

Juvenile Assessment Center
of Lee County
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July 2006

The JAC Perspective



The Juvenile Assessment Center of Lee County ... assisting youth and their families to seek the treatment and programs they need to lead productive, crime free lives.

CALENDAR

Juvenile Sanctions Team
July 6
12:00 p.m.
Lee JAC

Lee County Juvenile Justice Council
July 10
12:00 p.m.
Lee County Justice Center
1700 Monroe St.,
Hearing Room 1, 4th Floor

Circuit 20 Juvenile Justice Board
July 11
1:30 p.m.
FGCU
Academic Building V, Room 309



The JAC of Lee County is operated by the Lee County Sheriff's Office in partnership with the Lee County Board of County Commissioners and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Judge Winesett Leaves Juvenile Court

The Honorable Sherra Winesett, who has served as Lee County's juvenile delinquency court judge for the past two years, rotated to a new judgeship in July. Besides presiding over juvenile court, Judge Winesett has been the presiding judge for Teen Court and for Lee County's Juvenile Drug Court. She also spearheaded the Lee County Juvenile Sanctions Team, which has worked to make improvements in the local juvenile justice system. Said Winesett of the local juvenile justice system, "I've really been impressed with the level of community participation and what can be accomplished when everyone works together." Under Judge Winesett's leadership, the community has implemented numerous initiatives and programs to expedite juvenile case processing and to address juvenile crime more effectively. Judge Winesett advocated at the state level to bring more treatment resources to



Judge Sherra Winesett

the community for juvenile offenders with substance abuse and mental health problems. Because of her leadership and advocacy, the community will receive additional state funding during the next year for conditional release supervision, mental health and family counseling, domestic violence treatment, and trauma counseling for juvenile offenders. Judge Winesett may be leaving the juvenile bench, but the positive impact she has made on the local juvenile justice system will continue.

Judge Steinbeck Assumes Juvenile Judgeship

The Honorable Mark Steinbeck assumed the role of the juvenile court judge in Lee County in July, replacing the Honorable Sherra Winesett. Governor Bush appointed Judge Steinbeck to the 20th Judicial Circuit Court in April of this year. Judge Steinbeck was previously an assistant United States Attorney in the office of the U.S. Attorney. Said Judge Steinbeck of his new position, "I'm fortunate to have great mentors in several judges that have had



Judge Mark Steinbeck

the juvenile docket in the past. I'm looking forward to serving in this position for the next couple of years."

SHOCAP Targets Serious Habitual Offenders

SHOCAP, or the “Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program,” is a multi-agency initiative that focuses on identifying, apprehending, and effectively controlling juveniles who display a consistent pattern of repeated serious crime. Around 6% of the youth who interact with the juvenile justice system are considered habitual offenders. However, this group commits as much as 60%

of all serious juvenile crime. SHOCAP utilizes sharing of information between community partners, intensive monitoring, and supervision of youth identified as serious habitual offenders. The SHOCAP process sends a clear message to juvenile offenders that the schools, law enforcement, and other community agencies are working together to monitor their criminal activity and

that repeated offenses will not be tolerated.



Cpl. Sherri Smith, SHOCAP Coordinator

Reentry Board Assists Youth “Coming Home”

Each year Lee County sends approximately 300 delinquent youth to state-run, residential commitment facilities. Eventually, these youth come back to the community. Most of the youth are eager to start their lives over, but navigating a new life is not always easy. Enrolling in school, finding a job, lining up transportation, and finding treatment services can be a challenge, especially since some of the youth do not have family support. In August 2005, Lee County’s Juvenile Sanctions Team implemented a pilot Reentry Board to assist youth reentering the community from residential commitment programs. Presently, the board works with youth placed on “conditional release” status with the Eckerd Reentry program. The Reentry Board meets with a youth in the first few days after returning to the community to identify any special needs and to assist them in accessing programs and services. The board



also attempts to help youth connect to positive support in the community, such as, after school programs and/or faith based organizations. The board is comprised of representatives of the JAC, Eckerd Reentry, the Workforce Development Board, the school district, The Bridge youth center, law enforcement, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and a substance abuse/mental health specialist. According to Bill Naylor, JAC Director and coordinator for the reentry board, “One of the surprises in working with the reentry board is that we thought we would help educate the youth and their families on resources in the community, but we have educated ourselves just as much.” According to Naylor, the

reentry board process “is definitely not a cookie cutter approach. It has often taken a team effort to find the resources needed to address the unique challenges of each youth.” According to Naylor, the board has strong partnerships with programs in central Fort Myers but has a need to locate more programs that can work with youth in Lehigh Acres, Bonita Springs, and Cape Coral. The Reentry Board has worked with 43 youth, to date.



The JAC welcomes Tyrone Martin, our new FGCU Intern.