

DCF/DJJ Dually Served Children and Young Adults

Report Timeframe:
January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2023
Quarter 3 of Fiscal Year 22-23

Department of Children and Families
and
Department of Juvenile Justice

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Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Data Summary of Dually Involved Youth 2

 DCF Youth Serviced by DJJ 2

 DJJ Youth Serviced By DCF 3

 Point in Time Data / Dually Served Youth Trend 3

Updates on Strategies to Advance Collaboration and Services for Dually Involved Youth 5

 Dually Served Youth Collaboration and Statewide Crossover Champion Training and Follow Up 5

 Dually Served Youth Quality Review 6

 Family Functional Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and other Evidence-Based Services
 Implementation 6

Attachment 1 7

Introduction

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) continue to strengthen its 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.

Two prior 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 2021-2022. The second report included the reporting timeframe of Quarters 1 and 2 for state fiscal year 2022-23. This report covers Quarter 3 for state fiscal year 2022-2023.

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.

Data Sharing

DCF and DJJ regularly share data 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 historical analyses of youth served by both agencies as well as recent time periods. The datasets used for these matches include historic data beginning with year 2004; therefore, the analyses presented in this report captures more than 18 years of youth services for both agencies.

Data Summary and Trend Analysis of Dually Involved Youth Quarter 3 Fiscal Year 2022-2023

DCF Youth Served by DJJ

Children who had DCF contact and received DJJ services from January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023:

46,762 children were the subject of a DCF investigation that closed without a finding.

9,926 children entered in-home care.

22,718 children entered out-of-home care.

Among youth whose most intensive level of DCF involvement was an investigation, 94% had no prior or current DJJ involvement. Among those with prior DJJ involvement, the most common DJJ involvement was prevention (for 2.2%). Involvement in other levels of DJJ services ranged from 0% to 1.1%.

Among youth whose highest level of DCF involvement during the fiscal year was in-home services, 91.2% had no history of DJJ involvement. The most common level of DJJ involvement for youth receiving in-home services was prevention, with 2.6% of DCF youth served during the fiscal year receiving these services at some point in their history. Participation in other areas of DJJ services ranged from 0% to 2.0%.

Among youth whose highest level of DCF involvement during the fiscal year was out-of-home placement, 88.6% had no history of DJJ involvement. The most common level of DJJ involvement for youth receiving in-home services was prevention, with 2.8% of DCF youth served during the fiscal year receiving these services at some point in their history. Participation in other areas of DJJ services ranged from 0% to 2.5%.

Table 1 displays percentages based on the DCF Youth Population in relation to level of DJJ involvement.

The high levels of “no DJJ Involvement” in each “DCF Served” group is a function of DCF’s child population. Most children involved with DCF are aged 5 or below. This age group does not display behavior, emergent or otherwise, associated with DJJ involvement.

As DCF service intensity increases, so does the likelihood of prior DJJ contact. The exception to this is “Adult Jail”, where 0.2% of both “In Home” and “Out of Home” children have this DJJ service level, likely due to a limited (small) data set. These numbers do not appear indicative of a beginning trend. Only three aftercare youth served during the quarter had any prior DCF contact, thus with rounding the percentages for those youth display as 0.0%.

Table 1: Percentages of Youth Served by DCF with DJJ involvement During Quarter 3

DCF served	No DJJ		Civil							Total
	Involvement	Prevention	Citation	Intake	Diversion	Probation	Commitment	Aftercare	Adult Jail	
Investigation	94.0%	2.2%	0.7%	1.0%	1.1%	0.7%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
In home	91.2%	2.6%	0.7%	1.1%	1.7%	2.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.2%	100.0%
Out of home	88.6%	2.8%	0.9%	1.9%	2.5%	2.3%	0.8%	0.0%	0.2%	100.0%
Total	92.1%	2.4%	0.7%	1.3%	1.6%	1.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%	100.0%

DJJ Youth Served By DCF

Youth served by DJJ during January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023:

25,029 had no DCF involvement.

