



**Department of Children and Families
Family Safety**

**CHILD and FAMILY SERVICES
ANNUAL PROGRESS and SERVICES
REPORT**

June 2008

Service Period
October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007

Robert A. Butterworth, Secretary

Charlie Crist, Governor

**Florida's 2008 Child and Family Services
Annual Progress & Services Report
Covering Period October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007**

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Introduction

The Florida Department of Children and Families' *Strategic Intent 2008-2010* maps out the Department's focus and priorities, while redefining and fine-tuning our role in serving Florida's most vulnerable citizens. Many statewide and local efforts are already in place and designed to promote child and family well-being and to prevent child maltreatment. Florida remains committed to coordinating efforts to realize the greatest impact of these efforts.

In early 2007, Secretary Robert A. Butterworth established an Organizational Review Work Group to examine the organizational structure of the Department. The focus of the group, which included individuals from within and outside the Department, was to assure that the structure fosters the effective delivery of services to our customers and is best suited for the action-orientation of the current administration.

The Work Group examined those parts of the Department most directly involved in the delivery of services and in providing quality assurance and improvement of such services. Its discussions centered on the most effective means to assure an organizational culture which:

- aligns departmental operations with the implementation of Secretary Butterworth's Guiding Principles (Leadership, Integrity, Accountability, Transparency, Community Partnerships, and an Orientation to Action);
- assures on-going communication and interaction within the Department and with our partners, stakeholders, and customers;
- provides for streamlined decision-making processes with policy and guidance occurring at the highest levels and decision-making at the lowest appropriate levels; and,
- assures accountability throughout the Department.

Secretary Butterworth charged the group with developing headquarters and statewide organizational models, which would clearly:

- provide decision-making at the lowest appropriate level;
- encourage decisive action on the part of our personnel;
- provide effective delivery of services in the field;
- assure seamless and transparent delivery of services;

- assure the best interaction, coordination and alignment with important stakeholders, funding organizations and partners;
- eliminate organizational silos;
- ensure accountability throughout the organizational structure;
- provide oversight responsibilities at the Central Office; and,
- assure the most logical reporting structure.

During its 2007 Session, the Florida Legislature passed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1394, which authorized the Department of Children and Families to begin the process of reorganization, including;

- authorizing the Department to plan for the realignment of districts in conformance with judicial circuits;
- requiring the Department to integrate substance abuse and mental health programs into its structure and priorities; and,
- authorizing the Department to establish community partnerships and advisory groups.

In its reorganization, the Department has pushed decision-making to the lowest appropriate level. Circuit Administrators have more authority over the entire array of Department services than in previous years. Prior to this reorganization, local administrators had authority over child welfare, ACCESS,¹ and Adult Services. Direct authority over substance abuse and mental health services, homelessness, domestic violence and refugee programs was established. Circuit Administrators have the ability to focus resources as needed for an integrated direct service approach in their communities.

The Department accomplished this reorganization within existing resources.

Establishment of Regions and Realignment of Districts

Previously, the Department was organized into thirteen Districts and one Region. The Work Group recommended the Department adopt a regional structure for its field operations and locate regional headquarters in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Orlando, Ft. Lauderdale, and Tampa. Services organized in areas consistent with

¹ ACCESS Florida is the newly retooled and modernized public assistance service delivery system that is the Automated Community Connection to Economic Self-Sufficiency. This model is based on streamlined workflows, policy simplification, technology innovations and partnership with local community organizations.

the geographic boundaries of judicial circuits because of the Department's on-going and regular interaction with the State's court system. In January 2008, the Secretary established the Southern Region which is headquartered in Miami. See table below.

Region	Headquarters	Judicial Circuits
Northwest	Tallahassee	1, 2, 14
Northeast	Jacksonville	3, 4, 7, 8
Central	Orlando	5, 9, 10, 18, 19
Suncoast	Tampa	6, 12, 13, 20
Southeast	Ft. Lauderdale	15, 17
Southern*	Miami	11, 16

* established in January 2008

To assure consistency and efficiency of operations throughout the State, the Department has also adopted a standardized template for the provision of administrative services and support at the Regional and circuit level.

Reorganization's Highlights

The Department has recognized that the integration of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) into the Department's overall approach to the delivery of services will further align substance abuse and mental health services with the specific needs of the community, provide an action orientation, enable the community to set priorities for prevention and self-sufficiency, and to enhance recovery and resiliency. To move forward with the integration of Substance Abuse and Mental Health into overall regional program structure and statewide priorities, the Department has:

- Revised the organizational structure of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health programs within the Department and aligned the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Programs with the Department's overall approach to circuit-based service delivery;
- Improved decision-making between the Substance Abuse and Mental Health programs, and circuit and regional staff;
- Taken action to more closely align Substance Abuse and Mental Health programs statewide. Efforts to identify mechanisms to further enhance program integration for the individuals served remain in effect;
- Continued to provide oversight for the State Mental Health Treatment Facilities' staff.
- Modified the table of organization for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Operations to reflect the changes in field services delivery. This includes the

addition of the new Regional Directors, the Director of Operational Support, Director of Criminal Justice Services, Director of the Florida Abuse Hotline, and the Director of Children's Legal Services.

- Adopted a regional model for Quality Assurance/Quality improvement, which particularly focuses on service delivery. All quality assurance functions in the field now report to the Regions. The Secretary has approved the organizational placement of Family Safety quality assurance personnel in the field within the regional reporting structure. This ensures Region and Circuit involvement in reviewing and improving Community Based Care (CBC) Quality Management Plans, provides for consistent reporting by CBCs to Regions, and engages Regions in oversight of performance and in review of results. The approach supports and encourages sharing of expertise, cross-training, stronger common expectations and transparency in service delivery across Regions, Circuits and CBCs.
- Established the Office of Criminal Justice Services to develop ongoing collaborative working relationships with: federal, state, and local law enforcement; Department of Juvenile Justice; Department of Corrections; state attorney offices; public defender offices; school districts; and within the Department, CBC providers and other entities as it relates to reporting and locating missing children and interacting with agencies within the criminal justice system.
- Reorganized Children's Legal Services (CWLS) as an autonomous unit, operating under the direction of a Statewide Director, and has been renamed Children's Legal Services. A State Managing Attorney for Quality Assurance selected to monitor quality assurance in the delivery of legal services. Roles, responsibilities and relationships delineated for staff at both the Department and CBC organizations. The client has been defined as the State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, on behalf of the best interest of children. Children's Legal Services attorneys trained across the state to understand their ethical obligations on behalf of the State and Children. Community Based Care case managers are key witnesses in the cases, and the emphasis is on genuine collaboration between the Department, lead agencies and providers.

Stakeholder Input

The Department's State and Federal Plans developed collaboratively with a wide range of its customers, and stakeholders including community and faith-based organizations, educators, advocates, law enforcement professionals, federal and state agencies and is consistent statewide. Florida's Governor, Legislature, county and city governments, state agencies and major advocacy groups are aware of the Department's commitment to the improvement strategies it has adopted for each objective and its daily management of statewide and local performance.

The Department of Children and Families, its customers, and stakeholders including community and faith-based organizations, educators, advocates, law enforcement professionals, and federal and state agencies partner on a regular basis. An on-going priority is to continue to effectively engage all community partners, parents, advocates, the faith-based community, special population stakeholders, the courts, schools, health and housing programs, funders, and legislators and sustain their role and influence over time. Efforts are centered to provide an improved set of goals and guidelines to bolster the success of the Department's mission: Protect the vulnerable, Promote strong and economically self-sufficient families, and Advance personal and family recovery and resiliency.

In keeping with the Department's expanded authority for community partnerships and advisory groups provided by Senate Bill 1394, Secretary Butterworth has established an important group to garner community guidance and expertise, essential to assisting the Department in making well-informed decisions. The Task Force on Child Protection was formed to examine the gaps currently existing in Florida's child welfare system of care including efforts at reunification, stabilization, permanency during foster care, and supervision. The Task Force will also identify administrative, policy, legislative, education, and training efforts to be undertaken to ensure the safety of Florida's children.

For local staff and partners, this report serves as an assessment of the community's collaborative activities and commitment towards preventing abuse and improving outcomes for their children and families.

For Headquarters staff and its collaborative partners, this report serves as an assessment and planning guide for the coming year.

Summary

The Department of Children and Families serves the most vulnerable people and families in Florida. The Department's mission, vision, goals, and performance objectives has driven and influenced each action, policy, activity, review/audit, legislative proposal, improvement plan, initiative, contract, system of care framework, partnership commitment, and management decision and is incorporated into its Strategic and Business Plans. The mission, vision and goals become the driving force of each strategy and activity implemented to meet the performance goals to improve the lives of each child and family it serves.

During 2008, the Department's focus is to streamline our processes and to embrace a sense of urgency as we deliver services to customers. Floridians often require services provided in an integrated and complementary approach. So, child welfare, domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health, homelessness, and other services provided by the Department are being integrated into both the development of policy and delivery of services.

The enclosed report is in reference to the federally required Child and Family Services Annual Progress and Services Report that is required from each state that receives related funds from the Administration for Children and Families. This report follows federal program instructions outlining specific topics and financial information covering October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007. This report also serves as an application for FFY 2008 funds awarded under Title IV-B, CAPTA, CFCIP and ETV grants.

Florida's Annual Progress and Services Report includes:

- A description of the program types and achievements, services and support, stakeholder involvement, and performance improvement strategies.
- Plans for program or service changes during the 2009 federal fiscal year including revisions to the program goals, population to be served, or service delivery enhancements.

Other supporting information such as items related to program support, quality assurance, child welfare best practices, training, and stakeholder involvement during planning, implementation, and review activities are included throughout the report's chapters.

Chapter 1

Progress Report for Child Welfare Services Service Description Updates

FFY 2006 – 2007

Florida Administrative Code and State Legislation Revisions

2006-2007 Florida Administrative Code Update

The Department entered into the second phase of its major re-write of the Florida Administrative Code. The first phase successfully resulted in the promulgation of four administrative rules between April and July 2006.

In November 2006 the Department initiated the promulgation process for Chapter 65C-32, Florida Administrative Code, Parenting Course for Divorcing Parents in the State of Florida. Chapter 2005-239, Laws of Florida, authorized the Department of Children and Families to approve providers offering a parenting course pursuant to s. 61.21, F.S., and adopt rules to administer that section. The rules became effective in November 2007.

In December 2006, the Department initiated the rule promulgation for substantial rewording of Chapter 65C-13, Florida Administrative Code, Substitute Care for Children, and Chapter 65C-15, Florida Administrative Code, Child Placing Agencies. Chapter 65C-13, Florida Administrative Code, became effective on April 6, 2008. Chapter 65C-15, Florida Administrative Code, currently remains under development.

2007 State Legislation Update

In 2007, the Florida Legislature successfully passed laws relating to the protection of children, including a law creating the Children and Youth Cabinet to ensure all state agencies and programs that touch the lives of children work together in a coordinated and comprehensive fashion, emphasizing a continuum of services from prenatal care through self-sufficient adulthood. The Legislature also passed a law defining the circumstances when it is unlawful to leave a child unattended or unsupervised in a motor vehicle and authorizing law enforcement to take necessary measures for ensuring the safety of such child and remanding the child to the Department of Children and Families when a parent cannot be located.

The Florida Legislature passed the “Keeping Children Safe Act” providing for the protection of children to reduce the risk of further harm to children who have been sexually abused or exploited by a parent or caregiver.

Visitation Rights

This law involves parent-child visitation, and is designed to help keep children safe during visits. The focus of this law is on children who have been sexually abused or exploited. The intention is to help keep them safe during visits or other contact with their parents. There is now a “*presumption of detriment*” provision for when a parent or a caregiver has been the subject of a Hotline report alleging sexual abuse of any child; has been determined by a court to be a sexual predator or has been found guilty of, or has plead guilty (or no contest) to any of the following:

- Removing minors from the state or concealing minors contrary to court order;
- Sexual battery;
- Lewd and lascivious behavior;
- Lewdness and indecent exposure; or
- Incest.

This “presumption of detriment” does not automatically mean that a parent or caregiver who meets the above criteria cannot ever visit nor have contact with the child. The law provides guidelines for visitation and contact when these circumstances exist.

At any shelter hearing and at any arraignment (if the child is in an out-of-home placement), the court shall determine visitation rights absent a clear and convincing showing that visitation is not in the best interest of the child. In determining whether grandparental visitation is not in the child’s best interest, consideration may be given to the finding of guilt, or plea of guilty (or no contest) to any of the following:

- Removing minors from the state or concealing minors contrary to court order;
- Sexual battery;
- Lewd and lascivious behavior;
- Lewdness and indecent exposure;
- Incest; or
- Determination by a court to be a sexual predator; or,
- A report of abuse, abandonment or neglect, and the outcome of the investigation concerning such report.

The Legislature continued to support older youth in foster care by passing laws allowing a caseworker to sign a child’s application for a driver’s license pursuant to a court-approved transition plan and requiring youth over 16, but under 18

meeting specific criteria to be formally evaluated for placement in a subsidized independent living arrangement.

The Legislature provided continued support of adoption initiatives for children permanently committed to the department by passing laws providing lump-sum payment benefits to state employees who adopt such children and adoption assistance to adoptive parents in the amount of \$5,000 annually until the child's 18th birthday, as well as, for medical assistance not covered by Medicaid. The Legislature also passed a law creating the Office of Adoption and Child Protection within the Executive Office of the Governor and the Governor appointed a Chief Child Advocate. The Chief Child Advocate is the Governor's liaison with state agencies, other state governments, and public and private sectors, who will work together to develop a state plan for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, neglect, and abandonment.

Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS)

Florida's ability to provide positive outcomes for children and families improved with implementation of the state's first designated Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System. The transition from the older Client Information System to the first release of the legacy system was completed in September 2001.

The legacy system gave case managers, supervisors, and managers immediate access to case information and performance data for child protective investigations, in-home services, foster care, and adoptions. The system readily identified the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child in foster care, as well as other children served by Florida's child welfare system.

Although the legacy system represented a significant advance in information system capacity, Florida recognized the need for an integrated system capable of supporting the current community-based care environment. The first release of Florida's new statewide information system, Florida Safe Families Network, was implemented statewide on July 30, 2007. Pilots conducted in five geographic regions enabled the system to be fully validated by internal and external stakeholders. In addition to fostering a high level of ownership among stakeholders, the pilot process ensured that the system was functioning as designed prior to statewide implementation. As a result, there have been no significant system or performance issues. Compared to the legacy system, Florida Safe Families Network currently provides enhanced functionality for intake, case management, and data reporting activities, including:

- Individualized decision support tools for high risk case management, institutional investigations, and special conditions reports involving child-on-child sexual activity and requests for assistance;

- A single automated case record that will follow a child who moves from one agency or provider to another;
- Immediate access to children's service, medical, and mental health history;
- Tools for supervisory and management review of child welfare casework; and
- Improved data interpretation and accuracy of management reports.

Future releases of Florida Safe Families Network will support family assessment, case planning, independent living, and resource management. Planned interfaces with external information systems will enable exchange of data for tracking missing children and determining Title IV-E and Medicaid eligibility. Design sessions for Release 2 began on August 20, 2007. Anticipated benefits, once the system is fully functional, include:

- Reduced incidence of repeat maltreatment due to improved case management and oversight;
- A greater proportion of children being safely maintained in their own homes, accompanied by a reduction in the number of foster care entries;
- Improved permanency and well-being outcomes, as case managers spend more time visiting children and facilitating goals of reunification and adoption; and
- Improved compliance with federal program requirements.

Prevention

2006-2007 Update

The Florida Department of Children and Families takes its role in Florida's continuum of prevention services and resources seriously which is reflected within the state's mission *to protect the vulnerable, promote strong and economically self-sufficient families, and advance personal and family recovery and resiliency.*

Through various funding streams, the Office of Family Safety also administers other statewide prevention and family preservation programs to address child abuse and neglect. A variety of family-focused programs and services enhances the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Providing training, network administration, and educational materials, the allocated 2007 funds support continuation of prevention programs.

The Department contracts with a set of core programs for services to complement the existing network of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention programs. The former Inter-Program Task Force supported continued provision of these contracted resources for families in communities across the state.

The 2006 Florida Legislature enacted new statutory provisions for prevention of child abuse and neglect by creating an Office of Prevention focused on child abuse, abandonment, and neglect reporting to the Executive Office of the Governor. It details the appointment of a director and limited staff, assignment of roles and responsibilities of the office, the development of a statewide advisory board, and the development of state and local prevention plans. Further mandates are funding allocation authority for prevention programs, annual reporting of state and local prevention activities, establishment of performance measures for state programs serving families at-risk for abuse and neglect, and an obligation to search for additional funding sources. The new office will largely serve to improve coordination among the many state and local agencies engaged in prevention efforts and as a catalyst for the development of new solutions.

The 2007 Legislature created the Office of Adoption and Child Protection in the Governor's Office and assigned much of the same responsibilities the Task Force had undertaken in development and implementation of Florida's State Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Abandonment, and Neglect: July 2005 through June 2010. In addition, the 2007 Legislature created the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet charged with developing and implementing a "shared and cohesive vision using integrated services to improve child, youth and family outcomes..."

Accomplishments

Over 3900 families and children received direct services through preventive direct client services. CBCAP funded child abuse prevention programs reached over 4,000 families through an Information and Referral indirect client service where over 4600 calls were answered.

The Department, Sheriff's Offices and Community-Based Care provider agencies have an array of services to choose from when working with the child and family to identify services and supports needed to address their unique needs. These include, but are not limited to homemaker care, day care, protective supervision, intensive family preservation services through the Family Builders Program and the Intensive Crisis Counseling Program, a variety of services and natural supports via Title IV-E, services provided by programs implemented under Promoting Safe and Stable Families, and an extensive array of behavioral health services.

Since implementation of the Title IV-E Foster Care Waiver in October 2006, numerous initiatives throughout the state affect permanency, safety and well-being. Family Support Services of North Florida initiated enhanced training to provide foster and adoptive parents with the skills, knowledge, and tools to foster children of abuse, neglect, and threatened harm. Focus on Families of North Florida is a prevention program designed to provide intensive services to families

where there is a high prevalence of maltreatment. Strengthening Ties and Empowering Parents (STEPS) program provides case management and in-home services to at-risk families. Another initiative implemented by CBC of Seminole provides family conferencing that focuses on interventions to prevent dependency. Hillsborough Kids, Inc. developed a family stabilization and placement service initiative to support families in a crisis by providing in-home counseling, crisis intervention, and appropriate referrals and linkages to community providers. Big Bend Community-Based Care began an in-home substance abuse treatment program. Collaboration with the Office of Court Improvement in their evaluation of Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children, the Dependency Summit and Florida Safe Family Network design sessions has impacted timeliness of permanency and re-entry. These are just a few examples of activities that impact re-entry.

