

# DCF/DJJ Dually Served Children and Young Adults

Report Timeframe:  
October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023  
Quarter 2 of Fiscal Year 2023-24

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 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 in the reporting timeframe of Quarter 1 for state fiscal year 2023-24.
- The current report includes the reporting timeframe of Quarter 2 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 CBC in 2022 and in 2023 the Guardian Ad Litem 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 them in having 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 historical analysis of youth served by both agencies as well as recent time periods.

# 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 occur where all sister agency dually served representatives and lead agency Champions meet to review local systems of care, provide updates, collaborate on system strategy action items for improvement, and update 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.

## **Restoring Hope Training Summit**

DJJ hosted its fifth Annual Restoring Hope Training Summit from October 31- November 1, 2023. The Summit provided an opportunity for juvenile justice professionals, community stakeholders, faith partners, members of law enforcement, criminal justice educators, social service groups, and other partners to explore best practices to help create better outcomes for Florida's youth. It featured plenary sessions, educational workshops, and exhibits all centered on juvenile justice services and resources as well as effective prevention and early intervention strategies. It was a unique opportunity to enhance skills, build capacity, gain professional connections and network with peers from across the state of Florida.

## **Interagency Collaboration Trainings**

During Quarter 2, 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 2:

- November 2023: *Understanding the Home and Community Based Services Waiver for Children and Young Adults*, presented by Alan Abramowitz, Chief Executive Officer, The ARC of Florida
- December 2023: *Aren't All Evaluations and Assessments the Same? A Brief Overview of Differences*, presented by Dr. Leslie Dallenbarger, Psychological Services Director, and Heather Allman, DCF Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

## **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 2 Champion Chat was held in December 2023, and included DCF, DJJ, CBC and GAL Crossover Champions, along with representatives of both departments' headquarters and region staff.

Each circuit team reported on current local activities, and discussion topics included the implementation of a monthly report on action plan progress on issues related to service map development, outreach to the judiciary, and cross-system circuit training. The next Quarterly Champion Chat will take place March 2024.

### **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 October but was put on pause in November and December for the holidays; next steps include inviting the Managing Entities to participate, exploring the ability to implement a reporting mechanism for statewide bed capacity, and ongoing strategy development around increasing capacity of current programs to meet the needs of children in Florida.
  - 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.
    - a. Expansion of the Citrus CHANCE model was included in DCF's budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24.
    - b. B-QRTP remains in the rule promulgation process to begin offering this licensing option and build specialized placements focused on behavioral needs of children. The rule is anticipated to be finalized by March 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 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). MST is an intensive treatment delivered to youth in multiple settings. It promotes pro-social behavior while decreasing criminal activity, mental health symptomology, out of home placements, and substance use. BSFT uses a structured family systems approach to treat families with children or adolescents who display or are at risk for developing behaviors including substance abuse, conduct problems, and delinquency. There are currently 10 Community Based Care Lead Agencies across the state in various stages of implementing FFT to enhance their service array. HomeBuilders provides intensive, in-home crisis intervention, counseling, and life-skills education for families who have imminent risk of out-of-home placement.

# Data Summary and Trend Analysis of Dually Involved Youth Quarter 2 Fiscal Year 2023-2024

## DCF Youth Served by DJJ

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

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

- **44,165** children were the subject of a DCF investigation that closed with a finding of “No Indicator.” Of those youth, 40,642 (92.0%) had no past or current DJJ involvement.
- **13,179** children received in-home care. Of those youth, 12,128 (92.0%) had no past or current DJJ involvement.
- **27,151** children received out-of-home care. Of those youth, 23,800 (87.7%) had no past or current 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 age 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.

**Table 1:** Percentages of Youth Served by DCF with DJJ involvement During Quarter 2

DCF Served	No DJJ Involvement	Prevention	Civil Citation	Intake	Diversion	Probation	Commitment	Aftercare	Adult Jail	Total
<b>Investigation</b>	92.0%	3.0%	1.0%	1.4%	1.4%	0.9%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	100.0%
<b>In Home</b>	92.0%	2.6%	0.8%	1.0%	1.5%	1.6%	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%	100.0%
<b>Out of Home</b>	87.7%	3.0%	1.0%	2.0%	2.5%	2.6%	0.9%	0.0%	0.3%	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	90.6%	2.9%	1.0%	1.5%	1.7%	1.6%	0.5%	0.0%	0.2%	100.0%

## DJJ Youth Served By DCF

Table 2 displays percentages based on the DJJ youth population. Youth served by DJJ during October 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023:

- **24,044** had no past or current DCF involvement.
- **15,372** had a history of at least one DCF investigation with a finding of “No Indicator” as their highest level of DCF involvement.
- **2,543** had past or current DCF in-home care.
- **5,352** had past or current DCF out-of-home care.

