

DRAFT
State of Florida
JJDP State Advisory Group (SAG)
DMC Committee Meeting
Tallahassee, FL
Thursday, February 17, 2011

SAG Members (10): Judge Daniel Dawson, Alan Abramowitz, Kip Beacham, James Clark, John Ferro, Tony Jones, Charles Jenkins, Patti Pieri, O.B. Standers, and Mitch Wilkins

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Staff Present (4): Rhyna Jefferson, Cheryl Howard, Juliet Westmoreland, Gloria Gatlin, Yvonne Woodard and Pat McGhee.

Visitors (2): Mr. Dale Landry, and Dr. Randy Nelson.

DMC Committee meeting was officially called to order at 10:10a.m

Juliet Westmoreland conducted roll call.

Tony Jones, DMC Committee Chair.

Tony Jones made a motion to approve the minutes for November 18, 2010; motion was second by Judge Daniel Dawson.

2010 DMC Examination of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Prevention, Probation & Community Intervention, and Residential Services Dr. Randy Nelson

Dr. Randy Nelson gave an overview on 2010 DMC Examination of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Prevention, Probation & Community Intervention and Residential Services. Dr. Nelson said that the number one cross culture factor to make a person effective is language.

Secretary Rex Uberman of Probation asked Dr. Nelson if he would like to see Foster Care apart of the report. Mr. Uberman relayed that a recent study out of Texas shows that 60% of people in prison have been in Foster Care.

Patti Pieri stated that Public Defenders in her jurisdiction who advocates for kids try to keep cases out of the adult system. As a result, the Public Defender will go to the detention centers with score sheets and have every kid fill out a score sheet if their current charges are filed in adult court. Subsequently, they will look at a score sheet that shows them that they will go to prison for an extended period of time based on their

prior offenses they committed. Ms. Pieri stated she thinks it's a great wakeup call for the kids.

Dr. Randy Nelson, President 21st Century Research and Evaluations, Inc

Youth Referred for Delinquency

Although the number of youth referred for delinquency in Florida (as well as nationally) has been on the decline across all racial, ethnic and gender group, it is projected that within the next two (2) to four (4) years, black male youth will surpass white male youth as the largest delinquency referral intake population for the first time in the history of Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

DJJ Probation

Fiscal Year 2009-10, marked the first time in DJJ's seventeen (17) year history that black males surpassed white males as the largest population of youth placed on DJJ probation. During FY 2000-01, black males comprised 28% (9,392) and white males 37% (12,434) of the youth placed on DJJ probation. In comparison, a decade later (FY 2009-10), black males comprised 31% (6,750) and white males 30% (6,450) of all youth placed on DJJ probation. Although the total number of black males placed on DJJ probation declined during this time period.

DJJ Residential Placements

Unlike recent and projected delinquency referral intake and probation trends, black male youth have historically comprised the largest population of youth committed to a DJJ residential placement. During FY 2000-01, black males comprised 38% (3,330) and white males 36% (3,180) of the youth committed to a DJJ residential placement. In comparison a decade later (FY 2009-10), black males comprised 43% (2,350) and white males 29% (1, 587) of the youth committed to DJJ residential placement. Although the total number of black males committed to a DJJ residential placement decreased

Summary Findings and Recommendations

A review and analysis of program release, completion and recidivism or subsequent offense data revealed that black males, tended to have a higher rate of program failure at each stage of DJJ's continuum of services (prevention, diversion, intervention, residential and aftercare services).

Black youth made up the largest segment of the juvenile population disproportionately represented in Florida's juvenile justice system. More specifically, black males accounted for the vast majority of this disproportionality. Although black males comprised approximately 11% of Florida's 10-17 age group population, their representation among youth who received deeper-end probation (31%), detention (42%), residential placement (43%) and transfers to adult court (51%) was significantly

higher than their representation in front-end prevention (20%) and diversion (21%) services.

Conclusion

The factor contributing to an individual youth's failure to successfully complete DJJ program services or subsequent offending or re-offending behaviors are numerous and beyond the capabilities of a single program. However, programs must increase efforts to assess and view each youth within four (4) domains (individual, family, education and community). Which encompass all of a youth's social, physical, mental, spiritual and environmental factors.

Recommendations

For the first time in the history of the agency, black male youth are poised to become the largest group of youth referred to DJJ for a delinquent offense. In addition, black male youth hold the distinction of having the highest recidivism rate within each of the DJJ program service areas (prevention, probation & intervention and residential services). It is recommended that current efforts by DJJ to target its prevention services and resource in high delinquency referral zip codes be more narrowly focused on specific communities within these zip codes with historically high level of juvenile crime. Although a zip code may have a high volume of delinquency referrals, particular communities may account for the vast majority of the referrals.

Mr. James Clark referenced a book called The New Jim Crow Law written by Michelle Alexander, which is an excellent book to read. Mr. Clark stated it would also be nice to have her down for a presentation at one of the SAG meetings.

Update on Situational Environmental Circumstance (SEC)

Ms. Rhyna Jefferson gave a brief update on Situational Environmental Circumstance Model Project (SEC), Florida A & M University, which is a DJJ contract.

The program is up and running the contract was signed in October 2010. As of today they have conducted a total of four trainings all contracts has been signed and executed and is in place with Edwards Waters College.

The project is moving along. While there was a slow start up at first, everything is running smoothly now. According to the last report in January, training has taken place. All of the subcontracts have been executed and we are hoping to have invoices in the next few weeks.

Overview of 2011 DMC Benchmark Report Dr. Kevin Wang, DMC Analyst

Dr. Kevin Wang gave an overview of 2011 Benchmark Report.

2010 Minority Youth in Florida

- African American youth comprised 21% of the entire youth population.
- Gadsden County had the largest proportion (64%).
- Pasco County had the smallest proportion (4%).
- 17 counties had African American youth greater than 21%.
- Hispanic youth comprised 24% of the entire youth population.
- Miami-Dade County had the largest proportion (55.9%)
- Gulf County had the smallest proportion (2%).
- 13 counties had Hispanic youth greater than 24%.

African American Juveniles Overrepresentation 2010

- In Florida, the DMC issue for African American youth remains widespread.
- 67 counties in Florida.
- 66 counties with calculable referrals-received (Relative Rate Index) RRI for black youth.
- 65 counties have referrals- received RRI greater than 1-black youth are overrepresented at the referrals-received stage of the juvenile justice system.

What Should Be Done?

- A 10-year long-term DMC Benchmark report.
 - √ Reveal reliable trends.
 - √ Facilitate targeting counties with escalating DMC issue.
 - √ Enable a fair evaluation of DMC intervention.
- Published reports and research indicate that
 - √ “Cumulative effect” of racial/ethnic impact.
 - √ A lack of understanding about the front-end of the judicial system-youth’s police contact & police decision.

Follow-up –Purchase and Distribution of “Bring Your A Game” DVD.

Ms. Juliet Westmoreland said that the DVD’s has been received and will be disbursed in the upcoming months.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tony Jones and seconded by Judge Daniel Dawson.
DMC Committee Meeting was officially adjourned at 1:45pm