



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

Rick Scott
Governor

David E. Wilkins
Secretary

DATE: April 22, 2011

TO: Regional Directors

THROUGH: Pete Digioia, Assistant Secretary for Operations

FROM: Jamie Self, Ed.D., Director of Family Safety

SUBJECT: Information Update, Child and Family Services Review – Quality Improvement Plan and evaluation of Florida's three Innovation Sites

ACTION REQUESTED: Please review and disseminate, as appropriate

DUE DATE: None

PURPOSE: This purpose of this memorandum is to share the Family Centered Practice in Three Florida Innovation Sites Phase 1 Evaluation with you. Attached is the full evaluation report and the Family Centered Practice Year One Evaluation Brief, both prepared by The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida with support provided by Casey Family Programs.

BACKGROUND: Florida's child welfare system is monitored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services using data from the statewide automated information system (FSFN) to assess outcome measures and also a qualitative review known as the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). The CFSR involves a statewide assessment, an onsite review of each state's child welfare system including a small sample of actual cases. The CFSR conducted in 2008 found that Florida needed improvement in most measures related to child well-being, including family functioning. As a corrective action measure, Florida stakeholders developed an over-arching practice model known as "Florida's Family Centered Practice Model." Three circuits/CBCs volunteered to be demonstration sites for implementation of the practice model (Circuit 1, Circuits 3/8 and Circuit 11). These "Innovation Sites" agreed to have their implementation work chronicled and to participate in a cross-site evaluation. The implementation work of these three sites will continue to be documented by the evaluator during their second year of roll-out.

The Ounce of Prevention was the contracted evaluator for the three Innovation Sites with both funding and leadership for the evaluation provided by Casey Family Programs. The evaluation used a "mixed methods" approach to develop findings about the quality and consistency of family centered practice in the CFSR-QIP Innovation Sites. Included in the evaluation are site specific chronicles that highlight the unique strategies developed within each of the three Innovation Sites for advancing Family Centered Practice at the local level.

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

The intent of the evaluation and chronicles are to provide "lessons learned" from the Sites and to share the experiences of the Sites with other Community-Based Care agencies who are also undertaking a variety of their own local initiatives to implement Family Centered Practice. The Innovation Site evaluations are intended to provide baseline feedback about their level of progress and success, as work continues within the Sites to advance Family Centered Practice and additional evaluation activities are planned through 2011.

The CFSR-QIP required that the Family Safety Program Office (FSPO) develop a plan for continuing to support and promote the implementation of Family Centered Practice at the local level after the QIP monitoring period ends. The plan is attached for your review. This plan was developed with input provided by stakeholders including the Innovation Sites and the Child and Family Services Review oversight workgroup and outlines the actions that will continue to be taken by the FSPO for the ongoing support of Family Centered Practice.

Lastly, both myself and my staff would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Innovation Sites staff, providers and community stakeholders for their ongoing participation and cooperation as CFSR-QIP demonstration sites and willingness to share their unique experiences and lessons learned.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please share this information with all other stakeholders as appropriate.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions, or for additional information please contact Matthew Claps, Chief of Practice for Family Safety (850-717-4646), matthew_claps@dcf.state.fl.us, or Eleese Davis, Chief of Quality Assurance for Family Safety (850-717-4650), eleese_davis@dcf.state.fl.us.

Attachments