



DISC Village Dispatch

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September 2015

Volume 1, Issue 2

Statewide Gathering to Discuss Juvenile Assessment Centers and Civil Citation

In September, statewide providers along with Florida Juvenile Justice Association and Department of Juvenile Justice held a statewide meeting for JAC and Civil Citation stakeholders to network available services, discuss juvenile justice efforts conducted in each Florida Circuit, and emphasize the importance of equal juvenile justice. Highlighted during this session were the 2015 Civil Citation Study and the Department of Juvenile Justice Civil Citation Dashboard.

In early 2015, a study was released by one of Florida's top civil citation experts and supported by state and national juvenile justice reform organizations showing that the increasing use of civil citations statewide would have enormous benefits for public safety, taxpayers, and the futures of youth. For example, increasing the issuance of juvenile civil citations by just 25 percent statewide would allow law & order entities to increase investment in preventing and addressing serious crime, such as felonies, by \$19.7 million to \$61.6 million. It could also generate lower recidivism rates – the recidivism rate for civil citations is 4%, while the rate for post-arrests is 13%. Civil citations are an alternative to arrest for common youth misbehavior. The study – Stepping Up: Florida's Top Civil Citation Efforts – is the first comprehensive review of statewide civil citation utilization and effectiveness. "What taxpayer wouldn't want common youth misbehavior to be handled more efficiently and effectively so that public safety resources shift to preventing serious crimes?" said Dewey Caruthers, president of dewey & associates, which conducted the study. Stepping Up, slated to become an annual study, is supported by The Children's Campaign. The 2015 study sponsors include Florida State University Project on Accountable Justice, James Madison Institute, The Southern Poverty Law Center, and Joseph W. & Terrell S. Clark.

This networking session was a success for all those who attended and valuable information was communicated on the importance of equal juvenile justice. The next session will be conjunction with FJJA's 2016 Spring conference and will continue the networking and communication efforts for all of Florida's juvenile justice administrators and stakeholders.

To view the complete 2015 Civil Citation report, go to www.iamforkids.org or <http://deweyandassociates.com/civil-citations-2015.html>

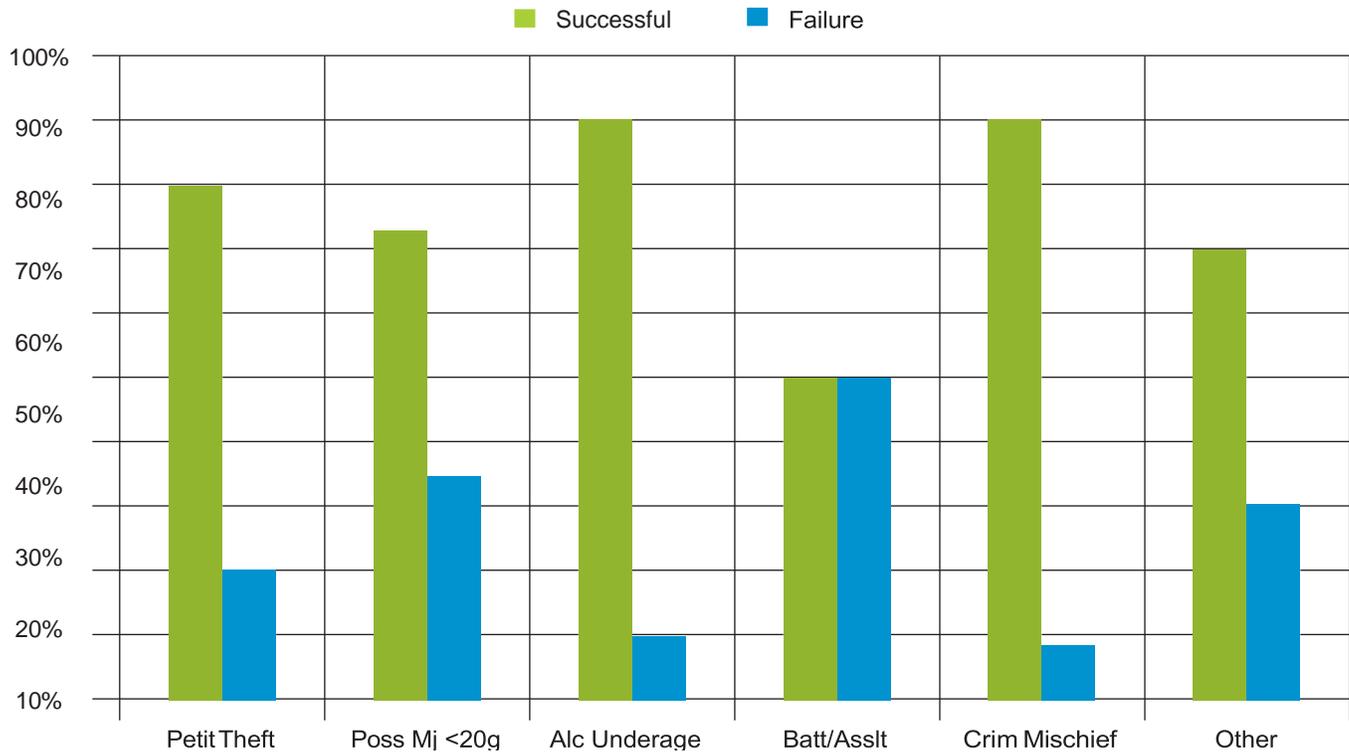
To view the DJJ Civil Citation Dashboard, go to <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/delinquency-data/civil-citation-dashboard>



