

# Trauma-Informed Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Charlie Crist, Governor   Rod Love, Deputy Secretary   Frank Peterman Jr., Secretary



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

## Our Vision

The children and families of Florida will live in safe, nurturing communities that provide for their needs, recognize their strengths and support their success.

## Our 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.

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Juvenile Justice  
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## TRAUMA

*The experience of violence and victimization including sexual abuse, physical abuse, severe neglect, loss, domestic violence and/or the witnessing of violence, terrorism or disasters.*

(NASMHPD, 2006)

## Trauma-Informed DJJ

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice is very committed to meeting the needs of the youth entrusted in our care. By providing Trauma-Informed Care, we have an opportunity to impact the lives of children like never before. We are undergoing a paradigm shift in how we provide treatment services. Staff are no longer asking “what’s wrong with you,” but instead “what happened to you?” This shift is based on the premise that many of the children and families in the juvenile justice system come from lives filled with trauma, abuse, neglect, violence, and fear.

The impact of trauma is realized by every age group, race, ethnicity, socio-economic group, gender, community, and workforce. In order for us to be successful, we must ensure that our employees are provided the resources and support to assist them in working with young people that may present very challenging behaviors. We are resolved that in DJJ, trauma will be acknowledged and addressed throughout our system.

By providing Trauma-Informed Care we will continue to be “part of the solution,” and the children we serve will be afforded the opportunity to live with more hope than fear.



*Trauma is when people live with more fear than hope.*