



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

**

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 28, 2008

TO: DJJ Stakeholders

FROM: Darryl Olson, Assistant Secretary, Residential Services

Rex Uberman, Assistant Secretary, Probation and Community
Intervention

SUBJECT: Commitment Management Process

Based on current revenue projections, state agencies are expecting at least a 4 percent budget reduction this year with, perhaps, an even larger reduction next year. As budgets are reduced, state and local agencies will be making difficult decisions regarding a necessary reduction in services. The Department of Juvenile Justice will be no exception.

The Department has been holding non-direct care positions vacant since December, 2007 as a part of our budget reduction plan. Commitment managers are among those positions that have been effected by this action.

Florida Statutes require the department to conduct a "multidisciplinary assessment" in preparing a recommendation to the court. Department policy currently requires that a **multidisciplinary staffing** be conducted as a part of this assessment. Commitment managers have been responsible for conducting these staffings. As these positions become vacant, the department will be unable to conduct a formal staffing for all youth who are recommended for commitment. Rather, the multidisciplinary assessment that is required by statute will be based primarily on the results of the **comprehensive evaluation** that is used to assess the need for educational, vocational, medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment. Probation Officer contact with representatives of various disciplines that are made during the pre-disposition investigation and report will also be used in conducting the required assessment.

Based on the existing number of staff vacancies, as well as anticipated future vacancies, the department is currently unable to conduct a staffing for all youth that are recommended for commitment. Our existing resources will be prioritized to serve youth who need specialized treatment as well as those who present a greater risk to re-offend.

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Charlie Crist, Governor

Frank Peterman, Jr., Secretary

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.

Effective on November 1, 2008, the Department will no longer conduct a formal staffing for youth who are recommended for commitment to a minimum risk (non-residential) program. In some areas of the state, it may also be necessary to discontinue conducting a formal staffing for youth who are recommended for low risk (residential) commitment. That decision will be made at the local level based on an assessment of available resources.

This is a very difficult and challenging time of all of us. Together, we will make every effort to minimize the impact of current and future budget reductions on the youth and families that we serve. Please contact your circuit Chief Probation Officer if you have any questions regarding local operating procedures.