Adult Civil Citations: A Practical Tool in the Sea of Reform

By **Greg Frost**, President, Civil Citation Network

Program Completion Rate by Offense Type – January 2015



The Tallahassee/Leon County Adult Civil Citation program, managed through the Civil Citation Network, emphasizes public safety with accountability that acknowledges there is a victim for every crime committed. At the same time, the program focuses on intervention strategies that reduce the likelihood of offender recidivism. Issuing a civil citation in lieu of arrest provides Tallahassee police officers and Leon County deputies a new tool that leads to a positive outcome. Through the use of sanctions and sophisticated, evidence-based early intervention strategies, participants are equipped with skills to correct inappropriate behavior patterns, thereby reducing future recidivism. Through the network's online program application, law enforcement and community agencies assign, track, and manage participants' in-person or online engagement. Required sanctions and interventions are individualized based upon a full needs assessment and can include drug screenings, community service, targeted behavior change

interventions, and other relevant sanctions.

- See more at:

http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/issues/92015/pdfs/Frost_PoliceChief_September2015.pdf

The Civil Citation Network is a non-profit organization created and supported through a private foundation. Its mission is to advocate the use of adult and juvenile civil citations with integrated intervention services. Communities across the United States have access to the Network's research and evaluation services, website data resources, integrated technology platform, and technical assistance related to the implementation of civil citation programs. Through participating, communities' civil citation programs improve public safety and reduce criminal justice system costs. Equally important, through the Civil Citation model, individuals are held accountable for committing a minor crime without the lifelong negative consequences of being arrested.

Additional details about the program are available at

www.civilcitationnetwork.org.

2015 Florida's Premier Behavioral Health Annual Conference

By **Jennifer Travieso**, Family Services Supervisor Circuit 2 Trauma Informed Care Workgroup Co-Facilitator

In August 2015, the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA) and the Florida Council for Community Mental Health held its annual Florida's Premier Behavioral Health Annual Conference with a focus on Advancing Health Wellness & Recovery. As part of the conference, DISC Village, in conjunction with Pam Peterson-Baston, MPA, Solutions of Substance, Inc. and Eric Wagner, PhD, School of Social Work at FIU had the privilege to conduct a workshop on Selected Family Interventions (SFI) Program.



Pictured from Left to Right: Kevin James, Rose King, Jillian Jackson, Jennifer Travieso, Amanda Moulton, Erika Meganck, Sara Fulbright, and Whitney Austin.

The workshop focused on the program model, services offered and motivation to develop the SFI program model into evidence based strategies and national program. The Selected Family Interventions program is a promising in-

home prevention and early intervention model. This program is a well-supported practice that targets families involved in the child welfare system who are affected by substance abuse and/or mental health. The purpose of the SFI program is to increase children's stability and safety in their own homes while their parents and caregivers increase their ability to care for the family. The focus of the services is to support the child's continued placement in the home and stabilize the family so future removals or threat of removals will not be necessary. SFI has been a 5-year cooperative effort between Big Bend Communicate Based Care and DISC Village to develop a dynamic, multi-dimensional and cost-effective service model which can effectively address the complex needs of this population.



Pictured from left to right is Tom Olk, CEO, Jennifer Travieso, Family Services Supervisor, Eric Wagner, PhD, FIU School of Social Work and Pam Peterson-Baston, MPA, Solutions of Substance, Inc.

Congratulations



Florida Alcohol & Drug Abuse Association recognizes specific leaders who have dedicated their career to the behavioral healthcare field for outstanding work to those with substance abuse and mental health disorders. Nominations are received by peers and judged by a group of executive professionals.

