

# A Decade of Impact 2013-2023



# The Beginning: A Commitment to Girls' Rights

## Policy Center Accomplishments (2013-2023)

- Saved State of Florida \$10.3M by diverting girls from incarceration
- Published 27 original reports
- Passed 5 Florida laws
- Served 4,000 girls through direct service programs
- Trained 3,000 +
  stakeholders in the Girl Centered Practice Institute
- Partners include:
  - Georgetown University
  - Mary Baldwin University
  - Law Enforcement
  - State Attorney's Offices
  - Judges
  - Public Defenders
  - FL Department of Juvenille Justice
  - Citizen Leaders
  - Local, state, and national funders and advocates

The Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center leads Florida's Justice for Girls Reform Movement, a crusade for girls' rights that started more than 20 years ago<sup>1</sup>. At the Policy Center's inception, more girls from Duval County (Jacksonville) were being locked up than in any other county in Florida - in fact, more than Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and Tampa combined. These girls' young lives were scarred by years of physical and sexual abuse, exploitation, unaddressed trauma and mental health issues, homelessness, and poverty. To most of the Jacksonville community, these girls were invisible, their plight ignored. But, a concerned group of 11 citizens joined Dr. Lawanda Ravoira, Policy Center founder, to form the Justice for Girls: Duval County Leadership Council. The Leadership Council studied girls' incarceration inequities and developed a strategic plan to address the needs of the community's most vulnerable girls. When Dr. Ravoira presented an innovative plan to Delores Barr Weaver, a leading philanthropist and Leadership Council member, she generously agreed to fund the inception of an innovative center that would connect the critical elements of research, training, advocacy, and programming through a girl-centered lens.

The Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center opened in January 2013.

Today, the Policy Center is a nationally respected leader in the Justice for Girls Movement, proudly serving girls most vulnerable to racial and gender biases that perpetuate cycles of system involvement: girls of color, girls in foster care, survivors of human trafficking, and girls from under resourced communities. The Policy Center is committed to achieving our vision to create communities where girls\* are safe, respected, valued, and equal partners in their experiences and future.

The Policy Center's mission is to advance the rights of girls\* and elevate justice reform, gender equity, and system accountability through research-based community solutions, and bold policy – all with a girl centered approach.

\*We recognize there are limitations with language and our use of "girl(s)". By girl(s) we mean all young people who identify as female, women, femmes, non-conforming and gender expansive individuals.



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# The Decade: Positive Progress Addressing Girls' Critical Needs

In October 2013, the Policy Center's research experts released, "A Wake up Call: Trends in Girls' Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System" on National Girls Justice Day<sup>2</sup>. The Policy Center's first independent report promoted a critical understanding of juvenile justice data through a gendered lens, highlighting data specific to girls, particularly from the First Coast community (Duval, St Johns, Clay, Baker, Nassau Counties). See the Girl: A Decade of Impact highlights the positive progress the Policy Center's work is making since that inaugural report, while exploring the reforms still critically needed. Through our work, we promote a deeper understanding of how girls' lived experiences and trauma impacts behaviors. With this understanding, communities can develop solutions for safe, healing, equitable alternatives to incarceration. Addressing the challenges through our unique, multi-faceted approach has resulted in unparalleled impact for girls in Florida and beyond.

#### See the Girl Model Programming

The Policy Center's girl-centered community based model programs have provided valuable support to more than 4,000 girls. Those served include: girls in elementary and middle schools (See the Girl: In Elementary, See the Girl: In the Middle), girls with current system involvement (See the Girl: In the Community) and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation (through the See the Girl: Open Doors program) Policy Center programming professionals are trusted partners with schools, community centers, detention center, and courts, law enforcement, public defenders, behavioral health providers and families. They work to provide girls with the community based support and services needed to improve their safety, fair treatment and wellbeing. These services filled an urgent need, as girl-centered services, specifically designed to meet the needs of system involved girls, were severely limited and/or non-existent on the First Coast prior to the Policy Center's existence. The Policy Center's comprehensive services have significantly reduced girls' arrests, suspension, probation, lock-up and transfer to the adult system. Additionally, these successful models allow other communities to replicate the work to improve outcomes for girls across the country.

#### See the Girl Training and Best Practices

Training girl serving professionals to effectively meet girls' needs with healing centered, gender responsive practices is critical to lasting, positive reform. The Girl-Centered Practice Institute is a valued resource where more than 3,000 stakeholders receive the latest cutting edge research, best practices, and national expert insight. Girl serving professionals including: school resource officers, probation officers, detention staff, law enforcement, educators and service providers trust the Policy Center to provide valuable guidance, support, and resources. In 2022, a Georgetown University partnership expanded training to professionals across Florida and in New York state. Additionally, the See the Girl Summit convenes national experts, advocates, and funders to share the latest research, trends and best practices with more than 90 girl serving professionals annually.

## See the Girl Advocacy and Public Policy

The Policy Center's advocacy platforms actively challenge the policies and practices that lead to girls' disparate treatment and unfairly push them deeper into the justice system. Our bold initiatives call for urgently needed researched-based reforms to interrupt girls' pathways into the justice system. As a result, we have realized significant local improvements that include: an increased use of civil citations, reduced arrests in schools, and reduced commitments for technical violations of probation\* (see glossary for a list of definitions<sup>3</sup>). Five state laws that improve girls' safety and fair treatment are now a reality as a result of the Policy Center's collaborative partnerships and advocacy work in Tallahassee. Our individual advocacy work with and for girls is central to our mission, and we are most encouraged by girls in our community who tell us they have experienced increased connection to trusted adults, and feel safer and more supported when navigating systems they encounter. Girls also report an improved sense of self and future outlook.

# **See the Girl Valued Voices**

Through open conversations, programs surveys, skill building groups, and counseling sessions, girls share important experiences, thoughts, feedback, and ideas that continuously elevate and inform our work.

Do you feel the Policy Center has helped you? Have there been any good changes in your life? The Policy Center allowed me to get on my feet with the ability to succeed more in my life.

Me finding healthier coping skills, me accepting my authenticity! Learning that it's okay to have a wide range of emotions but learning how to appropriately express it.

I graduated school, something a lot of people thought wouldn't happen.

Do you feel that your mentor listens to you? Do you feel you can be honest with your mentor?

Yes, she's never judged anything. I've opened up and shared with her, so I have no fear of the things I need to tell her.

Girls describe how Policy Center services are helpful in their lives. Interaction with someone that I know cares. Given the opportunity to get help that I was not able to receive from my own family. It's also nice to discuss with someone choices, I don't always trust my decisions.

I get to express myself at the end I feel heard and I accomplish things.

It's a nice way to get my emotions out, and space to ramble sometimes without judgement.

I can talk through my problems.

Helps me with solutions to my problems.

# **Ten Year Impact Milestones**

In a decade of service we have achieved significant milestones in the Justice for Girls Movement. Girls remain our most valued partners and we are committed to honoring, centering, and valuing their lived experiences as the guide for all we do. This timeline chronicles the bold innovation and unwavering commitment to girls that is the foundation of the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center.



## **See the Girl Research**

The Policy Center's work is grounded in research. Our research findings guide advocacy platforms, training topics and program development. Policy Center research serves as a trusted resource for others who share in this work. For a decade, we have studied the complexities of girls' justice system involvement to better understand how to best develop community based solutions and better outcomes for girls. The findings below show the progress in utilizing alternatives to arrest and incarcerating fewer girls for noncriminal offenses leading to significant reductions in the overall rates of girls entering and going deeper into the justice system. It also identifies some of the persistent challenges still before us based on the ongoing monitoring of important indicators.

## **PROGRESS**

## 10 Year Trend: Fewer Girls Are Experiencing Initial or Deeper System Involvement

Table 1.1 below shows the greater reductions of girls' juvenile justice involvement on the First Coast and statewide from a high of over 1,000 girls arrested in 2011-12 to 362 girls arrested in 2021-22. Since 2011-2012, arrests for girls on the First Coast have decreased by 70% and girls placed on probation have decreased by 82%. Commitments have decreased by 65% and transfers to adult court have decreased by 67%. Most notable has been the 10 year reductions in arrests, probation, commitment, and direct file in Duval County for girls relative to statewide (the county that had the highest number of girls incarcerated when the Policy Center opened).

