

# DCF/DJJ Dually Served Children and Young Adults

Report Timeframe:  
January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024  
Quarter 3 of Fiscal Year 2023-24

Department of Children and Families  
and  
Department of Juvenile Justice

August 2024



Table of Contents

Introduction ..... 1

    Chapter 2022-67, Laws of Florida (HB 7065) – Reporting Requirements & History of Reports..... 1

    Current Standard of Care for Dually Involved Youth ..... 1

    Data Sharing ..... 1

Updates on Strategies to Advance Collaboration and Services for Dually Involved Youth ..... 2

    Cross Agency Collaboration ..... 2

    Interagency Collaboration Trainings ..... 2

    Quarterly Champion Chat ..... 2

    Youth Success Day..... 2

    Mentoring Highlights ..... 3

    Placement Array..... 3

    Evidence-Based Programs Implementation..... 4

Data Summary and Trend Analysis of Dually Involved Youth..... 5

Quarter 3 Fiscal Year 2023-2024..... 5

Attachment 1 ..... 6

# Introduction

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) continue to strengthen their partnership and collaboration to enhance outcomes for dually served youth and their families. Together with our sister agencies, we share expertise and advocacy to address trauma, life skills, work readiness, housing, and other family needs across Florida.

## **Chapter 2022-67, Laws of Florida (HB 7065) – Reporting Requirements & History of Reports**

During the 2022 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature passed Chapter 2022-67, Laws of Florida, creating section 39.0143, Florida Statutes. This legislation requires DCF and DJJ to collaborate on shared strategies to best serve children who are involved in both systems of care, often referred to as “dually involved” children.

The following Quarterly Reports have been submitted to the Legislature:

- The first report provided historical information on youth served by both agencies since January 2004 and included information for Quarter 4 for state fiscal year 2021-22.
- The second report included the reporting timeframe of Quarters 1 and 2 for state fiscal year 2022-23.
- The third report included the reporting timeframe of Quarter 3 of state fiscal year 2022-23.
- The fourth report included the reporting timeframe of Quarter 4 for state fiscal year 2022-23.
- The fifth report included the reporting timeframe of Quarter 1 for state fiscal year 2023-24.
- The sixth report included the reporting timeframe of Quarter 2 for state fiscal year 2023-24.
- The current report includes the reporting timeframe of Quarter 3 for state fiscal year 2023-24.

## **Current Standard of Care for Dually Involved Youth**

Dually involved youth is defined as a youth who has ever been involved with, or served by, DCF and DJJ and is not limited to youth served by both Departments at the same time. DCF and DJJ have historically maintained a strong partnership to support this vulnerable population of youth. Both Departments use robust data to inform strategies around preventative approaches, enhanced services development, and increased quality. In 2016, the Departments designated Crossover Champions, individuals assigned in each circuit to strategize effective ways to serve youth, examine and evaluate current resources, and address potential gaps in services. The collaboration continued to grow with the addition of Crossover Champions from each Community Based Care agency (CBC) in 2022 and in 2023 the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) program identified Crossover Champions for each circuit. Additionally, the teams now have access to Florida Safe Families Network and the Juvenile Justice Information System which assist in providing more comprehensive information about the youth.

## **Data Sharing**

DCF and DJJ share data monthly via secure file transfers and identify youth served by both agencies using matching protocols that include name, date of birth, and when available, social security number. This permits analysis of youth served by both agencies historically as well as during the current period.

# Updates on Strategies to Advance Collaboration and Services for Dually Involved Youth

## **Cross Agency Collaboration**

Throughout the year, DCF and DJJ host cross agency opportunities for dually served statewide collaboration, in addition to ongoing local cross agency dually served collaborative efforts. Local efforts include local review teams that bring families, agencies, and providers together to provide multi-disciplinary support to connect services. These efforts are intended to prevent the need for out-of-home care and crisis care or can result in connection to needed crisis care. Additionally, monthly cross agency meetings include representatives from all sister agencies and Crossover Champions and include reviewing local systems of care, providing updates, collaborating on system strategy action items for improvement, and updating resource libraries and contact information to keep partners informed. Agency Champions also participate in multiple councils and outreach opportunities to collaborate on local strategies to improve how their communities serve dually involved youth.

