



## **Florida's Juvenile Justice Circuit Boards & County 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 collaboration 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. For more information on the Circuit 20 Juvenile Justice Board or the Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry or Lee County Juvenile Justice Councils call (239) 338-2657.