

# DCF/DJJ Dually Served Children and Young Adults

Report Timeframe:

April 1, 2024 – June 31, 2024

Quarter 4 of Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Department of Children and Families  
and  
Department of Juvenile Justice

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# 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 the needs of our families 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 submit to the Legislature a quarterly report that includes, at a minimum, data on the number of children who are dually involved with both systems of care, data on the number of children who are placed in licensed care after leaving the custody of DJJ, information on how both departments track children who are or become dually involved, and a summary of the actions taken by both departments to better serve 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 seventh report includes the reporting timeframe of Quarter 3 for state fiscal year 2023-24.
- The current report includes the reporting timeframe of Quarter 4 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 served.

## **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 fiscal 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 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 4, 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 4:

- April 2024: *Behavior Analysis Utilization Management*, presented by Dennis Hardy, Senior Program Director, Acentra Health
- May 2024: *Vocational Rehabilitation: Outcomes Through Employment*, presented by Veronica Ebuon, Mental Health Program Administrator, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Brandi Boyer-Rutherford, Transition Program Administrator, VR, and Jesse Riddle, Transition Program Administrator, VR

## **Quarterly Champion Chats**

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. In lieu of a fourth quarter Champion Chat, the DCF, DJJ, CBC, and GAL Crossover Champions met in person in June for the Dually Involved Youth Statewide Collaborative Meeting. Thus, the next Champion Chat was held in August 2024. Topics for the August Champion Chat included discussion of specific action plans items resulting from the June meeting, as well as a revised data collection tool to capture information related to dually involved youth.

## **Dually Involved Youth Statewide Collaboration Meeting**

The Dually Involved Youth Statewide Collaboration Meeting was held June 12-13, 2024, in Ocala. Participants included leadership from DJJ, APD, DCF, judiciary and other legal representation, and Crossover Champions from DCF, DJJ, Community Based Care and the Guardian ad Litem program. A highlight of the two-day event included Question and Answer sessions with four panels:

1. Leadership I – senior leadership representing DCF, DJJ, Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), Department of Education, and Department of Health
2. Leadership II – Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Children’s Legal Services, Guardian ad Litem, Community Based Care
3. Lived Experience – young adults and family members
4. Frontline Staff – Child Protective Investigator, Case Manager, Juvenile Probation Officer, Guardian ad Litem, APD Waiver Support Coordinator, APD Pre-enrollment Coordinator, and SEDNET representative (Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities)

The meeting also included presentations and audience discussion on service navigation, a case study via circuit breakout, data and lessons learned year in review, and circuit action planning.

### **Circuit 13 Dually Served Collaboration Pilot**

The purpose of the Circuit 13 Pilot Project is to establish a more integrated partnership between DJJ, DCF, and the Community Based Care provider that incorporates shared visions of accountability and safety.

Since its inception, the C13 Pilot Project Team has met on numerous occasions. Following a brainstorming session of critical needs and sessions to review current processes and overall system review, the following goals were developed:

- Increase Placement Stability
- Increase Engagement in Therapeutic Services
- Increase Educational Engagement
- Increase Accountability for Violations
- Reduce At-Risk Behaviors
- Reduce Re-Offending

Pilot Project Objectives:

- Action Response Teams – multi-agency team capable of responding immediately to youth to support engagement and minimize placement refusals
- Standardized Court Language – consistency in all supervision court orders requiring dually involved youth to comply with placements
- Expedited Court Process – increased accountability for youth; reduction of time for the court to review violations of supervision
- Effective Case Management Oversight – joint accountability between DJJ/DCF/Children’s Network of Hillsborough County to increase positive outcomes

The Pilot is expected to be fully implemented at the beginning of September 2024.

### **Recognition of Outstanding Volunteers**

In honor of National Volunteer Month in April, DJJ hosted outstanding volunteers at its sixth annual volunteer appreciation ceremony held at the Florida Historic Capitol. Two of those recognized were Harlan Newton and Margaret “Margie” Gubert, Guardian ad Litem volunteers, who work with youth

through Hope Florida – A Pathway to Promise. A Pathway to Promise expands the Hope Florida initiative in conjunction with the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office which assists Florida foster youth transitioning out of foster care to adulthood. This initiative provides youth with a mentor who will serve as a committed, caring adult providing a lifeline for youth transitioning out of foster care to live independently. This year’s honorees work with youth who are currently involved with or who were previously served by both the delinquency and dependency systems.