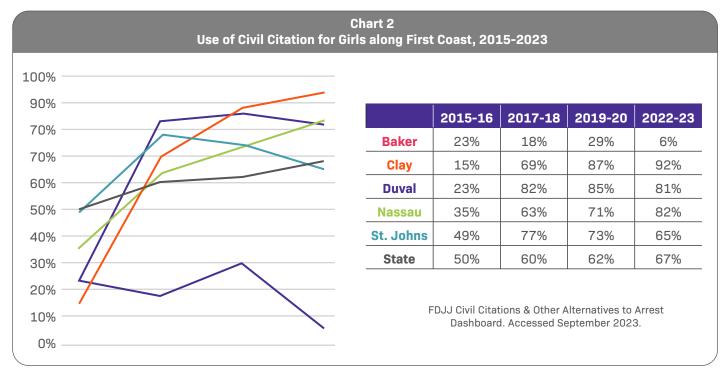
| Snapshot of First Coast Girls' System Involvement by County, 2011-2012 and 2021 |           |                        |                            |                            |                              |
|---|-----------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| County  | Year      | # of Girls<br>Arrested | # of Girls on<br>Probation | # of Girls on<br>Committed | # of Girls on<br>Transferred |
| Duval   | 2011-2012 | 819                    | 262                        | 43                         | 12                           |
|   | 2021-2022 | 226                    | 41                         | 12                         | 2                            |
| Nassau  | 2011-2012 | 46                     | 9                          | 1                          | 0                            |
|   | 2021-2022 | 13                     | 4                          | 5                          | 0                            |
| Clay  | 2011-2012 | 188                    | 59                         | 9                          | 0                            |
|   | 2021-2022 | 53                     | 8                          | 1                          | 0                            |
| St. Johns   | 2011-2012 | 135                    | 33                         | 0                          | 0                            |
|   | 2021-2022 | 56                     | 8                          | 0                          | 2                            |
| Baker   | 2011-2012 | 33                     | 5                          | 1                          | 0                            |
|   | 2021-2022 | 14                     | 4                          | 1                          | 0                            |
| First Coast   | 2011-2012 | 1,221                  | 368                        | 54                         | 12                           |
|   | 2021-2022 | 362                    | 65                         | 19                         | 4                            |
| Statewide   | 2011-2012 | 17,178                 | 3,949                      | 439                        | 133                          |
|   | 2021-2022 | 6,499                  | 1,335                      | 184                        | 44                           |



## PROGRESS

#### **5 Year Trend: More Girls Are Receiving Alternatives to Arrests Through Civil Citation**

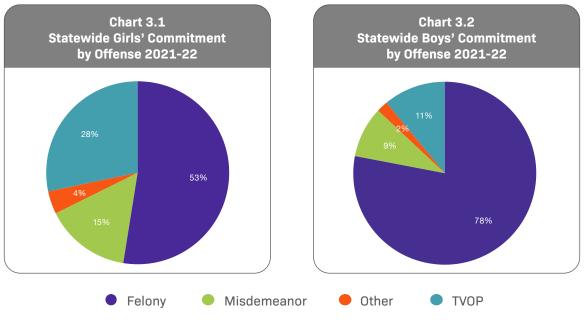
Civil citation is an alternative to formal arrest and court handling for youth who commit misdemeanor offenses. There has been a significant increase in the use of civil citations across the state. See the Change (2016), reported that only 22% of girls and 25% of boys in Duval County who were eligible for a civil citation December 2014- November 2015, received one. In 2022-23, 81% of girls and 77% of boys who were eligible received a civil citation in lieu of arrest.



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#### **PROGRESS** First Coast Reduction in Commitment for Technical Violations of Probation (TVOP)

Two early Policy Center independent reports, The Wake Up Call (2013)<sup>4</sup> and See the Change (2016)<sup>5</sup> noted the disparate incarceration rate of girls for technical violations of probation (noncriminal offenses). In 2014-15, more than one in three girls (36%) and less than one in ten of boys (8%) were locked up for a technical violation of probation as their most serious offense on the First Coast. The data in 2021-22 reveals 26% of girls and 6% of boys on First Coast (and more specifically 8% of girls and 3% of boys in Duval County) now. Statewide, 28% of girls and 11% of boys were locked up for a technical violations of probation.