14,577 had a DCF Investigation without a finding.

2,420 entered in home care.

5,179 entered out-of-home care.

Table 2 displays percentages based on the DJJ Youth Population. Rates of “no prior or current contact” with DCF for youth served in the juvenile justice system during the quarter ranged from 65.3% for prevention youth to 28.2% for commitment youth. Notably, as the level of involvement in the DJJ system increases, the likelihood of prior or current DCF contact generally increases. For example, over 22% of youth served in commitment and aftercare during the quarter had a history of DCF out-of-home placement, compared to just 9.9% of youth served in diversion. Similarly, over 9% of youth served in commitment and aftercare had a history of in-home DCF services, compared to 3.5% of prevention and 4.0% of civil citation youth served by DJJ during Quarter 3 who have received in-home services.

Table 2: Percentages of Youth Served by DJJ with DCF involvement During Quarter 3

DCF Involvement	Civil							Total
	Prevention	Citation	Intake	Diversion	Probation	Commitment	Aftercare	
No DCF	65.3%	62.0%	41.4%	52.2%	41.4%	28.2%	29.0%	100.0%
Investigation	25.0%	26.8%	35.6%	33.0%	36.8%	39.9%	39.1%	100.0%
In Home	3.5%	4.0%	6.5%	4.9%	6.6%	9.8%	9.4%	100.0%
Out of Home	6.3%	7.1%	16.5%	9.9%	15.2%	22.1%	22.5%	100.0%

Lockout Youth in DCF Licensed Care

Between January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023, there were 429 crossover youth in a DJJ detention or residential program. Of those youth, 383 youth were released from the detention or residential program during the quarter. Among these 383 youth, 17 entered a DCF licensed care within 0-10 days of being released from DJJ, 13 of those 17 youth, entered into a DCF program on the same day of their DJJ exit.

Table 3: DJJ Residential or Detention Exit to Licensed Care Entry

DJJ Residential or Detention Exit to DCF Entry	
DCF Out-of-Home Care with DJJ Residential and Detention Youth	429
“Lock-out” Youth	17
DCF Service Date Began on the Date of DJJ Exit Date	13

Point in Time Data / Dually Served Youth Trend

The number of children being dually served within the active DCF service environment (active participants within a child abuse investigation excluded) stood at 1,057 in July of 2018, compared to 826

in March 2023 (Chart 1). Although the trend has generally been downward, the number of dually served youth has risen since a sharp dip in early-2022.