Rates of “no prior or current contact” with DCF for youth served in the juvenile justice system during the quarter ranged from 60% for Civil Citation youth to 26.0% for youth served in commitment programs. Notably, as the level of involvement in the DJJ system increases, the likelihood of prior or current DCF contact generally increases. For example, among youth served in commitment and aftercare during the quarter, rates of past or current DCF out-of-home placement were 23.7% and 21.5%, respectively, compared to just 6.2% of youth served in prevention. Similarly, over 9.3% of youth served in

commitment programs had a history of in-home DCF services, compared to 3.7% of prevention and 3.9% of Civil Citation youth.

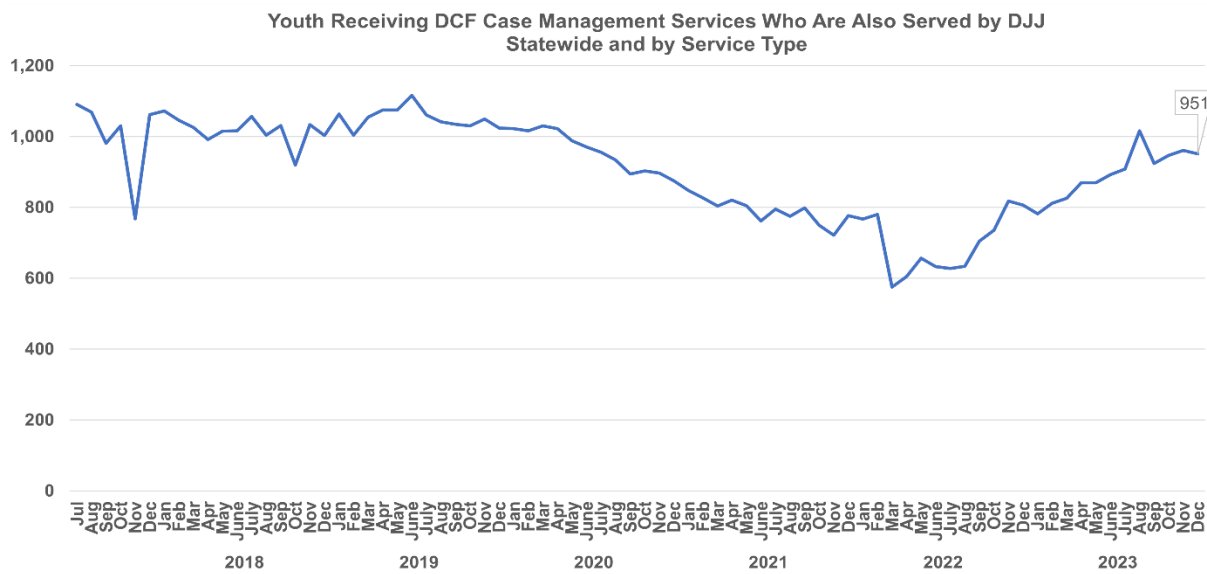
**Table 2:** Percentages of Youth Served by DJJ with DCF involvement During Quarter 2

DCF Involvement	Prevention	Civil Citation	Intake	Diversion	Probation	Commitment	Aftercare
No DCF	64.1%	60.0%	41.3%	50.3%	39.6%	26.0%	27.9%
Investigation	26.1%	28.9%	36.9%	33.5%	37.7%	40.9%	41.6%
In Home	3.7%	3.9%	6.6%	5.5%	6.7%	9.3%	9.0%
Out of Home	6.2%	7.1%	15.2%	10.6%	16.0%	23.7%	21.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

### Point-in-Time Data / Dually Served Youth Trend

The number of children being dually served within the active DCF service environment (open to either in-home or out-of-home case management services) was 1,057 in July of 2018, compared to 951 in Dec 2023 (Chart 1).

