

Feb. 25, 2019

To: Subcommittee on Re-Entry and Juvenile Justice

From: Frank Denton, chair

Members:

To get us started, I have drafted a possible outline of our work, with individual areas of focus. My thought is that, given the Sunshine requirements, we will have to start the work with each of us taking an area of focus and doing the initial exploration, reading, interviews and other information-gathering.

Actually, Rob Mason has asked to join our subcommittee, so we can have nine areas of individual work to start.

My outline and the focus areas are based on the interviews I described at the meeting last week, reading I have done and my own experience.

But I hope that, before our meeting this Thursday, you can look at the outline critically. Do you see another structure for our work and/or other areas of focus?

I hope we can finalize our plan Thursday.

Thank you,

Frank

Re-Entry and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee

Agenda – Feb. 28, 2019

This subcommittee will address issues preventing total re-entry by those who have committed or been impacted by crime. Including education, employment, housing, access to capital; social services.

This committee will also focus on matters of juvenile justice. Inventory of existing programs.

Call to Order

Introductions

Discussion of structure of work

Draft Areas of Focus

Other ideas for structure?

Other ideas for areas of focus?

Committee members' insights and ideas

Other business

Next meeting

Adjourn

DRAFT

Areas of focus

Re-Entry

Resources on Task Force website:

Services for Ex-Offenders, A Report to the Citizens of Jacksonville. By JCCI, Spring 2001
Services for Ex-Offenders -- Final Implementation Report." By JCCI, late 2003
Correctional Populations in the U.S., 2016 Dated April 2018
Jail Inmates in 2016 Dated February 2018
Inmate Reentry in Florida, Florida TaxWatch and Center for Smart Justice, 2013
Transition from Jail to Community (TJC) Initiative, Urban Institute and National Institute of Corrections, 2016
National Institute of Justice Research in Brief, July 1998, on what does and doesn't work
Analysis of the Impact of Inmate Programs upon Recidivism, Florida Department of Corrections.

Context – what is known about incarceration and recidivism

What happens to a prisoner inside
What are the variables that affect the outcome
What leads to recidivism
Compare Duval recidivism with the state and nation
Role of mental illness in recidivism. Melissa Ann Jernigan
Judge Steven Leifman and Miami-Dade program to reduce the number of mentally ill people in the criminal justice system.
Survey of Florida prison system and Duval jail
Best practices. State Atty Nelson

Prison programs for rehabilitation – counseling, education, training

The reality of an inmate's opportunities for counseling, education, training
How do prisoners spend their time?
What happens when a prisoner is released
Comparing Florida to the federal and other state's approach – best practices
Do experts agree on an ideal "corrections" program/curriculum?

Re-entry programs

See inventory spreadsheet of existing programs
JREC and Operation New Hope
Inventory and measures of effectiveness
How to make them more effective
Does any city or state have a model program?

Juvenile Justice

Resources on Task Force website:

When Kids Kill, Florida Times-Union

The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) in the Lives of Juvenile Offenders, OJJDP Journal of Juvenile Justice

Reducing Murder, A Community Response. JCCI, 2006

National Institute of Justice Research in Brief, July 1998, on what does and doesn't work

Center on Children and Families, Brookings Institution, on evidence-based initiatives

Context – what we know about juvenile crime and offenders

Survey of sources

State Dept. of Juvenile Justice has great data, down to the circuit level

The variables that lead to juvenile crime

Existing programs and services and their effectiveness

Best practices – what works

Civil citations and diversion programs

Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (<https://www.sao4th.com/about/programs-and-initiatives/juvenile-justice/juvenile-justice-advisory-committee-jjac/>)

Different approaches over last few years – which work?

Gender-based courts and programs

The psychological and behavioral differences between genders

Boys escalate (“Fist Stick Knife Gun: A Personal History of Violence,” by Geoffrey Canada)

Duval has girls court, Pace Center, Weaver Center

Is there a need for a boys court?

Best practices elsewhere

Silos

Assess the nature and degree of collaboration among JSO, SAO, Public Defender, service agencies and DCPS

Is there a need for an “IEP” for juvenile offenders – an individual offender plan involving relevant agencies?

Best practices elsewhere

Role of Kids Hope Alliance

Dedicated funding

Four or five Florida counties with dedicated funding for children's programs. Miami-Dade.

Compare their experiences and data with Duval's

Duval's history with a children's tax

Best practices nationally

Florida Children's Services Councils

Florida Statute 125.901 (1986) provided that any county in Florida, whose voters agreed through referendum, could create a special taxing district for children's services with a governing board and the authority to levy ad valorem taxes.

Through Public Act, Chapter 2000-461 of the laws of Florida, Children's Services Councils are authorized to levy up to 50 cents per \$1,000 of property tax value.

There are eight independent CSCs in Florida which have voter-approved taxing authority to ensure that a dedicated funding source is available to meet the specific needs of children and families living in their counties. People in the county pay a small portion of their property taxes toward their CSC.

For an approximate average annual cost to the taxpayer of \$25 to \$80 (depending on the county), CSCs are able to support a wide range of charities and programs that play a vital role in the community to make sure children of all ages are healthy, safe and prepared to learn.

Florida's first independent CSC was created in 1946, when voters in Pinellas County approved – by an 80-20 margin – the creation of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County. The newest CSC – The Children's Trust – was authorized by Miami-Dade County voters in 2002 and reauthorized by voters in 2008 – also by a huge margin: 86-14. There's also the Children's Board of Hillsborough County and the five CSCs in Broward, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Palm Beach counties.

