

# FLORIDA'S FOURTH CIRCUIT STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TWO-YEAR POST-IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

---

In September 2017, State Attorney Melissa Nelson convened a Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) made up of 23 community members from diverse backgrounds to develop juvenile justice diversion programming aimed at improving services and reducing recidivism and crime in Jacksonville, Florida.

This committee was charged with meeting regularly, reviewing national best practices, and making recommendations to the State Attorney's Office based on their findings and discussion. After over a year of education and programming, the JJAC was tasked with issuing a written report to the State Attorney making best-practice recommendations.

In June 2019, the JJAC released its final report and recommendations, which comprised a comprehensive list of specific action items designed to serve as a roadmap to improve juvenile diversion practices, and the State Attorney's Office set about implementing the report's suggestions.

This update summarizes the progress made on the JJAC's recommendations since June 2019, all of which have been completed.

1. Transfer diversion programming from the State Attorney's Office to the Kids Hope Alliance.



2. Implement a case management structure for diversion that tailors services and programs based on a needs assessment instrument.



3. Develop a continuum of available diversion programs, to include restorative justice and credible messenger mentorship pilot programs, and a pathways-to-career program.



4. Limit the State Attorney's Office's role in diversion to front-end (referral) and back-end (successful or unsuccessful completion) only.



5. Eliminate the initial judicial hearing required for diversion participation.



6. Eliminate all jail tours from prevention and diversion programming.



7. School and community requests for diversion programming should go directly to the diversion provider, not to the State Attorney's Office, eliminating at-large referrals.



8. Make post-completion services available for children and families who choose to engage in the services beyond the child's completion of diversion.

