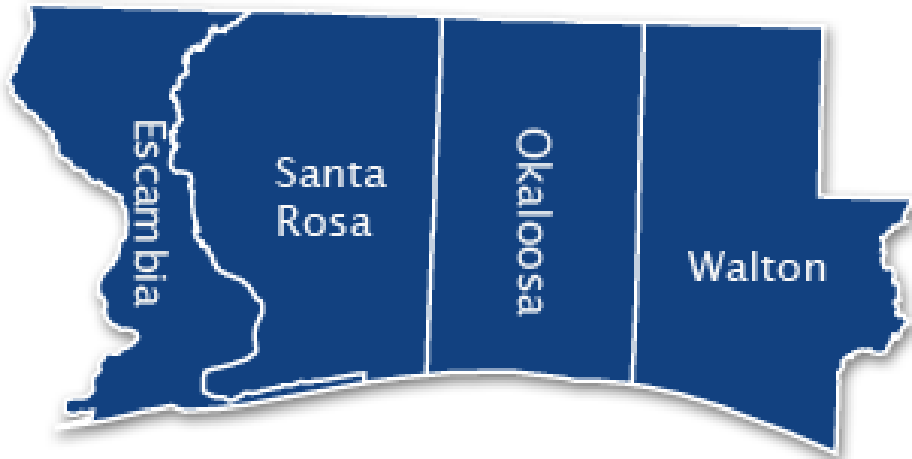


Circuit 1

Comprehensive Plan



Mission statements

DJJ's Mission: To increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth.

Circuit 1 Mission

To reduce juvenile delinquency within our Circuit by actively recruiting members of our community, businesses, faith-based organizations and service agencies to apply our knowledge and resources in a collaborative manner to address issues facing our youth.

Section 2

Benchmarks

- **Establish community resources to increase prevention, promote alternatives to detention and request funding to establish community interventions that reduce juvenile delinquency.**
- **Decrease Disproportionate Minority Contact by providing special programs for minorities including students with disabilities.**
- **Support legislation with the DJJ to detain juveniles in juvenile detention centers that have been direct filed until they turn 18 or found guilty of adult charges.**

Section 3

SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS

Okaloosa County:

Teen Court

Civil Citation

SRO in every school

Community re-entry team

Lutheran services

Bridgeway Mental Health

HOPE House

Children Advocacy Center

Truancy Court Boy scouts/Girl scouts

Police Explorer Post

Homeless coalition

Circle of families

Substance abuse programs

Juvenile Diversion Alternative Program

Walton County School District (WCSD)

- a. Homeless Program identifies and serves students and their families who have been identified as homeless. The homeless liaison ensures the student(s) receive free lunches, school supplies, medical treatment, ancillary social services within our region, as well as backpacks containing food for the weekend if needed.
- b. Truancy Officer provides direct support to schools to improve student attendance, and conducts investigations when reports of bullying are received.
- c. Parent Involvement Liaison promotes community and parent involvement.
- d. Teen Dating Violence Curriculum instituted for grades 7-12
- e. Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE) course required for all high school students. Course content includes mental/social health; alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention; human sexuality including abstinence and HIV, internet safety, nutrition and wellness planning, and physical fitness.

Walton County School District/Walton County Sheriff's Department's collaborative efforts include:

- a. School Resource Deputies (SRDs) provide security for students, faculty and visitors. SRDs also provide training programs for students including crime prevention, community service and good citizenship.
- b. Juvenile Civil Citation allows youth who commit first-time, non-violent misdemeanors to receive intervention services at the earliest stages of delinquency, which can help avoid further involvement with the criminal justice system.

Walton County Sheriff's Department

- a. Explorer Post 536 – participants ages 14-21 build positive character traits, develop personal and mental fitness and active citizenship through exposure to the law enforcement field, interfacing with law enforcement officers and involvement with a variety of programs and projects featuring safety, training and service
- b. Teen Driver Challenge for teens 15-19 to help boost driving skills and lessen the chances of being involved in a crash. Prevention topics include drug and alcohol use, aggressive driving and road rage.
- c. Summer Camp for Kids provide students with opportunities to conduct team building games with deputies, swim in Freeport pool, and visit the Wildlife Zoological Park in Crestview, go fishing, and see demonstrations from the following units: K9, traffic, marine, aviation and SWAT.
- d. McGruff the Crime Dog builds crime awareness among children
- e. Neighborhood Watch to obtain citizen involvement in discouraging and preventing residential crime, including burglaries and robberies.

