



Key Messages on FJJA Proposals

Eliminate State Operated DJJ Residential Programs

- 1. DJJ currently operates 600 state residential beds. According to a 2007 TaxWatch study, state beds cost more to operate than privately operated beds.**
 - Eliminating state residential programs would provide a potential annualized cost savings of \$50-\$60 million.
 - DJJ has already identified 670 privately operated beds to cut (DJJ's Schedule 8-B) at a cost savings of \$30 million, but closing state programs would net the state almost twice the savings.
- 2. The existing system can absorb state bed reductions with no impact to public safety.**
 - Recent data shows a trend of declining commitment rates, most recently 14% last year.
 - Vacancy rates indicate that privately operated programs are able to serve additional youth.
- 3. Privatized providers can serve additional youth more efficiently.**
 - Private providers already serve low, moderate, high and maximum risk youth and are equipped to accommodate the needs of all youth currently in state operated programs.
 - 98% of privately operated residential programs are specialized in mental health, substance abuse and/or sex offender treatment and are gender responsive.
- 4. Closing state residential programs allow DJJ to redirect resources, meet budget reductions, and become a more efficient agency.**
 - To maximize efficiencies, cost savings could be redistributed within DJJ to prevention, intervention, diversion, civil citation, re-entry and transition services.
 - Reducing DJJ residential operations would begin the transition of DJJ into a more efficient agency, focused solely on oversight.
- 5. Providers also have available jobs for displaced state employees.**
 - Affected state employees impacted by downsizing would most likely find jobs within the private sector.

Create a More Efficient and Accountable DJJ Quality Assurance Process

- 1. Satisfy requirements of Quality Assurance by utilizing national accreditation standards and utilizing local agency staff expertise.**
 - Recognizing accreditation by national accreditation organizations will reduce paperwork, improve monitoring, and assist in required oversight.
 - Local DJJ program and contract monitors already use existing QA tools and checklists on a regular basis, which is duplicative of the annual review process.
 - Substituting national accreditation for the current DJJ QA process will save the tax payers \$2-3 million.
- 2. This change would provide the agency with "real time" assessment of quality improvement instead of a yearly "snapshot" of quality.**
 - A more efficient QA process will provide greater accountability and oversight for the agency.
 - Florida would benefit in that all programming would move towards national accreditation.