

## Members

### ACTS

Bay Area Youth Services  
Bridgeway Center  
Broward County Sheriff's Office  
Crosswinds Youth Services  
Daniel Memorial  
DISC Village  
Drug Screen Solutions  
Evidence-Based Associates  
Gateway Community Services  
Girls Advocacy Project, Inc.  
G4S Youth Services  
Home Builders Institute  
Human Services Associates  
Miami Dade JAC  
Miami's River of Life  
North American Family Institute (NAFI)  
Operation PAR, Inc.  
Orange County Youth & Family Services  
Outward Bound Schools  
Premier Behavioral Solutions, Inc.  
PACE Center for Girls, Inc.  
PsyCare Juvenile Justice  
Psychotherapeutic Services of Florida  
Savannah Family Institute  
Stewart-Marchman-Act Behavioral Health Care  
Sunshine Youth Services  
The Center for Drug Free Living  
The Children's Trust  
The Harbor Behavioral Health Care Institute  
The Henry & Rilla White Youth Foundation, Inc.  
Three Springs, Inc.  
TROY Community Academy  
Twin Oaks Juvenile Development, Inc.  
VisionQuest National, Ltd.  
Youth Services International

### Staff

Cathy Craig-Myers — Executive Director  
Lynn Redmond — Project Director

## FJJA/DJJ Collaboration

### Blueprint Commission 2006, 2007, 2008

Advocated for a "blueprint commission" to review juvenile justice services. Also, working to help implement key recommendations to improve the system.

### Rate Study- 2006-2007

In partnership with the Department, the Association assisted in two comprehensive rate studies to define the true costs of IDDS, conditional release, day treatment, and residential services. Bearing Point completed the Probation and Community Service study in December of 2006. The Residential Services report was completed in January of 2007.

### Rate Enhancement Campaign - 2005-06

Developed and implemented a planned strategy to secure from the legislature the resources necessary to effectively serve youth in provider care and to build and retain a competent workforce. Successful in securing resources, \$5.5 million in 2005 and \$21 million in 2006, to enhance funding across the continuum.

### Certification for Provider Staff - 2006

Co-chaired a legislative task force designed to determine the feasibility of developing a certification system for provider staff. Defined the classes to be included in a certification system and the mechanics of how such a system could be implemented based on funding.

### Sexual Offender Review - 2006

Promoted legislature to review how juveniles who commit sexual offenses are handled in the juvenile justice system. Chaired a task force that made recommendations to the legislature on how to classify, assess and serve juveniles who commit a sexual offense.

### Protective Action Response (PAR) - 2004

Pursued changes in PAR that reduced injury to youth and staff. Results include elimination of backward and forward roll; elimination of hammer, wrist/shoulder lock; PAR testing on-site; expanded test time and more opportunities to take the test; course broken down into sections by need to know; and a menu of techniques allowing provider choice.



Founded in 1994, The Florida Juvenile Justice Association is a statewide organization that strongly supports a common sense approach to juvenile justice that treats young people fairly, holds them accountable for their actions and keeps our neighborhoods, schools and communities safe.

The Association brings together juvenile justice system professionals and agencies and private and non-profit corporations committed to improving Florida's juvenile justice system for children and families.

We work with and care about at-risk youth in Florida, and we are committed to improving citizens' confidence in and reliance on the effectiveness and integrity of Florida's system of justice for its young people.



Your advocate for juvenile justice

## Our Code of Ethics and Standard of Care

- We will provide a safe and secure environment for the protection of the public, staff and youth.
- We believe in the uniqueness, dignity and inherent worth of every individual. Further, we are committed to assisting each youth in our care in achieving their individual dignity.
- We will enhance the opportunity for youth to use their potential to succeed in an environment conducive to promoting socially acceptable behavior.
- We are committed to truthfulness and integrity in all our actions.
- We will promote and enforce ethical conduct.
- We shall conduct ourselves in a manner that prevents all forms or appearances of impropriety, placement of self-interest above public interest, prejudice, partiality, threats, favoritism, or undue influence.
- We will hold the confidentiality and privacy of the youth and families we serve.
- We are committed to a culture of learning, personal and professional development and continuous improvement of services to the youth and public.