DeFuniak Springs Police Department

- a. Eddie the Eagle is used to teach children and youth about firearms safety.
- b. Members of the department grill burgers and hotdogs for residents at some of the local apartment complexes to promote better communication.
- c. The agency participates in the downtown Halloween festival each year.
- d. Members of the department participate on the board of the Walton County Prevention Coalition.

Chautauqua Offices of Psychotherapy and Evaluation (COPE Center)

- a. Community Action Team project which works to prevent identified adolescents from being admitted to a Baker Act unit multiple times, prevent them from being involved with the DJJ system, keep them in school and help repair the family unit.
- b. Teen Court Program for juveniles between the ages of 11 and 17 who are first time offenders, offering them a second chance. Upon completion of all sanctions, the charges are dismissed by the Florida State Attorney and the Juvenile Record is clear of criminal findings. Students not completing the process are referred to the DJJ for further criminal accountability.
- c. Walton County Prevention Coalition efforts focus on educating youth about tobacco use, protecting kids from tobacco and strengthening local policies to protect the public from secondhand smoke. A Drug-Free Communities Support Grant helps develop coalitions, build community capacity for drug

prevention and raising awareness within the community about the consequences of under-age drinking, marijuana and tobacco use.

- d. Students Taking Active Responsibility (STAR)'s Level 1 drug abuse prevention program for sixth grade students, which provides a model curriculum, focusing on drug resistance skills, personal self-management and general social skills.

The Matrix Community Outreach Center provides assistance (food, clothing, cold weather shelter, and education) to the needy in Walton County who has been impacted by financial problems due to unemployment, divorce, disability, health, domestic violence, homelessness, disaster, aging and the rising cost of living.

Boys and Girls Club provides an emphasis on good character and citizenship by empowering youth to support and positively influence their community, sustain meaningful relationships with others, develop a positive self-image, cultivate solid moral character and respect their own and other cultural identities.

Kiwanis Club sponsors the Key Clubs, Builder's Clubs and K-Kids Clubs in Walton County schools, provides scholarships, support the local Little League organization and Boy Scout units, and provides immediate assistance to families in need.

Lion's Club provides free pre-school vision screening and glasses to those who cannot afford them.

Children's Volunteer Health Network- Just for Grin Mobile Dental Clinic provides free dental screenings for Walton County students in grades K-6.

PanCare of Florida, Inc. improves the quality of lives by providing affordable health and dental care for individuals who are unable to afford these services.

Pregnancy Support Center provides free pregnancy testing and pregnancy support through their "Earn While You Learn (EWYL) program. EWYL designed to address issues such as pregnancy, parenting, relationships, life management skills, adoption options and support. Participants earn "mommy dollars" which can be redeemed for baby clothing, diapers and various baby supplies.

Boy Scouts of America

Girl Scouts of Northwest Florida

Florida Department of Health School Health Services Program- provides basic health services including dental, vision, hearing, scoliosis screenings, first aid, promoting healthy behaviors and reducing risk-taking behaviors.

Shelter House-Domestic & Sexual Violence Center provides free and confidential services including crisis counseling, advocacy, outreach, primary prevention, transitional housing and supportive services for family members of domestic and/or sexual violence.

Church youth groups actively engage students in local activities and mission trips that promote healthy lifestyles and choices

Santa Rosa County School District

- f. The district's Office of Federal Programs ensures students who have been identified as homeless receive free lunches, school supplies, medical treatment, ancillary social services within our region, as well as backpacks containing food for the weekend if needed.
- g. The Office of Alternative Education and Continuous Improvement support schools in district-wide initiatives to improve student attendance.
- h. Grade Level Director conducts investigations when reports of bullying are received.
- i. Parent Involvement activities are documented in district and school improvement plans that promote community involvement.
- j. Teen Dating Violence Curriculum instituted for grades 7-12
- k. Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE) course required for all high school students. Course content includes mental/social health; alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention; human sexuality including abstinence and HIV, internet safety, nutrition and wellness planning, and physical fitness.