During April 2007, Prevent Child Abuse Florida (PCA Florida) implemented a comprehensive public awareness and education campaign recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month. The theme of the campaign, Winds of Change, highlighted how parenting has changed over the years as a result of changes in social, cultural and demographic trends in families. Winds of Change expressed the need for a shift away from providing a “safety net” toward creating a community-wide commitment to support all parents and children.

PCA Florida believes all families deserve to live in communities that support families and provide safe and healthy experiences for children. To draw attention to and encourage involvement in these efforts, communities throughout Florida displayed pinwheels representing newborns in the community and opportunities to support a new family from the very beginning.

While the 2007 Winds of Change campaign focused on turning choices into change, the campaign materials designed to appeal to children, families, legislators, funders and advocates and are easily adaptable for use in a wide variety of mediums were made available statewide with over 35,000 resource packets distributed. Winds of Change was intended to provide the public with opportunities to get involved, take action, and make a difference in the life of a child.

Collaboration

Florida’s collaborative efforts in the prevention of child abuse and neglect previously supported by the Inter-program Prevention Task Force will continue to work collaboratively with the Governor’s Office for Adoption and Child Protection. As mentioned, the Office of Adoption and Child Protection is to establish a Child Abuse Prevention Advisory Council comprised of representatives from each state agency and appropriate local agencies, and organizations to serve as the research arm of the office. Additionally, the Advisory Council will assist in the development of an action plan for better coordination and integration of the goals, activities and funding pertaining to the prevention of child abuse, abandonment

and neglect conducted by the office. The Inter-Program Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention 's final progress report on the goals and objectives of the Plan will aid the Advisory Council as it assumes responsibilities for child abuse prevention planning at the state level. See Attachment.

Various relationships are representative of the Department's broad agency outreach to special populations in need of services supported by CBCAP federal funding. Redlands Christian Migrant Association's statewide contract and membership in the Florida Inter-program Task Force occurred during this reporting period. This program serves a population that is predominately Latino. The Developmental Disabilities Council maintained ongoing representation on the Florida Inter-program Task Force. The Department of Health's Office of Children's Medical Services representation on the Task Force will continue through its membership on the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection's Advisory Council. This program clearly serves special populations, to include medically complex youngsters. Both the Department and the Office of Family Safety have extensive efforts in place to effect full compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act, the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act, and provision of services to families with children who are dependent-delinquent.

Program Support

Florida's child abuse and prevention efforts strengthened when members of the multi-disciplinary task force applied and were selected to participate in a specialized workshop to implement a state project under the guidance of the PREVENT Institute.

Florida has a myriad of programs that, either directly or indirectly, contribute to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Florida is attempting to define, describe, and categorize these programs to identify any duplication of efforts and gaps in services.

Florida's team, including members from the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, The Florida Coalition for Children and Families, and the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, Inc. will develop a system to define and describe the continuum of programs designed to prevent child maltreatment.

Sessions at the Institute provided guidance and technical information that assist the team in completing the project. The team is receiving active support through 2007 from national experts. The Child Abuse Prevention Assets Inventory Project will contribute valuable statewide information to the Office of Adoption and Child Protection and providers, as it will identify available prevention programs, service capacity, and gaps in services. This inventory should be helpful in the evaluation phase of appropriately allocating resources.

Future Plans

The Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) programs continue to identify and address needs by creating new partnerships, assessing parent education programs, participating in the Program Self-Assessment and Peer Review Process, increasing parent participation on center advisory councils and by surveying participants and partnering agencies for their ideas and suggestions. Programs also document lessons learned and new strategies employed based on the needs of the target population as part of their final reports submitted each year.

Parent leadership values are a major component of prevention programs. A former contract with the University of South Florida addresses parent leaders as full participants on the Florida Inter-program Task Force Coordinating Committee. Although this specific contract for services was not renewed, a compelling principle prevailed with parent leaders serving on local prevention planning teams and that of the statewide Task Force. As previously mentioned, the newly created Office of Adoption and Child Protection convenes the statewide Child Abuse and Prevention Advisory Council whose membership includes parents. Legislation further mandated the local community advisory councils include parents in their composition.

Intervention\ Investigation

2006-2007 Update

Several major legislative changes occurred over the past year that directly impacted how child protective investigators do their work. On July 1, 2006 Florida enacted legislation that directed the department to investigate public school teachers involved in allegations of abuse or neglect. Prior to this, all alleged incidents of abuse by public school personnel were referred strictly to law enforcement. Additionally, the definition of 'Other Person Responsible for a Child's Welfare' was also expanded giving the department the mandate to investigate allegation of abuse involving law enforcement officers working in boot camps contracted or run by the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Similarly, Senate Bill 1080 was passed rewriting all sections of statute regarding permanency and significant portions involving case planning. There was also legislation creating an Office of Child Abuse Prevention directed toward establishing a comprehensive statewide approach to preventing child abuse, abandonment, and neglect.

While the above referenced laws became effective July 1, 2006, much of the training of child protective investigators, community-based care case managers, and the judiciary to support change in practice actually occurred throughout the remainder of 2006.

Accomplishments

Florida had unprecedented accomplishments in the area of child protection during the time period 10/1/06 – 9/30/07. Most critically, the state's new SACWIS system, Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN), was in full design and development during this time and went "live" statewide on July 30, 2007.

Implementation of this project included system design and user acceptance testing which resulted in the release of a new In-Home Safety Assessment instrument for child protective investigators. Using safety constructs identified as 'Signs of Present Danger', Caregiver 'Protective Capacities' and 'Child Vulnerability' the new instrument was designed to help investigators differentiate between the need for immediate safety actions and longer term risk reduction activities. Release 1 of FSFN also gave investigators access to a much expanded Institutional Safety Assessment instrument and a 'Child-on-Child' sexual risk assessment tool that was not previously available.

A second noteworthy accomplishment was the release in March 2007 of Secretary Butterworth's 'Six Point Action Plan' for the improvement of child protective investigations. This comprehensive, statewide effort directed the Family Safety Program Office, in conjunction with Regional Operations, to develop programmatic expertise and training initiatives addressing the following components of child protection:

- Establish a mandatory qualifications and a credentialing process for 'Second Party Reviewers' responsible for signing off on high-risk child protective investigations
- Conduct a statewide review of families experiencing multiple referrals to Florida Abuse Hotline
- Implement an Alternative Response System (ARS) Pilot Project to facilitate engaging families in voluntary services
- Provide intra and interdisciplinary cross-training activities for child protection staff
- Convene a statewide Dependency Summit bringing together key stakeholders in the area of child protection - judiciary, community-based care, private providers, and law enforcement personnel (1400 attendees)

All activities have either been completed (Multiple Referral Study) or are on-going in nature (ARS Pilot project) or have been incorporated into the fabric of how the Department now does business (2nd Party Reviewer Credentialing, annual Dependency Summits).

A third major accomplishment in July 2007, was the Secretary's directive to form an inter-agency, multidisciplinary 'Task Force on Child Protection' with the mandate to identify concerns and make recommendations for improvement on how to better address the needs of Florida's youngest, most vulnerable citizens. The 13-member panel will advise of legislative enhancements and actions

necessary to improve coordination, communication, current policies and procedures, and training efforts for all parties involved in protecting and locating children in Florida's dependency system. Please refer to <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/admin/childSafety/> for more detailed information.

Collaboration

Family Safety Program Office (FSPO) met with representatives of Florida Department of Law Enforcement in October 2006 for creation of new policy in screening and acceptance of abuse reports involving parents placing their children at risk while operating motor vehicles.

The Department contracted in April 2007 with the Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center for a study of the use of comprehensive assessments required for children placed in emergency shelter status after removal from their home. The study will explore variances in rates of compliance by providers throughout the state and look at obstacles to the assessments being done timely.

April 2007 – FSPO and Operations began discussion with the Miccosukee Tribe of Broward and Dade Counties to train and certify Native American Indians to conduct their own child protective investigations on reservation territories.

In May 2007, the Family Safety Program Office, in conjunction with Children's Mental Health, provided data to representatives from the Government Accounting Office and discussed the licensing and monitoring of abuse in residential facilities for youth with emotional or behavioral challenges.

In May 2007, Florida Abuse Hotline's Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) began directly accessing NCIC criminal histories and including this information as part of the investigative Intake which initiates all child protective investigations in Florida.

The Family Safety Program Office collaborated in September 2007 on the development, design, and review of 'Circuit Plans' between the judiciary, department, and key stakeholders (Guardian Ad Litem program, etc.) to improve dependency court proceedings at the local level.

Family Safety Program Office continues on-going participation in the multidisciplinary Drug Endangered Children's Task Force sponsored out of the Governor's Office of Drug Control, and multidisciplinary Child Abuse Death Review Team facilitated by the Department of Health.

Program Support

Family Safety Program Office focused on providing technical assistance and training on four key pieces of investigative work during this time period:

1. Re-design of Florida's 'Red Flag Protocol' and screening instrument to identify high risk indicators in child abuse reports.

2. Development of a 'Missing Child Quick Guide' to direct both investigative and community-based care case management staff on the appropriate response to situations involving missing children.
3. Training for all 'Second Party Reviewers' on the use of Florida's new In-Home Safety Assessment tool (inter-relationship of new safety constructs and implications for child safety).
4. Re-design of the Child Protective Investigation Quality Assurance process to reflect more qualitative review elements than simple reliance on process indicators, and the use of peer reviews and "real time" cases instead of closed cases during the review process.

Secretary Butterworth established the Office of Criminal Justice Services . This office will develop ongoing collaborative working relationships with: federal, state, and local law enforcement; Department of Juvenile Justice; Department of Corrections; state attorney offices; public defender offices; school districts; and within the Department, CBC providers and other entities as it relates to reporting and locating missing children and interacting with agencies within the criminal justice system.

Future Plans

A detailed description of Florida's initiatives is provided below.

Alternative Response System

During the past year Florida successfully designed an Alternative Response System Implementation Plan, developed a full complement of Decision Support Tools, and began accepting proposals for pilot sites. The Decision Support tools included 'Pathway Selection' criteria (traditional vs. assessment track) and safety and family assessment tools (to name a few). Pilot site proposals required the "teaming up" of at least one investigative and service unit in order to provide a highly collaborative approach to safety and family assessments.

As one of the Program Improvement Plan's (PIP) strategies, Florida is scheduled to begin the Alternative Response System (ARS) project in three selected pilot sites (Duval County, Bay County, and Seminole County) in early 2008. A six-month evaluation is scheduled for completion in October 2008.

Child Victims of Human Trafficking

The Refugee Services (RS) Protections for Child Victims of Human Trafficking Contract was a department collaborative effort lead by the Department's Office of Refugee Services (RS) to address services to be provided to promote awareness about human trafficking of children in Florida, educate representatives from relevant agencies and organizations who may potentially come in contact with child victims of human trafficking, and support the formation of state, local, non-governmental organization, legal and mental health networks dedicated to coordinating the provision of services and the response to child victims of human trafficking in Florida. The target audience of

the contract is Departmental employees who work with children and may come into contact with child victims of trafficking currently existing with in the Department's care or who are about to enter into the Department's care.

The goals of Protections for Child Victims of Human Trafficking are to: increase the target population's knowledge of U.S. and Florida laws regarding the crime of human trafficking; strengthen the capacity of and the collaboration and cooperation among existing agencies and organizations that serve or have the capacity to serve child trafficking victims; build a comprehensive system or network of services to respond to the needs of child victims of severe forms of trafficking at the local and state levels; and aid in the identification of child victims within the Department's care and identify patterns of trafficked children. The contract was awarded to Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC).

"Human Trafficking" will be added as a maltreatment reference value in the statewide automated child welfare information system. This will be available for the Hotline counselors and child protective investigators to enter when there is an allegation of human trafficking or human trafficking is found to have occurred in either the child or adult population. "Alleged Human Trafficker" will be added as an initial role that is available for use when entering an intake or special conditions referral. This may be used as one of the roles for a victim, parent or other adult in an investigation. "Human Trafficker" will be added as a final role for a parent or other adult. The system will also be modified to allow for more than one final role per parent or other adult.

"Human Trafficking" will be also added as a role for a child. The role will be available for use when entering an intake or special conditions referral. This may be used as one of the roles for a "victim" in an investigation. This may be used as one of the roles for an "identified child" in a special conditions referral. We are also discussing the use of a checkbox for identifying a case where human trafficking has occurred, but this will not provide a count of the children who are "alleged victims, victims, or identified children" of human trafficking.

Treatment Services and Foster Care

Foster Care and Other Permanent Living Arrangements

2006-2007 Updates

The 2006 Florida Legislature amended Chapter 39, Florida Statutes, Proceedings Related to Children, to bring Florida's child welfare practices into compliance with the federal Adoptions and Safe Families Act (ASFA). The statutory changes not only address technical compliance but also address expediting permanency for children. The changes significantly improve permanency, safety, and well-being for the children and families involved in Florida's child welfare system. The majority of the revisions relate to reasonable efforts, case planning, and permanency. The law went into effect July 1, 2006.

The out-of-home care and general provision rules promulgated in May 2006 were implemented during this reporting period. New policies shaped by the rule include the child visitation standard raised from once monthly to every 30 days and specifications towards the content of such visits to ensure quality.

Missing Person Specialists were hired to track missing children across the state of Florida.

Accomplishments

Accomplishments for permanency options with the exception of adoption include:

1. A significant piece of legislation (Keeping Children Safe Act) passed in 2007 regarding supervised visitation for children who are victims of sexual abuse was previously described in the legislative update section of this Chapter.
2. During Fall 2006, FSFN requirement sessions were conducted to determine the necessary pieces of the electronic case work record and in . Fall 2007, the specific case work design sessions began with the contractor and in April 2007 workshops occurred to implement the case management electronic functionality for building the case plan and family assessment functions within the SACWIS system.
3. In February 2007, a youth board (Youth Shine) convened to meet with the Secretary of the Department to discuss youth issues. More detail is available in Chapter 6.
4. In March 2007, Youth Rights and Responsibilities brochure was developed in two formats and disseminated at the statewide Dependency Summit in August 2007.
5. In July 2007, the Governor established the Office of Adoption and Child Protection previously described in the legislative update section of this Chapter.
6. The Secretary of the Department created the Task Force on Child Protection in July 2007 previously described in the Intervention and Investigation section of this Chapter.

Program Support

Conference calls, hard copy training materials, and summary articles in Family Safety Training Bulletin explaining revisions and practice implications for legislative changes to Chapter 39, Florida Statutes.

Separate monthly conference calls (more often if necessary) to discuss current issues, legislation, monitoring results, best practice sharing, federal and state rules and regulations, etc., with staff from :

- District/Region Family Safety,
- In-home and Out-of Home Program staff with local Department and Community-Based Care,
- Adoption,
- Contract Management,
- Quality Assurance, and
- Florida Safe Families Network.

Monthly Family Safety Training Bulletins distributed statewide and are made available through the Department's internet website.

Collaboration

Best practices were shared throughout the reporting period by way of conference calls, monitoring reports, and meetings. The Office of Family Safety conducts regular conference calls with the field regarding the child welfare continuum of services. *Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangements* has been a specific topic on the agendas. As already mentioned as an accomplishment, a guest speaker presented information and strategies relevant to this permanency goal.

Future Initiatives

Planned activities for the forthcoming reporting period include:

1. Complete development of a statewide unified home study to be incorporated into Florida's Safe Families Network (FSFN).
2. Inaugural class of the Youth Leadership Academy (1/2008)
3. Promulgate new administrative licensing rule (4/2008)
4. Create an electronic format for several case work processes (i.e. JRSSR, case plan, family assessment) to ensure the incorporation of statute and rule.
5. Incorporate a missing child record functionality in the SACWIS system (5/2008)
6. Implement a standardized case plan, family assessment and judicial social studies report within Florida's Safe Families Network. (8/2008)
7. Combine multiple electronic records into Florida's Safe Families Network to include image management (children photos), ICWSIS

(provider payment and vouchering system), case planning and adoption recruitment and tracking. (8/2008)

Monthly Caseworker Visit Data and State Plan Requirements

Several years ago the Department made it a priority that all children in out-of-home and in-home care are seen by their caseworker every 30 days.

Florida Administrative Code effective May 2006 established additional requirements and standards for content and quality of visits; visitation every 30 days as opposed to monthly; and types of visits including unannounced visits.

Updates

Florida received additional funds under Title IV-B, subpart 2 to support monthly caseworker visits with children who are in foster care. The state uses the additional funds to further enhance the quality and frequency of the visits with children. As noted above, the Department revised the *minimum* requirements for caseworker contacts with children in the Florida Administrative Code so that a face-to-face contact with the child occurs no less than once every 30 days. In some situations, the face-to-face contact with the child is once every seven days for a period of time such as when initially placed with a relative. Frequency of child contacts is based on many factors such as level of risk, presenting issues in the case, or current circumstances in the child's life. The additional funds provide the opportunity to contact a child more often in a setting that is most favorable for the child and for the caseworker to focus on pertinent decisions and allow the child to become involved in decisions. This also affords the flexibility for multiple staff and service providers involved with the child and family to make visits with the child and family, as appropriate or delegated in the case plan.

Recognizing that the federal 90 percent target must be achieved by October 1, 2011, Florida proposes the following target timeframes:

- o 2008 - 80%¹ each month until until September 30,2008
- o 2009 - 82% each month until until September 30,2009
- o 2010 - 85% each month until until September 30,2010
- o 2011 - 90% as of September 30, 2011

Accomplishments

The result is that for the last 2 years over 99% of the 45,000 children in care have been seen each month. Based on revised federal direction, the percentage of children seen each month in FFY 2007 is 83% (down from 84% based on original federal direction), with 94% of those being seen in their home (unchanged.)

Collaboration

The Department challenged each Community-Based Care Lead Agency to

¹ The %'s for the most recent 12 months (4/07 - 3/31/08) are 82% seen each and every month with 96% of those being seen in the home

develop action plans and then created management reports for caseworkers, supervisors, and leadership to gauge performance. The Department also negotiated strict contract performance requirements with the Lead Agencies and posted performance on the Department's internet site.

Program Support

Best practices have been shared throughout the reporting period by way of conference calls, monitoring reports, and meetings. This sharing of information helped develop strategies to increase the quantity and quality of child and family visits. Technical assistance on quality child-caseworker visits is provided statewide through monthly conference calls and is available on-site, as requested.

The Department began a redesign of its child welfare quality assurance system and included in the redesign are significant standards for evaluating the frequency of visits and the quality of the visits between the caseworker and children in care. Furthermore, the Department is developing training curricula and scheduling training sessions for supervisors and quality assurance reviewers in which the standards for visitation will be reinforced to improve performance.