Source: FDJJ Juvenile Justice Delinquent Profile

#### **PROGRESS** Continued Increased Access to Girl-Centered Services on the First Coast

A decade after opening its doors, the Policy Center continues to respond to the gaps in service and changing needs of our communities' most vulnerable girls.

See the Girl<sup>®</sup>: 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.

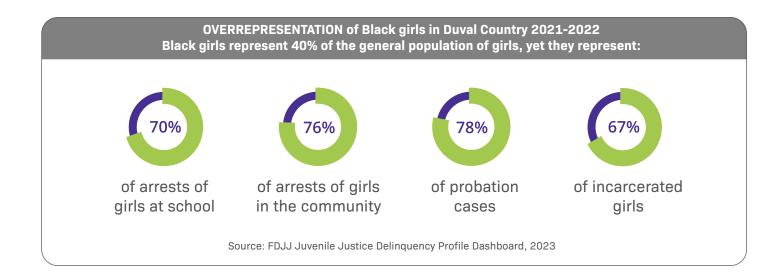
The Policy Center has continuously increased access to services for girls. In 2023, the Policy Center reached a decade milestone, surpassing 4,000 girls who have been supported through direct service model programs.



## **CHALLENGE** 10 Year Trend: Black Girls Over-Represented in All Areas of the Justice System

The overall reduction in arrests and commitments have significantly reduced the number of Black girls impacted by the justice system in Florida and Duval County specifically. In 2012, there were 8,417 Black girls arrested statewide and 507 girls arrested from Duval County alone. In 2022, there were 3,142 Black girls arrested statewide (a 63% reduction) and 173 arrested from Duval County (a 66% reduction).

However, of the girls who are impacted by the justice system, Black girls continue to be overrepresented at all points along the continuum (from arrest to incarceration). This is true statewide, on the five county First Coast, and Duval County.





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#### **CHALLENGE** 10 Year Trend: Geography is a Key Factor to Girls' Wellbeing and Justice System Involvement

Some differences in alternatives to arrest, detention and incarceration are noted among counties on the First Coast. For example, there is an increase in arrests of girls at school and use of transfers to adult system in St. John's county and a decreased use of civil citation for girls in Baker county.

The Status of Girls in Florida series (2019-2021) provided baseline data on educational attainment and disparities, indicators of wellbeing in the context of school and community experiences for girls across the state. It noted that not all girls are experiencing their communities the same and that girls living in more rural communities may have different needs. The latest Youth Substance Abuse Survey (YSAS) data for 2021 reveals that alarmingly high numbers of girls are reporting feeling that "sometimes life is not worth it" and "sadness". More than half of girls in middle and high school are reporting that their mental health has "gotten a little bit" or "a lot worse" since the COVID-pandemic. Geographical differences continue to exist across a variety of indicators of wellbeing (e.g., hopelessness, depression, mental health)<sup>8</sup>.



| First<br>Coast* | Sexual<br>Violence | Hopelessness | Depressed/Sad | COVID-Menta<br>Health Worse |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Clay            | 12%                | 44%          | 62%           | 60%                         |
| Duval           | 6%                 | 44%          | 62%           | 50%                         |
| Nassau          | 16%                | 55%          | 64%           | 69%                         |
| St. Johns       | 10%                | 59%          | 49%           | 65%                         |

# See the Girl: The Justice for Girls Blueprint: The Way Forward in Florida

The Policy Center's Blueprint highlights the critical actions needed from policy makers and every Florida community to ensure the safety and future success of girls. But, most importantly, the Blueprint engages the girls themselves. The Blueprint calls for bold, continuing reforms that shift Florida's juvenile justice system to a healing and restorative model, one that truly sees girls for their potential, not present circumstances. When we invest in that, we can change families, schools, and communities for the better.

- Inderjit "Vicky" Kaur Basra, DSW, President & CEO

While we've realized remarkable progress in the last decade, there is still much work to do. We have an extraordinary opportunity to build on the progress we have achieved in Florida's First Coast and together we can chart a course to ensure all girls have the opportunity to live up to their full potential regardless of their current circumstances.

The Policy Center's, *Justice for Girls Blueprint: The Way Forward in Florida*<sup>9</sup>, outlines the unfinished work and the way forward over the next five years to stop the revolving door of girls' pathways into the juvenile justice and to create a system of care for all girls in Florida.

## JUSTICE FOR GIRLS The Way Forward in Florida Blueprint Strategies (2022)

#### Strategy 1: Stop the entry into the justice system.

- Ban arresting girls age 12 and younger unless for violent offenses. We call for expanding the Kaia Rolle Act to include youth up to the age of 12. The current law protects children up to age 7.
- Ban arresting girls for family disturbances; support and help them through child welfare and community services instead of law enforcement interventions.
- Stop arresting girls eligible for a civil citation and ensure equal access to alternatives.

## Strategy 2: Stop re-traumatizing girls who are locked up.

- Reform practices in detention, probation and court to stop the cycling in/out of the system (e.g. ban violating and detaining girls for domestic disturbances, not going to school, etc.)
- Fourteen states have created an independent ombudsperson position; this is needed in Florida to oversee abuses, conditions of confinement and advocate for girls' rights and protections.



# Strategy 3: Continuously monitor data; build levels of community accountability & attention to girls' needs.

 Utilize existing committees and workgroups (e.g., State Advisory Group (SAG), Children and Youth Cabinet, Circuit Advisory Boards) to collect data, examine data by gender and race/ ethnicity, report on regional needs for interventions and programming, and advocate for girls' rights and protections.

## Strategy 4: Mandate training and girl-centered standards.

Educate and train practitioners, court personnel, police, and the broader community.

- Support and train the staff that work with girls in girl-centered, trauma-informed practice.
- Mandate that Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and Department of Children and Families (DCF) implement a Gender-Responsive Certification Program as part of the required training courses.

## Strategy 5: Fund specific and essential girl-centered services.

Allocate recurring funding specific to an essential set of girl-centered services; allocate funds for prevention, early intervention, intervention, intensive intervention, out-of-home treatment, and community reintegration.

- Earmark recurring state funding for the development, implementation, and evaluation of community-based, girl-centered prevention, intervention, re-entry programs and services.
- Pilot programs that specifically address the needs of girls of color, girls from rural areas, LGBTA girls, victims of sex trafficking, girls with differing abilities (developmental delays), and girls experiencing family disturbances.
- Require DJJ and DCF to develop gender-responsive program standards in all contracts and quality assurance standards.
- Employ known solutions such as counseling, respite, substance abuse treatment and mentoring from a girl-centered lens.



## Lawanda Ravoira, DPA | President Emeritus | Founder

"You mean there are women at home who care about us who don't even know us?"

These are the words of a girl I met in a juvenile lock-up facility a few days after Delores Barr Weaver said yes to my dream of opening the Policy Center.

In the funding proposal presented to Mrs. Weaver on August 13, 2012, I wrote that if there could be a singular focus on advancing a strategic and sustained reform effort for girls-- the possibilities were extraordinary.

As I sat in the lock-up facility pod -- an area with dull painted walls, metal furniture bolted to the floor, and no privacy -- I listened as the girls eagerly expressed their excitement about the possibility of a center back home that was created *"just for girls."* 

The last decade has indeed been one of extraordinary possibilities. This report highlights the significant milestones and achievements that has led to the overall reduction in the rates of girls entering and going deeper into the justice system. The achievements in this report did not just happen.

It is the outcome of extraordinary people who care about the most invisible and marginalized girls in our community.

