



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Jail Diversion Program

Judge Steven Leifman of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit and Deborah Dummitt of the Department of Children and Families developed and implemented a jail diversion expansion program.

This initiative redirects individuals with mental illnesses away from the criminal justice system and into community-based mental health treatment and services.

Individuals in acute psychiatric distress who are arrested for a misdemeanor and booked into a jail are evaluated and, if appropriate, transferred to a crisis stabilization unit within 48 hours. Upon stabilization, legal charges typically are dismissed and individuals are assisted with accessing treatment services, housing, and other entitlements in the community.

This program has reduced recidivism from more than 70% to 18%. Miami-Dade County is saving \$2.3 million per year. In addition, the program was awarded funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in 2003 for a three year grant of \$1,000,000 to expand Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to police and linkages to mental health treatment. For more information, please contact Deborah Dummitt at (305) 377-5811 or email deborah_dummitt@dcf.state.fl.us. 2006-DCF-080

Internet Crimes against Children Initiative

Nationally recognized Internet Crimes Against Children training is available from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. For more information, please contact Bob Breeden at (850) 410-7057 or email bobbreeden@fdle.state.fl.us, or Mark Zadra at (850) 410-8390 or email markzadra@fdle.state.fl.us. 2006-FDLE-020

Child Abuse Presentation for Mandated Reporters

Reducing the number of unfounded reports of children through educating mandated reporters increases the productivity of investigators.

A power point presentation developed by Department of Children and Families staff in Ft. Myers educates mandated reporters and other community contacts about signs of child abuse and provides guidance in contacting the Florida Abuse Hotline. The presentation also includes a 911 emergency tape, custom-designed handouts, and a question and answer segment. Increasing community awareness improves working relationships with schoolteachers and other social service agencies. This presentation is an integral part of the Guardian Ad Litem training program. For more information, please contact Donna Murray at (239) 338-1103 or email donna_murray@dcf.state.fl.us. 2006-DCF-104

Criminal History Check

Staff at Florida State University's Ringling Cultural Center in Sarasota developed pre-employment screening procedures and replaced the use of finger print inked cards for background checks with an electronic screening system. This system provides a national criminal history check in approximately four hours versus ink card submissions that took 4-6 weeks with a 40% rejection rate. Using this system virtually eliminates wrongful hiring of applicants with job-related criminal histories. For more information, please contact Russell Pillifant at (941) 359-5863 or email rpillifa@ringling.org. 2006-FSU-004

Legal Training on Investigations

Training on child abuse investigations and preservation/presentation of information during court proceedings, including summarized and organized relevant case law information, can be replicated by other Department of Children and Families offices. For more information, please contact Karlene Cole-Palmer at (407) 328-5656 or email karlene_cole-palmer@dcf.state.fl.us. 2006-DCF-058

LAW ENFORCEMENT (cont.)

Digital Distance Training System

Mandates to train law enforcement officers across broad geographic areas make methods of providing acceptable levels of training at low-cost with minimal duty disruption essential.

An Intranet-based system that uses FlexTraining training management software, Power Point and Word delivers cost-effective knowledge-based courses that are available to other state agencies.

In 2003-04, and 2004-05, a total of 578 courses were delivered to 272 students for a total of 2,276 training hours, avoiding up to an estimated \$139,000 in conventional classroom training costs. For more information, please contact Clabe Polk at (850) 245-2887 or email Clabe.Polk@dep.state.fl.us. 2006-DEP-026

Environmental Forensics Protocols

The goal of a statewide environmental forensics program is to ensure defensibility, at trial, of forensics evidence collected in support of environmental crimes investigations. An environmental forensics resource CD available from the Department of Environmental Protection includes quality assurance procedures, standard operating procedures and other technical guidance for use by field sampling personnel. This program's success is demonstrated by the fact that no evidence collected at crime scenes has been successfully challenged in court. For more information, please contact Timyn Rice at (813) 744-6462 or email timyn.rice@dep.state.fl.us. 2006- DEP-025

Traffic Safety

The Florida State University Police Department does not have a dedicated traffic unit. Nonetheless, its 60 officers launched a program focusing on innovative and aggressive DUI, seatbelt and speed enforcement. The result was winning first place honors in state and national law enforcement competitions and being awarded approximately \$100,000 in traffic safety equipment. For more information, please contact Major Thomas Longo at (850) 644-2900 or email TLongo@admin.fsu.edu. 2006-FSU-013

For a list of adaptable achievements in the field of Law Enforcement from the 2003-2005 awards competitions, please click [here](#).