The Dr. Donald "Jerry" Feulner Award is given to a management leader who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in an alcohol and substance abuse treatment agency. These exceptional abilities are shown and measured through volunteer work, agency administration, community enrichment strategies, and outstanding management and leadership skills.

At the 2015 Annual FADAA Conference, one of the nominated leaders was our very own Tom Olk. Tom was awarded the Dr. Donald "Jerry" Feulner **Leader of the Year Award**. Congratulations Tom!!

Exceptionally Extraordinary - JDAP Successful Graduate

By **Mary Zaledonis**, JDAP Program Supervisor



"I never knew something I enjoyed could turn into something that would bring joy to others."

M. Noble, 2015 JDAP Successful Graduate.

Overcoming many personal obstacles and smoothing out a rocky road, M. Noble is an exceptional young lady who achieved one of many goals by being a successful graduate of DISC Village Juvenile Alternative Intervention Program (JDAP). Finding her balance and resiliency to endure life's curve balls, she didn't let the fact that she has had a difficult journey stop her from doing something extraordinary while she participated in JDAP.

As a requirement of the program, giving back is part of the restorative justice model and teaching youth the importance of the community begins with performing community service hours. As an avid reader and lover of books, M. Noble uses reading as an escape from the challenges of adolescence. Seeing an opportunity, M. Noble was more than eager to share her love for reading and books with others. This was the catalyst she used for giving back. In the beginning, there were hurdles that had to be overcome, assistance needed, and special permissions given in order to find the perfect fit for this young lady and her audience. Hard work pays off and with the help of her mother; M. Noble was permitted to do an alternative project to earn her community service hours in the most prosocial way possible. Her mother sought the perfect place for destiny and her special "gift" to collide.

After many hours of research, reading her favorite novel, and planning out her project plan; M. Noble presented her project to an Activities Coordinator at an assisted living and memory care facility. With open arms from the Activities Coordinator, M. Noble was given permission to share her love for books and reading as a presentation to a small group in the community. With her best homemade cookies in hand, presentation materials prepared, and glowing smile, the residents in the community were presented the best story ever. The residents loved the interaction and the care M. Noble took to make them feel special and provide a bright spot in their day. Her presentation was such a big hit, it opened the door for the Activities Coordinator to create M. Noble a volunteer position at the community as a "Book Club Activities Director".

As the Book Club Activities Director, M. Noble takes her new role seriously volunteering her time every weekend providing book presentations and creating imaginative new adventures for the community residents.

Thunderdome Tallahassee Class 2

By **Anne Munson**, Executive Director Legal Aid Foundation Tallahassee

In 2014, Legal Aid Foundation of Tallahassee commenced its first training program for new and veteran attorneys to provide free family law services to clients in the community.



The **Legal Aid Foundation** is thrilled to announce the launch of **Thunderdome Tallahassee Class 2**, an impressive collection of established and emerging leaders in the local legal community. Thunderdome is an innovative, hands-on leadership and pro bono family law training program which equips both fresh and seasoned attorneys with the tools necessary to effectively handle pro bono family law cases.

The program is a novel means of providing **equal access to justice**, a critical human services need in our community. It is estimated that thousands of low-income residents in Leon County lack legal representation, despite a dire need. Legal representation in a family law context often equates to safety, stability and health for families and children. One class at a time, Thunderdome Tallahassee aims to greatly enhance the pool of competent service-oriented attorneys who can give their time and talent to help families in need.

Class 2 is represented by a diverse group of attorneys hailing from private practice and government, and bringing a wide array of legal experience.

The class includes **Michael Alao**, Hopping Green & Sams; **John Bischof**, Bischof PA; **Thomas Dickens**, Dickens Reid PLLC; **Dina Foster**, Pennington PA; **Oaj Gilani**, Florida Department of Health; **Ashtin Henninger**, Bischof PA; **Angela Huston**, Florida Office of the Attorney General; **Bridget McDonnell**, Florida Department of Health; **Mary L. Pankowski**, Law Office of Mary L. Pankowski; **Yvette Pressley**, Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation; **John Reid**, Dickens Reid PLLC; **Halley Stephens**, Fuller, Mitchell, Hood & Stephens; **Reid Wakefield**, Coppins Monroe Adkins & Dincman, PA; **William "Bill" Wallis**, recently retired from Butler Pappas; **Joseph "Jake" Whealdon**, Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation; and **Matthew Williams**, Public Defender's Office, 2nd Judicial Circuit. The class includes the likes of the Former Vice President of Florida International University (Mary Pankowski), the first female judge in the 27B Judicial District of North Carolina (Dina Foster), and an Army Judge Advocate General ("JAG") Corp veteran (William "Bill" Wallis), just to name a few of the countless accolades the group boasts.