- Delores Barr Weaver who provided the critical funding and lent her name to the mission;
- Members of the Justice for Girls Leadership Council who met monthly to study the research, ask difficult questions and reach agreement on a strategic plan to reverse the unacceptable rates of girls' incarceration in the First Coast;
- Sherry Magill, John Taylor and Barbara Guthrie, the founding Board of Directors who established the governing structure, supported bold advocacy, and built a strong foundation that continues to evolve under the current Board;
- Collaborative partners, funders, and volunteers who shared their time, resources and expertise;
- Staff who are unwavering in their commitment to the girls and their families/caregivers.

A decade later, the lives of thousands of girls have changed because of the willingness of individuals in our community to *"care about girls they didn't even know"*.

The mission of the Policy Center is a matter of the heart. Through the years, we have experienced profound joy and learned many hard lessons. Yet we always knew what mattered most-- the girls – who are at the center of our work. It is a privilege, a gift, to walk alongside each girl who has courageously shared her hurt, her fears, her dreams, and her hopes for the future. "

You mean there are women at home who care about us who don't even know us?

I am humbled, inspired, and profoundly grateful for the many people who opened their hearts to create a different world for girls in our community and in our state.

Is there more work to be done? Absolutely. I am confident under the leadership of Dr. Vicky Basra, President & CEO, over the next decade the mission will not only continue to move forward but will deepen – with girls always at the heart of the matter.

## Inderjit "Vicky" Kaur Basra | DSW | President & CEO

As I reflect on the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center's remarkable journey over the past decade, I am filled with both gratitude and awe of the transformative impact we have collectively achieved. Girls continue to be our guide, our inspiration and our "why". Our commitment to advancing girls' rights is unwavering and it is that commitment that fuels us to be a bold leader in the Justice for Girls Movement.

In this decade of listening and learning, I have had the privilege to experience the resilience and strength of countless young women who, despite facing immense challenges, dared to share their voices with us. Each of their stories fuel our determination to create positive change and many share the same message: Girls want to be heard, understood, respected and seen. Girls desperately need to be safe in their homes, communities, schools and relationships.

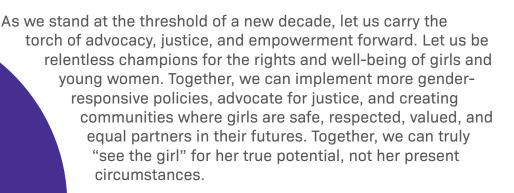
It is impossible to ignore the tremendous impact the Policy Center has on the lives of countless young women in our community. Our commitment to research, advocacy, and support services has transformed lives and reshaped the landscape of policy and social change. We have seen tangible results in reduced incarceration rates, improved access to education, and a critical prioritization on the holistic well-being of girls and young women.

As we celebrate our successes, it is essential to acknowledge the visionary leadership of Dr. Lawanda Ravoira and the unwavering support of Delores Barr Weaver. Their dedication and generosity have been the cornerstone of our achievements, setting a precedent for the kind of impact that can be made when vision meets compassion. Yet, the success of the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center is a collective triumph. It belongs to our committed staff, volunteers, supporters, funders, advocates, the broader community, and, most importantly, the resilient girls whose lives we aim to improve every day. Your hard work, passion, and commitment form the beating heart of this organization, driving us forward to make a lasting impact.

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Together, we can truly "see the girl" for her true potential, not her present circumstances.

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May the next decade be marked not only by the challenges we overcome but by the lives we uplift and the futures we shape. Thank you for a decade of unwavering dedication, and here's to a future where "See the Girl" is more than a motto, but a reality for girls and young women in Florida and beyond.

#### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Justice for Girls Movement, released January 2017 documents the history of the movement starting in the late 1990's and outlines the impetus for the creation of the Policy Center in 2013 <u>The-Justice-for-Girls-Movement.pdf (seethegirl.org)</u>

<sup>2</sup> The first publication, Wake Up Call: Trends in Girls Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System highlighted the number of girls involved along the juvenile justice continuum in Florida (arrest, diversion, detention, probation, commitment and transfer to adult system). It called attention to the disparities for girls, which included the arrest and incarceration of girls for non-felonies at higher rates than boys, incarceration into residential commitment programs for violations of probation, and the needs of girls that require a different approach <u>2013-Wake-up-Call\_Trends-Girls-Justice-System.pdf (seethegirl.org)</u>

#### <sup>3</sup> Juvenile Justice definitions used in this report include:

#### Arrest/Referral/Intake

Once a youth is arrested, they can either be formally charged or diverted. If a formal charge is issued, then youth undergo a detention hearing. Pending the outcome of the detention hearing, youth will either be released into a guardian's custody or placed in detention until the adjudicatory hearing. At the adjudicatory hearing, youth are either found not to have committed the offense and are released, or they are determined to have committed the offense and face a dispositional hearing. The dispositional hearing can have two primary outcomes: probation/supervision or residential commitment.

