

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

August 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.*

## Celebrating Community Partnerships

On Monday, August 21, 2006, the Lee County Juvenile Justice Council will honor local legislators - Representative Jeff Kottkamp, Representative Trudi Williams, and Senator Dave Aronberg - for their efforts on behalf of the youth of Lee County and Southwest Florida. All three legislators sponsored one or more state budget proposals to provide services to local youth. Because of their bipartisan efforts, the community

will have funding during the next year to reach up to 365 adolescents and families with services aimed at turning their lives around, using proven strategies and parent involvement to turn delinquent youth into productive citizens. The community is cordially invited to attend the event at the Regional Service Center, 2295 Victoria Avenue (Room 165), Fort Myers, Florida at 9:30 a.m.

## CALENDAR

**Circuit 20 Juvenile Justice Board  
Executive Committee Meeting**  
August 2  
1:30 p.m.  
Southwest Florida Workforce  
Development Board

**Juvenile Sanctions Team**  
August 3  
1:30 p.m.  
Lee JAC

**"Celebrating Community Partnerships"  
Lee County Juvenile Justice Council**  
August 21  
9:30 a.m.  
Regional Service Center  
2295 Victoria Ave., Room 165

**Law enforcement should  
call ahead to**

**344-5161**

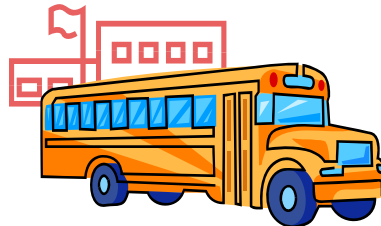
**or**

**344-5171**

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

## Back to School – A Good Time to Discuss School Rules

Buy school supplies. Check. Buy school clothes. Check. Review school rules. Come again? Back to school time is a perfect time for parents to review school rules with their children and discuss expectations for the coming school year. Although many parents and youth believe they know the rules, every school year the JAC sees some arrested youth, and maybe sometimes even their parents, who missed some of the finer points of the school discipline code. For example, being on school grounds without permission, such as when the school is closed, is considered trespassing. Possession of any object that could be used as a weapon is not allowed at school. This includes the box cutter that was left in the car after a weekend of moving or



the pocket knife that was left in a pocket after a camping trip. Possession of over-the-counter medications is also not allowed. This includes aspirin, Tylenol, and vitamins. Some violations of the school district code automatically require a law enforcement response. If you are a parent of a school-aged child,

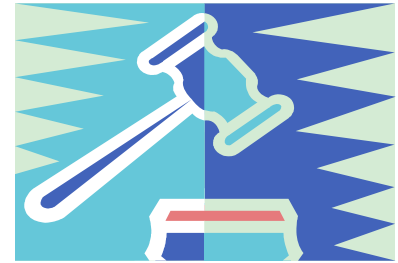
this year when your child brings home the school district code of conduct and asks you to sign it, take some time to review it and review it with your child. This also might be a good time to discuss with

your child the values that are important to your family and the importance of making responsible decisions. To get a head start, the *School District of Lee County Student Code of Conduct* can be accessed online at [www.lee.k12.fl.us/schools/cc/codeconduct.htm](http://www.lee.k12.fl.us/schools/cc/codeconduct.htm).

## Florida's Juvenile Justice Boards and Councils

Florida Statutes authorize there to be a Juvenile Justice Council in every county in Florida and a Circuit Juvenile Justice Board in each of the state's twenty judicial circuits. Their purpose is to provide advice and direction to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). They assist in the development and implementation of juvenile justice programs, work collaboratively with DJJ in seeking program improvements, and assist DJJ in making policy changes to positively impact youth who are at risk of delinquency. Activities of the boards and councils include identifying and prioritizing local juvenile justice needs and service gaps, developing a community juvenile justice plan, promoting collabora-

tion among community partners in developing programs and initiatives, making recommendations on legislative budget issues and statutory changes, and advocating for resources for needed services. The boards and councils also assist DJJ in the evaluation and award of prevention and early intervention grant programs including the *Community Partnership Grant* program and proceeds from the *Invest in Children* license plate annual use fees. Membership on the circuit juvenile justice boards includes the Chief Judge, the State Attorney, the Public Defender, or their respective designees, and representatives from the county juvenile justice councils that comprise the circuit. Florida statutes do not mandate



specific community representatives to be members on the county juvenile justice councils, but they do underscore that the intent of the councils is to serve as a forum for the community's key decision makers and juvenile justice stakeholders. All juvenile justice board and council meetings are open to the public and community participation is welcomed. Check the Calendar section of *The JAC Perspective* for meeting dates and times.

## Kevin Lewis Elected Chair of Lee Juvenile Justice Council

Kevin Lewis, Executive Director of Southwest Florida Addiction Services, was elected to serve another term as Chair of the Lee County Juvenile Justice Council at the council's July meeting. Bill Naylor (*Director of the JAC*) was elected Vice-Chair, and Nora Hitchcock (*Lee County Human Services Neighborhood Accountability Boards*) and Kathie Green (*Youth, Family, & Community Partnership, FGCU*) were elected as Co-Secretaries. The Council elected Kevin Lewis, Capt. Dan Johnson (*Lee County Sheriff's Office*), and Carol Helton (*Lee County Sheriff's Office*) to serve as representatives to the Circuit 20 Juvenile Justice Board.



Carol Helton, Project Coordinator at the JAC, was recognized as LCSO Corrections Civilian of the Month in July.

## New Leadership for Circuit 20 Juvenile Justice Board

Major Scott Salley with the Collier County Sheriff's Office was elected as Chair of the Circuit 20 Juvenile Justice Board at the board's July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at FGCU. Also elected were Carol Helton, Project Coordinator with the Lee JAC, as Vice-Chair, and Bernice Kertavage, Program Manager with the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, as Secretary. Immediate Past-Chair is Dr. Sandra O'Brien with Florida Gulf Coast University. The 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Juvenile Justice Board represents Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, and Glades Counties.



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.