

Good morning! I am Meredith Stanfield, the legislative affairs director for the Department of Juvenile Justice. We appreciate the opportunity to provide highlights of the Department's funding priorities for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Our 2016-17 budget is \$554.9 million with 3,269.50 positions statewide.

The Department's request for FY 2017-18 is \$577.9 million – an increase of less than 4 percent. We have not requested additional FTE.

The Department has developed its legislative budget request with an emphasis on continuing implementation of the Roadmap to System Excellence to reduce juvenile delinquency and increase public safety, while providing the services troubled youth need to successfully transition into their communities.

Additional Bed Capacity and Evidence-Based Services

Our first two priority items relate to residential commitment services.

The Department requests **\$5.2 M** in funding to increase its residential capacity by 60 treatment beds for youth adjudicated to non-secure and secure residential commitment programs. In the last year, the Department has seen an increase in the number of youth committed to a residential facility, impacting our residential waitlist. This funding will allow the Department to reduce its current waitlist and address increased commitments.

The Department requests **\$5.3 M** in funding to increase evidence-based interventions and services in 12 residential commitment contracts that will be procured in the upcoming year. In those contracts for which the Department has been able to provide this level of increased services, these evidence-based interventions are working to successfully address youth behavior and provide better recidivism outcomes.

Performance-Based Incentive Plan

Working directly with Florida's most troubled youth is a specialized skill and one that directly relates to public safety. The Department's juvenile detention and probation officers are direct care staff – those staff who have direct contact with youth to provide custody, supervision and care to children in a detention facility

or probation unit. The ability to hire and retain quality direct care staff is critical to the success of the Department and the youth in our care.

The Department is experiencing high turnover in direct care staff, which has led to high vacancy rates and a high level of inexperience within staff ranks and compromises safety for both youth and staff. Turnover for Juvenile Detention Officers (JDOs) rose to more than 43% in FY 2015-16 from 30% in FY 2014-15. Over 78% of JDO ones have less than one year's experience. Similarly, turnover for juvenile probation officers (JPOs) disrupts the continuity and stability of supervision of youth. This turnover has led to increased workload demands on JPOs and the continual depletion of experienced and skilled probation staff.

The Department requests **\$5.8 M** in funding for a performance-based incentive plan, which will help the Department retain those employees with positive performance evaluations and no discipline who have made a commitment to the department and ensure continuity of care for our youth. Over time, this plan will also help reduce overtime and training costs.

Fixed Capital Outlay

The Department maintains 643 facilities statewide, most of which are at least 25 years old and require on-going maintenance and repair. It is important to address these maintenance needs to ensure safe and healthy facilities for the children and staff that use them.

The Department is requesting **\$10 M** in funding to provide the necessary repairs and maintenance of detention, probation and residential facilities.

Projects include facility upgrades to meet Florida Building Code and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, electrical upgrades, repairing and replacing roofs and HVAC systems that are old, worn and past their useful life, repairing and replacing doors and CCTV systems that correct security concerns, updating facility security, upgrading locking systems and other safety-related systems, improving plumbing and drainage systems, and meeting operational and capacity needs. These planned projects help us maintain state-owned assets that are functional, secure and safe.

PACT Tool Replacement

The Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) is a comprehensive assessment and case management process that is used on all delinquent youth throughout our service continuum from the time a youth enters the system to when they exit. This risk/needs assessment helps outline the most effective way to work with our youth, allowing the Department to be more successful in reducing their risk to re-offend.

The Department seeks **\$540,000** in funding for phase one costs of a two-year project to replace our current PACT assessment, which we developed with a private provider. The PACT is owned by a private entity and the Department is solely dependent on that provider continuing service and for any enhancements or updates we require. This request would allow the Department to mitigate the risk of relying on an outside vendor for this crucial function and gain the flexibility of an assessment that could be changed at little or no cost to reflect advancements in actuarial risk prediction thus helping protect public safety.

Oversight of DJJ Programs and Contracts

The Department is largely privatized, with services delivered by more than 150 private providers. We are committed to ensuring programs operated or contracted by the department effectively provide for the safety, well-being, and treatment of youth under our care. The Department has developed a risk-based approach to program monitoring to provide oversight of our privatized contracts. The Department seeks **\$354,000** in funding to reclass 14 probation positions as 10 contract monitors and 4 contract managers to fully implement this risk-based approach, helping ensure the department receives the level of services contracted for.

Prevention Funding

Several of the Department's priorities support our goal of expanding delinquency prevention services to at-risk youth to prevent their involvement in the juvenile justice system. Proactive prevention and interventions can save taxpayer dollars, while saving the futures of these youth and keeping communities safe.

The Department seeks funding for the following prevention programs:

FIRST, Expanding PACE Center for Girls – we request **\$2.8 M** in funding to continue prevention services to girls as funded in FY 2016-17, including day program and PACE Reach slots; we seek to add day program slots statewide distributed by need; and expand the PACE Reach program into three (3) additional counties. PACE Reach is already in (6) counties.

Expand Stop Now and Plan (or SNAP), an evidence-based intervention for children ages 6 - 11 and their families. This family-focused intervention is currently in four (4) counties and the Department requests **\$1 M** in funding to expand this program into six (6) additional areas, serving at least 156 additional youth.

We request **\$500,000** to provide truancy prevention services in Gadsden County – allowing the Department to contract with AMI Kids to provide a blended day and after school dropout prevention program in Quincy, FL to 50 middle and high school youth who will participate in the program in lieu of suspension or expulsion.

AND

We request **\$266,000** for CINS/FINS Outward Bound to extend transition services to youth, including home visits, case management, and community services referrals, providing much-needed support as youth return home. This request would also fund the purchase of computers for students using educational services during the program.

Vocational Education

Employment is a key factor to successful transition that reduces criminogenic risk factors. The Department requests **\$2.6 M** to provide workforce education and job placement funding to 500 youth in existing day treatment and residential programs. In FY 2015-16, 60 percent of eligible DJJ youth who participated in workforce programs obtained a job, entered the military, or returned to school. Providing these services will make youth more likely to find employment and less likely to re-offend.

Conclusion

Thank you. This concludes my presentation. I am available for any questions you may have.