



Office of Community Involvement



## Department of Community Justice CBAC

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TO: Chair Deborah Kafoury and Board of County Commissioners 2 pages

FROM: Department of Community Justice CBAC

DATE: March 17, 2020

SUBJECT: Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) Memo

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The DCJ CBAC appreciates the opportunity to provide you with our initial comments and recommendations, now that we have seen the Department's budget proposal. As in previous years, we acknowledge the inclusive, comprehensive, and mission-focused process that DCJ uses to evaluate their programs.

The biggest Out of Constraint request proposed by the DCJ is County funding for Diane Wade House (PO 50027B). The CBAC will meet with Diane Wade staff as soon as circumstances permit, so that we can make an informed recommendation in our April report to the Board.

Several months ago, the Adult Services Division was forced to make deep cuts to staff and services due to misguided action by the State Legislature. Although we are frustrated that state funding was not restored in the short session, we're relieved that ASD has been able to meet the FY21 County budget constraint by billing reforms, making no further cuts in service.

In the Juvenile Services Division, the elimination of the AYTF program (PO 50064 in FY20) seems, if it is handled correctly, to be a similar right-sizing action. We requested that the youth who are being moved out of the program be monitored to ensure that they achieve similar outcomes using community providers as they had been within JSD.

We have concern that the current Federal Government and/or courts will slash health insurance and Medicaid funds, making both of these reforms very short-term.

As a CBAC, we appreciate that effective community corrections has the ability to reduce our county's prison and jail bed use. We believe that our communities are best served when people can receive the services that they need within the community. We are concerned, however, that efforts to reduce prison usage and the current state funding mechanisms of community corrections will lead to the misguided growth of community corrections. In the future, we hope

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to see DCJ advocate for more people getting their needs met entirely outside of the corrections system, entirely separate from any correctional control.

Thank you for the occasion to provide our perspective as you prepare the Chair's budget.