Additionally, the Florida Safe Families Network (SACWIS) is preparing for Release 2 (case management) by August 2008. The case management module is modified to reflect child visits by identifying when visits were conducted or when they are due and overdue.

Future Initiatives

The Department has focused on contact with children measures for several years. It has been one of our highest priorities and we have had great success. As the federal measure is significantly different from the way Florida has previously measured, we recognize it will take time to change practice to the new approach. The state's previous approach has been to measure child visitation on a monthly basis rather than the cumulative approach. In addition, we are implementing a much improved and more comprehensive SACWIS system and it will take us time to achieve data quality/data integrity necessary for this level of performance. Because we have had success and have learned from our prior target setting experience, we believe the best approach is for us to set our targets in a conservative manner.

The Department in conjunction with community partners and stakeholders will embrace, but not be limited to, the following strategies as its state plan:

1. Conduct statewide conference call with field after approval of the APSR to describe requirements and include this provision;
2. Collaborate with Florida Coalition for Children to ensure targets and penalties discussion with CBC leadership occurs during monthly or bi-monthly meetings

3. Update the pre-service curriculum to place importance of the worker's relationship, frequent and quality contact for positive outcomes;
4. Develop web-based and classroom in-service training session regarding quality visits with children through use of the materials available through the national resource centers;
5. Monitor and share federal measure performance data on a periodic basis, identify gaps and develop plans for improvement;
6. Review quality assurance case review data on a periodic basis to determine on-going quality performance and compliance with this measure, provide information to Regional staff and make recommendations for practice improvements;
7. Establish dates for regular review of the targets in concert with DCF Strategic Intent, forthcoming performance improvement plan (PIP) and other plans to ensure compliance;
8. Determine target strategies as appropriate for inclusion in PIP;
9. Develop a cheat sheet on the capacity of FSFN to provide workers, supervisors and managers information as to status on this measure;
10. Purchase hand held devices (Dragon, etc.) to assist investigations/casework staff more effectively meet the documentation requirements; and
11. Establish and charge a workgroup through the Child Welfare Leadership Academy with staff retention and recommendations in concert with APSR requirements for visitation and implement solutions as feasible.

Juvenile Justice Transfers

2006-2007 Update

The number of children active as a child welfare case who were in a Department of Juvenile Justice facility or shelter at any time during FFY 2007 was 1,046.

Number of children active as a child welfare case who were in a Department of Juvenile Justice facility or shelter on 9/30/07 was 256.

This data count includes the following placement types: DJJ Detention Center - More than 12 Children, DJJ Detention Center - Up to 12 Children, DJJ Facility - More than 12 Children, and DJJ Facility - Up to 12 Children. Counts simply include anyone who had an active placement of one of these four types during the appropriate timeframe.

Collaboration

Staff from the Department of Children and Families, Community Based Care Lead Agencies, and the Department of Juvenile Justice meet to form a system partnership among preventive, foster care, legal, service, and other resources to achieve safety, permanence, and well being for children, especially those at risk and with disruptive behavior.

Future Initiatives

Ongoing collaboration efforts with our partners from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and Juvenile Probation will continue to review the action plan on DCF/DJJ Crossover Youths and determine next steps. A joint meeting is scheduled this summer to review local protocols that are working well. Statewide protocols will be developed with an implementation plan. The group has agreed to explore the possibility of a joint position that would provide statewide overview and agency support of these youth to ensure continuity of case management. In addition to carrying out the joint Departmental position scope and description, the candidate for this position would provide oversight to the development and implementation of protocols for Crossover Youth.

Foster and Adoptive Parents Recruitment

2006-2007 Foster Parent Recruitment Update

Significant progress has been made in improving the content and consistency of local recruitment and retention plans and, particularly, in the increased use of data to determine objectives and strategies.

Recruitment efforts have included general, broad sweeping informational booths at various community events that increase awareness about adoption and the waiting children in our area. There are more targeted efforts in specialized populations, such as among medical personnel, teaching staff etc. These efforts include speaking engagements and presentations as well as web-based inquiries to groups to access their members through newsletters and postings on web sites.

Ongoing recruitment for foster homes and targeted recruitment for harder to place children such as teens and children with a higher level of behavioral needs continues throughout the state.

Accomplishments

Foster homes increased by 54% in Northwest Florida. This success is attributed to the technical assistance provided by the National Resource Centers and a placement stability project.

A lead agency provider was selected by The Dave Thomas Foundation to receive a second Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter for the Orange and Osceola area. Due to the success of the Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiter who has been with the agency since 2005, the Foundation chose to expand the program to reach a greater number of children.

An adoption/foster care telephone line for inquiries into becoming an adoptive/foster parent in maintained in one area of the state.

One lead agency successfully established an in-house Foster Home Recruitment Program, the only one in the State, resulting in nine new foster homes. The Foster Care Recruitment program has focused on targeted recruitment based on the Environmental Scan. There has been a significant increase in the number and quality of foster care homes.

Multiple lead agencies employ Program and Recruitment Specialists who specialize in foster parent recruitment, licensing and retention and provide guidance and oversight as to recruitment, retention and licensing. Yet, one lead agency's strategy was to move foster parent recruitment, licensing and retention function in-house for quality improvement.

Additionally, several lead agencies use alternative parent preparation training programs to Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP) as approved by the Department and target recruitment within the faith based community and obtaining the commitment of area churches to host and support foster homes within their congregation.

Collaboration

Some lead agencies have made field visits to other community based care agencies in the state to learn best practices and new strategies for recruitment, retention and licensing of foster parents.

Some examples of collaboration are:

- the joint recruitment effort called "Fostering Florida's Future" with the Junior League, Dependency Court, Children's Legal Services, Guardian Ad Litem office and Child Placing Agencies; and
- the weekly meetings with Foster Home Management staff to review the children in high-end placements and those children who are difficult to secure appropriate placements for. This activity is designed to identify and assure children's placements with the most appropriate family or home to meet their needs.

Future Plans

The Department's recruitment priorities remain to:

- build capacity to be effective in local efforts to meet the needs of the ethnic and racial diversity of the children served;
- increase the pool of existing families that reflect the communities of the children served in out-of-home care; and,
- enhance permanency and placement stability outcomes will remain our priorities in the coming year.

Local and statewide strategies include to:

- implement a Youth Law Center (YLC) Project on Recruitment and Retention;

- provide statewide training of staff on YLC Recruitment project ; and,
- survey foster parents to determine their training and support needs in an effort to assure and keep quality foster parents.

One provider will add two additional subcontracted Child Placing Agencies whom will focus on the recruitment of teen homes and homes to meet specific psychological profiles of children whom have been diagnosed with Reactive Attachment Disorder and whom are stepping down from congregate care settings.

Title IV-E Foster Care Waiver

2006-2007 Update

Florida received federal approval of the first statewide waiver providing flexibility for foster care funds in March 2006. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) authorized the five-year waiver under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, allowing Florida to demonstrate that flexibility in funding will result in improved services for families.

Accomplishments

The waiver allows federal foster care funds to be used for any child welfare purpose rather than being restricted to out-of-home care as generally required under federal law. It also enables funds to be used for a wide variety of child welfare services including prevention, intensive in-home services to prevent placement of children outside the home, reunification and foster care.

The waiver brought with it a significant boost in flexibility and creativity. Permanency indicators for children exiting into permanency, children with adoptions finalized, children in care after 12 months, are all starting to show improvement for entry cohorts FY 04-05 and FY05-06 compared to the previous years. The next semi-annual progress evaluation report will compare trends seen in FY 04-05 and FY05-06 to the FY06-07 data to assess more directly any impacts subsequent to the October 1, 2006 implementation.

According to the Department's "*IV-E Waiver Demonstration Evaluation Semi-Annual Progress Report 2 FY06-07*", there was a significant improvement for entry cohorts in FY04-05 and FY05-06 regarding permanency indicators for the proportion of children exiting into permanency, proportion of children with adoption finalized, and proportion of children remaining in care after 12 months. The report found that, "...in general, children with emotional problems, children with physical health problems, and younger children experienced worse outcomes compared to healthy children and those who are older. These groups of children were more likely to remain in out-of-home care longer, more likely to be maltreated during services and after services were terminated, and less likely to exit into permanency."

Collaboration

The waiver proposal was developed as a joint effort by DCF and its CBC lead agencies. In keeping with the truly collaborative nature of this project, the steering group continues to oversee implementation and meet regularly as needed.

Program Support

Florida will receive federal funding during the course of a five-year period based on what the state would have received under IV-E rules. This amount will increase by three percent per year over federal foster care funding in the federal fiscal year that ended September 30, 2005. The program puts funding incentives in line with the program goals of maintaining the safety and well-being of children and enhancing permanency by providing services that help families remain intact whenever possible.

Beginning October 1, 2006 the waiver was implemented statewide. Much progress was made during the first year of implementation, October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007 fiscal year:

- Oversight and Coordination - The steering group has continued to meet via conference call on an as needed basis.
- Communication and Training – The group has developed and deployed training and technical assistance material related to demonstration implementation. We continued to provide technical assistance and training upon request. During the federal fiscal year, two major metropolitan areas of the state received technical assistance and training on the waiver and claiming.
- Evaluation – This work group is assuring that an independent evaluation meets the requirements of the waiver terms and conditions. This includes procurement of the evaluator, University of South Florida, and ongoing coordination with the evaluator throughout the demonstration. The evaluator completed two semi-annual progress reports on the status and activities related to the evaluation of Florida's IV-E waiver demonstration project.

The evaluation purpose is to describe and track IV-E waiver implementation and determine over the course of the waiver, the effectiveness of an expanded array of services and supports in improving outcomes for children and families. Implementation of the waiver serves as a catalyst for systemic improvement efforts.

Future Plans

The Department report on the *IV-E Waiver Demonstration Evaluation Semi-Annual Progress Report 2 FY06-07* shows children with physical health problems were 1.5 times more likely to be placed in out-of-home care after a case was open in FY05-06 than physically healthy children. Children who do not have

special care needs, emotional problems, or physical problems are more likely to exit into permanency than children who experience these problems. Early provision of services is crucial to permanency outcomes for this special group of children.

Adoption

Inter-Country Adoptions

During this reporting period, Florida is not aware of any child who was adopted from another country and entered into State custody as a result of the disruption of a placement for adoption or the dissolution of an adoption.

Adoption Incentive Payments

Although Florida continues to have over 3000 adoption finalizations per year, Florida did not exceed our baseline year, FFY03-04, and therefore was not eligible for an Adoption Incentive Award for this Federal Fiscal Year.

2006-2007 Program Update

New legislation was enacted July 1, 2007 that established the Office of Adoption and Child Protection within the Executive Office of the Governor. The Office is required to establish a comprehensive statewide approach to promoting adoption, supporting adoptive families and preventing child abuse, neglect and abandonment. A report documenting this comprehensive statewide approach must be provided to the Legislature and Governor in December 2008.

The focus on children in the foster care system waiting for adoption and adoptive families who have adopted and are in need of services has created much needed dialogue at the state and local levels. The Department and other community agencies are required to collaborate and assess local services, including the integration of services, and develop comprehensive local plans for needed services. The local plans will be the basis for the statewide approach. Local planning teams have been established as well as the statewide advisory council. The statewide council includes an adoptive parent who adopted a child from foster care as required by this new legislation.

Accomplishments

Florida's accomplishments during this reporting period include:

NACAC Conference in Tampa:

The North American Council on Adoptable Children held their 33rd national conference in Tampa in July 2007. The Central Office adoption unit utilized Promoting Safe and Stable Families funding to pay the registrations and travel costs for ten adoptive families and many adoption staff to attend. To kickoff the national conference, a statewide meeting was held the night before the

conference and provided an opportunity for adoption staff to meet each other for the first time and share concerns and best practices. It also provided an opportunity for the Adoption Information Center 800 96ADOPT staff, Children Awaiting Parents Director and Adoption Reunion Registry Director to present their range of services. For the first time, Florida recognized and provided awards to a Florida Adoption Advocate of the Year, a Florida Youth Advocate of the Year and a Florida Adoptive Parent of the Year at the national conference. It is hoped that this recognition will continue as an annual event.

Minority Adoption Leadership Development Institute (MALDI) Program Mentee: A Central Office adoption unit specialist applied and was approved as a mentee in August 2007 for the Minority Adoption Leadership Development Institute (MALDI), a program sponsored by the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Adoption. The Adoption Program Manager and supervisor of the specialist was approved as the mentor. The specialist is required to complete a project during the upcoming year that demonstrates innovative process improvements to increase and successfully promote and recruit minority children for adoption. The State Employee Adoption Benefit program was transferred by the Legislature to the Office of Family Safety beginning July 2007. The open enrollment period of 90 days began in August and a web page, processes, online forms and a media campaign were developed.

During July and August 2007, a PowerPoint presentation was developed and presented during several conference calls with staff, trainers, curriculum designers and program specialists explaining all of the new 2007 legislative changes, including the maintenance adoption subsidy revisions to the law. From this information, the pre-service curriculum has been updated and was approved.

Collaboration

The Adoption Program Manager and Central Office data staff have been integral partners in providing adoption data, adoption research documents, policies and best practices to the Office of Adoption and Child Protection, local planning teams and the statewide advisory council. The Central Office Adoption unit developed a comprehensive evidenced-based post-adoption services program model in 2005 and this document has also been provided to all of the stakeholders.

Based on various trainings conducted during the reporting period, some revisions were made to the training curriculum, primarily incorporating specific scenarios such as the negotiation process and valid reasons for termination of a subsidy when disruptions or dissolutions occur.

Program Support

Central Office Training:

The Adoption Program Manager continues to provide ongoing training on child-specific and targeted recruitment efforts, child preparation casework activities and subsidy issues. These training opportunities are provided at the request of

the Community Based Care lead agencies to their staff as well as the sub-contractor staff, when appropriate.

During August and September 2007, one-day on-site trainings regarding the changes to maintenance adoption subsidy were conducted by the Adoption Program Manager with six Community Based Care agencies and their contract providers. In two sites, the Adoption Program Manager conducted the same training with the local adoptive parent support groups and explained the changes during the monthly August conference call with the statewide association of foster and adoptive parents.

Monthly conference calls:

Two monthly conference calls are conducted by the Central Office adoption staff. One conference call provides an opportunity for each agency to present/discuss a difficult to place child for whom that do not have a local family. If time permits, each agency presents an approved adoptive family that is willing to adopt a difficult to place child but the local agency does not have a child to meet the strengths of the family. At least six children have found a potential family as a result of this monthly statewide call. The second monthly conference call is for adoption supervisors and specialists and provides an opportunity to discuss issues, policies and consultation about difficult case decisions. Staff have been very receptive to the discussion and dialogue.

Contract with Adoption Information Center:

The Adoption Information Center contract requires two regional training opportunities for adoption staff, adoptive parents or mental health professionals. In FFY06-07, the training events were well attended and evaluations were positive. For future regional training opportunities, a focus will be on providing trainings specific to mental health professionals that emphasizes the need for mental health professionals to be "adoption competent". This need continues to be one of Florida's challenges in providing a healthy post-adoption services program.

Future Plans

The Adoption Program Manager and Central Office data staff will continue to provide adoption data and programmatic policy and best practices as needed. The Adoption Program Manager will provide education and training for the statewide Council related to post-adoption service needs.

The Chief Child Advocate of the Office of Adoption and Child Protection does plan to establish a contract to develop and implement a statewide adoption recruitment campaign with an emphasis on the older youth who are waiting for permanent families. The Department acts in an advisory capacity in this campaign development.

As a result of a request in August 2006 by the regional ACF office in Atlanta, the Central Office adoption unit began development and received ACF approval for a Program Improvement Plan that addressed possible reductions or terminations to subsidies without concurrence of the adoptive parents. The Program Improvement Plan was approved and a comprehensive review was conducted after the review period.

Future activities related to the Program Improvement Plan on adoption subsidies: The approved Plan includes a review of all children receiving subsidies since January 2004 who had a documented reduction or termination prior to age 18 and enactment of revisions to Florida's law and promulgation of needed revisions to administrative rule.

A rule promulgation process is underway and will require one or more workshops, review and comment periods and a review and determination of comments that must be incorporated in the new rule. In addition to the rule changes related to the statutory changes needed for the current Program Improvement Plan, other programmatic revisions were included that have been needed since the last revisions in 2001. Anticipated completion date is on or before June 1, 2008.

The Office of Family Safety will work in concert with the Quality Assurance program to develop a more effective and efficient methodology of assessing if subsidies are reduced or terminated without concurrence of the adoptive parents. The adoption program of the Office of Family Safety will conduct an annual review each July based on an ad hoc data run of the payment history database from December 2006 to December 2007. The data will be analyzed to determine if a subsidy was possibly reduced from the prior year or terminated prior to the child being age 18 without concurrence of the adoptive parents.

2006-2007 Adoptive Parent Recruitment Update

Accomplishments

Specialized Adoption Teams were established within the Case Management agencies for all five counties served by Safe Coalition for Children. In addition, the lead agency added an Assistant Director of Adoption to ensure timely finalization of adoption cases and added an Administrative Assistant to help track Heart Gallery inquiries and other inquiries from families interested in adopting children from foster care.

Another lead agency employs an Adoption Team including an Adoption Specialist and Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiters to support and assist recruitment of adoptive families and the adoption process. A Recruitment Specialist is also on board to handle all inquiries from those interested in foster or adoptive parenting and/or volunteering with the agency.

Internet web efforts include registration of all waiting children on the local state required Adoption Exchange system, our local site, browardadopt.com, the national sites adoption.com and adoptuskids.com and for extremely hard to place children, we pay for registration of children on the national Children Awaiting Parents web site.

While most lead agencies have adoption specialist on staff, one lead agency has hired a Post-Adoption Specialist to support families after finalization. This Specialist works with families through the transition period and beyond, providing resources and guidance to decrease the chance of a failed adoption.

Collaboration

Several lead agencies throughout the state participate in Heart Gallery events as a strategy to increase and heighten awareness of children awaiting homes and adoptive families.

The 2007 Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay is an example of collaboration between the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, the Children's Home, and Hillsborough Kids, Inc. that is dedicated to increasing the number of adoptive families, as well as heighten awareness for the hundreds of children needing homes in the Hillsborough County community. The Heart Gallery of Tampa Bay is one of over 80 similar galleries across the country and the first of its kind to offer audio messages from waiting children and photo cards with biographies for every child that visitors may take home with them.

Additionally, two specific Heart Galleries have expanded community partnerships, enhanced public relations and generated positive media attention; their main goal is to help increase awareness about special needs adoptions and help recruit adoptive homes for local foster children featured on the galleries. As an example of Community Based Care at work, both Heart Galleries rely heavily upon volunteers, community resources/ partnerships and private sector donations.

Field visits were made to other community based care agencies in the state to learn best practices and new strategies for recruitment, retention and licensing of foster parents.

One south Florida lead agency has worked with media venues to film weekly features on available children as well as monthly features in the community section of the area newspaper.

A lead agency in collaboration with the faith based group 'Embraced by Grace' and corporations like Disney, continues to organize and put on adoption matching events on a quarterly basis.

Collaborations within legal networks has resulted in either pro bono or reduced fee services for adopting parents. Courts have increased dates available/opportunities for finalizations of adoptions.

The Department is conducting a pilot collaborative recruitment project with One Church One Child (OCOC). The project will target the child specific recruitment of 18 to 20 families for children waiting permanent families. Specific recruiting efforts will focus on the faith-based community in Hillsborough County. The project is in the building phase and according to OCOC, the efforts toward child specific recruitment will include:

- Identification of partnership provides churches opportunity to understand the need for adoptive families.
- Presentations in local churches and at local events to recruit potential families.
- Facilitation of initial information sessions for potential families as part of the referral process.
- Referrals for potential adoptive families to the local community based care lead agency for training and home studies.
- Provision of mentoring services to recruited families to lend support throughout the training and approval process.
- Participation in monthly meetings with the community based care and region staff to identify potential children to recruit for and to discuss potential adoptive families.
- Targeted recruitment for hard-to-place African-American children identified by the local Community Based Care lead agency, whose information has been provided to One Church One Child.

A final example of collaborative efforts within a community is that of a *First, Lets Talk Adoption* event in Northwest Florida. This event is an open-house type setting that is held three times a year. Attendees/participants include Judges, attorneys, sub-contracted agencies who do adoption and licensing, Guardian Ad litem, and foster/adoptive parents. The target audience is the faith-based community and to this end, generally a local church hosts this event. The event is publicized throughout the community through flyers and on the local Christian radio station. The highlight of the evening is always a testimonial from an adopted child and his/her new adoptive family.

Future Plans

Several lead agencies report on-going permanency staffings on cases where the sole goal of adoption has been accepted by the court. Others will continue work with Heart Gallery events to publicize the need for adoptive families.

One lead agency in southwest Florida is planning it's annual adoption conference to continue providing training and community awareness of the need.

The lead agency in southwest Florida sponsored a Joys of Adoption breakfast which drew 300 participants and plans are to continue this event.

Child specific case file reviews will occur for children who have been TPR'd for a long time, to explore distant relatives or collateral contacts as potential adoptive applicants.

Title IV-E Improvement Plans

The Department initiated two federally approved IV-E improvement plans during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. One is on IV-E adoption assistance and the other is on IV-E foster care eligibility.

In August 2006 the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) did not approve the Title IV-E Adoption section in Florida's IV-E State Plan because Florida law, rule and operating procedure were inconsistent with the federal law related to maintenance adoption assistance. As a result, a program improvement plan was requested, developed, and subsequently approved by ACF. The Department successfully achieved many of the planned activities during the fiscal year and will achieve the remaining ones in the upcoming fiscal year. The improvement plan addresses:

1. Statutory changes to section 409.166, Florida Statutes, that will make state law consistent with federal law (section 473, Social Security Act) related to maintenance adoption subsidies. Legislation approved by legislature and Governor in July 2007.
2. Administrative Rule amendments to 65C-16, F.A.C., that will make the adoption rule consistent with the federal law related to maintenance adoption subsidies. Rule promulgation began in December 2007 and will finalize by June 2008.
3. Department of Children and Families Operating Procedure (DCF OP) 175-71 revisions that make the state operating procedure (and applicable forms) for Title IV-E Adoption Assistance consistent with federal law related to maintenance adoption subsidies. Operating procedure was revised in March 2008 with anticipated effective date of June 2008.
4. Adoptive parents receipt of appropriate reimbursement consistent with federal law. All tasks ensuring appropriate reimbursement completed in September 2007.
5. Quality Assurance changes to monitoring guidelines and tools for appropriate questions and instructions to monitor the adoption subsidy process. Activities specific to this task completed and in effect as of December 2007.
6. Pre-service and in-service training curriculum revisions to incorporate necessary changes. Changes to curriculum and dissemination completed in December 2007.

7. The Department will resubmit IV-E State Plan with amendments in June 2008.

The Administration for Children and Families conducted Florida's second Title IV-E Foster Care eligibility review in February 2007. As a result, the Department entered into an IV-E foster care program improvement plan in September 2007. The Department intends to achieve the improvement goals during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The goals are:

1. All title IV-E foster care eligibility determinations will be based on the identification of the correct removal home.
2. All first court orders removing a child from the home will include a judicial determination whether it is contrary to the welfare of the child to remain in the removal home and include the basis upon which the findings were made.
3. Eligibility Forms for title IV-E foster care determination (CF-ES 2626A) and re-determination (CF-ES 2694) will be fully completed and will include the AFDC two step process for financial need.
4. All permanency court orders will have a timely judicial determination as to whether the agency has made reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan for the child.

Chapter 2

Collaborative Activities and Initiatives

Collaborative Partners, Activities and Initiatives across Child Welfare

The Department's Child and Family Services Plan is driven by the needs and choices of our customers to promote family and personal self-determination and choice. This vision is recognized through collaborating with community and faith-based organizations to foster open and collaborative relationships. The Department receives input from the local agencies and external stakeholders on services and innovations and is incorporated into this yearly Annual Progress and Services Report.

In August 07, a web-based statewide self-assessment survey was launched to gain stakeholder information on questions related to the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). There were 2,299 responses. Responses came from a widely diverse child welfare professional arena. There were respondents from every county with the exception of three of the smaller counties. The information has been utilized in policy assessments.

Extensive collaboration between the Department, the courts, Guardian ad Litem Program, and community agencies have led to many innovative court processes to facilitate timely permanency. United Family Court programs in several of the circuits have provided for one judge to hear all crossover cases regarding a specific family.

Ongoing Collaborative Initiatives

The Office of Court Improvement

In January 2007, the Department and the Office of Court Improvement initiated monthly meetings to focus on the sharing information, development of resources, and engagement of stakeholders for the purposes of improving the child protection and dependency system. These meetings generated effective collaboration efforts for projects including the IV-E Foster Care Review, Indian Child Welfare Act, Florida Safe Families Network, Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, Dependency Summit, and the Fostering Court Improvement initiative.

2007 Dependency Summit

The Department actively engaged the courts in the planning, development, and staffing of the 2007 Dependency Summit for Florida's Child Protection Professionals. This single statewide forum provided statewide training,

networking, and system improvement planning opportunities for approximately 1500 conference attendees. Attendees included representatives from the Department, judiciary, law enforcement, health, juvenile justice, guardians ad litem, child protective investigations, case management, youth, and other key stakeholders. The conference successfully delivered local judicial circuit action plans for each judicial circuit laying a foundation for local collaboration efforts of the courts and child protection professionals to address systemic issues.

Tribal Consultation

2006-2007 Update

Requirements for compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act are included in Florida Statutes and Florida Administrative Code and a statewide Indian Child Welfare Act Manager and Tribal Liaison is a member of the Family Safety Program Office staff in Tallahassee.

Provisions and requirements established in Florida Administrative Code include determination of potential eligibility for the protections of the Indian Child Welfare Act at the initiation of a case, tribal notification, adhering to placement preferences, active efforts and the capacity for tribes to intervene and request transfer of cases. Regional Indian Child Welfare Act liaisons have been appointed to improve communications directly with the field in tribal matters.

Child Protective Investigators are required by Florida Administrative Code to inquire and determine any possible eligibility under the Indian Child Welfare Act at the onset of each protective investigation as children are encountered at the initiation of services. A statewide Indian Child Welfare Act eligibility determination form (attached) has been developed and is available to staff electronically to document this inquiry. Sample electronic format letters to the tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are also available and step-by-step guidance to staff in procedures related to Indian Child Welfare Act cases is provided (attached).

Accomplishments

Efforts to negotiate a state-to-nation agreement that formally directs interactions in matters of child welfare between the Department of Children and Families and the Seminole Tribe of Florida continued throughout this period.

Representatives of the Seminole, Miccosukee and Poarch Band of Creek tribes were invited to co-train an Indian Child Welfare Act workshop with the Department Indian Child Welfare Act Program Manager at the 2007 Dependency Court Improvement Summit. Representatives of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Poarch Band of Creek Indian tribes co-trained an Indian Child Welfare Act workshop with the Department of Children and Families Indian Child Welfare Act Program Manager.

Significant enhancements to the Florida State Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), *Florida Safe Families Network*, are one of the most important areas of focus regarding improved compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act capacity during this period. System design and functionality supports early identification of eligibility under the Indian Child Welfare Act and tracks timely notifications, placement planning and legal planning. Significant functions for Indian Child Welfare Act compliance in the *Florida Safe Families Network*, including tracking and the ability to analyze data, were not available in the previous SACWIS system.

Collaboration

On March 22, 2007, representatives of the Seminole County Police Department including the Chief of Police, the Director and staff of the Seminole Tribal Family Services, and a representative of Seminole Tribal Legal Services met with Department of Children and Families staff to further discuss and develop plans for a state-to-nation agreement and to address any existing issues of concern.

Other stakeholders present included the Indian Child Welfare Act Manager, Director of Adult Services, Office of the Secretary Legal Services, and the Director of the Florida Abuse Hotline.

A statewide dependency court improvement project includes tribal representatives from both of Florida's two federally recognized tribes, the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, and a representative of a third federally recognized tribe, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, whose reservation is located very near the Florida-Alabama border.

As the result of this collaboration, the tribes have provided critical input into the development of Florida's new SACWIS system, the *Florida Safe Families Network*, and into other ongoing policy and program development related to compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Program Support

Child Protective Investigators required by Florida Administrative Code inquire and determine any possible eligibility under the Indian Child Welfare Act at the onset of each protective investigation as children are encountered at the initiation of services. A statewide Indian Child Welfare Act eligibility determination form (attached) has been developed and is available to staff electronically to document this inquiry.

Future Plans

As the sample format letters to the tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are available electronically, step-by-step guidelines to procedures related to Indian

Child Welfare Act cases will be also be made available in electronic format for staff use.

Consultations with Physicians and other Medical Professionals

Chapter 39.303(2), Florida Statutes, requires the mandatory referral of reports of certain types of child maltreatment to the Child Protection Teams (CPT). The intent of this requirement is to provide child protective investigators (CPI) and lead agency caseworkers with specialized expertise in the assessment of the most complex types of child maltreatment. Similarly, Chapter 39.301 (9Xb)6, F.S. directs child protective investigators to determine the treatment and ameliorative services necessary to safeguard and ensure the child's safety and well-being and development, and cause the delivery of those services. In high-risk cases, this would most typically entail following through with recommendations made by professionals in the areas of domestic violence, substance abuse and mental health services.

Within this reporting period, the Family Safety Program Office, in conjunction with the Department of Health Child Protection Team Program Office, has decided the maltreatment; "Threatened Harm-Sexual Abuse Other Child" is not a mandatory referral until the child named as potentially threatened with sexual abuse has either partially or fully disclosed victimization to the child protective investigator. At that point, a referral to the Child Protection Team would be mandatory.

Stakeholders have identified that collaborative efforts with the court personnel, Department workers including child protective investigators and case managers, and attorneys involved in a case sometimes leads to confusion about role responsibilities, communications, and sources of existing information. Special quality assurance reviews in 2006 made multiple recommendations regarding the role of professional opinions, such as the Child Protection Team staff, psychologists, Child Welfare Legal Services attorneys, and Child Behavioral Health Assessment assessors, and how to use professional assessments and recommendations in risk assessments. Barriers to positive collaboration include when there is conflicting information shared by a child protective investigator, case manager, and/or professional making it difficult to make a final decision on service delivery and permanency. Stakeholders also reported that delays in the service referral process and long waiting lists for services can prevent families from receiving services within the 60 day timeframe for completing an investigation.

The Department is addressing these concerns raised through training and policy guidelines. In October 2006, the Office of Family Safety provided guidance to the field regarding the necessary and appropriate consideration of clinical assessments and professional recommendations submitted to child welfare professionals in the course of their work with families. A detailed memo provided

the procedures for documentation of professional opinions, documentation of the safety implications raised in these reports and a resolution process to work out any differences of opinion.

Local Collaboration

Local collaboration occurs among community partners and providers in identifying areas of concerns and possible solutions, whether through Children's Forums, Community Alliances, and/or other state and community agencies to integrate goals of school districts, juvenile justice, and domestic violence with those of the child welfare system.

Through collaboration with Community Alliances, community based care providers are able to learn about, explore, and support new programs and ways to support families and children in each community. The Alliances allow for information sharing opportunities and provide a unique opportunity for hands-on involvement in the local systems of care.

Community based care lead agencies are also reaching out to the faith based community. For example, Churches in Partnership is a new initiative in Pinellas County wherein a child protective investigator is paired with a church in the community, which will assist in ensuring that the basic provisions of a family, such as clothing, food, furniture, special medical equipment, etc., are met.

Florida's Emergency and Disaster Plans for Child Welfare

The Department has a statewide Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). The plan includes a section dedicated to "Child Welfare Disaster Plans". The plan is a "good business practice" -- part of the fundamental mission of all government agencies to be responsive to the needs of the residents of Florida, particularly in times of emergency. The Department's plan contains additional critical components of disaster preparation plans, such as: staff education; evacuation plan development and update for caregivers of children under care or supervision of the Department; staff phone trees; alternate operations locations; responding to varied expected and unexpected threats; servicing displaced staff, etc.

2006-2007 Update

Development and Review of Plans

Agencies continue to ensure that new staff are aware of policies and have occasional drills, table top exercises, etc. There are no significant changes reported to the Florida Abuse Hotline Plans for Operation during emergencies and disasters and the Department's Information System *Disaster Recovery Action Plan*.

Contractual Obligation and Provider Plans

The Community-Based Care Lead Agency contract template was amended to include requirements that all Lead Agencies, within 30 days of executing a

contract with the Department and thereafter on a yearly basis, are to submit to the contract manager, an emergency preparedness plan that addresses the requirements of the Act. An updated plan shall be submitted to each lead agency contract manager on a yearly basis, commencing one year from the date of acceptance of the initial plan.

Each plan must address:

- provisions for training of staff;
- pre-disaster records protection;
- alternative accommodations for clients in substitute care;
- supplies; and
- recovery plans that will allow the provider to continue functioning in compliance with the executed contract in the event of an actual emergency.

Please refer to the attachment entitled *SERVICING CHILD WELFARE CLIENT NEEDS: Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Activities* for specific plan requirements and the guide used by contract managers in evaluation of submitted revisions to plans.

Chapter 3

Program Support

Training & Quality Assurance

Child Welfare Training

2006-2007 Update

The Training Program objective was realigned to support Florida's child welfare system that includes responding to reports of child abuse, abandonment and neglect, and providing services through locally outsourced child welfare services systems.

Specific Accomplishments

The Department reinstated Child Welfare in-service training (forty-eight hours every three years) and supervisory certification requirements effective January 2007.

Pre- Service

The new Child Welfare Professional Pre-Service Training curriculum was launched January 2007. Over 160 trainers have successfully completed the Pre-Service Train the Trainer course through the Training Academy. The trainers attend three courses and are observed/provided feedback on training delivery. The three trainer courses are: Tools and Techniques (three days); Pre-Service Overview (five days); and Florida Safe Families Network (five days).

Pre-service curriculum maintenance was completed in June 2007, based on legislative changes, Florida Administrative Code changes and recommendations from on-going training observations and supervisor satisfaction surveys.

The Child Welfare Supervising for Excellence course has become a mandated training for all protective investigations and services supervisors. The nine day clinical model is being offered throughout the state.

The Training Academy has developed the Child Welfare Supervising for Excellence Train the Trainer course, and training will begin FFY 2007-2008. The Training Academy has developed and began delivery of two Trainer Advanced Courses: Questions and More Questions; and Bridging from Class to Field. Questions and More Questions provides trainers tools and techniques for

formulating instructive and engaging questions in the classroom while Bridging from Class to Field provides a foundation for the transfer of learning from the classroom to "on the job" activities and experiences.

Development of Florida Administrative Code on Certification and Training has begun. Workshops have been held statewide and a first draft completed.

In-Service

During this reporting period, the several in-service regional training sessions on Master Trust, Title IV-E foster care waiver, and Medicaid/Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO) enrollment. The Master Trust training provides an understanding of master trust, sub-accounts, fee waiver process, expenditure plans, case manager responsibilities, legal responsibilities, and fiscal responsibilities. The Title IV-E foster care waiver training provides an overview of the waiver, simplified eligibility, Medicaid, and responsibilities of revenue maximization and child in care specialists. The Medicaid/HMO enrollment training aids the understanding of the process involved in Medicaid approval and HMO choices. Title IV-E Foster Care/Adoption Eligibility and Adoption Subsidy were topics at additional training sessions.

Additional accomplishments include:

- Family Safety developed training materials on courtesy supervision, and made them available through the Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare Practice.
- Training programs for all protective investigators, case managers, supervisors and administrators were developed on missing child reporting and locating requirements.
- August 2007, cross training of protective investigators and supervisors occurred by developing a process from peer review of front-line supervisors.

Regional Trainings on Child Safety: Collaborative Decision-Making

The first set of regional trainings designed to bring together child welfare professionals, including attorneys and legal staff, across the spectrum of child protection in Florida were held during the months of November and December in each zone (Gulf Atlantic and Gulf Coast were combined). Over 850 people attended statewide. Sponsored by the Domestic Violence Program Office, The Office of Family Safety and the Office of the General Counsel, the goal was to provide information on enhancing the collaborative decision-making processes in the field of child welfare, domestic violence and the legal arena in the areas of safety and case planning.

A plenary session conducted by Gregory Firestone, Ph.D., Director of the USF Conflict Resolution Collaborative, Vice Chair of the Florida Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy Committee and Florida Supreme Court Certified Dependency Mediator, focused on enhancing collaborative problem solving, decision-making and service coordination in investigative, medical, legal and services delivery systems with the goal of increasing the use of negotiation skills when trying to reach consensus with families and other professionals involved with the family.

A key aspect of the training dealt with recognizing child safety factors pertaining to recent child deaths (FY 2005 data) - such as examining the leading cause of child deaths in Florida, typical victim characteristics (age, sex, etc.) and any recent patterns or trends evidenced by the most recent data. In that regard, The Office of Family Safety provided workshops on missing children, drug endangered children, ICPC – new federal laws and incentives, alternative response system - safety & risk assessment re-design and an overview of the new Florida Safe Families Network.