#### **Civil Citation**

Rather than a formal, official arrest, a civil citation is issued, allowing youth to receive a comprehensive assessment and then have alternative (non-judicial) interventions designed to help ameliorate the referral problem. Civil citation is effective because it prevents youth from having an arrest record, specific pathways into the system can be addressed, service referrals can be provided, and case management can more effectively occur.

#### Detention

As previously mentioned, youth can be placed in detention prior to adjudication when less restrictive placements are not appropriate; youth pose a risk to public safety, their attendance in court cannot be guaranteed, or as the result of state mandates. The decision to place youth in detention includes current offenses, prior history, legal status, and any aggravating or mitigating factors. Detention services include secure detention, home detention, and electronic monitoring with secure detention being the most frequently used option.

#### Commitment

Commitment is the most severe disposition for juveniles. A youth is placed in a program for delinquent youth defined by Florida Statute. These residential programs range from "non-secure" to "maximum" restrictiveness levels.

#### Probation

Probation is the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's primary form of community supervision. At the time of disposition, youth who are placed on probation by a judge are ordered to perform specific sanctions. These sanctions typically include community service work, adhering to a curfew, maintaining school attendance, and paying victim restitution. A court appointed Probation Officer monitors and supervises the youth on probation and determines when the sanctions are complete and the youth can be released from supervision.

#### **Technical Violation of Probation**

Non-Law Violation of Probation (Technical) is when a youth who is on supervision is not compliant with court-ordered sanctions, such as not reporting to the JPO as directed, failing to complete community service, failing to follow through with a referral, truancy, or failing to make restitution payments.

#### Transfers

Arrested juvenile offenders may have their jurisdiction involuntarily transferred for disposition in the adult court system in three ways: direct filing of a bill of information by the state attorney, wavier of jurisdiction by a juvenile court judge, or indictment by a grand jury. Transfer to adult court processing does not necessarily result in a guilty verdict by the adult court. According to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, it is common for an adult court judge to sentence an offender to juvenile justice system sanctions.

<sup>4</sup> Wake Up Call: Trends in Girls Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System (2013)

<sup>5</sup> See the Change: Girls Juvenile Justice Trends on the First Coast (2016) <u>2016-See-the-Change\_Trends-Girls-Justice-system.pdf</u> (seethegirl.org)

<sup>6</sup> \*We recognize there are limitations to language and our use of "girl(s)". By "girl(s)" we mean all young people who identify as female, women, femmes, non-conforming and gender expansive individuals.

<sup>7</sup> Other offenses include: county ordinance, non-felony traffic offenses, aftercare violation, violation of probation LEO, VOP new law, VOP non law, contempt of court, noncriminal infraction, prosecution previously deferred, and case transfer for disposition. (DJJ Delinquency Profile Dashboard).

<sup>8</sup> Percentage of girls that responded "yes or YES" to the following questions on the Youth Substance Abuse Survey (YSAS).

Hopelessness (YSAS) - Sometimes I think that life is not worth it.

Depressed/Sad (YSAS) - In the past year, have you felt depressed or sad MOST days, even if you felt OK sometimes?

Sexual violence (YSAS) - Have you ever been forced to do sexual things you didn't want to do?

COVID - MH worse (YSAS) - How has your emotional health changed during the COVID-19 pandemic?) % responded got a little worse, and got a lot worse.

<sup>9</sup> Justice for Girls Blueprint: The Way forward for Florida was released in 2022. See <u>https://www.seethegirl.org/blueprint2022/</u>

# DELORES BARR WEAVER **POLICY CENTER** SEE THE GIRL®

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