## **Interagency Collaboration Trainings**

During Quarter 3, the Statewide Dually Served Team hosted two Interagency Collaboration Trainings. Participants included Crossover Champions and representatives from Local and State Review Teams, community partners, and other child serving agencies. The following trainings were provided during Quarter 3:

- February 2024: *Eligibility for Services with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities*, presented by Dr. Kristin Korinko, Agency Senior Behavior Analyst, APD, and Liesl Ramos, Chief of Consumer Reports, APD
- March 2024: *Florida Teenage Parent Program*, presented by Dr. Denise Robinson, Tiered Support Coordinator, Bureau of School Improvement, Florida Department of Education

## **Quarterly Champion Chat**

Quarterly Champion Chats provide a forum to share best practices and strategies for serving children involved with both Departments and their families, and to develop approaches to enhance services and interventions that best meet the individual needs of the youth identified. The Champion Chats also provide a good opportunity for participants to raise issues or barriers that another area of the state has resolved. The Quarter 3 Champion Chat was held in March 2024, and included DCF, DJJ, CBC and GAL Crossover Champions, along with representatives of both Departments' headquarters and regional staff. Discussion topics included the upcoming 2024 Statewide Collaborative Meeting to take place in June 2024, monthly reporting on action items (training, judiciary, resources), and a data presentation by the Department of Juvenile Justice.

## **Youth Success Day**

In January, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the Florida Juvenile Justice Association, and the Florida Youth Foundation celebrated Youth Success Day to celebrate the hard work and achievements of Florida's youth. The 2024 DJJ Youth Ambassadors were announced at a reception at the Florida Historic Capitol and Governor Ron DeSantis also proclaimed Youth Success Day in Florida. Youth Ambassadors are outstanding young people who have positively transformed their lives following involvement with

the juvenile justice system or engagement in programs aimed at preventing children from entering the system. The ambassadors serve as inspiration for other youth who are working toward positive transformation and success.

### **Mentoring Highlights**

- In honor of National Mentoring Month in January, DJJ hosted a Hope Florida roundtable highlighting Florida's mentoring efforts.
- With a continued commitment to Florida's children and families, First Lady Casey DeSantis and DJJ announced the investment of an additional \$1 million to enhance and expand mentoring services across the state. This investment further builds upon \$12.8 million in mentorship funding at the Department of Children and Families as well as the recent expansion of First Lady Casey DeSantis' Hope Florida initiative to the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office. Through this expansion, nearly 500 foster youth have been paired with Guardian ad Litem mentors.
- DJJ hosted the inaugural One Mentor, One Child Mentoring Summit in Orlando in March. The Summit provided an opportunity for providers, stakeholders, and community partners to share best practices and techniques to expand and elevate mentoring services for Florida's youth. Workshops included topics on data-driven decision-making, mentoring male youth, organization recruitment, mentoring retention, and how to secure funding.

### **Placement Array**

The following statewide collaborative strategies continue to be developed for overall system of care enhancements and improvements:

- To help ensure an appropriate placement array with sufficient capacity, DCF shared the following approaches:
  - Collaboration with Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Programs (SIPP), Department of Children and Families, Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), and lead agencies to increase capacity and programming. This work includes not only SIPP, but the therapeutic continuum of care for children (therapeutic group care, foster care, short term residential services, crisis care, and respite).
    - a. Citrus Health in Miami opened the first child short-term residential care program to serve children leaving Baker Acts who meet established criteria for this level of care. Short-Term Residential was identified by the SIPP collaboration group as one of the highest priority items to develop in Florida.
    - b. A SIPP collaborative meeting was held in February where placement data collection was discussed along with identifying additional members from Managing Entities to participate. The next SIPP collaborative meeting was scheduled for April 2024 to include Managing Entity leadership.
  - Continued enhancement of the DCF's placement array to include specialization to better meet the needs of children dually served such as human trafficking safe houses and safe foster homes, at-risk homes for sex trafficking, and Behavioral Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (B-QRTP). The B-QRTP allows for specialization within the homes for children needing behavioral management coupled with developmental

disabilities, aggressive behaviors, sexual behaviors, and specialized medical needs. The B-QRTP administrative rule is projected to finalize in April 2024.

### **Evidence-Based Programs Implementation**

DJJ has extended the availability for dually served youth to participate in the evidence-based programs of Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT). FFT is a strength-focused family counseling model designed for at-risk youth. It assists youth and families with overcoming behavior problems, conduct disorder, substance abuse, and delinquency from a family-based perspective. CBT is focused on helping youth and families replace maladaptive coping skills, thinking, emotions and behaviors with more adaptive ones by challenging an individual's way of thinking and their reaction to habits and behaviors. CBT challenges counter-productive patterns and beliefs and replaces negative thinking with more realistic thoughts, which decreases emotional distress and self-defeating behavior.

