



Alachua Regional Juvenile Assessment Center

May 30, 2002

City Commissioners
c/o Mr. Wayne Bowers, City Manager
200 E. University Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Sir/Madam:

Once again, the Juvenile Assessment Center is requesting your assistance with financial support for the security operations at the JAC. I have put together a packet of information for your review, including an overview of the Juvenile Assessment Center as well as statistical information and a proposed budget. We will be meeting with Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, and perhaps Commissioners from the other counties that utilize our services, and it is our hope that they too will support the JAC with monetary contributions.

As the enclosed information indicates, our annual budget for security is approximately \$200,000.00. During the past year, nearly 10% of this money came from outside Alachua County and we hope that these other agencies will again contribute 10-15% of the necessary funds. Please keep in mind that Alachua County law enforcement agencies receive more services from the JAC than do other counties. We are a drop-off location for all juveniles arrested in Alachua County and can have officers back on the road within 5 minutes of arrival at the JAC. In addition, the JAC does the booking for juveniles arrested by Gainesville Police Department. For the other counties, the JAC does a preliminary telephone screening but only accepts those juveniles who will be securely detained. Those juveniles who do not meet detention criteria and will be released remain the responsibility of the law enforcement agency that has custody of the juvenile.

We have sufficient funds to keep the JAC fully operational through June 30, 2002. In order to extend operations through September 30, 2002, we need approximately \$40,000.00. Full-year funding would require \$170,000.00 - \$180,000.00 from Alachua County agencies. The Alachua Board of County Commissioners recently approved a contribution of \$20,000.00, one-half of the amount needed for the next quarter, and have requested that the City of Gainesville match that amount. Any assistance you can provide to allow this valuable program to remain open is greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information, and thank you for taking the time to consider our request.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Anderson, JAC Director

Alachua Regional Juvenile Assessment Center

The Alachua Regional Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) has been under the management of Human Services Associates since January 1998. With expanded hours of operation, expansion of services to 12 counties in Circuits 8, 3, and 7, and the improved communication between JAC staff and law enforcement, the utilization of the JAC continues to increase, with over 3000 youth served in 2001. The JAC serves Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Putnam, Suwannee, and Union counties. The facility is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and has a staff of 5 Case Managers, 5 Security Officers, 1 Program Assistant, 1 TASC Assessor, and a Director.

Purpose: The JAC is a centralized booking, referral and evaluation center for all arrested juveniles. Representatives from key agencies involved in the juvenile justice system are brought together under one roof to assess the needs of the juvenile. In fulfilling our mission to maintain safer communities, Alachua JAC provides effective interventions through assessments, referrals and detention screening services.

Benefits:

- **Public Safety:** With juvenile crime on the rise throughout the nation, the JAC provides the juvenile justice system, especially the courts and juvenile probation officers, with means to quickly identify juveniles who have problems that can be corrected through early intervention before serious patterns of delinquent behavior are established. JACs also allow law enforcement officers to be where they need to be - on the streets - instead of waiting with arrested youth. This is a benefit to the citizens of the community in safety and cost.
- **Time Savings to Law Enforcement Officers:** Officers no longer sit and wait for extended periods of time with the youth at the adult jail. JAC staff takes custody of the arrested youth and provides case management and assessment services. For Gainesville Police Department, the JAC also books the juvenile, reducing the amount of time the officer spends with an arrested youth from approximately 4 ½ hours to 4 ½ minutes. The JAC's ability to take custody of a youth soon after arrest also benefits the jail because juveniles must be separated by sight and sound from adult offenders, draining jail resources to provide supervision.
- **Juveniles and Their Families:** The JAC is a "one stop shop" for arrested juveniles. While the youth are in custody, on-site case managers screen them for substance abuse and mental health issues and suicidal tendencies. The assessment enables case managers to immediately identify needs of the youth and their family. As a result, referrals may be made for services as well as recommendations for monitoring and sanctions. These assessments, coupled with the youth's criminal history, allow case managers to recommend appropriate diversion programs or judicial handling. Mental health assessments can be done on site, and Juvenile Probation Officers are on site as well.
- **Information Hub:** JACs are quickly becoming the information hub for juvenile justice. Information is collected as soon as a juvenile is arrested and immediately entered into JJIS. Data on the type of arrest, age, gender and race of the youth, school information, information on arresting law enforcement agencies and much more is collected for reports generated routinely by JAC staff.

