
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

DJJ Receives Palmetto Gold Award Again for Academic Performance

For the third consecutive year, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) school district has received recognition from the State Department of Education as a Palmetto Gold School District. The recognition acknowledges the district's high level of academic achievement and high rate of student academic improvement. The district's annual report card shows "excellent" ratings both in the absolute and improvement categories, making DJJ one of the state's top performing school districts.

Department of Juvenile Justice Girls Transition Home

The Department held a celebration to mark the construction of its new Girls Transition Home on its Broad River Road Complex in Columbia on Monday, January 22, 2007. Staff, volunteers, and donors were present for the celebration ceremony. Construction is expected to be completed this summer.

The Girls Transition Home is the first of its kind for the Department. It is designed to be a secure, short-term living environment for girls who are within six months of their release from a long-term DJJ facility. It will house a focused living environment aimed at teaching money management skills, employability skills, personal health and hygiene skills, and other skills that will be useful for girls returning to their home communities. The goal of the home is to help girls return to their communities as productive citizens.

Community Input Key to Improving Juvenile Justice System

On December 4, the Department held the last of a series of meetings to receive community input into the juvenile justice system in South Carolina. The meeting was held at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center in Orangeburg. Input was received on improving prevention and aftercare services to juveniles in the community. This innovative effort to involve the community attracted about 100 people representing the private and public sector, civic and community leaders, higher learning institutions, non-profits, and law enforcement.

Discussion topics focused on community stakeholders and constituents, community partners, and legislative policymakers. Similar sessions were previously held in Columbia in March, Florence in June, and Greer in September. Results from these four regional meetings will be used to help develop a strategic plan that will be used for planning and implementation purposes by the Department.

Juvenile Justice Receives Capital Donation from AME Church

The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church has contributed \$25,000 towards a \$100,000 pledge to the Friends of Juvenile Justice (FJJ) to help fund the construction of a Community Connections Center at the Department of Juvenile Justice. FJJ is a non-profit foundation dedicated to assisting the state's at-risk and troubled youth. The Community Connections Center will serve as a family visitation center for families and will provide a safe and secure environment for volunteers working with DJJ youth.

Schedule

January 22	Wall Raising Celebration DJJ Girls Transition Home
February 6	Friends of Juvenile Justice (FJJ) Board Meeting DJJ Goldsmith Building