






Florida Department of Juvenile Justice: *Redirection Project*

March 2008


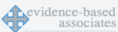



Redirection Project

- In 2004, the Florida Legislature funded a program to address the growing number of juvenile offenders committed to residential facilities for non-law violations of probation.
- Designed to divert, or redirect these non-law violators from residential placement to **evidence-based**, community-based treatments.

"When deciding how to invest wisely in stopping juvenile crime, use science, data collection and accountability to guide policy. Florida has shown it can do this with its successful Redirection Program."

- Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Report, October 2007



Why an Evidence-based Approach?

Traditional Programs:

- Focus on problems
- Work only with youth
- Rely on "Placement" as last resort



Evidence-based Programs (FFT and MST) :

- Focus on strengths as solutions
- Work with youth, family, and schools, etc.
- Empower parents to take control

 **Redirection Capacity
Actual & Expansion Summary** 

	Fiscal Year	Youth Served (Cumulative)	Cost Avoidance
Yr 1	'04 - '05	218	
Yr 2	'05 - '06	630	
Yr 3	'06 - '07	1437	
Yr 4	'07 - '08	2357	\$63 Million*
Phase	1	2629	\$71 Million*
Phase	1 & 2	2933	\$79 Million*
Phase	1, 2 & 3	3189	\$86 Million*



* 2008 DJJ Program Accountability Measures Report – Residential Costs \$34,774 per youth, Redirection costs \$7,715 per youth, Saving \$27,059 per youth

 **Redirection Project** 

*Serving Kids & Families,
Saving Money, Improving Public Safety*

- 31% Reduction in Felony Convictions & Adjudications One Year After Completion
- \$40 Million in Cost Avoidance in First 4 Years
- Reduces Need for Future Prison Construction and Maintenance, Higher Taxes

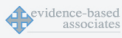
"Spending just one dollar on evidence-based programs can yield up to \$15 in benefits to society, whereas, more punitive approaches like detention and juvenile boot camps yield less than \$2 in benefits."
- Justice Policy Institute, July 2007

 **Recommendations** 

- Expand *Redirection* program into underserved regions by reinvesting accrued savings
- Focus on underserved and difficult to serve populations (girls, sex offenders, gang-involved)
- Develop "Evidence-Based Systems of Care"
- Invest in the development of strategic partnerships



Recommendations



- **Phase One: Achieve “Full Potential”***
 - Remove restrictions preventing certain youth from enrolling in Redirection program
 - Expand programs with highest model fidelity
- **Phase Two: Add New Capability**
 - NFP Programs for Girls (with matching local funds)
 - Intensive, proven, community-based treatment for youth with Problem Sexual Behavior (PSB)

* recommendations from last OPPAGA report, Feb 2007



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