Sheriff's Department's collaborative efforts include:

- c. School Resource Deputies (SRDs) provide security for students, faculty and visitors. SRDs also provide training programs for students including crime prevention, community service and good citizenship.

Escambia County Strengths:

- a. Civil citations
- b. Community Drug and alcohol Coalition
- c. Pace Center for Girls
- d. Neighborhood Accountability Board
- e. Curry House
- f. Teen Court
- g. Juvenile Diversion alternative Program
- h. Youth Works
- i. Boys and Girls Club after school program
- j. Teen Empowered Mentoring Parent Program
- k. Career Source Escarosa
- l. Milk and Honey
- m. Lakeview Center Incorporated Community Mental health Center.

Pensacola Police Department

Strengths: Infrastructures are currently in place to reach out to the community by way of public *demos*, lectures, police sponsored events, a citizen police academy, and a community sponsored event such as "National Night Out". Discussions are also given with church groups, day cares, as well as through

2. 11th grade in all city schools. Other private entities such as "Movement for Change", PCARA, HOA neighborhood groups and corporate business. All these community involved events ultimately impacts the juvenile population through education and interaction within our community.

WEAKNESSES

Walton, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa Counties do not have an active Juvenile Justice Council; therefore they have not been united in efforts to address the benchmark selected as our focus. Although Walton County Prevention Coalitions are very active, and some of the members of the DJJ Region 1 CAB for Counties attend these meetings, their primary focus at this time is Tobacco Prevention.

The other major area hindering our ability to accomplish this task is time. The committee members appointed to represent their agencies on the Juvenile Justice Region 1 CAB for the four counties are full-time employees with multiple job responsibilities. To devote the time necessary to develop the comprehensive plan and provide the necessary follow-through to ensure it is implemented will impact our ability to accomplish the work that is required within our primary jobs.

Santa Rosa County does not have an active Juvenile Justice Council; therefore we have not been united in our efforts to address the benchmark selected as our focus.

The other major area hindering our ability to accomplish this task is time. The committee members appointed to represent their agencies on the Juvenile Justice Region 1 CAB for Santa Rosa County are full-time employees with multiple job responsibilities. To devote the time necessary to develop the comprehensive plan and provide the necessary follow-through to ensure it is implemented will impact our ability to accomplish the work that is required within our primary jobs.

Escambia County has a very active DJJ council but is in a transition of new officers who are learning the ropes. The Council identified the following weak areas:

- a. Limitations of reliable Data
- b. Lack of opportunities to create new effective programs
- c. Lack of communication between programs
- d. Lack of funding

Despite our actions and efforts we as an organization combat the family element and environment that these juveniles come from. The most well thought out plans and intentions sometimes come up short because the environment stays the same for the affected juvenile.

Okaloosa:

Does not utilize civil citation due to the philosophy of Law Enforcement

Has no DJJ Council

Duplication of services

Lack of funding for new programs

Lack of networking

OPPORTUNITIES

Walton: Through the active participation in the DJJ Region 1 CAB meetings, members of the participating agencies serving on the board are aware of the necessity to reinstitute DJJ Councils which will focus efforts of our agencies, businesses and citizens to address the increase in juvenile felonies in our district.

Santa Rosa/Okaloosa: Through the active participation in the DJJ Region 1 CAB meetings, members of the participating agencies serving on the board are aware of the necessity to reinstitute the Santa Rosa County Juvenile Justice Council, which will focus efforts of our agencies, businesses and citizens to address the increase in juvenile felonies in our district.

Escambia:

- i. Escambia: Agency Day meeting
- ii. Expand our focus
- iii. Report statistics using the DJJ Council Template and submit the template through e-mail.
- iv. Availability of schools-Net working with School district

In our community there are plenty of opportunities within our society that gives juveniles a chance to succeed by way of programs, mentoring, sports, education, and no lack of church influence to assist. There is plenty of availability for them and their parents to succeed if they want to.