Chart 1: Youth Actively Receiving DCF and DJJ Services Statewide

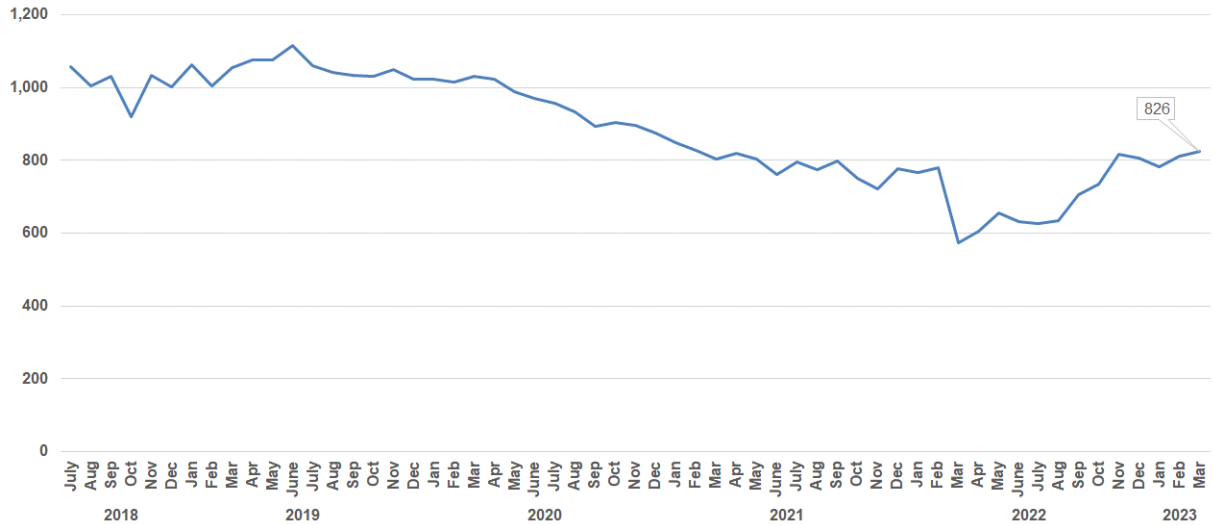
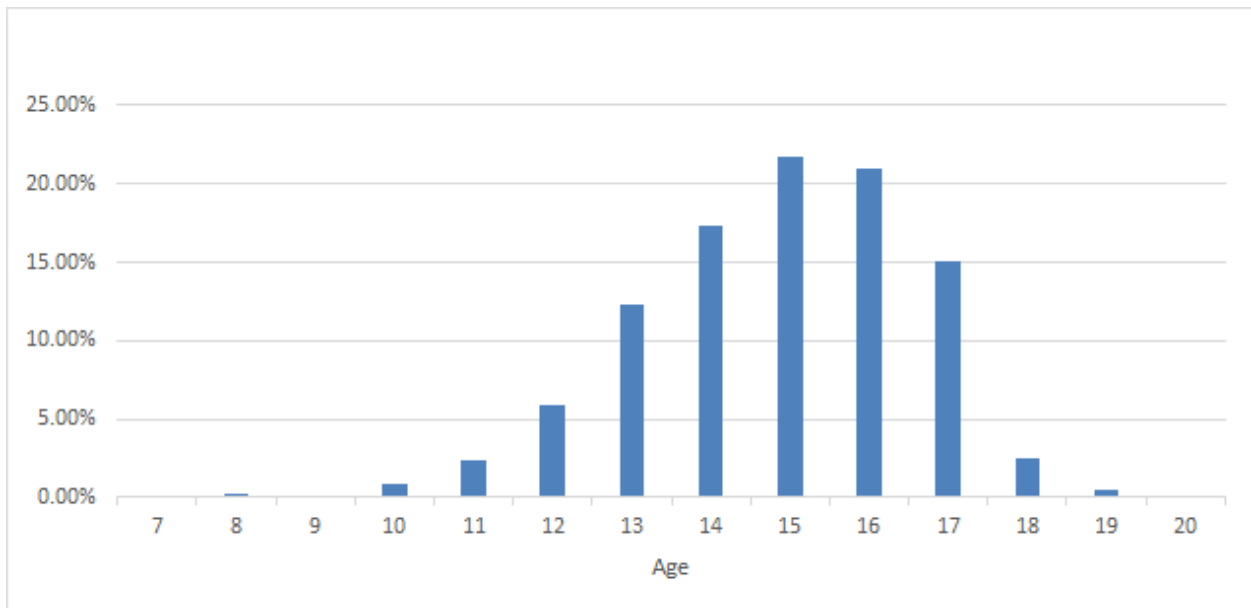


Chart 2 shows that most youth currently dually involved with DJJ are ages 14 to 17. This population is more likely to be dually served, with the highest single age group being 15-year-olds (21.7% of the total dually served population). While younger aged youth (less than 13) receive dual services, this population is less than 10% of the total population dually served by DJJ and DCF.

Chart 2: Youth Served in Quarter 3 by Age



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

Dually Served Youth Collaboration and Statewide Crossover Champion Training and Follow Up

The Dually Served Youth Statewide Crossover Champion Training was held on June 13-14, 2023.

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.