JACs protect the public by providing services to juvenile offenders and their families.

Security Operations
at
Alachua Regional Juvenile Assessment Center

Planning for the Alachua JAC began in 1995, and the JAC began serving clients in January 1997 with restricted hours of 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. During the first 6 months, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, with additional support from the State Attorney's Office, provided the funds for security staff. Byrne Grant funding was secured by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office in the fall of 1997, and those monies supported the security operations of the JAC until June 30, 2001. Additional monies were obtained from the City of Gainesville through an OJJDP Grant, which was in effect from the fall of 1999 through June 30, 2001. With the combined support of the 2 grants, additional security officers were added and JAC operations were expanded to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and the 11 surrounding counties of Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Putnam, Suwannee, and Union were included.

Since July 1, 2001, the security operations at the JAC have been covered by contributions from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, the City of Gainesville, and several smaller contributions from Dixie, Gilchrist, and Levy County agencies. Byrne and OJJDP grants have been utilized to the fullest extent possible, and continued operation of the JAC now depends upon contributions from community partners.

The Department of Juvenile Justice provides funding for the screening and assessment component of the JAC but is unable to pay for security costs. As the JAC stands alone, and not within a detention center or jail, security staffing is critical in order to ensure the safety of clients and staff, as well as to provide booking services and secure transport/escort of detained juveniles to the Juvenile Detention Center. Without continued financial support for security operations, the JAC will no longer be able to provide the services that the communities have come to expect.

BENEFITS OF JUVENILE ASSESSMENT CENTERS

Public Safety:

- Drop-off point: allows officers to return to the streets quickly
- Quick identification of problem behaviors
- Permits Juvenile Probation Officers to supervise probationers rather than screen new offenders

LEO's Time:

- On-site booking reduces time spent with juvenile offenders from hours to minutes
- When drop-off services are not utilized: an immediate response allows officers to release youth to parents or to transfer youth to JAC custody quickly

Services to Youth and Families:

- Immediate assessment for mental health, substance abuse, and suicidal tendencies
- Prompt referrals for services
- Timely recommendations for consequences

Availability of Information:

- Immediate entry of arrest information into the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS)
- Centralized information gathering and dissemination

**Budget
For Security Officers
At the
Alachua Regional Juvenile Assessment Center**

24 hour coverage 7 days a week

1 FTE Sr. Security Officer	\$12.00/hour x 2080 hrs	\$ 24,960
4 FTE Security Officers	\$11.00/hour x 2080 hrs	\$ 91,520
2 PT Security Officer	\$11.00/hour x 1040 hrs	\$ 22,880
Total Salary		\$139,360
Fringe Benefits at 26%: Health insurance, life insurance, FICA, retirement, long-term disability and Employee Assistance Program (EAP)		
Total Fringe Benefits		\$36,234
Materials include snacks for youth (juice and crackers) and uniforms for security officers		
Total Materials		\$ 2,500
Training and Travel		
Total Training and Travel		\$ 2,000
Administrative Fee of 10% includes administrative salaries, fringe benefits, accounting and legal fees, checking account fees, mortgage interest, telephone, utilities in the administrative offices, equipment rental, transportation and travel, office supplies, payroll processing fees, fire/theft and general liability insurance coverage. These are all costs associated with administration.		
Total Administrative Fee		\$ 18,010
Grand Total		\$198,104

