

## **Pinellas County JDAI School Referral Subcommittee Meeting**

April 13, 2015

CJC 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room

### ***Meeting Minutes***

#### **I. Attendees:**

Joni Goodley; Linda Cooke; Adrienne Conwell, Nita Smith, James Myles, Michelle Ardabilly, Jackie Joyner, Donita Clayton, Ken Welch, Jan Olney, Laura Snell, Rick Stelljes, Michelle Jameson, Gina Gibbs.

#### **II. Statistics (see handouts and power point for more detail)**

Overall these year school arrests are on track to be significantly lower than last year.  
(Approx. -30%)

Last year (FY 2013-14), there were 678 arrests and 211 civil citations for offenses that occurred on school.

This year (FY 2014- February 2015), there were approximately 351 arrests and 141 civil citations for offenses that occurred in school.

In Pinellas, the top three misdemeanors that result in an arrest or civil citation are:

1. Disorderly Conduct/Disruption of School Environment, (206 students FY 13-14)
2. Assault & Battery (non-aggravated), (153 students FY 13-14)
3. Violation of Drug Law. (73 students FY 13-14)

It is assumed that the Collaborative Agreement between the PCSB and law enforcement is the reason for the reduction in referrals.

#### **III. Focus Act (see PowerPoint for more detail)**

School and law enforcement agencies agree to handle “focus acts” in a certain way for school based offenses. “Focus acts” are low level delinquent acts that the jurisdiction agrees to handle differently than arrest.

Examples of the “focus acts” and the responses were reviewed for: Clayton County, GA; Jefferson County, AL; Broward County, FL; San Francisco, CA; Sedgwick, KY.

Some jurisdictions, such as Broward, have a matrix that is used in the school discipline code and the collaborative agreement that attempts to have equal application of the response to misbehavior regardless of school or staff.

Chief Stelljis shared that the PCSB has decided not to adopt a matrix for next year.

Pinellas schools and law enforcement signed a collaborative agreement encouraging collaboration, handling of misbehavior by school, and only arresting when necessary effective school year 2014-2015. The group decided it would be best to wait until the end of the school year to even consider trying to update this agreement.

#### IV. System of Care/Response (see power point for more detail)

The jurisdictions discussed (Clayton County, GA; Jefferson county, AL; Broward County, FL; San Francisco, CA; Sedgwick, KY ) have differing responses to focus acts. (see PowerPoint)

Law enforcement often reports that it is necessary to refer to the juvenile justice system students for Disorderly Conduct/Disruption of School Environment to maintain safety because the student(s) will not calm down while on campus.

However, most of those students are calmed down and cooperative by the time they reach the PJAC. And the majority of those students return to school the next day without any services in place. So it was discussed that an alternative location could be created to remove those students from campus (to maintain safety) that did not require the student into the juvenile justice system. The student would then get an assessment to see what services are needed to correct their misbehavior.

The group discussed at length the fact that schools and SRO's lack awareness of the resources that are available to address a youth who is acting out and needs services beyond what the school system has to offer.

The group discussed that there is a need to assist the schools and SRO's make referrals and to assist students and families access the services.

A small group will get together in the coming weeks to create a proposal for a coordinated referral center and intake system that can address low level crimes and access to services and funding of such program. Funding will potentially be sought from multiple sources, including Pinellas County, DJJ, PCSB, and JWB.