The Domestic Violence Program Office recognizes that "Family Violence Threatens Child" is the maltreatment most often reported to the hotline, and has been since 1999. As a result many of the women that seek domestic violence services and have children become involved in the child welfare system. Nina Zollo, attorney for the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, provided a breakout session for child welfare attorneys regarding domestic violence issues. The primary goal was to ensure that the attorneys have the best programmatic and legal information available when working with families in the child welfare system where domestic violence is present. In addition, the session also offered an opportunity to connect the attorneys with domestic violence resources in their community. An additional breakout session, Dynamics of Domestic Violence was led by Julie Ann Rivers-Cochran and Trish Hardy, for child welfare workers.

The Office of the General Counsel provided an overview of the operations and staff of the Department's legal office in a session attended by all participants in the training. In addition, Keith Edwards, OMC from District 4, provided training to legal support staff about the new paralegal certification program and the Child Welfare Legal Services tracking system.

2007 Dependency Summit

The Department actively engaged the courts in the planning, development, and staffing of the 2007 Dependency Summit for Florida's Child Protection Professionals. This single statewide forum provided statewide training, networking, and system improvement planning opportunities for approximately 1500 conference attendees. Attendees included representatives from the Department, judiciary, law enforcement, health, juvenile justice, guardian ad litem, child protective investigations, case management, youth, and other key

stakeholders. The conference successfully delivered local judicial circuit action plans for each judicial circuit laying a foundation for local collaboration efforts of the courts and child protection professionals to address systemic issues.

Collaboration

The Child Welfare Training Task Force completed its mission by providing recommendations for Florida Administrative Code on Certification and Training; providing input for the Child Welfare Professional Pre-Service Training curriculum; and shaping the reinstatement of in-service training and supervisory certification requirements.

In May 2007, staff members from the Florida Coalition for Children and the Office of Family Safety directed a forum for policy makers, policy implementers and providers. The focus was on the involvement of Dependency Courts around the state, the introduction of how to develop a trauma informed child welfare system in Florida and discussions concerning the Medicaid Child Welfare Prepaid Mental Health Plan.

Program Support

The Department has transitioned its role to one that provides technical assistance and quality assurance to enable all public child welfare services staff to meet child welfare education and training requirements per Florida Statute 402.40.

Future Plans

Future training initiatives include the replication of the above-mentioned. Regional trainings are scheduled to occur June 2008 and the Dependency Summit is scheduled for August 2008. The Department plans to provide training on various "eligibility topics" through our monthly statewide conference calls and the *Family Safety Training Bulletin*.

Credential and certification requirements for second party reviewers have been established and training on the requirements occurred January - February 2008.

Quality Assurance Review System

2006-2007 Update

Just prior to and from October 1, 2006 through June 30, the Department's Family Safety Quality Assurance Unit was under the Office of the Secretary in the Office of Quality Management. Approximately 50 Family Safety Quality Assurance (FSQA) staff were assigned to this unit with the majority of them being out-posted to the regions, but reporting to Headquarters.

One major change effective July 1, 2007 was the return of approximately 45 designated quality assurance staff to the regions. Staff report to the regional structures instead of Headquarters. The Office of Family Safety retained five positions.

In addition, administration mandated a redesign of the entire quality assurance system, including review processes and reporting mechanisms to ensure a more effective accountability structure. Subsequently, in August 2007, the Department initiated a systematic assessment and redesign of the state's approach to quality assurance.

As the planning process continued through September 30, 2007, the focus continued to be on quality with an ongoing commitment to achieving safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families involved in the child welfare system.

During the reporting period, the Department has continued to conduct reviews of child protective investigations in which it has responsibility and continues to partner with the Sheriffs' Offices as they conduct annual peer reviews. One of the re-organizational initiatives as referenced above also included a geographical restructuring. The Department had previously been divided into 15 districts, but with the approval of the state's legislature in May 2007, it was realigned with the 20 Judicial Circuits.

Accomplishments

During this period, a Three-Tier Quality Management System was implemented. Each lead agency was required to develop and implement a comprehensive quality assurance plan to include conducting quarterly case file reviews and submit their findings to the Office of Quality Management. Department quality assurance staff validated in their Tier Two case file reviews the responses made by each lead agency contract with the exception of Broward, Dade and Monroe counties; and conduct Florida Child and Family Services Reviews in some of the lead agencies that had not undergone one in recent years.

During this reporting timeframe, a special legislatively-mandated pilot project in three Florida counties (Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe) required third party monitoring. Programmatic monitoring, with quality assurance, evaluation, and performance measurement components has been performed by the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago since 2006. The results of this monitoring, as with other quality assurance activity throughout the state, is used by lead agency and Department management in assessing service delivery and making process improvements.

Collaboration

Collaboration among the Family Safety Program Office, service providers, local Department staff and other relevant functions such as Child Welfare Legal Services was embedded in most quality assurance and performance measurement activity. For example, a series of performance reviews called FFY 2007 Annual Progress Services Report

Performance and Resource Teams were conducted in FY 2006-07 that involved discussion, information sharing, and analysis by central program and quality assurance staff jointly with region and lead agency staff.

Each lead agency was provided on-going technical assistance as they implemented their plan and case reviews. Prior to July 1, 2007, FSQA staff provided some oversight and review of the results of the lead agencies' comprehensive reviews as discussed above.

During the reporting period, the Department has consulted with national experts in forthcoming revisions to quality assurance tools and guides.

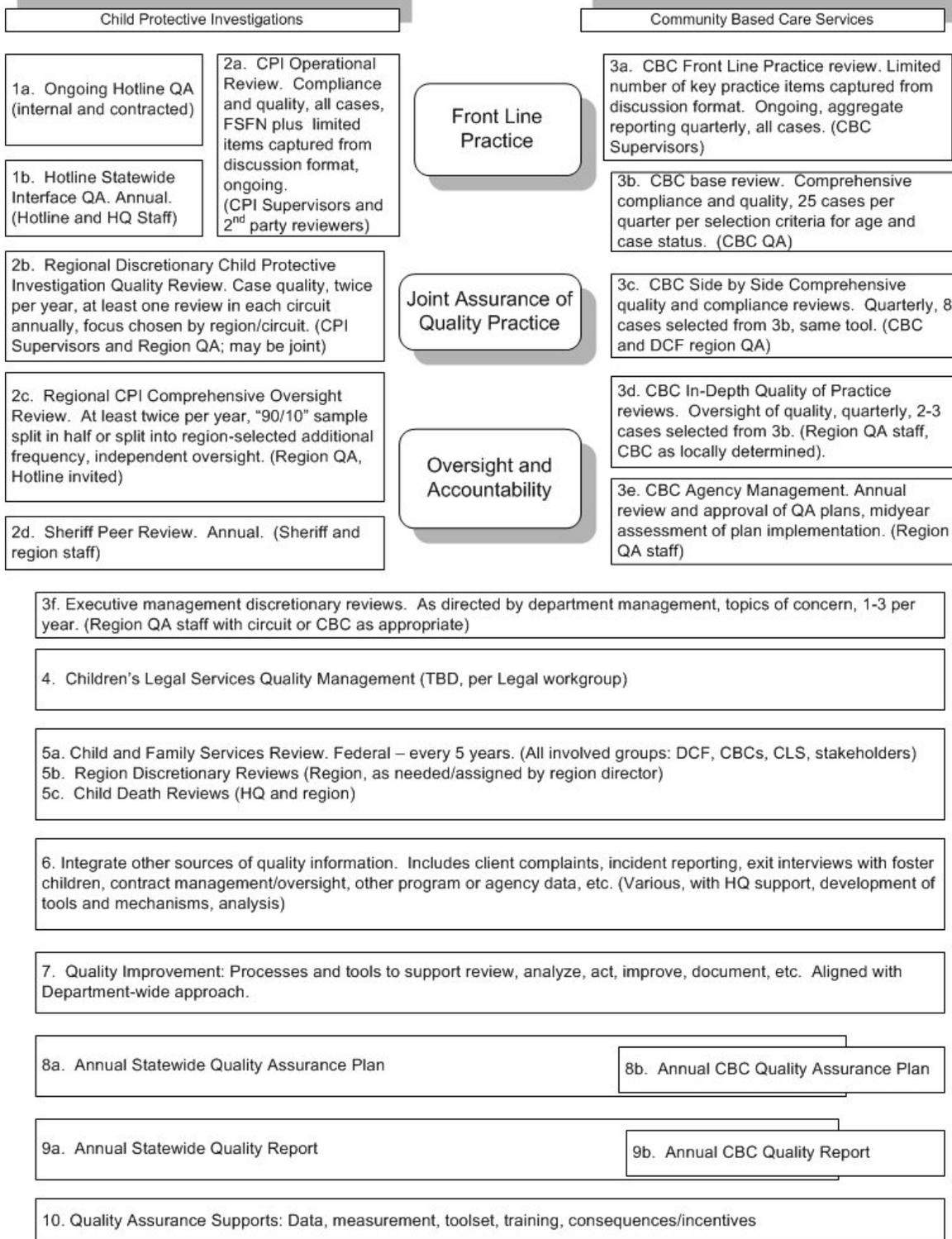
Future Plans

During the last few months of FFY 2007-2008, the new regional model for quality assurance underwent more concrete shaping. Regional QA staff have not been required to conduct reviews until the new statewide plan is in place.

The Department anticipates requesting technical assistance in the following areas: Program Improvement Plan design and implementation, including performance measurement and other quality assurance/quality improvement topics.

The following graphic represents the multiple quality assurance and quality improvement activities that will be implemented during FFY 2008-2009.

Regional Quality Assurance Model Components



Chapter 4

Promoting Safe and Stable Families

Promoting Safe and Stable Families program allows the Department to develop, expand, and operate coordinated programs of community-based family support services, family preservation services, time-limited family reunification services, and adoption services to:

- prevent child maltreatment among families at risk through the provision of supportive family services.
- assure children's safety within the home and preserve intact families in which children have been maltreated, when the family's problems can be addressed effectively.
- address the problems of families whose children have been placed in foster care so that reunification may occur in a safe and stable manner in accordance with the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.
- support adoptive families by providing support services as necessary so that they can make a lifetime commitment to their children.

Florida supports the hypothesis that expanded and improved prevention and early intervention efforts contribute to a possible reduction in the number of children in the local dependency system while implementing a more efficient and timely movement of children to permanence. Expanded and improved prevention and early intervention efforts also contribute to a possible reduction in the number of children in the local dependency system.

Florida's lead agencies work closely with subcontracted providers to provide training and technical assistance related to funding criteria and rules, which results in collaborative and successful use of resources. Recruitment Services¹ were discussed in depth in Chapter 1.

Family Preservation Services (25.24% of the FFY 2009 Grant)

Family Preservation Services are developed to help families (including adoptive and extended families) at risk or in crisis, including:

1. Service programs designed to help children, where safe and appropriate, return to families from which they have been removed; or be placed for

¹ Activities related to child-specific and targeted population recruitment efforts. In addition, activities designed to support foster and adoptive parents that increase retention of these two groups.

- adoption, with a legal guardian, or, if adoption or legal guardianship is determined not to be safe and appropriate for a child, in some other planned, permanent living arrangement;
2. Pre-placement preventive services programs, such as intensive family preservation programs, designed to help children at risk of foster care placement remain safely with their families;
 3. Service programs designed to provide follow-up care to families to whom a child has been returned after a foster care placement;
 4. Respite care of children to provide temporary relief for parents and other caregivers (including foster parents); and
 5. Services designed to improve parenting skills (by reinforcing parents' confidence in their strengths, and helping them to identify where improvement is needed and to obtain assistance in improving those skills) with respect to matters such as child development, family budgeting, coping with stress, health, and nutrition; and
 6. Infant safe haven programs to provide a way for a parent to safely relinquish a newborn infant at a safe haven designated pursuant to a State law.

Family Preservation Services in Florida include:

- the use of Voluntary Protective services to provide parents with services to help prevent the need for child removal;
- the use of expanded staffings to promote decision-making that may support the strengthening of the family component;
- Information and Referral²;
- the creation of a Family Stabilization and Placement Service(FSPS);³
- the use of a multi-system treatment intervention model of Family Preservation working in partnership with families to provide stabilization and permanent placement of children 5-18 years of age through intensive in-home services; and,
- the creation of Family Preservation specialist positions.

² Activities that provide families with needed information about community and statewide services and agencies that provide specific services and, if necessary, provide referral information.

³ FSPS is a program employing six therapists and a program director with access to contracted Behavior Analysts when needed. The primary mission of the FSPS is to support families in a potential placement crisis by providing in-home counseling, crisis intervention and appropriate referrals and linkages to community providers. The program can be accessed by case management, resource specialists, and other professionals in the system when there is an identified concern that a family may be experiencing a potential placement disruption.

Family Support Services (22.05% of FFY 2009 Grant)

Family Support Services are community-based services that promote the safety and well-being of children and families. These services are designed:

- to increase the strength and stability of families (including adoptive, foster, and extended families);
- to increase parents' confidence and competence in their parenting abilities;
- to afford children a safe, stable and supportive family environment; and,
- to strengthen parental relationships and promote healthy marriages that support child development.

Florida continues to increase efforts to support caregivers with natural supports in the community. There were numerous examples of extended family and even some unrelated friends stepping forward, often at some personal sacrifice, to provide home placements, transportation, mentoring, or other supports. There were situations in which it seemed clear that parents would have been unable to fulfill the requirements of their service plans without support from extended family.

Family Support Programs in Florida include:

- services, including in-home visits, parent support groups, and other programs designed to improve parenting skills (by reinforcing parents' confidence in their strengths, and helping them to identify where improvement is needed and to obtain assistance in improving those skills) with respect to matters such as child development, family budgeting, coping with stress, health, and nutrition;
- respite care of children to provide temporary relief for parents and other caregivers;
- structured activities involving parents and children to strengthen the parent-child relationship;
- drop-in centers to afford families opportunities for informal interaction with other families and with program staff;
- transportation, information and referral services to afford families access to other community services, including child care, health care, nutrition

programs, adult education literacy programs, legal services, and counseling and mentoring services;

- early developmental screening of children to assess the needs of such children, and assistance to families in securing specific services to meet these needs; and,
- family team conferencing to engage the family early in the process.

Florida is embracing and making an extra effort to find services for the family and looking for alternatives to removal. Duval County has initiated a new project currently known as “Ending Foster Care as We Know It” with plans to reform child welfare services. The goal of the project is to keep children in their homes whenever possible by swarming the family with services. The project has the underlying belief that when a child is removed from their family it is the most traumatic day of their life and every effort must be made to make the time in out of home care as short as possible, returning the child home or moving onto a permanent living arrangement.

Another example is the use of Family Support Teams to provide a round the clock wrap-around services such as: basic housekeeping, budgeting, parenting skills, community service awareness and child development training.

To increase parents' confidence and competence in their parenting abilities and to afford children a safe, stable and supportive family environment is a priority within Florida's foster homes. One lead agency continues to address this concern through the “Family Additions Initiative”, which continues to address the critical need for foster homes and the retention of the existing foster homes. The teams continued to assist in the recruitment of new homes, but the focus shifted to retention.

Time-Limited Family Reunification Services (22.71 of the FFY 2009 Grant)

Time-Limited Family Reunification Services are services and activities such as the ones described below provided to a child once removed from his/her home and placed in a foster care and to the parents or primary caregivers. These services are designed to support the reunification of the child safely and appropriately within the 12-15 month period.

Time-Limited Family Reunification Services in Florida include:

- Individual, group, and family counseling;
- Inpatient, residential, or outpatient substance abuse treatment services;
- Mental and behavioral health services;
- Information and referral services, including assistance to address domestic violence;

- Designed to provide temporary child care and therapeutic services for families, including crisis nurseries;
- Transportation to or from any of the services and activities described above;
- Implementation of *Rocket Docket* staffings to assist with moving cases to permanency in a timely manner;
- Continued use of the concept of family team conferencing to engage the family early in the process;
- Mentoring/Tutoring Services⁴
- Quarterly permanency staffings on all children who are in out of home care placements.

Adoption Promotion and Support Services (25.99% of the FFY 2009 Grant)

Adoption Promotion and Support Services are services and activities designed to encourage more adoptions out of the foster care system, when adoptions promote the best interests of children, including such activities as pre- and post-adoptive services and activities designed to expedite the adoption process and support adoptive families.

Adoption Promotion and Support Services help children where safe and appropriate, to return to their families or be placed for adoption, with a legal guardian. If adoption or legal guardianship is not safe and appropriate for a child another planned, permanent living arrangement may be secured.

The adoption of foster children continues to be a state, as well as, a local strength. Florida in recent years has received federal bonuses for its adoption performance.

Adoption Promotion and Support Services⁵ include:

- child-specific or targeted population recruitment efforts;
- adoptive parent support group;⁶
- individual and family counseling for adopted children and/or family members (must be of 12-month duration or less);

⁴ Activities provided to children to enhance their self-esteem, self-confidence, and provide a positive adult role model. Tutoring allows the child to achieve additional educational support and training.

⁵ Services and activities designed to encourage more adoptions from the foster care system, when adoptions promote the best interests of children, and to support children and adoptive parents during the adoptive placement process and after finalization.

⁶ Activities related to creating new adoptive and foster parent support groups and supporting and maintaining existing parent support groups. The support groups seek to reduce the social isolation of families by developing a peer support network.

- adoption workshops/seminars for adopted children and their families and professionals on topics relevant to on-going issues facing adoptive families; and,
- follow-up support services and liaison⁷ to adoptive families.

Administration (4.01% of the FFY 2009 Grant)

Includes the costs of in-home and out-of-home "community facilitation services" that are not provided through contributions from state and local sources. These services are defined in Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, Section 431 as the costs associated with developing, revising and implementing the comprehensive Child and Family Services Plan/Promoting Safe and Stable Families five-year plan and the cost of the annual progress and services report.

⁷ Lead agencies designate staff whose sole responsibility is to work with families who need assistance after their adoption is finalized. Staff locate resources within the community for pre and post-adoption families to meet either the child's or family needs. This person also educates adoptive parents, biological parents, and adoptive children on available resources to obtain family birth information. The Post-Adoption Specialist also documents, records, and maintains case files for post adoption services rendered. This person also provides mini-trainings for staff and community service providers on post-adoptive services and related issues.

Chapter 5

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Grant

This chapter is the update to Florida's Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Plan. The goals and objectives pertaining to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Plan remain consistent with the Child and Family Services Five-Year Plan (CFSP), 2005-2009. It is paramount that children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect. The Florida Department of Children and Families, Family Safety Program Office, continues to be the lead agency designated to administer the Child Abuse and Prevention and Treatment Act grant funds. The Family Safety Program Office is also the designated lead agency for the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) federal grant and the Children's Justice Act (CJA) grant. This oversight affords technical assistance for implementation of evidenced-based best practices and for the development of systemic approaches to outcome improvement at both the state and local community levels.

This continuity in lead agency designation facilitates and promotes achievement of the following defined statewide objectives:

- Prevent children from experiencing abuse or neglect.
- Ensure the safety of children through improved investigative processes.
- Ensure the safety of children while preserving the family structure.

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Plan Annual Report

A. Service Description Updates

The State continues to develop, strengthen and support child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention services in the public and private sectors to prevent the occurrence and reoccurrence of child abuse and neglect. Florida has been addressing Section 106 (a) of CAPTA through community-based services targeting child abuse and neglect prevention statewide that address the needs of our multi-ethnic and multi-cultural state population and the needs of families in local communities. The State will continue to focus primarily on improving the case management and monitoring of families while ensuring delivery of needed services and treatment are provided through locally designed community-based

programs. Florida funds a multitude of community-based services targeting the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Our prevention strategy includes primary, secondary and tertiary prevention services. Each Community-Based Care Lead Agency under contract with the Department uses CAPTA funds to support case management, service delivery, and ongoing case monitoring in its service area. Lead Agencies service array include a variety of in-home supports, counseling, parent education, Family Team Conferencing, homemaker services and support groups.

Section 106 (a) Updates:

Case Management, including ongoing case monitoring, and delivery of services and treatment provided to children and their families

Community-Based Care lead agencies are engaging families in the decision making process. Fourteen of the agencies report using family conferencing models. The most common models used are Family Team Conferencing, Family Services Planning Teams, and Family Group Decision Making. Lead agencies are using family conference meetings to address both initial case plans and permanency issues. Overall, staffings increased to address issues related to sibling separation for adoption, reunification, and/or placement stability.

A multitude of programs throughout the state provide services to prevent re-entry, for example, Family Support Teams, The Nurturing Program, The Family Integrity Prevention Program, CARE Program through Children's Home Society, mobile response teams for after hour crisis intervention, Healthy Families Orange, Behavioral Analysis Programs and Healthy Opportunities for Parenting Excellence (HOPE). Several Neighborhood Partnerships programs located across the state focus on strength-based localized case management utilizing the Family Team Conference Model. Also, Family Intervention Specialists through Substance Abuse and Mental Health assist families with substance abuse issues.

Citizen Review Panels

In response to the CAPTA requirements, as required in 42 U.S.C. 5106a, Section 106 (c)(6), Florida has received reports from three panels during the 2006-2007 reporting period that provide data and other information to the Department: (1) the foster care citizen review programs of Miami-Dade county, (2) the foster care citizen review program of Collier county and (3) the Task Force on Child Protection. See Attachment section for annual reports and the accompanying responses.

Florida's citizen review programs conduct judicial reviews of dependent children. The programs are located in the largest urban city—Miami—and two smaller counties, Manatee and Collier. Citizen review programs use community volunteers to help the courts monitor the cases of children in foster care. Extensive collaboration is required between the Department, the Community-Based Care agencies, the courts and the program. Data reports that track children reviewed, compliance with statutes and best practices, and identify barriers to children's permanency are provided to the courts and the community.

The Task Force on Child Protection, created in July 2007 by Secretary Butterworth, was formed to examine the gaps currently existing in Florida's child welfare system of care including efforts at reunification, stabilization, permanency during foster care, and supervision. The Task Force will identify administrative, policy, legislative, education, and training necessary to ensure the safety of Florida's children. The panel, which is comprised of Floridians known for their work in the state's criminal justice and child welfare systems is directed to identify concerns and make recommendations, including suggestions regarding legislative enhancements to improve coordination, communication, current policies and procedures, and training efforts for all parties involved in protecting and locating children in Florida's dependency system.

Judicial Reviews of Children by Citizen Review Panels

Florida Statutes, Chapter 39.701 requires a judicial review at least every six months for each child in the dependency system. The purpose of the review is to monitor the child's safety, well-being and progress towards permanency. After each review, recommended orders must be based on the information provided to each citizen review panel and limited to the dispositional options available to the court: to return the child to the parent, continue the child in out-of-home care for a specified period of time, or initiate termination of parental rights for subsequent placement in an adoptive home. Any party objecting to the panel's findings and recommended orders may request an exception hearing before the court.

In Miami-Dade, only those cases of children placed in out-of-home licensed facilities are referred to Foster Care Review, Inc. (FCR); children placed with their parents or relatives are reviewed by the Dependency Court or General Master. Review hearings are set by the Clerk of the 11th Judicial Circuit Court on the fifth and tenth month after the child enters foster care. A permanency hearing is scheduled on the twelfth month before the Court.

Each of FCR's 18 citizen review panels meets one day per month to conduct 10 to 12 reviews. Each review takes approximately 40 minutes, depending on the number of children in a case. Hearings are held 18 days out of the month at the Citizen Review Courtroom located on the grounds of the Juvenile Justice Center. Staff support is provided by FCR review specialists, who compile the

documentation for review, facilitate the review process, enter individual case information into the FCR database, and prepare the findings and recommendations submitted to the Court for approval.

The review serves as a barometer of case management, continually stimulating progress and improvements to ensure that needed services are provided, that the child is appropriately and safely placed and that the tasks identified in the case plan are being performed.

Upon suspicion of risk to a child, or in the event of serious noncompliance with orders, the citizen review panels request a post-judicial review before the Court for immediate remedy of the situation. Additional functions include:

- Monitor the extent to which policy and practice are being implemented according to laws, regulations and expectations in a timely fashion;
- Determine compliance with requirements of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), monitoring case by case the safety and well-being of children in care, their progress toward permanency, and timeframes for permanency decision-making;
- Monitor casework performance to determine if reasonable efforts and critical casework activities are occurring timely and in accordance with federal and state laws and local standards and expectations;
- Inform decision-makers about potential case and systemic problems; and
- Hold agencies and professionals accountable for the care and treatment of children by monitoring quality and delivery of services.

Additional efforts in improving the child protective services system

Intake, assessment, screening, and investigation of reports of abuse and neglect

The Florida Abuse Hotline serves as the single entry point to child welfare services in Florida. All child abuse and neglect allegations received through the centralized Florida Abuse Hotline located in Tallahassee, occurs twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Reports can be received via the toll free telephone number (1-800-96ABUSE), fax, in writing, through telecommunication devices for the deaf, and via a link on the Department's internet website.

Florida Abuse Hotline counselors assist child protective investigation response time by quickly identifying where the child will actually be during the next 24

hours, and if there are any potential dangers to the child protective investigator. The implementation of the Hotline's Crime Intelligence Unit in 2005 also increases the quality of the initial contact with the child and family by giving child protective investigators important criminal history and law enforcement information prior to commencing an investigation and having more complete information on hand to make safety assessments and improve front end decision-making.

Upon receiving and accepting a report for an allegation of abuse, neglect, and/or abandonment, Hotline counselors generate a report in the statewide automated child welfare information system which is then forwarded to the Hotline's Crime Intelligence Unit within 28 minutes. Then within 28 minutes, the Crime Intelligence Unit completes Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC), National Crime Information Center (NCIC), Juvenile Justice Information System, Department of Corrections, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), and FDLE Sexual Predators checks and forwards the abuse/neglect report to the county in which the child is physically located or, if the child is out of state, is anticipated to return to Florida.

During this reporting period, the Florida Abuse Hotline began the development of a new web based reporting system. The web reporting was developed as an added convenience for busy professionals. This new, quick and easy method of reporting provides an alternate option to make a report. The intent is for a quicker and less time intensive way to complete and submit the required information. This new reporting system was released in January 2008. For more information, please go to <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report/>.

Florida recognizes some reports with serious safety concerns are appropriate for traditional investigations; however, other reports are more appropriately addressed by a less adversarial assessment of needs and offer of services utilizing an alternative response. This new approach is predicated on the theory that by engaging families in a less threatening way they will be more likely to acknowledge problems and agree to receive recommended services. Florida, scheduled to begin an Alternative Response System (ARS) pilot project in three selected pilot sites (Duval County, Bay County, and Seminole County) in April 2008, has invested intensive resources in the development of this initiative.

In most, if not all states, families are able to be transferred between the assessment and investigative tracts (in either direction) based on any number of factors – with the most predominant determinants being safety considerations and resistance encountered from the family. Florida will be no different in this respect.

Other states determine the appropriate track for the family based primarily on the type of child maltreatment alleged with chronic, neglect cases involving lack of

shelter, food or clothing typically assigned in the assessment track. Florida's uniqueness is found in the fact that every family will continue to receive an initial safety assessment designed to identify "imminent or present signs of danger" prior to initial track assignment. If significant safety issues are identified, families will be assigned to the traditional investigative tract for a complete investigation. If no significant safety issues are noted but prospective or long-term risks to the children are identified, families will be assigned to the family assessment track for follow-up.

A six-month evaluation is scheduled to be completed in October 2008. An Alternative Response System workgroup is exploring the automation of the decision support tools, as well as the disposition options in the automated child welfare information system, Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN).

Criminal Background Checks in Florida

In 2006, the Legislature amended Florida Statute 435.045, the background screening laws for adoptive parents, relative and non-relative placements, and amended Chapter 39 F.S. to include the background screening processes for adoptive parents, relative, and non-relative placements.

The change was made because the permanency element of Adoption Safe Family Act (ASFA) requirements needed clarification in the Florida Statutes, as explained in Florida's Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). By adding statutory language on background screening to Chapter 39, Florida's dependency statute, the federal requirements are more clearly defined as it relates to screening for adoptive parents, relative and non-relative placements.

Florida Administrative Code, 65C-16.007 requires that the preliminary home study for adoptive parents must include a records check of the Department's central abuse registry and criminal correspondence checks on the intended adoptive parents. Foster parents must have an initial Federal criminal records check, a local criminal records check annually, and a state criminal check every five years, according to 65C.13.009, F.A.C. Other statutory requirements regarding foster parents still remain part of Florida Statute 435.045.

The Crime Intelligence Unit was created in July 2005 at which time all criminal histories completed for the purpose of investigations include subjects of the investigation for both child and adult abuse reports. Initially criminal history information was faxed to the local field offices. However, in October 2006 criminal history became available to field staff real time using a system called *Phoenix on-line*. This criminal history is purged after one business day in accordance with FDLE Policy. This information provides the investigators with the knowledge of criminal history for the subjects in the abuse report in an effort to protect the protective investigator and Florida's most vulnerable citizens.

The Crime Intelligence Unit continues to complete criminal history checks for the purpose of investigations to include subjects of the investigation and other adult household members, and for the purpose of placement. Criminal history is completed by individual subjects using demographic information searching the following systems:

- Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC) for subjects 12 years and older
- Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for subjects ages 12 to 26
- Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) for subjects 12 years and older
- Florida Sexual Predator Website for subjects 12 years and older

In February 2007, Florida was the first state to implement the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, which authorized the Department to search the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for subjects of the abuse report 12 years and older for the purpose of child protective investigations.

The Department has been authorized to complete Emergency Placements criminal history checks for the purpose of placement of a child within 72 hours of the actual placement being made. This access authorizes the Department to conduct both Florida and National criminal history checks for subjects identified as a potential placement which requires fingerprint submissions for subjects in the potential home over the age of 18 within 10 days of the criminal history request being completed.

Criminal history is completed for the purpose of an Emergency Placement by individual subjects using demographic information searching the following systems:

Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC) for subjects 12 years and older
National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for subjects 18 years and older
Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for subjects ages 12 to 26
Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) for subjects 12 years and older
Florida Sexual Predator Website for subjects 12 years and older

In April 2007, we began providing the Community Based Care (CBC) service workers with the preliminary placement approval for subjects of emergency placements. This access authorizes the Department to conduct both Florida and National criminal history checks for subjects identified as a potential placement and requires fingerprint submissions for subjects in the potential home over the age of 18 within 10 days of the criminal history request being completed.

In May 2007, we implemented the e-mail notification for completed criminal history for the purpose of investigation and placements. This notification was implemented due to a request from the field in an effort to pull the appropriate

criminal history within the 1 business day timeframe prior to the document purging. The Customer Satisfaction Survey was also implemented in May. This information is used to address training issues and to identify areas of improvement.

Florida has implemented the Adam Walsh Child Protection Safety Act of 2006. When completing and approving home studies for foster and adoptive parents, the background screening process must include an abuse and neglect registry check from other states when the prospective parents have lived in other states within the five year period preceding the application to foster or adopt. The Department has assigned one Specialist to receive and process all requests for abuse registry checks from other states for foster care placements and adoptive parents. The Adam Walsh Child Protection Safety Act of 2006 also gave the Department the ability to conduct NCIC checks on all child abuse investigations subjects.

Enhancing the general child protective system by developing, improving, and implementing risk and safety assessment tools and protocols

The Department's initial child safety assessment was automated in 2002 which provided a standardized tool for assessing safety. In July 2007, the grouping of risk and safety factors was modified to align with the safety constructs adopted by the Department's Alternative Response System workgroup. The new child welfare information system tool breaks down the constructs into signs of present danger, child vulnerability, and parental protective capacities. This facilitates the ability of child protective investigators to much more effectively address interaction of these constructs leading to a safety determination and development of a safety plan.

Many agencies report the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment, which is required for children entering out of home care, is a helpful tool and process. The Department is currently contracting with the University of South Florida to conduct an evaluation of this tool.

Multiple community based care lead agencies have recently implemented new Home Visit forms that specifically address risks and services being offered in the home. Community Based Care of Brevard, Inc. implemented an assessment tool which is administered at the onset of removal to identify strengths and needs. When placement is needed, children are placed in the least restrictive, normal environment. Services and placements are individualized in accordance with unique needs and potentials of each child.

The Multiple Report Study completed by the Department in 2007 identified the same areas of concern as the 2006 and 2007 child protective investigation reviews.

Findings were

- ❑ familial situations are not always adequately assessed during the investigative process;
- ❑ safety plans are not always used appropriately;
- ❑ cases are not always referred to the Child Protection Team in accordance with Florida law;
- ❑ supervisory directives are not always being followed prior to case closure; and
- ❑ Second Party Reviewer directives are not always being completed prior to case closure.

The Department has implemented several countermeasures to address these findings. Design sessions in Florida Safe Families Network are addressing safety plans and multiple training initiatives have also been implemented.

During work sessions of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Statewide Assessment Safety Outcomes Workgroup the Child Safety Assessment was noted as only containing one question each on substance abuse and domestic violence, which are two of the most frequently reported and substantiated maltreatments in Florida. It has been recommended that additional questions related to this safety factor be added to the child safety assessment tool.

An exit interview completed within five days of a child's exit from a licensed foster care home is useful in determining potential risk or safety concerns as many children who are abused or neglected in the foster home do not report or disclose issues until after leaving the foster home. However, contract monitoring reports completed in FY2006-2007 show a large number of interviews are not completed, and most of those completed, are not completed in a timely manner.

Quality Assurance reviews of investigations in 2006 showed compliance in the development of appropriate safety plans in a median of 92%, and an 88% median of the same criterion in 2007 reviews.

Florida fully transitioned to the community based care model in 2005. Although policy requires ongoing assessments of risk and safety, currently there is not a statewide model of practice for assessing ongoing risk and safety. Interpretation of state statute and administrative codes vary from agency to agency making it difficult to assess overall statewide performance. However, multiple community-based care agencies report seeking technical assistance from national consultants to enhance their assessment tool to differentiate between risk and safety. Design sessions in the automated statewide child welfare information

system are addressing the statewide model of practice for assessing ongoing risk and safety.

Developing and updating systems of technology that support the program and track reports of child abuse and neglect from intake through final disposition

Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) is the Department's automated child welfare case management system, replacing HomeSafenet. The state's automated information system, HomeSafenet, has met its purpose of identification of the status, demographic characteristics, location, and goals for the placement of every child in foster care. This legacy system was replaced in August 2007. Compared to the legacy system, FSFN currently provides enhanced functionality for intake, case management, and data reporting activities. The activities include individualized decision support tools, a single automated case record that follows a child who moves from one agency or provider to another; immediate access to the child's service, medical, and mental health history; tools for supervisory and management casework review; and improved data interpretation and accuracy of management reports.

Additionally, the development and implementation of the Family Assessment in Release 2 of FSFN will improve and implement risk and safety assessment tools and protocols thereby enhancing the general child protective system.

Developing, Strengthening, and Facilitating Training

The Department contracts with Florida International University (FIU) to develop and maintain Florida's pre-service curriculum. The current curriculum was implemented on January 1, 2007. The design of the curriculum encompasses all 148 core competencies presented to the Florida Legislature, as required by s. 402.40, F.S. The sequencing of the curriculum was established through instructional design concepts, based on proven elements of adult learning theory. Pre-service training on the legal requirements for removal and placement provide new case managers instruction on placing children in close proximity to their removal caregivers.

Standardization of delivery is encouraged, but trainers are allowed to change the sequence of delivery, augmenting the prescribed format to include specific information pertinent to the local system of care. Trainers cannot offer a different curriculum, as s. 402.40, F.S. prescribes a "single integrated curriculum." Trainers can however enhance curriculum content by utilizing actual case and/or agency specific document(s) during trainings to increase the skill-set and knowledge base of their respective trainees.

The Department, through its contracted providers (Community-Based Care agency employees), delivers training to current and prospective foster parents, adoptive parents, and staff of state licensed or approved facilities that care for children receiving foster care or adoption assistance under Title IV-E. Training addresses the skills and knowledge base needed to carry out their duties with regard to foster and adopted children.

The Supreme Court Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court recognized the confusion encountered by many parents in the dependency court system. The committee, with the assistance of staff from the Office of the State Courts Administrator, has created a video, *A Family Guide to Dependency Court*, which aims to explain the court process. At twelve minutes in length, the video concisely outlines the complex dependency court process for parents involved in the system. The video may also be a useful tool to other child welfare professionals who are not as familiar with the court process as they would like to be. DVD copies have been distributed to courthouses throughout the state. Copies have been shared with Department and lead agency staff, and Guardian ad Litem staff as well. The video is available for online viewing at http://www.flcourts.org/gen_public/family/videos.shtml.

The Office of Court Improvement provides judges and magistrates with a benchbook that addresses dependency issues and gives statutory references to these procedures, among others. The benchbook was updated and greatly enhanced in 2007.

Developing and facilitating research-based strategies for training individuals mandated to report child abuse or neglect

The Department of Children and Families, Child Care Services Program Office, is statutorily responsible for the administration of child care licensing and training throughout Florida. The purpose of this program is to ensure that children are well cared for in a safe, healthy, positive and educational environment by trained, qualified child care staff.

This program currently regulates licensed child care facilities, licensed family day care homes, licensed large family child care homes, and licensed mildly specialized facilities for the care of mildly ill children in 60 of the 67 counties in Florida. In addition, the child care services program office administers the registration of family day care homes not required to be licensed.

Child care personnel must begin training by commencing coursework within 90 days of employment in the child care industry. The introductory Child Care training is divided into two parts. Part I requires 30-clock hours which includes the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Annual in-service

training requirements include child abuse, working with children with disabilities and community, health and social service resources.