DCF continues to support availability of FFT as well as Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) and Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT) through the implementation of the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). There are currently 10 Community Based Care Lead Agencies across the state in various stages of implementing FFT to enhance their service array and two Community Based Care Lead Agencies are implementing MST.

## Data Summary and Trend Analysis of Dually Involved Youth Quarter 3 Fiscal Year 2023-2024

*(This section serves as a placeholder for Q3 2023-24 data)*

In March 2024, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice experienced a cyber incident, which required the Department to take the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) offline. Access to JJIS has since been restored, but remediation efforts related to connections required for analysis of the data for this report were ongoing at the time of submission. Data variances are insignificant from quarter to quarter. It is expected that connections will be reinstated prior to the submission of the next report and updated data will be included at that submission.

# Attachment 1

## ***Chapter 2022-67, Laws of Florida, Implementation Action Plan March 2024 Updates***

### **CATEGORY 1 – Collaboration Regarding Dually Involved Youth:**

- Create local service maps and resource sheets to disseminate to partners in the judiciary, legal network, community provider network, sister agencies, and others.
  - **UPDATE:** In process; reported monthly beginning in January 2024 by circuit Crossover Champions, and preparations are in place to formally discuss these resources at the upcoming Statewide Dually Involved Youth Meeting in June 2024. Some circuits are creating websites, QR codes, and resource codes to distribute in their communities.
- Increase dually involved youth local awareness and participation in collaboration with the judiciary.
  - **UPDATE:** This information is reported monthly beginning in January 2024 by circuit Crossover Champions. Currently, close to half of circuits have identified a member of their local judiciary to participate in Local Review Team staffings, and some circuits work with court liaisons to increase communication for dually involved youth.
- Develop and deliver cross-system circuit training.
  - **UPDATE:** In process; reported monthly beginning in January 2024 by circuit Crossover Champions. Examples of trainings being completed include service navigation, mental health first aid, and preservice training for child protective investigators, case managers, and juvenile probation officers.
- Issue policy formalizing best practices for interagency collaboration to address comprehensive needs of dually involved youth with accompanying checklist. (PCI-22-005, Dually Involved Youth - Collaboration with Department of Children and Families).
  - **UPDATE:** In process; expected to be finalized and distributed at the June statewide meeting.
- Implement child welfare specific caseloads for DJJ JPOs.
  - **UPDATE:** DJJ implemented specialized caseloads in July 2022.
- Identify a Crossover Champion for each CBC entity.
  - **UPDATE:** Completed November 2022.
- Coordinate Crossover Champion meetings and co-host a Statewide Dually Involved Crossover Training.
  - **UPDATE:** Crossover Champion meetings are held quarterly with local representatives from DJJ, DCF, CBCs and GAL. In addition, a Dually Involved Youth statewide training was held in 2023, and participants included leadership from DJJ and DCF, judiciary and other legal representation, Crossover Champions from both Departments and the CBC Lead Agencies, CBC Lead Agency leadership, and other partners. The training brought together agencies and community partners who work with dually served youth to share ideas and best practices and to ensure a full and robust implementation of Bill 7065. A subsequent statewide meeting is being planned for June 2024.
- Determine feasibility of consolidating dependency and delinquency court for dually involved youth.
  - **UPDATE:** Some judicial circuits are working toward a unified court for dually involved youth.
- Explore a joint Legislative Budget Request (LBR) to address specific service needs for dually involved youth.
  - **UPDATE:** Collaboration continuing between DCF and DJJ leadership.

- Explore the ability to expand the Stop Now and Plan (SNAP). SNAP is now available in the following circuits: 15, 14, 5, 2, 8, 10, 11, 19, 16, 20, 6, 9, 17, 18, and 4.
  - **UPDATE:** DCF is reviewing all prevention funding sources for possible options and sharing the service across the provider network.
- Maintain a dashboard report for ongoing analysis of data regarding dually involved youth.
  - **UPDATE:** DJJ and DCF continue to collaboratively produce a youth-level dashboard to assist staff in the field in identifying and appropriately serving these youth.
- Continue interagency partnership as part of the HOPE Florida Navigators rollout.
  - **UPDATE:** Update on the partnership was provided to participants at the June 2023 Crossover Champion Training. DJJ currently has 41 staff performing Navigator duties across the state who served over 250 families in 2023. The DJJ Navigators work with families to help them reach goals developed together, not only to connect to resources, but also to begin to develop solid circles of support in the areas in which they reside.
- Establish a pilot in Hillsborough County to provide for a more integrated partnership between DJJ, DCF, and the community-based care provider that incorporates our shared visions of accountability and public safety.
  - **UPDATE:** On-going collaboration between DCF, DJJ, and CBC leadership. The final pilot process launched April 2024. Monitoring is on-going.