Note: Broward and Pinellas counties were granted a special act of the Legislature in 2003 and 2004 to modify the number of members serving on their CSC. In addition, Palm Beach and Pinellas County were allowed by a special act of the Legislature in 2000 and 2003 to levy up to 1.0 mill upon voter approval.

Children's Services Council of Broward County

Year established — 2000.

Member composition — 11 members, including five members appointed by the governor.

Property tax rate — 0.4882.

Annual tax revenue — \$75.9 million (FY 2017)

Use of funds example — The council funded the Mobile Summer BreakSpot project, providing meals five days a week at nine housing authority and low-income apartment sites and 72 additional sites in Broward County. The program served more than 21,200 children.

Children's Board of Hillsborough County

Year established: 1988.

Member composition — 10 members, including five members appointed by the governor.

Property tax rate — 0.4589.

Annual tax revenue — \$37.9 million (FY 2018)

Use of funds example — FY 2017, invested \$30 million in more than 90 local non-profit agencies

Children's Services Council of Martin County

Year established — 1988.

Member composition — 10 members, including five members appointed by the governor.

Property tax rate — 0.3618.

Annual tax revenue — \$7.2 million (FY 2017)

Use of funds example — More than 14,000 children screened for preventable medical conditions. More than 1,100 received case management for complex medical conditions.

The Children's Trust of Miami (Miami-Dade)

Year established — Created in 2002 and reauthorized in 2008

Member composition — 31 members, including four at-large members and seven members appointed by the governor

Property-tax rate — 0.5

Annual tax revenue — \$121 million (FY 2017)

Use of funds example — More than 9,500 children with special needs were in inclusive programs alongside their typically developing peers. In addition, a new helpline was created to ensure the needs of children with disabilities are consistently being met in Trust-funded programs.

The Children's Trust of Okeechobee County

Year established — 1990

Member composition — 10 members, including five members appointed by the governor

Property tax rate — 0.4000

Annual tax revenue — \$624,683(FY 2017)

Use of funds example — More than 1,000 children were served in at least one summer camp and six scholarships were given to high school graduates.

Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County

Year established — 1986

Member composition — 10 members, including five members appointed by the governor

Property tax rate — 0.659

Annual tax revenue — \$113 million (FY 2017)

Use of funds example — more than \$3.7 million helped support pre-natal care efforts.

Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County

Year established — 1945

Member composition — 11 members, including five members appointed by the governor

Property-tax rate — 0.8981

Annual tax revenue — \$61 million (FY 2017)

Use of funds example — Board funds \$21 million for two dozen programs aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect.

Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County

Year established — 1990

Member composition — 10 members, including five members appointed by the governor

Property-tax rate — 0.4765

Annual tax revenue — \$8 million (FY 2017)

Use of funds example — a quarter of the funds went toward "keeping kids off the street" and 86 percent of children in council-funded programs improved or maintained their school grades.

San Francisco, California has one of the longest-standing dedicated children's funding sources in the country. The ethnically diverse city began its children's funding efforts as a result of advocacy to establish a children's budget and highlight the gaps in the overall funding landscape. Over twenty-five years, efforts around financing children's services have moved from outsider advocacy to established policy. Coleman Advocates led the early work to establish funding for children's programs starting in 1988, and advocated for the establishment of a permanent home for the children's fund. Management of the fund was housed within the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, which continues to administer the fund today and oversees the city's current strategy to equitably invest in its children and youth. San Francisco voters have since approved multiple funds focused on children since the original fund was created.

St. Charles County, Mo. is a conservative-leaning, suburban/ex-urban county, demonstrating the diversity of places that undertake this challenge. Taking advantage of a provision in state law to grant local communities the right to generate an increase in the sales tax specifically for children's mental health, civic leaders compelled the voters to create a dedicated fund for mental health services in order to reach greater numbers of children, youth and their families. Currently, the Community and Children's Resource Board, comprised of eight members appointed by the county executive and approved by the county council, oversees administration of the fund.

Denver, Colo., the Mile High City of 650,000 people, has an active history of establishing dedicated funding streams for children and youth. The city and the state of Colorado have been through three separate dedicated children's funding initiatives successfully supporting preschool with a sales tax, supporting education and prevention with a marijuana tax and an unsuccessful bid to support college access and affordability over the course of the last decade. The mayor's office, through its Office of Children's Affairs and Children's Cabinet, has championed such strategies, encouraging collaboration and alignment among the various departments.

King County, Wash. found a champion for a dedicated children's fund in the county executive himself. Seizing on a growing awareness of widening and troubling disparities, the county executive established a task force comprised of a diverse swath of stakeholders and citizens. Over three years, King County has seen the planning, proposal, approval, launching and evaluation of a children's levy all come to fruition to address the growing needs of their diverse population. A task force developed a youth action plan and aligned it to the county's investment strategy for children and youth. Substantive community engagement was central to shaping the plan. The fund was established in 2015. A 42-member advisory board is assisting in the administration of the funds collected from the first-year revenues.

Sources: Biemesderfer, David (2014) Children's Services Councils: Valuable Partners for Philanthropy in Florida, Florida Philanthropic Network

Waters, TaMaryn (2018) Children's Services Councils 'have to be judged locally'. The Tallahassee Democrat <https://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/money/2018/06/17/childrens-services-councils-have-judged-locally/677186002/>

Wilson-Ahlstrom, Alicia; Gaines, Elizabeth; Ross, Nathaniel; Pittman, Karen (2017) Funding Brighter Futures: How Local Governments are Enhancing Investments in Kids.