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Children’s Department Secretary Carla Benson-Green Leads Delegation to Florida to Examine Juvenile Justice Systems

Wilmington, DE – Children’s Department Cabinet Secretary Carla Benson-Green led a delegation from Delaware this week to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice in Tallahassee, Florida. The purpose of the site visit, conducted April 4-6, 2016, was to examine the State of Florida’s juvenile justice system, which is widely recognized as a national model for comprehensive system reform.

The site visit was comprised of three full days of training exercises and presentations covering topics such as quality improvement and assurance, recidivism, civil citation programs, and community engagement. The group also conducted tours of juvenile facilities and met with key system partners such as state judicial officers, the advocacy community, and Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory Boards whose members work closely with staff to plan for services that meet the identified needs of juveniles and families within the local community.



Front row, L-R: YRS Director Nancy Dietz, Cabinet Secretary Benson-Green, and Cabinet Secretary Christina Daly, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice.

“We are always interested in learning from other jurisdictions and also sharing ideas of our own,” said Carla Benson-Green, Secretary of the Children’s Department. “We are committed to making meaningful changes to our juvenile justice system so that our young people can not only learn from their earlier mistakes, but can also become equipped with the education, resources, and guidance necessary for a successful transition back to society.”

DSCYF staff attending the site visit with Secretary Benson-Green included: Youth Rehabilitative Services Director Nancy Dietz, YRS Senior Administrator Darryl Dawson, YRS JJRRI Program Director Amy Herb, YRS Civil Citation Program Coordinator Donna Pugh, YRS Program Support Supervisor Michelle Brogden, and YRS Manager of Data/Statistics Andy Cohen. Others attending were Family Court Judge Robert Coonin, Family Court Director of Special Court Services Carrie Hyla, and Department of Justice Deputy Attorney General Lakresha Roberts.