**Support 2014 FJJA Legislative Agenda**

**Maintain a Focus on Prevention, Diversion and Intervention Services**
- Support prevention, diversion and intervention programs that are evidenced-based and utilize Civil Citation, Juvenile Assessment Centers, juvenile diversion services, gender responsive and other programs.

**Ask:** Maintain investment of $16.5M shifted to front end services during 2012-13 Legislative year.

**Support the Passage of HB173/SB598 Juvenile Justice Education Bill**
- This legislation and funding will provide DJJ youth with GED, post secondary and industry certification opportunities, increasing their success, lowering recidivism rates, and realizing a return on investment for Florida taxpayers.

**Ask:** Support funding of $1.6M in Governor Scott’s DOE Budget Proposal

**Support Funding for DJJ Youth Who Need Medical and Behavioral Health Services**
- A shortfall of funding will impact the availability of non-routine medical and behavioral health services for youth in DJJ residential programs.
- Outcomes for DJJ youth who received BHOS services were considerably better than youth who did not receive BHOS services.* (indicators-SIPP Placement, Baker Act, re-involvement in JJ system)

**Ask:** Support funding of $18.2M in Governor’s Scott DJJ Budget Proposal

**Improve and Expand Reentry and Transition Services for DJJ Youth**
- Comprehensive aftercare services are needed to help youth stay crime free and prevent return to juvenile justice system or adult system.
- 30% of current DJJ residential youth do not receive aftercare/re-entry services.**

**Ask:** Maintain investment of $11.3M for transition and reentry services.

**Ask:** Support funding of $3.75M for enhanced reentry services and to serve the 30% of DJJ residential youth who do not receive transition services.

**Support SB700/HB7055 Revisions to Juvenile Justice Statute 985**
Important revisions to the statute include expansion of prevention and intervention services, alternatives to detention, protection of juvenile records, enhanced career and technical education, and improved reentry system.

**Legislative Session Halfway Over**
We are almost to the halfway point of session, with budget committees meeting and passing out their budgets. The House has the budget this year (HB 5001) and last week, the House Appropriations Committee passed its $75.3B budget. The $74.9B Senate spending plan was approved unanimously, with all Democrats voting in approval. The Senate and House budgets differ by $400M. House leadership has refused to consider Medicaid expansion, which resulted in some House Democrats voting against the budget.

Both budgets will head to the House and Senate floors next week for full approval. Once approved, we will move into Budget Conference. FJJA is monitoring amendments.
FJJA March 2014 Newsletter

FJJA Announces Three Post Conference Intensive Trainings

Register now to attend the Human Trafficking of Minors on May 15, 2014.

Did you know that according the Florida DCF, young women aging out of the foster care system and/or entering the juvenile justice system are at considerably higher risk than their peers at becoming involved in sex trafficking? Violence and coercion is regularly used among vulnerable youth to commercially exploit young women, girls and boys. Would you recognize trafficking and know what to do? This post conference will bring together many different disciplines and address varied responses to sex trafficking of minors.

The comprehensive training event includes:

- The morning sessions will consist of presentations from various Florida state agencies on their efforts. Additionally, a panel of experts representing different disciplines in the field will discuss their human trafficking efforts and successes.
- The afternoon will consist of four workshop options: Survivor led workshop, law enforcement led workshop focusing on community level empowerment activities to identify local core issues, provider led workshop focusing on vulnerable at risk populations - DCF, DJJ, LGBTQ, and the homeless and Human Trafficking 101.
- This multi faceted training is designed to help build an understanding among professionals, law enforcement officers, educators, child welfare workers, service providers, and anyone else who wants to make a positive impact in the lives of adolescents.
- After attending this session, participants will be able to: better understand sex trafficking, identify the signs and symptoms of a trafficker and a victim, and build a network resource base for assistance in the future.

Cost: $149 - Participants will receive 6 CEU's

Register now to attend the Mental Health First Aid Training on May 15, 2014.

The tragedy at Sandy Hook brought to light that many youth with mental illness suffer in silence and isolation. The stigma surrounding mental illness often prevents people from seeking help or even acknowledging that they need help. Mental Health First Aid is an interactive 8-hour training program that helps non clinicians identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness and introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents.

During this training session, participants will learn:

- The potential risk factors and warning signs for a range of mental health problems, including: depression, anxiety/trauma, mood disorders, psychosis, eating disorders, substance use disorders and self injury among adolescents.
- An understanding of the prevalence of various mental health disorders and the need for reduced stigma in their communities.
- A 5-step action plan encompassing the skills, resources and knowledge to assess the situation, to select and implement appropriate interventions and to help youth in crisis connect with appropriate professional care.
- The evidence-based professional, peer, social and self-help resources available to help someone with a mental health problem.
- Role plays, scenarios and other activities in applying mental health first aid in various situations.

Cost: $129 In addition to 6 CEUs, participants will also receive a certification in MHFA.
FJJA Announces Three Post Conference Intensive Trainings

Register now to attend the Bullying and Suicide Prevention Training on May 15, 2014.