THREATS

Many agencies included in our efforts to reduce juvenile delinquency are private not-for-profit community entities that depend solely on federal, state and local grants to support their provided services. When grant funds are eliminated, they are forced to seek other

sponsors of their activities, or cease the provision of services. In addition, as mentioned in the 'weaknesses' area, having the necessary time to devote to this task, while fulfilling other job responsibilities is a major issue that threatens our success.

- i. Duplicating services
- ii. Unavailable services
- iii. Change of providers
- iv. Lack of continuity
- v. Lack of funding
- vi. Refining our focus down to such a small group.
- vii. The perception by some in the community that believe that the opportunities previously mentioned do not exist for them, thereby resulting in negative and law enforcement interaction when it may have not otherwise been necessary.
- viii. One of the highest rates of Direct Filing in the State
- ix. Continued over representation of Minorities
- x.

a. **Which areas need focus:** Circuit 1 needs to focus efforts to educate our community on the increase in juvenile delinquency, and actively recruit individuals from the business sector, service agencies, community and faith-based organizations to serve on a Juvenile Justice Council for the sole purpose of reducing juvenile delinquency.

b.

- a. We need to focus on having one agency provide or oversee total case management
- b. We need to focus on root issues that cause kids to get in trouble after school.
- c. We need to focus on having open communication/ collaboration between agencies and schools.
- d. We need to have workshops on grant writing or fundraising to raise funds.
- e. We need to focus on providing transportation.

Continued education and involvement of the family through positive interaction with services provided by law enforcement, schools, churches, and other

2. Improvements/regressions:

Analysis of Walton County data reflects significant reductions in felony youth arrests in our black and Hispanic populations. However, there was a 56% increase in felony youth arrests in our white youth in the areas of property felonies and violent felonies.

Escambia County there is a lack of transportation and funding for specialized programs.

Pensacola Police Department: School Resource Officers

· Responsibilities

Offenses on campus Law related education Traffic regulation, accidents

Community Service

Role model Resource Referral Problem teens Truants

Sporting Events

Faculty Workshops

Civil Citations: Explorer

Size of campus requires officer

Builds relationship with faculty, parents, students

Safety: PHS bank robbery arrest

Presentations

LMS: Substance abuse information

Drivers Ed. Classes

What to do when stopped by police officer

Street law

Civil rights

Additional security at dances, other events

3. **Solutions:** Walton County will focus efforts to promote community awareness regarding the increase of property felonies and violent felonies committed by our youth, and address the issues youth are facing.
 - a. Escambia Juvenile Justice Council will communicate with the school board and churches to use church buses and school board fleet.
 - b. Pursue funding through grants to develop specialized programs to reduce DMC.
4. a. Pensacola Police Department- Explorer Post- participants ages 14-21 build positive character traits, develop personal and mental fitness and active citizenship through exposure to the law enforcement field, interfacing with law enforcement officers and involvement
5. with a variety of programs and projects featuring safety,
6. Training and service.
7. b. Officers participate in community activities and presentations at schools and community events intended to bolster relationships between the police and youth and citizens as a whole. In the past 6 month period, PPD Community Services Officers and SRO's have presented at nearly twenty functions and nearly 5000 people with educational hand outs and lessons concerning safety, and crime prevention. McGriff the Crime Dog was also utilized often by the PPD Police Explorers which promotes crime awareness among children.
8. c. School Resource Officer education classes are given to aged 15-
9. 19 in the city high schools. Prevention topics include drug and alcohol use, aggressive driving and road rage. Other classroom topics include anti-bullying as well as knowledge of laws in general so students understand what is lawful and what is not.
10. d. PPD sponsors a Citizens Police Academy that demonstrates units and functions within the police department to include; Patrol, Crime Scene Investigation, Major Crimes, Vice and

11. Narcotics, Community Relations, K9, traffic enforcement, and
12. SWAT.

16. PPD also offers assistance to residential neighborhoods interested in organizing their own Neighborhood Watch programs. This bolsters citizen involvement in discouraging and preventing residential crime, including burglaries and robberies that directly affect juveniles within each community.

Goals: *Identify goals that can be achieved within a 3 year time span. Break down these goals into six-month increments in order to stay on track. What do you plan to do? Specifically within each county? Which areas will you focus on? Etc.*

GOAL: Walton County plans to reduce youth property felonies by 10% within our community by December, 2017 by instituting the following activities over the three year period:

1. Walton County plans to actively recruit a team of individuals who will focus efforts on reducing youth property felonies by serving as members on the WCJJC. The council will actively recruit additional members from the business and private community sector to meet during regularly scheduled council meetings to monitor arrest data, ensure prevention efforts are focused on the juvenile population committing the felonies, and to explore alternatives to detention.
 - a. By June, 2015 Walton County will have reinstated the WCJJC with a minimum of five entities comprising the council, including the Walton County School District, Walton County Sheriff's Department, and Walton County Board of County Commissioners, DeFuniak Springs Police Department, and the COPE Center.
 - b. By December, 2015 WCJJC will include a minimum of seven members
 - c. By June, 2016 WCJJC will include a minimum of nine members
 - d. By December, 2016 WCJJC will include a minimum of eleven members
 - e. By June, 2016 WCJJC will include a minimum of thirteen members
 - f. By December, 2016 WCJJC will include a minimum of fifteen members

Escambia County plans to establish community resources that will increase prevention, alternatives to detention, community interventions and community based programs: pre and post adjudication in lieu of residential placement.

1. We plan to organize a team of individuals who will sponsor a Town Hall Community Meeting.
2. In Escambia County we plan to ask the school board for use of their bus fleet.
3. In Escambia County we plan to host a meeting for all community churches requesting the use of their church vehicles.
4. We plan to host a workshop on grant writing or how to apply for grants or funding.

Section 5

Operations Plan

How to transform goals and plans into reality; assess individual projects that will provide the baseline of your overall goal; how will these be accomplished? Human resources available to execute plan? If not, how will you obtain them?

Through collaborative efforts of the Walton County School District, Walton County Sheriff's Department, Walton County Board of County Commissioners, the DeFuniak Springs Police, and the COPE Center, the Walton County Juvenile Justice Council (WCJJC) will hold its first organizational meeting in January, 2015. The initial members of the WCJJC will include those Walton County representatives who are currently serving on the DJJ Region 1 CAB, and a COPE Center representative. At the organizational meeting three officers will be elected: chair, vice-chair and secretary. These members will serve a minimum of a two-year term. The agenda for the initial meeting will include the election of officers, setting meeting dates, recruitment of members for the council, and the sharing of updates and concerns from participating entities. Through collaborative efforts of the Walton County Sheriff's Department and the Walton County School District, human resources will be available to ensure the plan is executed.

Escambia County's goal is to provide youth with increased prevention, alternatives to detention, community interventions and community based programs: pre and post adjudication in lieu of residential placement will be assessed with various community engagement projects. We currently have a team of individuals working on the development of after school programs for youth. These programs will provide youth with the necessary skills and training to acquire better grades and employment within our counties. Services will range from tutoring, skill building, and mock job interviewing to resume development. Our team is lacking the skills of a school superintendent, so our next goal for this team is to reach out to our superintendent to see if Mr. Thomas will participate on our board and team.

Section 6

Executive Summary

Explanation and summary of your Board's plan, and how you plan to achieve your goals.

Walton, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa County will achieve its goal of reinstating the DJJ Council through the collaborative efforts of those agencies currently represented on the DJJ Region 1 CAB. Representatives from these agencies will meet to develop a County plan, and will ensure its implementation. Council members will actively recruit additional members from the private, business and community sector to serve on the council for the purpose of assisting us in reducing juvenile delinquency within our district. By applying

our knowledge and resources in a collaborative manner to address issues facing our youth, we will reduce our property felonies by 10% as of December, 2020.

Escambia County's goals will address goals in six month increments. Escambia will address community awareness through educational and advocacy programs that will be developed within the Escambia Juvenile Justice Council. The council will continue to recruit members required to reach the goals. An action plan will be developed throughout the course of the Council's development in order to fulfill the mission of Escambia County JJC and that of the Juvenile Justice Department.