Girl Matters: Continuity of Care Model saves the state $1.5M annually by diverting girls from incarceration

1,322 girls diverted from deeper involvement in Florida’s criminal justice system since 2014.

74% Overall incarceration rate of girls reduced by 74% on the First Coast, outperforming statewide reduction of 51%.

$7.4M $77,490 saved per girl not incarcerated. This has saved the state of Florida $7.4 million since CCM inception for the girls diverted from incarceration.

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* Incarceration trends on the First Coast include the following counties: Duval, Clay, Nassau, Baker, St. John’s (2019-2020)

** Cost savings based on the average cost in the Florida DJJ LBR Oct. 2018 ($77,490) per 9-month intensive mental health incarceration. $77,490 cost of incarceration x 25 NEW girls that were kept out of incarceration annually = $1,937,250. $1,937,250 minus $400,000 (cost of CCM) = $1,537,250. $1,537,250 (cost saving to the state this past year) + $5,901,741 (savings to the state for 81 girls served in previous years) = $7,438,991 saved for 106 girls served INTENSIVELY and diverted from incarceration.
The Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center’s **Girl Matters: Continuity of Care Model** (CCM) program saves the state money, and shuts the revolving door of girls cycling in and out of the justice system.

- $7.4M State savings to date due to 106 girls diverted from incarceration
- 74% reduction in the incarceration rates of girls on the First Coast compared to 51% statewide since inception in 2013.
- 1,322 girls received services in CCM to prevent and interrupt deeper system involvement

Prior to the launch of CCM, girls in Duval County were jailed at alarmingly high rates - higher than Orlando, Tampa and Fort Lauderdale combined. A key contributor: the lack of community-based, Girl-Centered, trauma informed services available to girls cycling in and out of the system. Girls were often sent to lock-up facilities under the misguided notion that they would receive appropriate treatment for their complex mental health needs. CCM works because it provides the continuity of care needed to address the abuse, trauma and exploitation that is the root cause of girls’ out of bounds behaviors. Since CCM’s inception we’ve documented dramatic drops in arrests, probations, commitments, or transfers to adult court across the five county First Coast region (Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Nassau & Baker Counties).

**Girl Matters©: Continuity of Care** provides comprehensive interventions to girls who are at risk of juvenile justice involvement, in detention, in court, in residential placement, and transitioning back to the community.

- **24/7/365 Mobile Crisis Intervention**: Support line that connects girls to real-time services including emergency shelter, food, clothing, medical/mental health interventions, and referrals.
- **Comprehensive Care Management**: Individualized plans based on assessed needs such as housing, education, employment, pro-bono legal services, multidisciplinary staffing, and advocacy.
- **Individual and family counseling**: Focus on root causes of behavior and are held in office, homes, schools and neighborhoods.
- **School-Based Intervention**: Provides girls with individual interventions at high need, low resourced schools to help with academic and disciplinary matters.
- **SAVVY Sister (Safety, Action, Values, Victory, Yes I Can) Skill Building Groups**: Reduce risk factors and increases protective factors by building skills in safety, communication, relationships, emotional regulation, team building and activism.
- **Court Interventions**: Provide recommendations for community-based service plans and alternatives to incarceration while promoting public safety.
- **Girl-Centered Practice Training**: Trains local providers on the latest research, best practices and skills in providing gender responsive interventions.