

*Assessment Services Assist the
Entire Family*

The Juvenile Assessment Center's principal goal is to ensure that all Brevard County youth in need of services, including those who are arrested and those at risk of delinquency, receive a comprehensive assessment and that intervention is provided immediately.

The JAC is the central point of entry for coordinated service delivery for both delinquent and at-risk youth. It is also the central point of contact for Law Enforcement. Law Enforcement personnel are able to drop off an arrested youth 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; this process takes less than 15 minutes.

The JAC's staff recognizes that when a youth is arrested it is a crisis for the family. Our staff consists of a counselor who offers immediate counseling to the family, and an assessor who is able to help identify for that family what resources they may need to help them through this time. The youth is assessed and all possible services are offered to the young person to help him or her resolve the issues that have led to them breaking the law.

The JAC provides services which include comprehensive assessments, referrals, and life skills applications. The client base consists of families needing crisis intervention for youth ages 10-17, and juveniles referred by Law Enforcement.

The JAC also provides services for any youth in need of emergency shelter and/or crisis intervention, including those who have run away, are truant, ungovernable, or homeless (status offenders), or those who are in the midst of a serious family conflict or domestic violence situation. Youth may be brought in by law enforcement personnel, parents, or other referral sources, or may be self-referred.

Over a thousand youth were referred to the Juvenile Assessment Center during the past fiscal year. Ninety-five percent of youth who received comprehensive services did not re-offend while receiving services at the JAC.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- **Robert E. Lehton Children's Shelter**, 24-Hour Emergency Shelter for young people in crisis ages 10 to 17
- **Transitional Living Program** provides housing, support, and skill development for young adults ages 16-21 to prepare for successful adulthood
- **Rainwater Center**, a day treatment program for girls in the juvenile justice system
- Screening and assessment at the Brevard **Juvenile Assessment Center**
- **Civil Citation**, an alternative to arrest for youth under 18 who commit certain misdemeanor offenses
- **Community Counseling/Case Management** for at-risk youth and their families
- **Family Therapy** program for youth on probation
- **Project Safe Place** where children access help through businesses and public buildings
- **PAWS Therapy Dog Program**, reading enhancement through the use and interaction of therapy dogs
- **Independent Living Services** for youth transitioning from foster care to adulthood
- **Street Outreach** to runaway, homeless and at-risk youth

06-10

CROSSWINDS YOUTH SERVICES

Juvenile Assessment Center



...creating
opportunities for
young people to
succeed!



**...creating opportunities
for young people
to succeed!**

Crosswinds was founded in 1974 to provide support to youth in crisis and has been providing services to youth and families in Brevard County for over thirty years.

Crosswinds provides services to thousands of young people and families each year, through programs designed to strengthen families and offer young people the support, skills and opportunities they need to succeed.

Crosswinds Youth Services

1407 Dixon Blvd.
Cocoa, FL 32922

321.452.0800



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Accredited by the Council on Accreditation



Juvenile Assessment Center

A strong and productive relationship with law enforcement has been cultivated through participation in the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC). Twenty-four Brevard organizations, including local law enforcement agencies, signed an interagency agreement for the JAC emphasizing sharing of information, eliminating service duplication, and coordinating efforts towards common goals. The JAC Advisory Board, made up of representatives of these organizations, meets quarterly to provide guidance.

Eligibility Criteria

All youth up to age 18 arrested in Brevard County, as well as youth who are truants and/or at risk of delinquency.

Services Available

- Mental Health/Substance Abuse Assessment
- Educational Assessment
- Individual & Family Functioning Assessment
- Referral to immediate services to meet the family's needs
- Operational 24/7 with a crisis and information line as well as intake available for youth referred through law enforcement

Referral Process

Referrals are made to the **Juvenile Assessment Center** directly from families, law enforcement, school officials, and public and private agents.

For additional information on the Juvenile Assessment Center Program, contact Karen Locke, Chief Operating Officer, at 321-452-0800, ext. 130.

If you are a youth, parent
or friend seeking services

PLEASE CALL OUR

24 Hour Crisis

Information and Referral Line

321.452.0800

