

Initiatives Promote Team Building and Cross Training

DJJ recently incorporated initiatives in team building and cross training of staff as part of the Department's restorative justice mission. The objective is to bring staff together with different work experiences to effectively support each other and develop a "can-do" attitude.

The underlying goals are for staff to strengthen their ability to improve services and care to the troubled youth of South Carolina, to better understand their colleagues' contribution to the Department's overall goals, and to enhance teamwork.

One innovative initiative is a 3-hour training module that has been integrated into the Orientation for New Employees (ONE). This initiative has seasoned staff interacting and engaged in training with new colleagues in a way the Department has not attempted before.

University of Florida Students on Spring Break Helped DJJ Youth

While many of their fellow students were headed to the beach for spring break in late March, 11 students from the University of Florida were volunteering at DJJ group homes in Columbia. As part of a new trend toward collegiate "civic-minded spring breaks," these students mentored and tutored children in Hope House Girls' Home and the Gateway Boys' and Girls' Homes. The students also participated in group discussions on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, sat in on juvenile treatment groups, and even engaged in sports and recreational activities with the boys and girls.

Some of DJJ's finest

We salute our administrative professionals, Juvenile Correctional and

law enforcement officers, nurses and education professionals for their dedication and commitment on behalf of South Carolina's children.



Photograph of attendees at the
March 20 charrette

More than 180 people attended the Midlands charrette, the first of three discussion sessions to receive community input. The charrettes are an attempt to gain a better understanding issues from a "local" community perspective. A summary document, from the four (4) regional charrettes, will be used to assist in crafting a strategic plan.

The Midlands charrette was held at the Brookland Baptist Church Resource Center on March 20. Participants in this innovative process of community included concerned community leaders representing the private and public sector, higher learning institutions and law enforcement, and DJJ staff.

Discussion topics for groups focused on community stakeholders and constituents, community partners, and legislative policymakers.

The charrette was made possible through DJJ's partnership with Clemson University's Institute for Economic and Community Development.

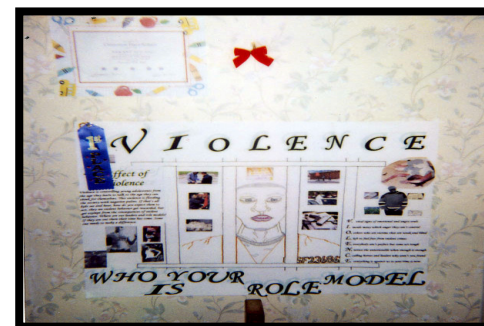
New DJJ County Directors

Michael Smith, who previously worked in the Anderson County Office in the late 1990s, has been chosen as the director for the Spartanburg County Office.

Terry Hall has left his post as director of the Union County Office to assume that same position in the Cherokee County Office.

Clarence Harrell, after five years as the Lexington County Office director, has assumed that same position in the Richland County Office.

We wish each of them well as they serve the troubled youth under our care.



First place poster contest winner

Violence Prevention Week

A number of activities were held in around the state during in observance of Violence Prevention Week. At the Charleston Place Group Home a poster contest produced the first place winner by Juvenile Mallard as shown above.

Crime Victims' Rights Week

A conference that brought together victims and victims' rights advocates were held May 1-3 in Columbia to observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week. DJJ staffs were provided comprehensive packet of information on the weeks' observance.