## Our Purpose

The Florida Juvenile Justice Association strives to:

- Promote public awareness and education of juvenile justice issues
- Contribute to the development of public policy regarding juvenile justice issues
- Support evaluation and research of juvenile justice issues.
- Provide training, technical assistance and consultation to Association members and related parties

# 2008-2009 Legislative Agenda

## NO MORE CUTS

**FJJA supports no more cuts to the Department of Juvenile Justice, in order to continue ensuring Florida's public safety through the juvenile justice system which prevents, diverts and treats at-risk youth thus preventing or causing an increase in future crimes.** Research shows that nationally, a majority of adult inmates first pass through the juvenile justice system. Florida must support and fund a continuum of care that successfully prevents, diverts and rehabilitates youth before they endanger public safety, commit future crimes and ultimately enter the adult corrections system.

### ACTIONS:

- FJJA will advocate that the state's public safety allocation be re-balanced and re-focused. Making wise investments in the system is a smart move for Florida and will pay off with the reduction of prison bed construction. Without a well funded system, today's juvenile delinquents will become tomorrow's criminals.
- FJJA will advocate for a "fair and balanced

approach" in the juvenile justice system. The continuum of services must include comprehensive juvenile assessment centers, early intervention, prevention and diversion programs, day treatment, specialized residential treatment, gender specific interventions, educational and vocational training, and transition and aftercare services.

- FJJA will advocate that new revenue streams be considered to close the current budget shortfall.

## CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY OF FLORIDA'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

**FJJA supports the Department Of Juvenile Justice in improving outcomes for youth in the Juvenile Justice system through the improvement of business practices.** Efforts must include reducing duplication, eliminating unfunded mandates, enhancing standards of accountability, developing effective oversight, and improving contracting and procurement processes.

### ACTIONS:

- FJJA will work with the Department of Juvenile Justice, association member agencies, and the Associated Industries of Florida's Government Outsourcing Council to support all legislative efforts to improve accountability and service delivery in the Department of Juvenile Justice.

## REFORM FLORIDA'S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

**FJJA joins the Department of Juvenile Justice in championing key recommendations in support of the Governor's Blueprint Commission Report.**

### ACTIONS:

- **FJJA will advocate for all recommendations under the Blueprint Commission broad goals to address:**
  1. Amending zero tolerance policies,
  2. Ending racial disparity,

3. Enhancing gender specific interventions,
4. Ensuring legal representation.
5. Develop detention alternatives.

### • **FJJA will also advocate for seven specific Blueprint Commission Recommendations:**

1. Require comprehensive Juvenile Assessment Centers throughout the state.
2. Amend Medicaid eligibility procedures to create seamless service delivery for youth.
3. Address workforce retention by increasing direct care pay and implementing conditional hiring policies.
4. Increase educational funding for students in juvenile justice programs.
5. Develop methodology to determine "return on investment" to ensure funding of cost effective programs.
6. Fund substance abuse interventions.
7. Improve access to community based mental health and medical services.

## Our Guiding Principles

### *Balanced Continuum of Services*

We believe that public safety is best served by promoting the development of a balanced continuum of juvenile justice services that include prevention, intervention, probation, commitment and aftercare.

### *Ethical and Professional Standards*

We believe that all youth deserve services that are delivered in a manner that meets the highest professional and ethical standards.

### *The Right Services the First Time*

We believe that all placement decisions should be individualized and based on the results of a comprehensive evaluation utilizing defined assessment protocols.

### *Policies and Services Research Based*

We advocate for sound legislation and Department policies/procedures that are based on research and that contribute to and supports effective juvenile justice services.

### *Kids are Different than Adults*

We recognize that the needs of children and adolescents are different than adults and we advocate for a responsive

justice system that translate into effective policies, programs, and services.

### *Blend Public Safety and Treatment*

We believe that programming is most effective when there is a balance between treatment and public safety considerations and we advocate for the least restrictive care to change lives and protect the public.

### *Access to Specialty Services*

We believe that all youth in need of specialty services such as mental health and substance abuse must receive these services as part of the juvenile justice intervention.

### *Academic and Vocational Education are the Keys to Success*

We understand that education is a key ingredient of a youth's success and advocate for dynamic and individualized educational and vocational services geared to the learning level of the youth served.

### *Adequate Funding for Quality Services*

We understand that effective programming and successful public safety initiatives and the development of a professional workforce can only be achieved with adequate funding.