



## Board of Directors Meeting

May 10, 2012

Safe Place 2B

Item V.B.

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**Information Item:**                      **Safe Place 2B**

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### **Background:**

Per the request of Dr. Sewell, staff has prepared the following report:

#### Program Mission

The SafePlace2B program is designed to provide respite care for youth and families in crisis. SafePlace2B operates out of two community-based shelters whose staff works to reunite youth and their families, improve family functioning, and strengthen family relationships. The goal is to decrease the incidence of the youth entering the juvenile justice and/or child welfare systems.

#### Program Description

The shelters serve at-risk youth between 10 and 17 years of age who are not under active Department of Juvenile Justice supervision. SafePlace2B provides temporary shelter, food, and clothing for up to 14 days, based on individual need and circumstances. More than a shelter for runaways, SafePlace2B provides a safe haven for youth who are experiencing problems and conflict within their family, youth who are homeless or have been rejected by their parents and locked out of their homes, youth facing school related problems, and youth who are experiencing a crisis for any reason and need respite care.

During their stay in shelter care, clients receive family crisis intervention, individual, group and family counseling, skill building and peer education. These activities provide staff with a greater understanding of a family's problems in order to initiate change and begin planning for long-term family stability and in-turn provide youth and their families the tools to facilitate improved communication, conflict resolution and reduced risk taking behaviors on the part of youth.

#### Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Performance Outcomes

In 2010/2011 SafePlace2B served 518 youth (271 at the north shelter, 247 at the south shelter). While the shelters serve youth between the ages of 10 and 17, 64% of the youth served last fiscal year were between the ages of 14 and 16 at intake. Fifty-five percent of the youth admitted to the shelters were white, followed by African-American (32%), Multiracial (10%) and other races (3%). Ten percent of the youth reported to be of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish ethnicity. A majority of the youth reported to be attending school (94%). Over half

of the youth were from single parent families (51.9%) and fifty-eight percent of the youth served were from households with income below \$30,000.

The contracted measureable outcome for this program states that **86%** of youth will have no new delinquent/criminal adjudications or adjudications withheld within six months after case closure. The program met this objective with an outcome of **86%** which is consistent with the benchmark set by the Florida Network; a non-profit association representing agencies which serve homeless, runaway, and troubled youth and their families.

At the Board's request, JWB staff conducted a one year follow-up of 100 randomly selected participants served by the SafePlace2B shelter between August 2010 and January 2011. Results indicated that **78%** of the youth in the sample did not receive an adjudication (or withhold of adjudication) for a delinquent or criminal charge within 12 months after closure of their last episode of service.