

**Charlotte County Juvenile Justice Council  
Strategic Plan and Priority Goals  
2008-2009**

**Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to provide the Charlotte County Juvenile Justice Council with a path to follow for the next year as it develops and refines its five (5) year plan based on the results of the needs assessment that is currently in process. The document is by no means a complete listing of all activities and is intended to only act as a point of reference for the key issues the Council needs to address.

**Mission statement of the Charlotte County Juvenile Justice Council**

It is the mission of the Charlotte County Juvenile Justice Council to develop and maintain a county juvenile justice plan for more effectively preventing juvenile delinquency. The Council should make recommendations for more effectively utilizing existing community resources in dealing with juveniles who are involved in crime and delinquency.

**Strategic Issue : Prevention**

The Charlotte County Juvenile Justice Council believes that prevention services need to be available such as educational programs, substance abuse counseling and treatment, truancy services, alternative diversion programs and drop out prevention services. Services need to address non-violent offenses of juvenile offenders to keep them from further need of the juvenile system.

Almost since inception the Charlotte County Juvenile Justice Council has maintained “prevention” as critical need in the juvenile justice system. Prevention funding is limited in comparison to need. Workable programs must be encouraged to address specific target populations. It is clear that early intervention must be our primary focus. Emphasis must be placed on increased diversions, early dropout prevention; suspension-expulsion program alternatives; school tardiness and truancy; after school programs at the elementary and early middle school levels; in school programs at the elementary level; mentoring programs at all school levels; and other identified juvenile need areas.

The Charlotte County Juvenile Justice Council feels prevention needs more emphasis within our community. We believe a strong prevention system will insure a strong, safe, nurturing and educated community for the future.

**Strategic Goals, Objectives and Strategies**

**Strategic Goal # 1:** Make prevention a high priority of the Charlotte County Juvenile Justice Council. The Planning Committee will play a key role in completing a district wide needs assessment, which will be used in determining the future strategic plan.

**Objective 1.1** Develop a data base of all existing juvenile justice prevention programs available in the county, the age each program serves and some general information about the services available. This should be used to develop a Charlotte County Juvenile Prevention *Directory of Available Services* as well as evaluate effectiveness of programs.

Strategy 1.1A Identify and categorize each of the existing juvenile prevention programs available in Charlotte County.

Strategy 1.1B With the assistance of the program personnel, develop a list of services available for each program.

Strategy 1.1C Enter all the above information in a data base and develop a means updating the information bi-annually.

**Objective 1.2** Develop a comprehensive prevention needs assessment for Charlotte

County by using the data available from DJJ and interviewing providers and referral sources.

Strategy 1.2A The Planning Committee will review all existing DJJ data to gather information for the needs assessment.

Strategy 1.2B Based upon findings of needs assessment work to expand alternatives to commitment and diversion programs such as gender-specific programs and early interventions beginning at ages 10-12.

**Objective 1.3** Work with other community agencies to include juvenile services in various community directories.

Strategy 1.3A Using the database developed, produce the required “Directory” document and distribute to all potential referral sources and make it available to the general public.

Strategy 1.3B Using the database developed, produce the Comprehensive Needs Assessment and publish it upon completion.

Strategy 1.3C Make all of the above information available to schools, neighborhood organizations, and the community at large.

**Strategic Issue: Advocacy**

The Charlotte County Juvenile Justice Council should take the lead role in advocating juvenile justice issues to our community. We feel that involving the community in addressing local juvenile justice is one of our top priorities. To that extent, we have developed strategies to increase our advocacy role in Charlotte County.

Strategic Goals, Objectives and Strategies

Strategic Goal # 2: Improve our advisory role to local, state and federal decision makers.

- Objective 2.1.** Improve our advisory role to local, state and federal decision makers.
  - Strategy 2.1A Make annual report to the Board of County Commissioners highlighting current juvenile justice trends, identified needs and funding gaps.
  - Strategy 2.1B Continue joint efforts with the Children’s Services Council and Charlotte Community Alliance to provide a uniform and consistent message throughout Charlotte County.
  - Strategy 2.1C Attend annual Legislative Delegation Meeting and present on local Juvenile justice needs for state legislators.
  - Strategy 2.1D Invite elected officials to meetings, send meeting minutes to State and Local elected officials, as well as other community organizations.
- Objective 2.2.** Create a marketing and media campaign to highlight local juvenile justice needs.
  - Strategy 2.2A Form a marketing committee to develop materials for advocacy purposes.
  - Strategy 2.2B Create media stories geared at highlighting success stories in the local Juvenile Justice system, programs that restore victims, and programs that result in taxpayer savings.

Strategy 2.2C Participate in Juvenile Justice Week with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

**Objective 2.3.** Increase effectiveness of the Juvenile Justice Council

Strategy 2.3A Increase membership of the Council by developing a flyer to send to all community-based service providers explaining council's role, primary functions and why they should get involved.

Strategy 2.3B Ensure participation on statewide Juvenile Justice Council Chair Conference Calls and disseminate information gained to council such as proposed policy changes, funding opportunities, and upcoming meetings, summits and presentations of significance.

**Strategic Issue: Aftercare**

The Charlotte County Juvenile Justice Council realizes that one of the best ways to reduce recidivism is to take a systematic approach to providing comprehensive aftercare services. According to DJJ's 2007 Comprehensive Accountability Report, the recidivism rate for youth completing residential commitment programs was 39%. In examining the time it takes for re-offending to occur, a consistent pattern has been observed over the last decade. The data demonstrates that if youth are going to recidivate within the first year, more than half will be rearrested within the first four months following program release. Among committed youth who recidivated in FY 2005-06, the majority (54%) were re-arrested by the end of the fourth month and 80% were re-arrested by the end of the seventh month. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy found that, "the best [reentry] programs can be expected to deliver 20% to 30% reductions in recidivism or crime rates" and that "programs that can deliver – at a reasonable program cost – even modest reductions in future criminality can have an attractive economic bottom line."

Strategic Goals, Objectives and Strategies

**Strategic Issue # 3** Continue to develop aftercare services. Identify baseline and success rates, funding of case manager, workforce development, parenting component.

**Objective 3.1** **Create awareness for the need and success of the Juvenile Reentry program**

Strategy 3.1A Identify community and faith-based to support the juvenile reentry program.

Strategy 3.1B Involve media in highlighting program successes through personal interest stories, press releases and roundtables.

**Objective 3.2** Identify potential funding sources for reentry services

Strategy 3.2A Develop a comprehensive blueprint of reentry services for returning youth.

Strategy 3.2B Work with state and federal funding agencies to secure grant funding for the reentry program and associated services.