



Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

MEDIA STATEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE
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Statement From Secretary W.G. "Bill" Bankhead Regarding Palm Beach County Grand Jury Report

"In its report, the Grand Jury specifically noted the four key operating issues DJJ will target as part of future provider contracts for the Florida Institute for Girls: increased staffing levels, enhanced staff training, improved behavior management systems, and strong monitoring.

Issues like these led the Department to notify Premier Behavioral Solutions, the company providing management services at the facility, of our intention to sever our relationship and terminate the contract. Today, the Department and the provider have mutually agreed to end the contract and the Department is now seeking a new contract provider.

Many of the Grand Jury's recommendations are in line with what we are already doing to improve services. In fact, our corrective action plan during the past six months shows significant improvement in the number of incidents being reported to the Inspector General, the abuse hotline and to local law enforcement. Rest assured we will continue to strive for excellence in all our facilities.

I appreciate the Grand Jury's comprehensive review of all the facts in this case. The report will serve as an important benchmark for the Department's improvements to its contract monitoring and the selection of a new contract provider to run this program."

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