



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Rick Scott, Governor

Wansley Walters, Secretary

Detention Cost Share Workgroup June 10, 2011 Minutes

Attendees

Commissioner Wexler, Broward, County
Commissioner Beckner, Hillsborough County
Wayne Appleby, Sarasota County
Linda Brehmer-Linosa, Orange County
Tim Burnes, Pinellas County
Sarraah Carroll, Florida Association of Counties (FAC)
Secretary Walters, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
Theda Roberts, DJJ
Beth Davis, DJJ
Julia Strange, DJJ
Mark Greenwald, DJJ
Jason Welty, Governor's Office of Policy and Budget
Sarah Toms, Florida House of Representatives Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

The meeting opened at 1:00 pm.

Secretary Walters opened the meeting with a discussion on the group's mission.

Beth Davis followed with discussion on the specific proviso language to ensure consensus on the purpose of the proviso.

Sarraah Carroll had a brief discussion on the counties' expectations from the group and some of the outstanding issues regarding the official definition of pre vs. post disposition. It is the counties' desire to have a definition outlined in statute.

Julia Strange gave an overview of the recent budget cuts and facility closures. She described the reductions in bed capacity for detention centers and anticipated utilization levels for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mark Greenwald from Research and Planning presented information on detention utilization trends as well as delinquency trends. He indicated that overall delinquency has decreased over the past few years.

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The mission of the Department of Juvenile Justice is 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.

Theda Roberts made a short presentation on the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative ongoing in four pilot sites in coordination with the Casey Foundation. Potential alternatives to secure detention that will result in cost savings to the counties and the state were discussed.

Beth Davis made a brief presentation on a recent proposed billing process that involves a determination of fixed and variable costs. The counties were not supportive of the suggestion overall so it was tabled. Beth presented some information on potential legislative budget request proposals that might be submitted this year. It was estimated that approximately an additional \$3 million would be required to bring GR and the Trust Fund appropriations into alignment with the actual utilization split between the counties and the state. Beth also presented information on violations of probation (VOP) and a potential shift to the state of the cost of secure detention for VOPs that are not new law violations. The counties feel that detention days for VOPs that are non law violations should be the responsibility of the state. Beth estimated this shift may require a \$15 million dollar adjustment but this amount is preliminary at this time.

Beth Davis led a brief discussion on potential cost savings that could be realized by counties if electronic bracelets were implemented for youth that score for secure detention. Secretary Walters continued with further discussion on options being considered to help reduce detention costs. She also included discussion on the civil citation plans to be effective July 1.

There was open discussion regarding the efforts of county juvenile justice boards. It is the group's desire that those boards have measurable responsibilities and members that participate. It was suggested that statute language be developed to outline these issues. There was discussion about development of plans by county boards for presentation and possible funding by DJJ. There was also discussion regarding the large number of youth who fail to appear (FTA) for a court date and are then placed in secure detention. FAC requested FTA numbers by county for predisposition and post disposition youth. Beth was asked to provide numbers.

The next meeting will be a conference call at the end of June with another face-to-face meeting scheduled for July in Tallahassee. DJJ staff will work with FAC to establish these dates and times.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15.