2002 First Quarter use of JAC

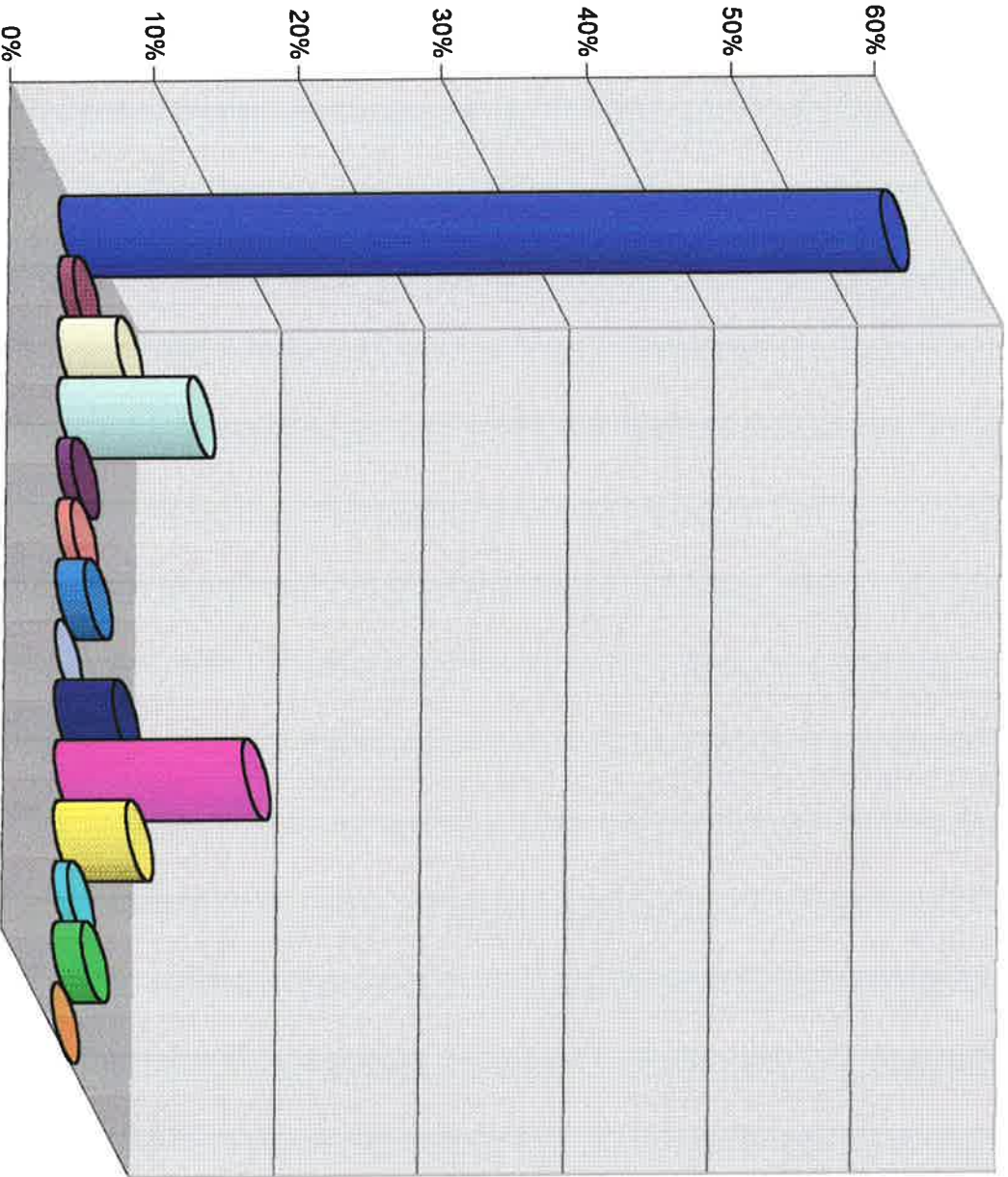
	<u>No. of Arrest</u>	<u>Percentage of Use</u>
<u>Alachua</u>	425	71%
<u>Baker</u>	0	0%
<u>Bradford</u>	16	3%
<u>Columbia</u>	55	9%
<u>Dixie</u>	3	0%
<u>Gilchrist</u>	7	1%
<u>Hamilton</u>	3	0%
<u>Lafayette</u>	0	0%
<u>Levy</u>	25	4%
<u>Putnam</u>	35	6%
<u>Suwannee</u>	23	4%
<u>Union</u>	5	1%
<u>State of Florida</u>	4	1%
<u>Totals</u>	601	100%

