

# Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department

## Chaplaincy Program

The Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department (JSD) Chaplaincy Program is designed to provide comfort to those in need and serve as a stabilizing force for JSD employees and their clients during times of stress, grief, and hardship.

The goal of JSD's Chaplaincy Program is to become an integral part of the department's service delivery. The Chaplaincy Program will have three components: (1) Chaplaincy services for JSD's at-risk and arrested juveniles and their families, (2) Faith-based volunteers providing support to JSD employees during times of stress, grief, and hardship, and (3) the Faith-based and community-based group.

### Component 1: Chaplaincy services for JSD are at-risk and arrested populations:

This component offers services to JSD clients, which include at-risk and arrested juveniles and their families. When entering JSD clients are often in distress and their families may be in need of emotional support. Clients and families can benefit from Chaplaincy services to address their concerns.

During the client's assessment process Chaplaincy services are offered to juveniles and their families. Information is shared with the families and their participation is voluntary.

It is the program's goal is to provide the following services:

- Emotional and/or spiritual support to the family after their child has been arrested or at any point during the process
- Crisis Support (may be needed during a stressful event for the family, such as: domestic violence incidents, relationship problems, and/or a family crisis)
- Bereavement
- Linkage to ministries/services within the client's community (food bank, group, family counseling, mentoring, etc.)
- Connection to other faiths

## Component 2: Faith-based volunteers supporting JSD's workforce:

This component focuses on providing support services from Faith-based volunteers to JSD's workforce during stressful and difficult times at home and work. On a daily basis, JSD employees are exposed to children and families that are experiencing trauma, mental health, psychiatric, substance abuse, and family issues. When dealing with such complex issues, JSD employees can experience their own personal challenges. The program's goal is to establish a direct link to a Faith-based volunteer for the following services:

- Bereavement
- Hospital visits
- Crisis Support
- Emotional and Spiritual Support
- Connection to other faiths
- Assisting in coordinating follow up services, such as, but not limited to: employee assistance, individual and family counseling

## Component 3: Faith-based and community-based group:

Faith-based volunteers are encouraged to participate in JSD quarterly meetings to enhance the already established partnerships with Community and Faith-based Organizations (CBO's/FBO's). Volunteers will actively participate in the development of future JSD programming and initiatives designed to enhance public safety and support families.