According to a March 2014 report published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), youth who are bullied are more than twice as likely to think about killing themselves and to make suicide attempts as their peers who aren’t bullied. Peer victimization is a risk factor for adolescent suicidal ideation and attempts.

As has been reported in the news time and again, adolescents have turned to suicide as a way of dealing with bullying. Today, research shows that suicide accounts for 13% of all adolescent deaths in the United States. Nationally recognized speaker, Michael Nerney will speak on the impact of bullying on social-emotional, and cognitive development of youth.

During this training session, participants will:

- Recognize the best practices for addressing bullying behavior, know the latest research on cyber bullying and its impact on youth, and describe the most effective models for prevention and intervention of cyber bullying.
- Recognize the warning signs of suicide, know how to ask the crucial questions, how to offer hope, how to get help and save a life.
- Session includes QPR Training (Question, Persuade, Refer) which is designed for any adult gatekeeper who interacts with those who may be suicidal.

Cost: $129 - Participants will receive 6 CEU’s. In addition, participants will also receive a certification in QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention.

QPR Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention is Listed in the National Registry of Evidence-based Practices and Policies

Report: Consequences of Discipline Disparities for Youth

In a recent report funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies and Open Societies Foundations, variances in school discipline are a problem that results in a wide range of negative student outcomes, including lowered academic achievement, increased risk of dropout, and increased likelihood of contact with the juvenile justice system.

Twenty six researchers, educators, advocates, and policy analysts spent nearly three years working to develop a policy agenda for reform to improve students outcomes in school discipline and encourage effective interventions.

Some of the key points discussed in the briefing papers include:

- Removal from school for minor rule breaking happens too often and increases dropout risks, juvenile justice involvement, and can severely impair the economy.
- Excessive disciplinary exclusion harms some groups more than others, including black males and Latinos.
- There are effective and promising alternatives to exclusionary discipline and interventions, which can improve learning conditions for all students.

To read report
Recent Reports

Report on Impact of Family Visitation

A report from the Vera Institute of Justice, Ohio Department of Youth Services and the Public Welfare Foundation underscores the importance of family involvement for incarcerated youth. The Families as Partners: Supporting Youth Reentry Project's findings reveal the positive correlation between family visitation and behavior and school performance, and suggest juvenile correctional facilities should change their visitation policies to promote more frequent visitation with families. In the study, teens who were never visited earned the lowest GPA scores and had three times as many behavior incidents as those who saw their families at least once a week. Conversely, youth who had regular family visits experienced the lowest levels of behavioral incidents and earned the highest GPAs.

Here are some highlights from the report: Youth who were visited regularly committed an average of four behavioral incidents per month, compared to six among those visited infrequently and 14 among those who were never visited; youth who had never received a visit exhibited the highest rates of behavioral incidents; Average GPAs for youth who never had a visitor was 80.4, compared to 82 for those who had visits infrequently and 85 for youth who had frequent visits. To read report.

Upcoming Conferences


FJJA Post Conferences at 2014 Adolescent Conference. May 15, 2014 at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando. Three all day intensives include Mental Health First Aid, Bullying, Cyber Bullying and Suicide Prevention and Human Trafficking of Minors.

The Adolescent Conference is Open! REGISTER NOW!

My Brother’s Keeper: Update on President’s Obama’s New Initiative

- 86 percent of African-American boys and 82 percent of Hispanic boys are reading below proficiency levels—compared to 54 percent of their white peers—by the time they’ve hit fourth grade.
- African-American and Hispanic young men are more than six times as likely to be victims of murder than their white peers and account for almost half of the country’s murder victims each year.
- African-Americans make up 16 percent of the overall youth population but account for 28 percent of juvenile arrests and 37 percent of prisoners and jail detainees.

For more information
**E- News**

There have been two major changes to the juvenile system's demographics. We've taken many of the "easy" kids out of the system. Appropriately, a higher proportion of kids are in the juvenile justice system because their needs and risk level are both high and complex.

**Fund Alternatives Instead Of Locking Up More Kids**

Youth of color are overrepresented at almost every level of contact with the juvenile justice system, an issue often referred to as disproportionate minority contact. But despite the numbers, there are still very few youth advocates who represent the communities that are most-affected by the system.

**Fellowship Helps Recruit More Juvenile Justice Workers of Color**

A majority of states have taken steps to reform or limit mandatory sentencing laws, signaling a shift in a decades-long approach to reducing crime.

**Vera Study Looks at Sentencing Reforms**

Now comes the Florida legislature with a bill, sponsored by the National Rifle Association, to supposedly solve the unfairness of rigid zero tolerance rules.

**Scrap Zero Tolerance Rules**
Member News

Sponsor Showcase - 2014 Adolescent Conference

There is still time to join the list!

With generous support from the Casey Foundation
SAVE THE DATE

2014 ADOLESCENT CONFERENCE
MAY 13-15, 2014

the WAY forward:
OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR YOUTH, OUR FUTURE

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