

Juvenile Assessment Center
of Lee County
2117 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 344-5100
www.swfjac.org

July 2008

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

Prevention Network

July 11
10:00 a.m.
Lee County Human Services
2440 Thompson Street

Circuit 20 Juvenile Justice Board

July 16
1:30 p.m.
Southwest Florida Workforce
Development Board
9530 Marketplace Rd., Ste. 104

Juvenile Sanctions Team

August 7
12:00 p.m.
Joseph P. D'Alessandro
Office Complex
2295 Victoria Ave., Room 165

Lee County Juvenile Justice Council

August 7
1:30 p.m.
Joseph P. D'Alessandro
Office Complex
2295 Victoria Ave., Room 165

**Law enforcement
should call ahead to**

**344-5161
or 344-5171**

**when bringing an
arrested youth
to the JAC.**

What is TRUE for Girls?

The TRUE Girls Program (Trauma Resolution through Understanding and Education) is for girls from age 12 to 17 who have a history of trauma. Provided by the Children's Advocacy Center, the program has been funded by the state for the past two years. It provides trauma assessment, a trauma resolution group, individual therapy, family counseling, home visits, and aftercare.

During the past year it served 35 girls. Of the girls that participated in the counseling program, 91% graduated successfully. Another 31 girls were served through TRUE's community outreach program. In June it was



announced that the TRUE program was not funded in this year's state budget. However, the Children's Advocacy Center's Executive Director, Jill Turner, has announced that the program will continue. She noted that it may not be able to provide services at the same level as in the past, but that the agency will find a way to continue the program. What role do programs such as TRUE play in delinquency prevention and intervention? Youth in the juvenile justice system have high rates of physical and sexual
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Captain Johnson to Retire



July 10th marks the retirement of Captain Dan Johnson, who has been the Juvenile Assessment and Prevention Division

Commander at the JAC since April 2006. Capt. Johnson has worked with the Lee County Sheriff's Office since 1987. Prior to his current position, he served as a Watch Commander, Director of Planning and Research, and as a Community Policing Officer. He also served as a School Resource Officer with the Fort Myers Police Department before joining the LCSO. *Best wishes to Capt. Johnson from the JAC staff.*

Tees & Jeans Needed



The Prevention Network is collecting new or clean, gently worn tee shirts and jeans for both boys and girls. The tees, jeans, plus book bags and school supplies will be distributed to youth in need at a back to school event in August sponsored by The Bridge youth center. Donations can be dropped off at The Bridge at 2128 Cleveland Avenue no later than August 1st. Call The Bridge at 337-3798 to confirm their summer hours. *(Note: The Bridge will be moving soon to 2336 Cleveland Ave.)*

What is TRUE for Girls? (cont.)

abuse, as well as exposure to other forms of trauma. This is particularly true for girls. At least three in four youth in the juvenile justice system have been exposed to severe victimization. Other forms of trauma can include witnessing violence, the death of someone close, other loss, abandonment, serious injury, or threat to the child's well being. Although no single experience leads a youth into the delinquency system, the likelihood that a youth will commit crimes appears to increase when a child is a witness or victim of violence or experiences a traumatic

event and experiences traumatic stress as a result of that experience. In one traumatic moment the world can become an unpredictable, dangerous, and frightening place for the youth. Youth who have been exposed to trauma or mistreatment often cope by becoming indifferent, defiant, and aggressive. If the traumatic experience is not addressed, the youth's ability to trust others, their sense of personal safety, their ability to handle life's challenges, and their belief that there is justice

or fairness in life may become impaired. They are prone to risk taking, rule breaking, conflicts with peers, poor school attendance, having difficulty with authority figures, and to substance abuse. *Unless the trauma is addressed, they may not be able to benefit from other treatment or delinquency interventions that are provided to them.* For more information about TRUE, contact Christina Reynolds at the Children's Advocacy Center at (239) 939-2808.

Naylor Elected Chair of Juvenile Justice Council

Bill Naylor, Manager of the JAC, was elected to serve as chair of the Lee County Juvenile Justice Council at its June meeting. Jeffrey Shicks, Director of The Bridge youth center, will serve as vice-chair. Nora Donato Hitchcock, Director of the Neighborhood Accountability Board program through Lee County Department of Human Services, will serve as secretary. A special "thanks" to Kevin Lewis, Executive Director of Southwest Florida Addiction Services, who has served as the council chair for the past five years.



The JAC welcomes Janice Mangeri (left) and Latia Thomas (right) who are enrolled in the Juvenile Justice Cooperative Education Program for the summer term. The program is a partnership with Southwest Florida College and local juvenile justice programs. It provides students in the college's criminal justice studies program with real life observations of the juvenile justice system.

Circuit Juvenile Justice Board Elects Chair

The Circuit 20 Juvenile Justice Board has elected Carol Helton, Project Coordinator with the Lee JAC, to serve as its chair. Chief Scott Salley with the Collier County Sheriff's Office is the immediate past chair. Also elected were Captain Joe Johnson with the Hendry County Sheriff's Office as vice-chair and Dannielle Brun, with Henkels and McCoy, as the board secretary. The Circuit 20 Juvenile Justice Board represents Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, and Glades Counties.

Price Halfway House Under New Leadership

Johnny Richardson has been appointed Director of Price Halfway House. Price Halfway House is a state-run moderate risk residential commitment program in Fort Myers for males ages 14-18. It provides a mental health and substance abuse treatment overlay. Its vocational program teaches tile, masonry, and landscaping. It is the only juvenile justice residential commitment program in Lee County.



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.