The Legal Aid Foundation provides civil legal representation and assistance in Leon County to people in need through volunteers and supporters. Established 45 years ago by the Tallahassee Bar Association, LAF helps lawyers with a passion for equal justice serve our community. The Legal Aid Foundation is a United Way agency, a member of the United Partners in Human Services, and appreciates the long-time mission support of the Florida Bar Foundation and Leon County.

-For additional details and to see more about Legal Aid Foundation Thunderdome Tallahassee Class 2, go to <http://www.legalaidtallahassee.org/thunderdome-tallahassee/thunderdome-tallahassee-class-2/> or <http://www.legalaidtallahassee.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Press-Release-Launch-of-Class-2.pdf>

DISC Village Employee News

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Beth Chandler
Alan Shiflett

James Bryant
Jamison Woodcock

Mildred Condurelis
Ronald Arinah

Jordan Cowart
Christina Littles

Decario Bruce
Ilene Harvey



Jennifer Travieso

Linda Noble



Gina Harris

Angela Lindsey

Latina Reaves



Linda Diaz

John Bailey



Giving Back to the Community

By **Lisa Sherry**, Juvenile Services Program Supervisor

Juvenile Services is always looking for ways to give back to the community and share with others the “fruits of their harvest”. Juvenile Services collects non-perishable and canned food for Second Harvest Food Bank and Family Endeavors Veteran’s Program. These events are ongoing by staff and consumers in Juvenile Services. Every month hundreds of items are collected and presented to those in need. Collaborating with Second Harvest and Family Endeavors is just one way that this program gives back.

In addition to giving back with food donations, Juvenile Services Civil Citation Coordinator, Imani Williams, was able to give back by participating in HIV Awareness Prevention and Treatment events in the community. Annually, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. hosts a block party to increase awareness for the prevention and treatment of HIV. The HIV Awareness Block Party congregated at the Oglesby Union this year and DISC Village’s Civil Citation Coordinator, Imani Williams was in attendance providing HIV pre-test counseling, linkage-to-care counseling. As a community service and awareness project, Imani was able to provide 64 consumers intake and testing services and completed five (5) hours of counseling. In addition to her HIV Awareness Block Party, Imani also participated in the "Come Out Saturdays" drag show at The Mint Lounge. In collaboration with the Leon County Health Department, Imani was able to provide more than five hours of HIV pre-test counseling, intake assessments, and linkage-to-care counseling to 60 consumers during this event.

Last, Juvenile Services will begin a community garden in the courtyard area as a service learning project for consumers in any of the Juvenile Service Programs. This effort will top off the year and will enhance sharing the fruits of their harvest to the community and those in the program.

Building Team Skills in JDAP

By **Mary Zaledonis**, JDAP Program Supervisor

JDAP is a diversion program that provides services based on individual youth and family needs. The targeted age group to be served is 17 and under; male and female.

JDAP concentrates on determining the needs of the youth admitted into the program, addressing those needs, then ultimately encouraging the youth to successfully complete the program while aiming to minimize their risk of becoming repeat offenders. JDAP strives to influence youth to remain crime free during their participation in the program and thereafter.

DISC Village’s Circuit 2 JDAP office held a team building event. They enjoyed painting a masterpiece while getting to know each other. (Left to right: Rasheeda Moorer, Circuit 2 JDAP Supervisor; Melanie Loveland, JDAP Case Manager; Nevskie Lamarre, JDAP Administrative Assistant; and Allison Brelia, JDAP Case Manager).





CIVIL CITATION NETWORK
Making a Positive Change in the Right Direction



Communications and Questions

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[DISC Village, Inc.](http://www.discvillage.com)



DISC Village Dispatch is published April and October. Articles of interest are welcome. All materials, publications are subject to review and space availability. Article deadline is the 15th day of the month prior to publication.

Send any interests, events, articles or suggestions to: DISC Village Dispatch to

news_letter@discvillage.com

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About Our Organization...

DISC Village is a non-profit 501C-3 corporation that has been in operation for over 40 years and is one of the largest and most comprehensive prevention, intervention, and treatment agencies in Florida. Through the years, DISC Village has become recognized as a leader in the state for initiating, managing, and coordinating delinquency and substance abuse prevention/intervention programs in Northwest Florida. DISC Village contracts with multiple state and federal agencies and corporations

such as Big Bend Community Based Care, while also relying of private sector funds to provide substance abuse treatment for juveniles and adults with substance abuse and co-occurring disorders. Our offices expand from Madison County to Escambia County and as far south as Taylor County.