

DRAFT
State of Florida
JJDP State Advisory Group (SAG)
Grants & Contracts 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 (12): Secretary Wansley Walters, Rex Uberman, Rhyna Jefferson, Cheryl Howard, Juliet Westmoreland, Gloria Gatlin, Yvonne Woodard, Amy Johnson, Kevin Wang, Kathy Jackowski, Mark Greenwald and Pat McGhee.

Grants and Contracts Committee was officially called to order at 8:30a.m.

Gloria Gatlin conducted roll call.

Mitch Wilkins, Grants and Contracts Committee Chair

Mitch Wilkins made a motion to approve the minutes for November 18, 2010; motion was second by Patti Pieri.

Greetings by Secretary Wansley Walters

Mr. Jim Clark introduced Secretary Wansley Walters to the State Advisory Group. The Secretary thanked everyone for having her. One of the things that the Secretary would like to see is the SAG profile to be made larger. She reminded the SAG that they were appointed by the Governor and the SAG could be a tremendous help to the department by getting our legislators to help us work with their own individual communities.

She also spoke about the system being reformed. Secretary Walters spoke about how changes took place in Miami 10 years ago. Once changes were implemented, it worked even better than expected. Miami arrests have been reduced by half and, its re-arrest reduced by 80%. They have reduced their detention population by two thirds percent.

Secretary Walters stated that before the changes took place, there were over 350 arrests in a week and over 70% of those kids were getting re-arrested. Basically by focusing on early screening and assessment which is the responsibility of the Department of Juvenile Justice, the department was able to divert these Juveniles and put them into community programs. However, once these kids have been arrested several times, these community programs are more reluctant to accept these children

because they see them as a different type of client then they would want. By doing early screening and assessment, we have seen re-arrest plummet.

The next change was to implement Civil Citation because they were not doing anything to help the first time offenders. Secretary Walters stated that Civil Citation should be State wide and written into statute because it isn't just a program. It should be part of our system, it should not be at the discretion of anyone, and it should be how our system works.

She spoke about how hard they worked with 37 Law enforcement agencies in Miami to apply Civil Citation across the board. So far they have over 8 thousand juveniles that would have went into the arrest system but participated in Civil Citation, and over 82% of them successfully walked away from the situation without getting into trouble. One of the things that will be done at DJJ is moving the collection of data on Civil Citation away from the referral side but over to the prevention side because it is extremely important that we begin to clearly document data on the value, cost saving, and keeping children out of the system because there is not enough money to continue locking up children.

Program Updates

Ms. Rhyna Jefferson gave an update from the last SAG meeting concerning a discussion of 11 aftercare contracts: all the agreements have been executed. The programs are in the process of starting up to serve youth.

All of our programs including Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) and Gender Specific are operating and serving kids. Ms. Jefferson informed the SAG that she has been pushing the providers to serve kids, and to ensure that funds are being spent.

The department staff has been working with providers on technical assistance. From the last SAG meeting, the board recommended that the department look at the next Request for Application (RFA) to utilize the Community Capacity Building grant using some of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) funding specifically. Offering services for Court Notification Services to reduce the failure to appear. This will notify kids of their court date. RFA is in the process for drafting. RFA hasn't gone to the Bureau of Contracts for posting, however; it should be done by next week.

Request for Application Evaluation Process

Ms. Amy Johnson gave an overview of Application Evaluation Process. She informed the SAG that the last prevention RFA put out was done in 60 days which is a very short time frame. In terms of delays in funding, it's not a procurement process question. That will be something that Ms. Jefferson will have to address.

Ms. Jefferson indicated that there shouldn't be a reason why in 2010 we are still putting out 2007 award money. Ms. Jefferson says that it is her goal to get the department on

the State fiscal year which will streamline the process and help with our Federal Funding.

O.B. Stander relayed to Ms. Jefferson he appreciates her effort in trying to solve the issue and, the SAG wants to help Ms. Jefferson in any way to resolve the issue.

Mr. Clark said that Grants don't have to be three years. Judge Dawson heard from OJJDP that the contract could go up to five years and any contracts that are on the third year cycle could go ahead to be extended for two more years.

Ms. Jefferson stated that the legislators have changed it to where the department can renew up to five years instead of three. Ms. Johnson informed the SAG that there is not actually a cap on the length of time regarding contracts. Furthermore, Ms. Johnson advised that this can be looked into more thoroughly. Mr. Clark responded that this sounds like it may be a solution.

O. B Stander asked if the Feds would be restrictive in terms of contract length. Mr. James Clark informed the SAG that he and Judge Dawson made a call finding out that the Fed's aren't restricted on contract lengths.

O.B. Stander offered that five years would be great however, depending on the feedback and what kind of impact they are making; you don't want to add two more years to something that is not making an impact.

Judge Dawson stated that he thinks it's a huge waste of resources to give a program 3 years when it's doing a great job and then the contract ends. The question should be why not just extend it to 5 years.

Ms. Johnson informed the SAG that the way the statute reads is that renewal clause are three years for the length of the contract or whichever is greater. So you can start out with a three year contract, have a three year renewal or a five year contract, have up to five years renewal. Ms. Johnson said you don't have to renew it for the entire three years. You can renew it annually or every two years or whatever milestone that is set into place but that is the maximum.

Ms. Jefferson said that she would like to improve what we bring to the SAG if there are programs that are functioning and their contract is ending. The department should be able to bring back to the SAG recidivism numbers, programmatic and finance utilization information so the SAG can make more informed decisions.

Ms. Johnson said one of the things that other programs do is a renewal conference call. The providers would call in to provide you with their performance data. You would review their contract compliance and decide to renew their contract or not. The SAG expressed that the department staff should be out monitoring the programs.

Ms. Jefferson stated she is open to any new ideas. She also would have the Delinquency Prevention Specialists attend the SAG meetings again and place on the agenda to provide updates on the programs that they monitor in their area. Ms. Jefferson said that the specialists stopped attending the SAG meeting due to the travel restrictions.

Mitch Wilkins said that they can also brief Ms. Jefferson and then she can inform the SAG by a conference call.

Other Business

No other Business.

A motion to adjourn was made by Patti Pieri and seconded by Mitch Wilkins. Grants and Contacts meeting was officially adjourned at 10:00a.m.