The Champions Team is reviewing the recommended array of strategies that were presented during the session. The Champions Team expects to complete work quickly on an action plan that includes immediate, intermediate, and long-term strategies to enhance integration of services and improved outcomes. Additional collaboration with local communities is underway to inform and guide local areas of improvement and strategies, and to recommend additional statewide strategies.

Key highlights from the session included focus on the following collaborative strategies and best practices:

- Hope Navigators from both Departments.
- Handle with Care (“HWC”) trauma approach practice in Manatee County. HWC programs promote safe and supportive homes, schools, and communities that *protect* children, and help traumatized children *heal* and *thrive*.
- Ensuring an appropriate placement array with appropriate capacity. DCF shared two approaches for these needs:
 - 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, respite).
 - Continued enhancement of the Department’s placement array that includes 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 qualified residential treatment programs. The latter allows for specialization within the homes such as for children needing behavioral management coupled with developmental disabilities, aggressive behaviors, sexual behaviors, and specialized medical needs.

Dually Served Youth Quality Review

The initial quality review was completed, and the trends were reviewed, at the Dually Served Training. Highlights were shared within the Q1 and Q2 report. The Champions Team is currently developing strategies for implementation that have been informed by the review findings and trends from this quality review. These strategies will be provided in the next quarterly report.

Evidence-Based Services Implementation

The Department of Juvenile Justice has extended the availability for dually served youth to participate in the evidence-based services of Family Functional Therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is a strength-focused family counseling model designed for at-risk youth. It assists youth and families to overcome behavior problems, conduct disorder, substance abuse, and delinquency from a family-based perspective. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (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 patterns and beliefs and replaces negative thinking with more realistic thoughts, which decreases emotional distress and self-defeating behavior.

The Department of Children and Families has extended the availability of FFT as well as Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) and Brief Strategic Therapy (BFST) through the implementation of the Families First Prevention Services Act. There are currently 10 Community Based Care Lead Agencies in various stages of implementing FFT to enhance their service array.

The Families First Transition Act (FFTA) funding is used to support training and certification to stand up four evidence-based services including MST. Currently there are three new MST teams in the implementation stages and several more under consideration.

Sunshine Health partnered with DCF to support the implementation of BFST through their reinvestment grant for Community Based Care Lead Agencies and are supporting four programs across the state.

In addition, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program within the Department of Children and Families supported funding for six evidence-based services through Managing Entity contracts to serve both Child and Family Well-Being identified children as well as community identified children needing this level of service:

- Circuit 13 (Hillsborough County) – MST
- Circuit 10 (Polk County) – FFT
- Circuit 6 (Pinellas County) – HomeBuilders
- Circuits 3/8 (Alachua County and surrounding areas) – FFT
- Circuit 5 (Hernando County) - HomeBuilders
- Circuit 7 (Volusia County) - MST

DCF is launching a Families First Prevention Services training series to include an executive training, front line user training, and train the trainer sessions across the state in July through August 2023. This training will familiarize our team members with the approved evidence-based services, ready them to identify candidates for the appropriate services, prepare them to engage with families and ensure the proper documentation requirements are met. Training is provided for our financial team members on documentation requirements and build a training team to build expertise across the system of care. Many of the selected programs are focused on dually served as outlined above.

Attachment 1

Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

Chapter 2022-67, Laws of Florida, Implementation Action Plan July 2023 Updates

CATEGORY 1 – Collaboration Regarding Dually Involved Youth:

- Issue policy formalizing best practices for interagency collaboration to address comprehensive needs of dually involved youth. (PCI-22-005, Dually Involved Youth - Collaboration with Department of Children and Families)
 - **UPDATE:** Completed July 2022.
- 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 Served Crossover Training.
 - **UPDATE:** Completed June 2023.
- 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.
- Convene quality improvement teams to conduct case studies in the dually involved youth population.
 - **UPDATE:** Completed May 2023.
- Determine if FFT can be expanded statewide for dually involved youth.
 - **UPDATE:** Completed February 2023. There are ten Community Based Care Lead Agencies with DCF who are implementing FFT teams in partnership with the provider networks.
- Determine if DCF Crossover Champions can be granted access to JJIS and if DJJ Crossover Champions can be granted access to FSFN.
 - **UPDATE:** Completed January 2023.
- Explore a joint Legislative Budget Request (LBR) to address specific service needs for dually involved youth.
 - **UPDATE:** This remains under consideration.
- Explore the ability to expand the Stop Now and Plan (SNAP).
 - **UPDATE:** DCF is reviewing all prevention funding sources for possible options.
- Revise DCF Operating Procedure (CFOP) 170-17, Chapter 2: Transition Planning for Youth.
 - **UPDATE:** Transition planning timelines, documentation and contents are covered in 65C-42.001-.003 which also includes the My Pathway to Success Plan form.

- Maintain a dashboard report for ongoing analysis of data regarding dually involved youth.
 - **UPDATE:** DJJ and DCF continue to collaboratively produce the youth-level dashboard to assist staff in the field in identifying and appropriately serving these youth. A draft public-facing dashboard has been developed and is being reviewed by both agencies prior to posting online.
- Continue interagency partnership as part of the HOPE Florida Navigators rollout.
 - **UPDATE:** Update was provided at the June 2023 Crossover Champion Training as well as for the DJJ Navigator rollout.

CATEGORY 2 – Multidisciplinary Team Staffings Regarding Dually Involved Youth:

- Issue policy reinforcing requirement 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 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.
- Communicate with and train staff regarding revisions to CFOP 170-17, Chapter 2: Transition Planning for Youth.
 - **UPDATE:** The new updates have been shared with the field along with materials on best practices and trainings are scheduled for this summer and fall.

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 Action Plan is reviewed and updated by DCF/DJJ leadership biweekly.

CATEGORY 4 – Fatherhood Initiatives:

1. Identify grant opportunities that will help expand fatherhood initiatives.
 - **UPDATE:** The DCF RFA was posted and the due date for applications was May 1.
2. Host Bridging the G.A.A.P. (Gaining Appreciation by Adjusting Perspectives) conversations between fathers, sons, and law enforcement in prevention programs, gender-specific programs, and detention facilities.
 - **UPDATE:** Florida Department of Juvenile Justice facilitates G.A.A.P conversations throughout the state on an ongoing basis.
3. Conduct a series of Community Outreach of Resources and Education (C.O.R.E.) events focused on recognizing fathers, the importance of their roles, and importance they play in our society.

- **UPDATE:** Florida Department of Juvenile Justices routinely conducts Community Outreach of Resources and Education.
- 4. Engage fathers in the Restoring Hope Community Network Fathers Initiative to serve as mentors to youth who do not have the support of biological fathers.
 - **UPDATE:** Ongoing
- 5. Partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters to enhance services offered to incarcerated parents of youth.
 - **UPDATE:** Ongoing
- 6. Host a series of “Barbershop Talks” to bring fathers and sons together in a neutral setting to discuss and discover solutions to local issues affecting youth, such as bullying, drug use, and human trafficking.
 - **UPDATE:** Ongoing
- 7. 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 and DJJ have met and after discussions determined revisions were needed on the RFA. The DCF RFA was posted and the due date for applications was May 1.
- 8. Issue an RFP for development and implementation of a statewide Responsible Fatherhood campaign.
 - **UPDATE:** The RFP was awarded to Family First, and the contract was executed on March 6, 2023.
- 9. 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 Specialist. Additional funding has been identified to help support the Father Engagement Program.

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 Community College to assist with enrollment.
 - a. **UPDATE:** This has been implemented during the transition phase of the youth during their residential placement.
- 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.
 - a. **UPDATE:** Training plan developed January 2023.

CATEGORY 6 – Quarterly Leadership Meetings:

1. Establish quarterly leadership meetings between DJJ, DCF, and CBCs.
 - **UPDATE:** Ongoing - participants have been identified and meetings will take place quarterly with leadership from DCF, DJJ and CBCs.