



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Charlie Crist
Governor

George H. Sheldon
Secretary

July 6, 2010

Diamond R. Litty, Public Defender
Office of the Public Defender, 19th Circuit
216 South Second Street
Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

Dear Public Defender Litty,

During a recent visit to Circuit 19, I had the opportunity to visit the St. Lucie County Jail Therapeutic Drug Program. My staff and I met with Major Pat Tighe who provided a history and tour of the program.

The inmates in the program were more than willing to share their stories and tell what they have learned from the program or what they liked about the program. Participants were in agreement that this program has helped to better their lives. One of the young men said before coming to the program, he didn't know he could "think about thinking." This statement really seemed to sum up the importance of this program.

Major Tighe advised that the recidivism rate for those in the program is much lower than those who have not gone through the program. Also, that assaults on his officers have dropped from over 40 a month to zero since all other inmates want to participate in the program.

I wanted to take a moment to commend you and your staff on the remarkable work being carried out in this program. Florida's children and families are truly benefiting from your collaborative efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Digre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pete Digre, Assistant Secretary for Operations

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency