

RESOLUTION 2003 - 06

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT POTENTIAL  
STATE BUDGET CUTS AND PROGRAM CHANGES FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau  
County is aware and extremely sensitive to the pending  
budget short-fall facing the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, deep funding cuts in the area of Juvenile  
Justice will have a severe negative impact on many  
communities across the State; and

WHEREAS, during the past five (5) years, the State has  
experienced a continuous downward trend in the number of  
arrested juveniles, due in a large part to the creation of  
a continuum of services for children from assessment,  
diversion, and other front-end services through conditional  
release and after-care; and

WHEREAS, potential cuts to front-end prevention,  
intervention, and detention programs including probation  
services, as well as the elimination of pre-trial diversion  
services and independent living programs could result in  
juveniles living on the streets, because they have no place  
to live, and a reduction in the number of probation  
officers, which could have a corresponding negative impact  
on public safety; and

WHEREAS, these early intervention programs are more cost-effective than the more expensive deep-end programs, such as beds for youth, in helping youth and their families avoid further system involvement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2003, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, as follows:

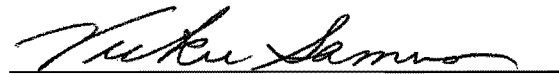
1. The State should ensure adequate funding for the entire Juvenile Justice continuum from prevention, processing, and assessment to after-care.

2. The State should reverse the trend of cutting front-end services, such as: prevention, pre-trial diversion, risk and needs assessment, education, including the education of parents, mental health, and substance abuse programs, as well as probation, commitment, and conditional release programs, as set forth in Florida Statutes, Chapters 984 and 985, and instead re-focus additional resources on these front-end services which have been proven to be more cost-effective and promote public safety more so than the costly deep-end programming.

3. The Board of County Commissioners opposes the shifting of costs from the State to the Counties for services provided to pre-adjudicated juveniles, including, but not limited to, juvenile assessment centers, diversion,

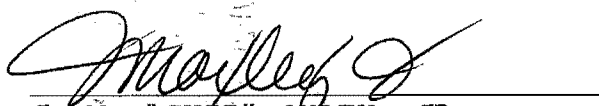
and detention. The State should pay for these services as part of the juvenile continuum.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA



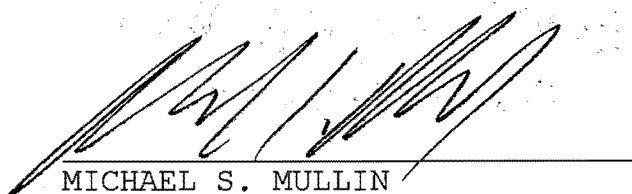
VICKIE SAMUS  
Its: Chairman

ATTEST:



J. M. "CHIP" OXLEY, JR.  
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the  
Nassau County Attorney



MICHAEL S. MULLIN

h/anne/res/juvenile-justice