### **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), DCF, 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. A SIPP collaborative meeting was held in April where placement data collection was discussed including additional leaders from the Managing Entities. The attendees conducted a review of short, intermediate, and long-term goals and identified members to participate in subgroup meetings prior to the next scheduled large group meeting to identify additional priorities for consideration.
    - b. Subgroups, focusing on both the front and back ends of the child welfare system met two times between April and June to identify additional strategies that will be shared in the July meeting.
  - Continued enhancement of 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 was finalized in May 2024 and interested providers have started the licensure process.

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

DJJ continues to promote dually served youth participating 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 continue to be 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 4 Fiscal Year 2023-2024

*(This section serves as a placeholder for Q4 2023-24 data)*

In March 2024, DJJ experienced a cyber incident, which required it 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.



# Attachment 1

## ***Chapter 2022-67, Laws of Florida, Implementation Action Plan June 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 regularly beginning in January 2024 by circuit Crossover Champions. Some circuits report having created websites, QR codes, and resource guides to distribute to their communities. These resources were also discussed during the Dually Involved Youth Statewide Collaborative Meeting which was held in June 2024 and additional trainings regarding service navigation are scheduled to be held both virtually and in upcoming conferences during quarter 1.
- Increase dually involved youth local awareness and participation in collaboration with the judiciary.
  - **UPDATE:** This information is reported regularly beginning in January 2024 by circuit Crossover Champions. Currently, close to half of the circuits have identified a member of their local judiciary to participate in Local Review Team staffing, 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 regularly 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. Additional information and training were shared at the Dually Involved Youth Statewide Collaborative Meeting in June 2024.
- Issue policy formalizing best practices for interagency collaboration to address comprehensive needs of dually involved youth with an accompanying checklist. (PCI-22-005, Dually Involved Youth - Collaboration with Department of Children and Families).
  - **UPDATE:** The Best Practice Guide was disseminated during the June Dually Involved Youth Statewide Collaborative 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, Dually Involved Youth Statewide Collaboration Meetings were held in 2023 and 2024, 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. These statewide meetings brought together agencies and community partners who work with dually involved youth to share ideas and best practices and to ensure a full and robust implementation of Bill 7065.
- 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 (SNP). SNP 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 continues to assess 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:** DJJ Hope Florida-Pathway to Potential has proudly served over 500 families statewide, addressing barriers like youth mental health, education, and family dysfunction. DJJ currently has three full-time Hope Navigators and are hiring three additional staff, along with circuit staff assisting.
- Establish a pilot in Hillsborough County to provide for a more integrated partnership between DJJ, DCF, and the community-based care provider that incorporates shared visions of accountability and public safety.
  - **UPDATE:** The final piece of the pilot process was implemented in April 2024 with a full implementation to be completed by the beginning of September 2024. Monitoring of the pilot will be ongoing.

**CATEGORY 2 – Multidisciplinary Team Staffing 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 (MDT) staffing, 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 staffing.
  - **UPDATE:** Youth, parents, and guardians are invited to MDT staffing 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 youths 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 Request for Application (RFAs) in August 2024 resulted in the current 31 original grants continuing to provide services.

- 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:** No C.O.R.E. events held this quarter.
- Expand mentoring to support local organizations which may impact youth who do not have a present father.
  - **UPDATE:** In FY 23-24, Mentorship Programs for At-Risk Male Youth served 2,527 students, and Comprehensive Needs of Fathers and Responsible Fatherhood Education programs served 1,528 fathers.
- 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 a Request for Proposals for development and implementation of a statewide Responsible Fatherhood campaign.
  - **UPDATE:** DCF awarded a contract to Family First on March 6, 2023, and Family First continues to provide campaign implementation and distribution of materials via various media outlets.
- Identify a Statewide Fatherhood Engagement Program Lead (DCF) and amend Community Based Care agency (CBC) contracts to include Fatherhood Engagement Specialists.
  - **UPDATE:** The Community Based Care agency (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 Community Based Care agency (CBC) site visits in 2023, as well as during bimonthly statewide Independent Living calls and during the May-June Independent Living Conference in Orlando.