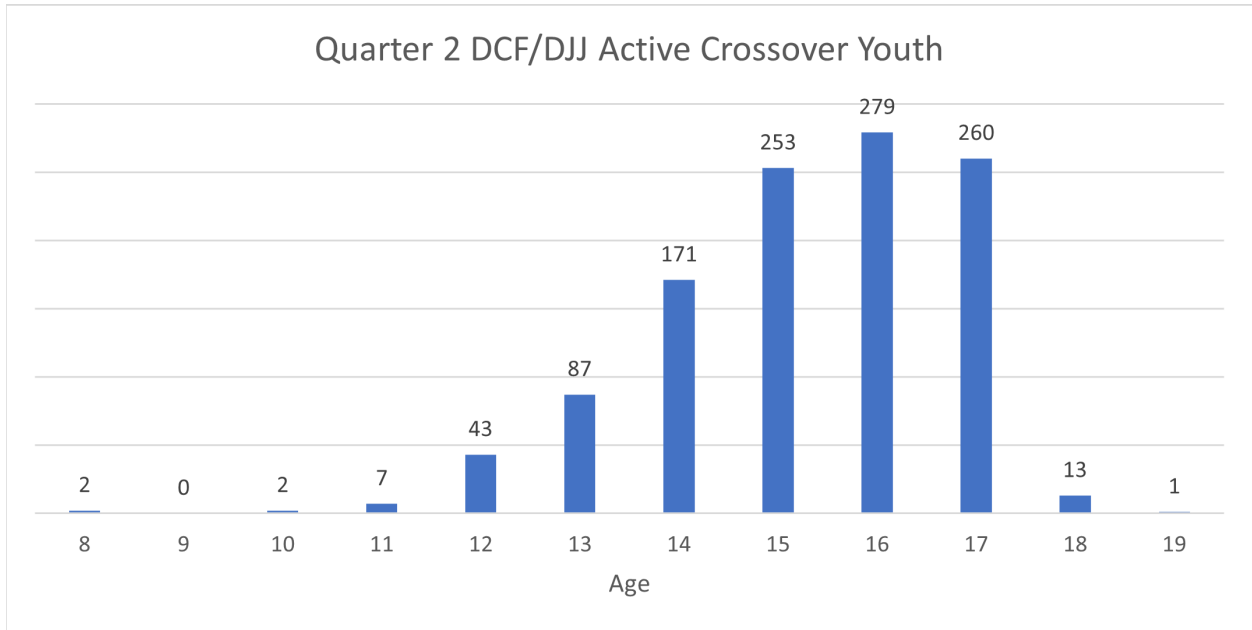
**Chart 1:** Youth Receiving DCF Case Management Services Who Are Also Served by DJJ



As shown in Chart 2, most youth currently dually involved with DJJ are ages 14 to 17. The largest age group is 16-year-olds at 24.9% of the dually served population. Younger children (under 13) receiving dual services account for 4.8% of the population. This population represents active dually served DCF youth during the entire quarter as opposed to point-in-time data for December 2023 shown on Chart 1.



**Chart 2:** Quarter 2 DCF/DJJ Active Crossover Youth



# Attachment 1

## *Chapter 2022-67, Laws of Florida, Implementation Action Plan January 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.
- Increase dually involved youth local awareness and participation in collaboration with the judiciary.
  - **UPDATE:** In process; reported monthly beginning in January 2024 by circuit Crossover Champions.
- Develop and deliver cross-system circuit training.
  - **UPDATE:** In process; reported monthly beginning in January 2024 by circuit Crossover Champions.
- 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.
- 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:** Crossover Champion meetings are held quarterly with local representatives from DJJ, DCF, CBCs and GAL. In addition, a Dually Served Statewide Crossover Training was held in 2023, and participants include 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.
- 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. There will be ongoing efforts to connect local areas to available FFT teams that are in place through DCF and DJJ as well as continue to explore additional opportunities for funding this service.

- 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:** In progress, will continue to collaborate.
- 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. The public-facing dashboard may be viewed at:  
[https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/djjmark/viz/DJJDCF\\_PUBLICQ22023-24/DJJ-DCFCrossoverReport](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/djjmark/viz/DJJDCF_PUBLICQ22023-24/DJJ-DCFCrossoverReport)
- 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:** Planning ongoing. Pilot to kick off July 2024.

**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 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 biweekly.

#### **CATEGORY 4 – Fatherhood Initiatives:**

- Identify grant opportunities that will help expand fatherhood initiatives.
  - **UPDATE:** DCF awards from round 1 are in process of execution. A new RFA (round 2) is currently advertised. The due date to submit applications is February 27, 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 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:** Ashely Plummer is the DCF Statewide Fatherhood Engagement Program Lead.

#### **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.
  - **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:** Headquarters leadership assessing whether to implement this meeting and a final determination will be made in Q4 23-24.