**CATEGORY 2 – Multidisciplinary Team Staffings Regarding Dually Involved Youth:**

- Issue policy reinforcing requirements for DJJ staff to attend, participate, and support DCF in all local, regional, and state DCF multidisciplinary team staffings, as well as inviting DCF to any staffing scheduled by DJJ for a dually involved youth. (PCI-22-005, Dually Involved Youth - Collaboration with Department of Children and Families)
  - **UPDATE:** Completed in 2022.
- Ensure youth and families have an opportunity to provide input in all DJJ multidisciplinary staffings.
  - **UPDATE:** Youth, parents, and guardians are invited to MDT staffings and are given time to provide input on the youth and their family's needs.

**CATEGORY 3 – Quarterly Reporting to Legislature Regarding Dually Involved Youth:**

- Analyze data to determine the number of dually involved youth and number of youth placed in licensed care after leaving the custody of DJJ; identify methods to track youth who are or become dually involved.
  - **UPDATE:** Ongoing.
- Track and summarize actions taken by both DJJ and DCF to better serve dually involved youth.
  - **UPDATE:** HB 7065 activities are reviewed by DCF/DJJ headquarters staff regularly.

**CATEGORY 4 – Fatherhood Initiatives:**

- Identify grant opportunities that will help expand fatherhood initiatives.
  - **UPDATE:** in November 2023 DCF executed a first round of contracts with 31 providers across the state to provide mentorship to at risk male students, responsible fatherhood education program, and grants to address the comprehensive needs of fathers. A second round of RFAs is currently pending and awards are anticipated to be granted in August 2024.

- Conduct a series of Community Outreach of Resources and Education (C.O.R.E.) events which provide opportunities for fathers to engage with local youth service providers.
  - **UPDATE:** DJJ routinely conducts Community Outreach of Resources and Education.
- Expand mentoring to support local organizations which may impact youth who do not have a present father.
  - **UPDATE:** Ongoing.
- Partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters to enhance services offered to incarcerated parents of youth.
  - **UPDATE:** Ongoing.
- Submit Requests for Application (RFAs) to fund a mentorship program for at-risk male students and a program to address the needs of fathers; issue Requests for Proposal (RFPs) to provide technical assistance to grantees.
  - **UPDATE:** DCF contracts have been executed. There are 17 awardees for the Mentorship Program for At-Risk Male Students Grant, totaling \$11.7 million for three years of grant funding.
  - **UPDATE:** There are 14 awardees for the Fatherhood Grants (Comprehensive Needs of Fathers and Responsible Fatherhood Education Programs Grants), totaling \$39 million for three years of the grant funding.
  - **UPDATE:** Family First (LJ213) was awarded funding to provide technical assistance to Grantees.
- Issue an RFP for development and implementation of a statewide Responsible Fatherhood campaign.
  - **UPDATE:** DCF awarded contract to Family First on March 6, 2023.
- Identify a Statewide Fatherhood Engagement Program Lead (DCF) and amend CBC contracts to include Fatherhood Engagement Specialists.
  - **UPDATE:** The CBC contracts have been amended to include Fatherhood Engagement Specialists. Additional funding has been identified to help support the Fatherhood Engagement Program.
  - **UPDATE:** Kimberly Navarro is the DCF Contract Manager Specialist for the Mentorship for At-Risk Male youth, Comprehensive Needs of Fathers, and Responsible Fatherhood Education programs.

**CATEGORY 5 – Postsecondary Education Support:**

- Identify youth in DJJ residential programs or on probation/aftercare who graduated from high school and are interested in college/technical school; contract with Tallahassee State College to assist with enrollment.
  - **UPDATE:** DJJ staff identify youth who are interested in college/technical school during their transition planning period from residential placement into the community.
- Revise DCF Rule 65C-28.009, Florida Administrative Code (Transition to Adulthood), to include the Road to Independence Program; communicate with and train staff regarding revisions.
  - **UPDATE:** Training plan completed in early 2023. Training was provided to staff during CBC site visits in 2023, as well as during bimonthly statewide Independent Living calls and during the May-June Independent Living Conference in Orlando.

**CATEGORY 6 – Quarterly Leadership Meetings:**

- Establish quarterly leadership meetings between DJJ, DCF, and CBCs.
  - **UPDATE:** Final determination will be made in Q4 23-24 regarding cadence and attendees.