



Southwest Florida - Circuit 20

Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties

Juvenile Justice Update

March 20, 2009

In the news.....

Program Offers Students a Wake Up Call

Charlotte Sun, March 7, 2009

The Punta Gorda Police Department has implemented a Civil Citation program for school based misdemeanor crimes as an alternative to arrest. The program was developed with the technical assistance of the Office of the State Attorney, 20th Judicial Circuit, as part of an expansion of a Department of Juvenile Justice funded Civil Citation/Equal Justice grant. This expansion of civil citation within Circuit 20 has been implemented without additional funding.

Homeless Children on Rise in Lee

The News-Press, March 11, 2009

Although not mentioned in the article, the need for additional shelter beds for youth in Southwest Florida has been identified as a critical need by the Circuit 20 Juvenile Justice Board.

Fort Myers' Leading Ladies Offer Life Lessons

The News-Press, March 16, 2009

Lee County's PACE Center hosted a Grande Dames Tea event where three women from Southwest Florida – all in their nineties – were honored for their contributions to the community. The honorees offered their wisdom to the PACE girls during the event.

The Phoenix Program Targets Incarcerated Youth

The News-Press, March 17, 2009

The Bridge youth center director, Jeffrey Shicks, now brings the Phoenix Program, a gang prevention and intervention curriculum, to the Southwest Florida Regional Detention Center. Mr. Shicks is a Circuit 20 Juvenile Justice Board member and also coordinates the circuit's faith based network. He has provided the Phoenix Program at the detention center without additional funding.

New program

Level Up Diversion Program Implemented

The African American Caribbean Center (AFCAAM) recently implemented the Level Up court diversion program for youth in the Dunbar community of Fort Myers. AFCAAM is a faith based organization that serves the Dunbar community with a message of empowerment and values. Youth with first time misdemeanor charges who live in the Dunbar community are eligible to participate in Level Up. Youth participate in age specific and gender specific groups. The program includes mentoring, education, and community service. Youth also participate in the Fort Myers Youth Police Academy, which is specifically tailored for the youth in the Level Up program. The Level Up program was developed in partnership with the Fort Myers Police Department and the Office of the State Attorney, 20th Judicial Circuit. The program has been implemented without additional funding. Additional information about Level Up is on the AFCAAM website at www.afcaam.com/levelup.html. (Note: the program has been expanded to include girls since the website was last updated.)

Did you know.....

A list of commonly used acronyms in the juvenile justice system in Southwest Florida is available on the Circuit 20 Juvenile Justice Board and County Councils resources web page at www.swfljac.org/bcc.htm.