Developing and delivering information to improve public education relating to the role and responsibilities of the child protection system and the nature and basis for reporting suspected incidents of child abuse and neglect.

During this reporting period, the Florida Abuse Hotline updated information regarding the requirements for mandatory reporting. The revisions are available to the public and mandatory reporters through the Department's web-site.

Supporting and enhancing collaboration between agencies to address the health needs, including mental health needs, of children identified as abused or neglected.

In many areas, the Lead Agency is working with various subcontractors and foster care providers to establish a network of local providers who are Board Certified and accept Medicaid for payment to perform the medical screenings.

The system established by OurKids, Inc., the CBC Lead Agency in Dade and Monroe counties, is a good example of current practice. On January 2, 2007, OurKids, Inc. began tracking all of the initial medical screenings through the Medical Team Support Staff. Thirty day Comprehensive Medical Examinations have been tracked for children in foster care as of July 1, 2007 by their Nurse Case Manager. This practice was incorporated into the system of care in order to ensure that the medical and physical health of the children is consistently met.

Our Kids, Inc. has begun to build a new system of medical care with recommendations from their stakeholders. Based on responses to a poll of recommended pediatricians, Our Kids have established a network list of providers. These physicians not only complete the initial screening, but can also serve as "medical home" providers for the child. As "medical home" providers, they ensure ongoing comprehensive primary care until permanency is established, and beyond, if desired. These physicians have been strongly committed to children in foster care throughout their careers.

ChildNet, the Community-Based Care Agency serving Broward County, has within its organizational structure a Medical Intake Placement Advocate person who performs functions vital to accessing health care for children. The staff member is responsible for scheduling and arranging all medical and health screenings for every new client that comes into care. ChildNet coordinates with Colonial Health Services for the provision of a 7-day-a-week prescription fill and home delivery of medication service for our children. ChildNet also continues to work closely with Broward's North Hospital District for a dental screening and

check-up program and with Nova Southeastern University for a vision program that provides free eye screenings and visits to a pediatric optometrist where medically indicated. ChildNet proudly cites its creation of The William Dandy Clinic, a "one stop shop" medical center for children in care. The Clinic was established through a partnership with Children's Medical Services, the North Broward Hospital District, and the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida.

The Department has addressed the process of ensuring that children placed in the custody of relative and non-relative caregivers are quickly enrolled in Medicaid in order to fully access the needed services. One promising practice recently begun by Hillsborough Kids, Inc, the lead agency serving Hillsborough County Florida, is the development of the Relative Caregiver Resource Specialists. This individual works with the Child Protective Investigators (CPIs). When a CPI places a child in shelter with a relative, the specialist, through home visits and wireless internet, assists the family in an immediate application for Medicaid. This process facilitates rapid access to Medicaid services such as the Child Health Check-up and the Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment.

For children who are not Medicaid eligible to receive mental health and medical services, Title IV-E Waiver funds or general revenue funds can be accessed.

Florida's legislature requires the Department's mental health program to serve at risk children and children who are emotionally disturbed. Title XXI (KidCare Program) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) programs provide alcohol, drug abuse and mental health services. The KidCare Program enables children of parents without health coverage to receive medical and mental health care at a minimum cost.

Within the last year, the Medicaid funded Child Welfare Prepaid Mental Health Plan (CWPMHP) has been implemented. This plan places most children served by the Department into a statewide behavioral health prepaid plan, which is required to provide all medically necessary behavioral health services as listed in the Medicaid Community Behavioral Health Services and Limitations Handbook. This plan will ensure that the children served by the Florida child welfare system receive the mental health services they need.

Part C

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) has a significant requirement for States to have provisions and procedures for the referral of children under the age of three who are involved in substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect to early intervention services under Part C of the IDEA [42 U.S.C. 5106a, Sec. 106 (b)(2)(A)(xxi)]. Florida has defined "substantiated" as any case with verified findings of child abuse or neglect.

A CAPTA workgroup was developed in the Summer of 2006 to address and implement federal requirements. Representatives from the Department of Children and Families, Offices of Family Safety, Children's Mental Health, Substance Abuse and the Department of Health's offices of Children's Medical Services, Maternal and Child Health, Prevention and Intervention and Early Steps along with Florida Head Start and the Florida Center for Prevention and Intervention and Infant Mental Health have worked diligently to draft an interagency agreement regarding referrals to the Early Steps program. The early intervention services funded through Part C are provided by the Department of Health. Continuing discussion occurred about ensuring all children that should be referred for screening, are in fact, referred and received any services indicated by the screening. The Early Steps program is designed to ensure that children under the age of three who are involved in substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect and are potentially eligible for early intervention services are referred to the local Early Steps office within their region when warranted. A process to include Child Protective Investigators, Sheriff's Protective Investigators, Community Based Care Lead Agencies and Local Early Steps is expected regarding the referral procedures for early intervention services provided through the Part C system under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Discussions center on children from birth to thirty-six months who have been determined to be victims of "substantiated cases of child abuse or neglect", as defined by the Florida Office of Family Safety who will be referred to Early Steps according to the following criteria:

1. Children who will remain in their parents' or legal guardian's home **without a referral to a Community Based Care lead agency for services** will be referred to Early Steps by the Protective Investigator handling that case;
2. Children who will remain in their parents' or legal guardian's home and are **referred to a CBC lead agency for services**, may also be referred to Early Steps by the CBC lead agency child welfare case worker if the following criteria is met:

A referral to Early Steps will occur during the child welfare case plan development process when there is an indication that the child may have an established condition or developmental delay. The CBC lead agency will follow up to determine if the child has been found eligible for Part C services and will support the participation of eligible children's families in Early Steps. This support may include the following:

- Assistance with transportation if necessary
- Provision of written information about Early Steps
- Follow-up with the family and encouragement about child's participation in Early Steps.

3. Children who are being **placed into shelter care for referral to a lead agency for out-of-home care placement** will receive an initial assessment during the child welfare case plan development process and may be referred to Early Steps in accordance with the following criteria:
 - a. Children who **are not referred** for a Medicaid Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment will be referred to Early Steps by the child welfare case worker during the case plan development process for the child.
 - b. Children who **are referred** for a Medicaid Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment will also be referred to Early Steps by the CBC child welfare case worker if the child's comprehensive behavioral health assessment flags the child as potentially having a developmental delay or an established condition.

The local Early Steps will screen or evaluate all children referred by the DCF or its contracted agencies. When a child is referred to Early Steps from a child welfare case worker, the information on the outcome of the child's screening or evaluation and any recommended services on the child's individualized family support plan will be forwarded by the Early Steps service coordinator to the lead agency for consideration in development of the child's case plan. Local agreements between the local Early Steps and the lead agency will establish how this information exchange will take place.

B. Collaboration

The Office of Adoption and Child Protection

The 2007 Legislature created the Office of Adoption and Child Protection in the Governor's Office and assigned much of the same responsibilities the Task Force had undertaken in development and implementation of Florida's State Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Abandonment, and Neglect: July 2005 through June 2010. In addition, the 2007 Legislature created the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet charged with developing and implementing a "shared and cohesive vision using integrated services to improve child, youth and family outcomes..."

Florida's collaborative efforts in the prevention of child abuse and neglect previously supported by the Inter-program Prevention Task Force will continue to work collaboratively with the Governor's Office for Adoption and Child Protection. As mentioned, the Office of Adoption and Child Protection is to establish a Child

Abuse Prevention Advisory Council comprised of representatives from each state agency and appropriate local agencies, and organizations to serve as the research arm of the office. Additionally, the Advisory Council will assist in the development of an action plan for better coordination and integration of the goals, activities and funding pertaining to the prevention of child abuse, abandonment and neglect conducted by the office. The Inter-Program Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention's final progress report on the goals and objectives of the Plan will aid the Advisory Council as it assumes responsibilities for child abuse prevention planning at the state level.

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Program (CBCAP) grant award

Florida received a 2005 Federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Program (CBCAP) grant award of \$1,447,186 based on Florida's child population and matching funds through the state's Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund. As of September 30, 2007, the 2005 grant period expired. Close to \$1 million of the allocated 2007 funds supports continuation of six programs and a continuing contract with the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, Inc. for activities related to the annual child abuse prevention campaign.

The Department contracts with a set of core programs for services to complement the existing network of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention programs. The former Inter-Program Task Force supported continued provision of these contracted resources for families in communities across the state.

While child abuse prevention and family support programs administered under the CBCAP funds focus on the provision of support and services to promote positive parenting and healthy family functioning and family self-sufficiency, a variety of service models are funded including family resource centers, school/community partnerships, intensive home visiting, and school-based prevention and services for children. Statewide and regional projects focus on public awareness and community education initiatives, training for professionals, and support of statewide resources for family violence prevention. During the report period, funded programs provided direct services to over 10,000 children, caregivers, and other family members. Child abuse and family violence prevention education efforts and training reached over 7,500 children, parents, community members and professionals. Florida funds community-based services that target child abuse and neglect prevention statewide that address the needs of our multi-ethnic and multi-cultural state population.

As previously discussed, representatives from the Department of Children and Families, Office of Family Safety and the Department of Health, Children's Medical Services and Early Steps have worked diligently to draft an interagency agreement regarding referrals to the Early Steps program.

The Office of Court Improvement

The Court Improvement Program institutionalized local court meetings between the Department, its stakeholders and the courts. This collaboration began over 10 years ago, as a process specific to local dependency court improvement. Following a 2001 Supreme Court opinion related to Florida's family courts, many circuits have incorporated these meetings under their Family Law Advisory Group (FLAG). This allows the issues pertaining to abused and neglected children to be considered in a more holistic and comprehensive manner. Such practices have resulted in improved communications and better handling of cases by family court judges, child welfare administrators and others involved in the dependency process. Part of the ongoing rule revision project includes rules and collaboration extensively with community partners and stakeholders in public workshops and hearings. Florida's rule promulgation process strongly encourages public input.

The Department continues to partner with the Office of Court Improvement to plan and conduct statewide conferences that include workshops on multiple aspects of the case planning process. These workshops are attended by many different types of professionals from the child welfare system. Examples of professionals include parents' attorneys, judges, case workers, clerks and service providers.

The Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, the Secretaries of the Department of Children and Families, Juvenile Justice, Health, Agency for Health Care Administration and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities have partnered on the Chief Justice's mental health initiative. This initiative is being directed by Miami-Dade County Judge Steven Leifman. Judge Leifman has extensive expertise in mental health issues in the justice system. The mental health initiative addresses issues specific to children in the child welfare system. In addition, the Supreme Court Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court was charged with addressing the mental health needs of children involved in all of Florida's family courts. Reports and recommendations from both of these initiatives are due to the Florida Supreme Court on June 30, 2008.

Child Death

In 2006, there was a substantial increase in the number of Florida child abuse deaths from the previous year. Ninety-five were verified in 2005 and 171 in 2006. The State Committee believes that the increase may be attributed to more accurate reporting of child fatalities to the Florida Abuse Hotline. The State Committee, in conjunction with other agencies such as, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Department of Health, Department of Children and Families, and Healthy Families Florida provided training throughout the State to increase awareness on mandated reporting. Cases examples include, but not limited too: murder suicides; traffic crashes that resulted in a child's death where the caretaker was neglectful or impaired by substances; deaths that involved

drugs (legal and illegal) and/or alcohol in the home where the caretaker was impaired; and drowning deaths, which were a result of children being inadequately supervised.

C. Program Support

Florida's child abuse and neglect prevention efforts were strengthened when selected members of the multi-disciplinary task force were selected to participate in a specialized workshop to implement a state project under the guidance of the PREVENT Institute. Sessions at the Institute provided guidance and technical information that will assist the team in completing the project. The team is receiving active support through 2007 from national experts. This project will contribute valuable information to the Office of Prevention and providers statewide as it will identify available prevention programs and gaps in services. The Team, including members from the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, The Florida Coalition for Children and Families, and the Ounce of Prevention work towards development of a system to define and describe the continuum of programs that are designed to prevent child maltreatment.

All districts have a local Child Abuse, Abandonment and Neglect Prevention Plan. Objectives in local plans are related to 86% of the objectives in the statewide plan.

CAPTA REFERRAL FOR EARLY STEPS



Referring Agency/Individual

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Date/Time of Referral: _____

SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (to be completed by the child welfare case worker)

Child's Name: _____ SSN: _____ Date of initial contact: _____

Address: _____

Child's Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Sex Male Female DCF District/Region: _____

CPI/Child Welfare Staff: _____ Phone Number: _____

Child's Pediatrician/Primary care Physician: _____ Phone number: _____

Contracted Agency: _____ Fax Number: _____

Primary Language spoken in the child's Home _____

Consent was obtained from the parent/guardian: for referral YES NO Date: _____

If yes, name of person consenting: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

If no, please explain: _____

SECTION 2: Reason for Referral

Signature of Referring individual / Date _____

Comments of individual providing consent: _____

_____ Date _____

Signature of individual providing consent for referral _____ Date _____

Medicaid Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment referred for: YES NO Date of referral: _____
mm/dd/yyyy

*if the child's comprehensive behavioral health assessment flags the child as potentially having a developmental delay or an established condition attach a copy of the CBHA.

FSP 5322

Chapter 6

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Education and Training Vouchers (ETV)

A. Service Description

While the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) is in place to help ensure that young people involved in the foster care system get the tools they need to make the most of their lives, Florida continues to strengthen services for young adults exiting foster care at age 18. The program by design is to assist youth to transition to self-sufficiency. They may have opportunities for additional education or training, housing assistance, counseling and other services. Florida is utilizing the Medicaid option by providing Medicaid coverage to all young adults exiting out of foster care until his or her 21st birthday. Current practices have resulted in a steady improvement, over the last three years, in the number of youth aging out of Florida's foster care system with an appropriate permanency plan.

Florida has designed an array of services to support older foster youth and former foster youth with the goal that these youth become independent self-supporting young adults. These services are funded through a web of federal grants, general revenue dollars, and national, state and community private funds.

Throughout the state of Florida, there have been increased supports for having youth representation at the table. Secretary Butterworth has been a leader and standard bearer for this philosophy and is setting the example of youth representation at the table through their inclusion in a number of task groups and teams organized by the Department.

Based on eligibility, young adults exiting foster care in Florida may now receive services until age 23 and this includes an "open door" policy where young adults after reaching age 18 may receive services for a period and return for additional services if needed after initial termination. One significant service for this group is the Road to Independence Program, which requires full-time attendance in secondary or postsecondary education and provides a financial award based on the living and educational costs of each participant. Other services such as After Care Support and Transitional Support Services do not require school attendance once determined eligible based on need. Aftercare Support provides services, which assist young adults who were formerly in foster care in their efforts to continue to develop the skills and abilities necessary for independent living. Skills and abilities include but are not limited

to mentoring and tutoring, mental health services and substance abuse counseling, life skills classes, (including credit management and preventive health activities), parenting classes, job and career skills training, counselor consultations, temporary financial assistance, and financial literacy skills training. Transitional Support provides services to young adults who have a plan for self-sufficiency and includes financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, mental health, disability, and other services. These transitional support services may continue only as long as the young adult demonstrates that the services are critical to his or her efforts for self-sufficiency.

Another promising practice is the increasing awareness of the importance of the youth's perspective in child welfare decision making. Youth themselves have made the most progress in "teaching" child welfare staff and managers about the benefits of inclusion and engagement of youth. An example is the active group of youth formerly in foster care known as Youth SHINE. They have provided effective advocacy for children in foster care in multiple settings. A recent publication, "Rights and Expectations for Children and Youth in Shelter or Foster Care" includes a message from the Secretary of the Department of Children and Families. This publication highlights practices to help youth develop relationships and play an active role in making decisions for themselves.

Program Design

Chafee Program mandates are contained in Section 409.1451(1-3), F.S. In addition to Florida law, DCF references the federal policy documents, best practice materials, and consultation with stakeholders and the National Resource Center for Youth Development to implement the Chafee program.

Florida's Youth Ages 13-17

Current program as specified in Florida law for Youth Ages 13-17 includes:

- Assessments
- Service array of life skills classes, educational support, employment training, counseling and support services
- Educational and career goal setting starting at age 13
- Annual independent living staffings for youth age 13 –14 (Specifies youth involvement)
- Independent living staffings every six months for youth age 15-17 (Specifies youth involvement)
- Special judicial review specific to transition within 90 days after the 17th birthday and at 17 years 6 months
- Removal of the age of disability before the age of 18 in order to open a bank account
- Expansion of Medicaid benefits to all youth exiting licensed care until age 21

Additional program activities included during the reporting period included:

- Training conference for youth;
- Operation Full Employment to hire youth from foster care in various positions within the agency;

- Internship and apprenticeship activities for youth in foster care and formerly in foster care;
- Creation of a “Special Project Coordinator” to design a statewide job-readiness program database for young adults formerly in foster care to facilitate employment opportunities; and
- Distribution of the “Florida Rights and Expectation” brochure to advise youth in care of their rights.

Future program initiatives for youth ages 13-17 include:

- Continued collaboration with the Independent Living Advisory Council made up of representatives from a variety of agencies including workforce, education, child advocates, foster parents and youth. This board serves to strengthen independent living services in Florida.
- Provide assistance to youth as they prepare and enter post-secondary training and educational institutions.
- Conduct the Independent Living Survey annually; and,
- Implement *The Florida Youth Leadership Academy*.

Florida’s Young Adults 18-22

Current program as specified in Florida law for Young Adults 18-22 includes:

- The Road to Independence Program
- Transitional Support Services
- Aftercare Support Services
- Tuition and fee exemptions
- Medicaid for youth exiting foster care until age 21.
- Extended court jurisdiction until age 19 for youth that submit a petition to the court
- Youth exiting foster care are eligible to remain in their foster homes or another licensed home arranged by the department after reaching age 18
- Requires the department to advertise the Road To Independence program to specific parties including the youth in care and those involved in education and guidance
- Florida in coordination with Florida’s Children First! created a pamphlet on Independent Living services in the state of Florida in an easy to read format to ensure the adults were aware of services and their rights.
- Case management services as requested.

Additional program activities included during the reporting period included:

- Assistance in locating and applying for other scholarships and grants
- Coaching and guidance

Future program initiatives for Young Adults 18-22 include for the implementation of legislation that removes disability of nonage for youth in foster care for the purpose of leasing residential property or setting up utilities prior to reaching age 18.