Agency Use of JAC for 2001

<u>Agencies by County</u>	<u>Number of Juveniles Referred</u>	<u>Percentage of use by Agency and County</u>
<u>Alachua County</u>		
Alachua Sheriffs Office	750	24.7%
Gainesville, Police Department	867	28.5%
Alachua Police Department	15	0.5%
High Springs Police Department	6	0.2%
University of Florida Police Department	17	0.6%
Waldo Police Department	13	0.4%
Alachua County Court	76	2.5%
Total	1744	57.4%
<u>Baker County</u>		
Baker Sheriffs Office	23	0.8%
Baker County Court	1	0.0%
Total	24	0.8%
<u>Bradford County</u>		
Bradford Sheriffs Office	64	2.1%
Starke Police Department	42	1.4%
Bradford County Court	2	0.1%
Total	108	3.6%
<u>Columbia County</u>		
Columbia Sheriffs Office	145	4.8%
Lake City Police Department	68	2.2%
Columbia County Court	61	2.0%
Total	274	9.0%
<u>Dixie County</u>		
Dixie Sheriffs Office	33	1.1%
Cross City Police Department	3	0.1%
Dixie County Court	1	0.0%
Total	37	1.2%
<u>Gilchrist County</u>		
Gilchrist Sheriffs Office	29	1.0%
Trenton Police Department	3	0.1%
Gilchrist County Court	2	0.1%
Total	34	1.1%

<u>Hamilton County</u>		
Hamilton County Sheriffs Office	38	1.3%
Jasper Police Department	5	0.2%
White Springs Police Department	1	0.0%
Hamilton County Court	2	0.1%
Total	46	1.5%
<u>Lafayette County</u>		
Lafayette Sheriffs Department	3	0.1%
Lafayette County Court	1	0.0%
Total	4	0.1%
<u>Levy County</u>		
Levy Sheriffs Office	79	2.6%
Williston Police Department	19	0.6%
Chiefland Police Department	14	0.5%
Levy County Court	11	0.4%
Total	123	4.0%
<u>Putnam County</u>		
Putnam Sheriffs Office	245	8.1%
Palatka Police Department	79	2.6%
Weleka Police Department	3	0.1%
Crescent City Police Department	3	0.1%
Interlachen Police Department	1	0.0%
Putnam County Court	71	2.3%
Total	402	13.2%
<u>Suwannee County</u>		
Suwannee Sheriffs Office	97	3.2%
Live Oak Police Department	31	1.0%
Suwannee County Court	33	1.1%
Total	161	5.3%
<u>Union County</u>		
Union Sheriffs Office	24	0.8%
Union County Court	2	0.1%
Total	26	0.9%
<u>Courtesy Screens</u>	45	1.5%
<u>ARJDC</u>		
<u>State Law Enforcement Agencies</u>	12	0.4%
<u>Total Juveniles Referred to JAC 2001</u>	3040	100%

Percentage of use by County



- Alachua 57%
- Baker 1%
- Bradford 4%
- Columbia 9%
- Dixie 1%
- Gilchrist 1%
- Hamilton 2%
- Lafayette 0%
- Levy 4%
- Putnam 13%
- Suwannee 5%
- Union 1%
- ARJDC 2%
- State LEO Agencies 0%

**JAC USAGE – ALACHUA COUNTY
2001**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Youth Arrested</u>	<u>Percentage of Use</u>
Alachua Sheriff's Office	750	46%
Gainesville Police Department	867	54%
<u>Totals</u>	1617	100%

Alachua Sheriff's Office
And
Gainesville Police Department
Usage

First Quarter 2002

Alachua County Sheriff	205	48%
Gainesville Police Dept.	198	47%
Other Alachua Agencies	9	2%
Alachua Court	13	3%
Total Alachua County	425	100%

**JAC SECURITY
2001-2002**

	Received	Committed / Received
ALACHUA COUNTY	\$50,664.26	\$112,272.86
Alachua Sheriff's Office	\$36,164.26	\$49,972.86 / \$16,657.62
City of Gainesville	\$12,500.00	\$62,300.00
City of Archer	\$ 2,000.00	
DIXIE COUNTY	\$ 1,750.00	
GILCHRIST COUNTY	\$ 2,730.00	
Gilchrist Sheriff's Office	2,170.00	
City of Trenton	560.00	
LEVY COUNTY	\$ 7,280.00	
Levy Sheriff's Office	6,580.00	
City of Williston	700.00	
	\$62,424.26	\$6,300.00*

* Court fines - Alachua