues and exploring what works, what challenges exist, how to communicate better, and how to implement solutions. JDAI Coordinator Sarah Blumberg, presented on racial and ethnic disparities (RED), disproportionate minority contact (DMC), implicit bias, and Florida’s initiatives for change.





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LETTER FROM A JDAI COORDINATOR

Dear reader,

In our last issue, you learned about the JDAI Coordinator's very important role in building a local collaborative group to assess systems and make recommendations for system changes and improvements. In this issue, we push forward and share with you how we go about identifying these areas where system improvement is needed.

Simply put, JDAI relies on **DATA** to direct our paths. JDAI Coordinators analyze detention admission data to see who is entering our detention facilities and why they are being placed there. We look at the types of offenses and technical violations that resulted in the detention placement as well as the length of stay in the facility. The data is disaggregated by race/ethnicity and gender to allow us to see any disparities in the system that may exist.

All of this data is packaged into a highlights sheet and reviewed with our collaborative group. We take the time to go through and discuss the current quarter's data as well as look at trends across quarters. By looking at the data in this way, we can identify patterns of unnecessary detention stays and begin the mission to implement alternative ways to meet these needs.

JDAI Coordinators also utilize data to evaluate the effectiveness and success of alternatives to secure detention. Whether we are looking at differential warrants, domestic violence respite beds, Intensive Home Detention (IHD), or Evening Reporting Centers (ERC), we use data to determine whether the goal of effectively monitoring youth in the community, while maintaining public safety, has been achieved.

If you're curious about the data and want to see what data is available, reach out to your regional coordinator. We are happy to share!

—A JDAI Coordinator