Educational and Training Vouchers Program (ETV)

The Educational and Training Vouchers Program (ETV) is a program for youth defined as aging out of foster care. ETV provides resources specifically to meet the education and training needs of youth aging out of foster care. Funding is used to support post secondary educational and training for youth as they transition to adulthood after the age of 18. This program makes available vouchers of up to \$5,000 per year per youth for post secondary education and training for eligible youth. The Florida Department of Children and Families is responsible to administer and works in collaboration with other entities to provide this program to designated youth. Florida remains committed to strengthening its post-secondary educational assistance program efforts to achieve the purpose of the ETV program. Progress towards improved outcomes and a more comprehensive, coordinated, effective child and family services continuum is evident in the strategies in place. The Education Training Vouchers (ETV) funds are primarily used to fund the Road to Independence Program. The Road to Independence (RTI) program is available to eligible students formerly in foster care to provide support for them to attain education and vocational training to achieve independence. The monthly award is based on the living and educational needs of the young adult with a maximum award based on federal minimum wage. Although, the RTI monthly stipend is available to high school students who have aged out of foster care, ETV funds only funds the stipend provided to students in post secondary education. Florida statutes now allow foster youth exiting foster care after the age of 16 by adoption or permanent guardianship to be eligible for the Road to Independence Program.

Specific Accomplishments

Governor Crist, Secretary Butterworth and legislators from both sides of the aisle have been staunch supporters of the focus on Independent Living Services for youth in foster care and those young adults formerly in foster care. Through their leadership and support, the following accomplishments have occurred in the past year.

Florida has recorded an increase in the number of young adults participating in services after reaching age 18. These services are available to young adults requesting support in their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and assist the youth in their transition and preparing them for educational and career training once they reach adulthood. The Road to Independence stipend is also available to individuals adopted or placed with a permanent guardian from foster care after the age of 16.

Plans for a Florida Youth Leadership Academy began during the reporting period. The Academy is a new program designed to build youth leaders by providing skills training and an opportunity to partner with an adult sponsor who is a graduate of the Child Welfare Leadership Academy. The program design calls for twenty young adults involved with the Department to participate in a nine-month training program in order to facilitate development of their leadership skills as they meet at least monthly with their mentor. The Inaugural class has been selected and is completing the modules required for a certificate to be awarded in August 2008. This program is jointly sponsored by

DCF, Connected by 25, Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and the Child Welfare Leadership Program Alumni Association.

The two federally recognized American Indian tribes located Florida, the Seminole and the Miccosukee, were notified of the planning for the development of the 2005-2009 Chafee State Plan but were not in attendance. A third tribe, the Poarch Band of Creek, located in southern Alabama but with many members residing in Florida, were also notified. The three tribes have also been appointed to the Independent Living Advisory Council by the Secretary of the Department, but have not yet been in attendance for any of the meetings. Through the on-going efforts of the Department's Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Specialist, it is hoped that in the near future the tribes will be in participation for many of these events and take advantage of available services.

Because of the high visibility of the independent living and the foster care programs, more and more stakeholders are aware of the needs of teens in foster care and youth transitioning out of the foster care system. These stakeholders are powerful voices to require individualized case plans and service delivery to teens to best meet their needs. Secretary Butterworth has actively engaged the private philanthropic community by adopting a set of values that invite private partners to the table and values their input. He has reached out to the community with a commitment to transparency and openness at finding new and improved ways of doing business.

The Independent Living Services Advisory Council is a legislatively mandated group of interested and committed volunteers that advises the Legislature as well as the Department on the status of independent living services in the state. The group has successfully collaborated in the development of proposed service delivery measures for the population of children age 13-17 in foster care and youth transitioning out of foster care. The Department amended administrative rule language in 2006 to address foster children's needs to live more normal lives while in care and provided direction for case management to encourage "normalcy." The Department supported legislation waiving the age requirement for foster youth desiring to open a bank account, and making it easier for youth to get a driver's permit and license as well as extending Medicaid to age 21. These efforts demonstrate the Department's commitment to raising awareness about transitioning youth issues and to educate foster parents, youth, and providers about available resources.

Legislation passed in the 2007 session included the following changes in independent living services:

- Expanding eligibility population for the Road to Independence. Florida statutes now allow foster youth exiting foster care after the age of 16 by adoption or permanent guardianship to be eligible for the Road to Independence program.
- Program Requirement for formal evaluations for Subsidized Independent Living for eligible youth
- Removing Casework Liability for Drivers Licenses for Youth in Foster Care

- Expanding Medicaid Eligibility to age 21 and expanding the population
- Removal of the disabilities of nonage of minors for depository financial services.

There was also the creation of a subcommittee focused on independent living under the Florida Supreme Court Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court.

Florida has increased the total number of stipend recipients to approximately 1,500 monthly. Although these numbers do not reflect just those receiving ETV funds, it does show a rise in the number of students receiving the RTI stipend. ETV funds are also available to part time students enrolled in post-secondary education.

Planned activities

The Child Welfare Leadership Program (CWLP) and Connected by 25 (Cby25) are partnering to create a Youth Leadership Academy for children in care. Connected by 25 is a community initiative that engages youth, public/private partners, and policy makers to improve outcomes for foster youth through investments in services and programs. Their mission is to ensure that foster care youth are educated, housed, banked, employed and connected to a support system by age 25.) A critical element of the Youth Leadership Program design has been to obtain the expertise and input of the youth in foster care and youth formerly in foster care.

Similar to the youth participation in the Florida CFSR, youth will be involved in the development of the Performance Improvement Plan (PIP).

As part of the development of the outcome measures for the Community-Based Care Lead Agencies, the Department has implemented the “Independent Living Transitional Services Critical Checklist” (available at: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/indliving/>) in coordination with the Independent Living Services Advisory Council (ILSAC). In partnership with the Community-Based Care agencies, the Department has collected data on youth skills and development for youths in foster care, ages 13 through 17, and young adults formerly in foster care, ages 18 through 22, in the areas of:

- Life Skills
- Housing
- Education
- Employment
- Department of Correction or Juvenile Justice
- Case Plan, Aftercare, and Transitional Services

This collection of data was an unprecedented achievement. Over 6,700 surveys were completed and the data were collected for an analysis at a statewide and Community-Based Care lead agency level. For youths in foster care, ages 13 through 17, 4,014 eligible youths were surveyed. Of young adults formerly in foster care, ages 18 through

22 , 2,672 eligible young adults were surveyed. A higher return rate was received from those still receiving services.

The Department intends for the Independent Living Survey to be conducted annually to collect data on progress and outcomes for the Department and Community-Based Care providers. As this is the first year for the survey, the results will be the baseline data for the outcome measures the Department will develop and use in subsequent years to evaluate the performance of the lead agencies.

B. Collaboration

Service Collaboration Activities

Independent Living Services Advisory Council

Mandated by Florida Statute, the Independent Living Services Advisory Council consists of representatives from a wide variety of agencies and organizations. Representation includes Department of Education, Agency for Workforce Innovation, Florida Network for Youth, Department of Juvenile Justice, the Office of Homelessness, Housing Authority, DCF, youth, foster parents, business community, Guardian ad Litem, providers of transitional living services, foster parents, and other child advocacy organizations.

The purpose of the council has been to assess the independent living program and services and make recommendations to the Department and the legislature for change. Rather than operating as a part of the department this council's leadership has come from outside the department and created the independent group specified in law that is committed to improving services for adolescents in foster care.

The advisory council has been in existence in some form since October of 2002. This has created an environment in which the department has been able to collaborate and maintain contacts with people from other agencies. Central Office staff has been involved in workgroups with workforce organizations, children, and adult mental health groups.

Statewide Interagency Agreement

In March 2007, the Department engaged in a working statewide interagency agreement with Agency for Workforce Innovation and Department of Education. Please refer to the Attachment entitled: *Agreement among the Florida Department of Children and Families and the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation*. These collaborations are designed to improve services to youth. The State of Florida is also a participant of the Department of Labor's Shared Youth Vision. The Department is a committee member of the statewide board.

Future Collaborative Activities

- In February 2008, the statewide Independent Coordinator Meeting convened in conjunction with the Agency for Workforce Innovation, Workforce Florida, and

Florida's Regional Workforce Boards. Efforts will continue for scheduling the statewide Independent Coordinator Meetings in conjunction with the Agency for Workforce Innovation, Workforce Florida, and Florida's Regional Workforce Boards.

- Continue the collaborations mentioned above.
- Continue to support the work of the Independent Living Services Advisory Council. Meetings are planned every other month.

C. Program Support

Florida continues to promote the development and maintenance of relationships between foster teens and adults. This continues to be an area that can be improved. Several of the local Independent Living programs have instituted mentoring programs. Some examples are career mentoring, youth mentoring and established mentoring programs such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Youth are also encouraged to participate in extra-curricular and community activities placing them in situations to meet people and develop relationships.

Deliberate efforts need to be included in case planning and services to provide children in foster care with opportunities to meet people and develop positive and lasting relationships.

Training Activities

The Department continues to facilitate quarterly leadership meetings for statewide independent living staff. These leadership meetings include trainings on assisting youth with transition to adulthood, statewide resource availability, immigration issues, proposed bill updates, life skills assessments (Daniel Memorial and Ansell-Casey), needs assessment, services manual training, budget issues and other topics. Also discussed during these meetings were programmatic training and issue clarification and implementation of new statutory revisions. During these meetings discussions focus on best practices and ideas for assisting youth in developing and maintaining long term relationships.

In January 2007, the Family Safety Program Office arranged for the National Resource Center for Youth Development to provide a training session for staff providing independent living services to youth age 13 through 17 on "Creative Life Skills." Creative Life Skills Training prepares staff to design and implement both individual and group life skills training for youth. The training includes practical and innovative approaches for teaching life skills. Each session is two days in length and requires active participation on the part of the trainee.

During the training participants learn how to:

- Use existing resources, including those on the Casey Foundation web site (caseylifeskills.org) to structure individual and group life skill sessions,
- Create a climate that motivates youth to learn,
- Identify an individual's preferred learning style

- Match activities and teaching methods to learning styles,
- Use a design formula to organize group activities,
- Document activities using a standardized format, and
- Use a variety of methods to teach life skills.

Two conferences conducted during the year; both addressing Independent Living Services, youth transitioning out of foster care and teen services best practices. The 2007 Dependency Summit sponsored by the Department (and a broad range of stakeholders) convened September 5-7, 2007 and the Florida Coalition Conference (FCC) Annual Conference was held November 14-16, 2007. Attendance at both of these conferences exceeded 2,000 participants and included a wide range of internal and external stakeholders of the child welfare system. Young adults currently in or formerly in foster care presented sessions in both of these conferences. Titles included the following:

Involvement of Foster Youth as Part of the Decision Making Process;
 “Like a Normal Kid” Improving the Outcomes for Youth in Foster Care
 Cby25; and,
 Independent Living Services; The Law, The Plan, The Youth, the Urgency
 Florida’s Children First and Youth SHINE.

Training occurred for independent living coordinators at three statewide sessions: February 26-28, June 6-7, and November 7-8, 2007. Presenters included the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, Connected by 25, Department of Education, Department of Juvenile Justice, advocate attorneys and various others. In addition, the Department conducted regional trainings for child welfare staff in May and November-December 2007. These training sessions provided one and one half days of training in five cities across Florida representing each of the five regions of the Department. Trainers were tapped from the law enforcement, legal advocacy, statewide providers and federally funded national resource centers. Issues impacting youth in the foster care system and exiting the foster care system were part of the agenda.

During the year, community-based care lead agency contract managers received training and technical assistance through conference calls and video teleconferences. Central office staff also provides on-site technical assistance to questions by telephone and email to service providers, community and other agencies.

The Department will continue its training efforts through the facilitation of quarterly leadership meetings; the provision of web-based information, training materials, and other documents; the provision of training and/or materials on revised administrative rule, as applicable; the provision of training and/or materials on statute revisions, and coordination of trainings through the National Resource Center for Youth Development.

Programmatic Oversight

For calendar year 2007, the Department’s oversight of the Independent Living Program was a two-part system. The Department’s Contract Oversight Unit was responsible for monitoring the compliance of Community-Based Care agencies with s. 409.1451, F.S.

and 65C-31, Florida Administrative Code. With the exception of OurKids of Miami-Dade/ Monroe, Inc. (Circuits 11 and 17) and ChildNet, Inc (Circuit 17), the Contract Oversight Unit conducted annual monitoring of the Independent Living Program in conjunction with the Quality Assurance Unit in an integrated review for fiscal year 2006-2007 (OurKids and ChildNet were monitored by an independent contractor as mandated under Chapter 2006-30, Laws of Florida). The Contract Oversight Unit selected youth eligible to receive Independent Living Services and young adults formerly in foster care who are receiving services and conducted a file review to determine that the requirements of Florida Statute and code were met.

Additionally during calendar year 2007, the Quality Assurance team monitored the compliance of Community-Based Care providers with Independent Living standards using a three tier review process. This process was used during the monitoring of the Community-Based Care agencies for the fiscal year of 2006- 2007. As part of the three tier system of Quality Assurance, Community-Based Care lead agencies were required to develop and implement a Quality Assurance Plan that was reviewed and approved by the Department. Each Quality Assurance Plan specifically identified Independent Living Services compliance standards in case reviews. At Tier 1, the Community-Based Care agencies reviewed a sample of cases, submitted quarterly data to the Department for analysis, and conducted an on-going review of quality improvement activities.

At the Tier 2, the Department of Children and Families was responsible for verification of content, reliability and effectiveness of the community-based care quality assurance plan and for monitoring of cases for compliance with state and federal standards. Please refer the attachment entitled: Report on Outcome Measures and Oversight Activities of the Independent Living Transition Services Program for details regarding the outcomes of the Department's programmatic monitoring of Independent Living.

The Family Safety Quality Assurance system used by the Department is currently under re-alignment and review, but will continue to require assessment of Independent Living services. The current quality assurance plan will require an integrated review of cases with Independent Living services requirements as part of the overall case reviews beginning in February 2008.

In accordance with Chapter 2006-30, Laws of Florida, a programmatic monitoring pilot has been established in the following communities: OurKids of Miami-Dade/ Monroe, Inc. (Circuits 11 and 17) and ChildNet, Inc (Circuit 17). Chapin Hall Center for Children, a research and development center of the University of Chicago is under contract through 2009 to provide programmatic monitoring. Chapin Hall's responsibilities are to: analyze and recommend new outcome measures and monitoring tools to best determine quality of performance of lead agencies, compare pilot performance to that of other lead agencies, and to report to state leaders and alliances.

During the reporting period, the Chapin Hall reports did not directly comment on the performance and compliance of OurKids of Miami-Dade/ Monroe, Inc. and ChildNet,

Inc. in regard to Independent Living services. The next report from Chapin Hall is expected to contain information on Independent Living compliance.

During the review period, an Independent Living Specialist was funded in the headquarters' Family Safety Program Office. Budget staff were available to provide assistance as needed. This staff person provides technical assistance and training to Community-Based Care lead agency Independent Living Coordinators. A one to two day training event is held each quarter, as financially feasible. On-site technical assistance visits are scheduled as requested and as staff resources are available. The Family Safety Program Office staff also provides technical assistance to the Contract Oversight Unit in the monitoring of the Community-Based Care lead agencies.

Program office staff collaborated with members of the Independent Living Advisory Services Council and other stakeholders to augment the capacity of the headquarters program office to provide best practice and policy training. Connected by 25, the Eckerd Family Foundation, and *Florida's Children First!* representatives along with federal representatives and staff from other state agencies have provided training and technical assistance to Community-Based Care lead agencies.

During the review period, the Office of Family Safety monitored the percentage of Chafee and Education Training Vouchers spent by each of the Community-Based Care lead agencies and are available to answer questions on a statewide and lead agency level in terms of fiscal expenditures, and the number of young adults formerly in foster care receiving payments using the Interim Child Welfare Services Information System (ICWSIS). Fiscal monitoring of the Community-Based Care lead agencies occurs and was provided by an independent contractor.

Independence Program Improvement Strategies

The Department continues its pledge and commitment towards fostering strengthened services for young adults exiting foster care at age 18 as evidenced in the implemented strategies listed below.

- ❖ Florida's Youth SHINE advocacy group made up of young adults formerly in foster care who advocate for improvements in the foster care system.
- ❖ The statewide office works with Connected by 25, whose mission is to connect youth in foster care with adults in their community by the age of 25. They are a partner agency for the Florida Youth Leadership Academy.
- ❖ Consultation with the National Resource Center for Youth Development for training and technical assistance in delivering life skills and developing outcome measures.
- ❖ Revision of the Florida "Independent Living Transitional Services Critical Checklist Survey" to determine if services are being provided.

- ❖ Creation of a “Special Project Coordinator” to design a statewide job-readiness program database for young adults formerly in foster care.

Plans for future enhancements include development of additional programs to provide assistance for youth to receive education, training and services necessary to obtain employment and the clarification of Florida statutes to ensure that youth in group homes also have a written plan for the child to engage in age appropriate activities. While the state is not in receipt of the final report from the January 2008 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), Florida is aware that a portion on the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) will need to focus on the engagement of youth in case planning and service delivery and that of ensuring the Tribes are aware and understand of how to access Chafee funding for youth.

Financial and Statistical Reporting requirements for the CFCIP and ETV funding can be found in Chapter 7. The CFS-101 Attachments depict the estimates and actual expenditures as required. For 2006, estimates are \$2,225,966 to be expended on room and board for eligible youth 18-20 years of age. The Actual expenditures were \$1,519,956. The difference was due to the decision by the Department to change funding to use more state funding for room and board for this population and shift the federal Chafee funds expenditures to other eligible Chafee services.

Additionally, in FFY 2008, there have been 252 youth who have received an award for the first time.

**AGREEMENT AMONG
THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
AND
THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND
THE FLORIDA AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION**

I. PURPOSE.

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Florida Department of Education (DOE), and the Florida Agency For Workforce Innovation (AWI); collectively known herein as the parties, in any combination thereof; enter into this Agreement under which data collected by DCF, DOE, and AWI regarding clients or students may be shared to meet various federal and state requirements, and to support the information sharing described in the broad interagency agreement signed by the parties July 11, 2005.

II. LIMITATION.

Until otherwise amended, this Agreement is intended to address data sharing for purposes related to the population of children and families involved with DCF child welfare services.

III. JUSTIFICATION.

The purpose of this Agreement is to ensure the secure exchange of confidential and other data necessary for the parties to comply with requirements of various federal and state requirements. Various federal and state mandates require DCF, DOE, and AWI to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, client and student outcomes, and other aspects of program and service performance for their clients and students. Among these are:

- Section 20.19, Florida Statutes, requires DCF to measure the performance of its key programs and services with outcome measures.
- P.L. 109-171, Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, requires states to collect information in support of work participation requirements.
- P.L.106-169, Foster Care Independence Act and section 409.1451, F. S., require reporting on outcome measures related to youth aging out of foster care.
- Pursuant to section 20.50, F.S., the AWI is charged with ensuring that the state appropriately administers federal and state workforce funding by administering plans and policies of Workforce Florida, Inc. Section 20.50, F.S. also provides that AWI is to administer other programs funded by federal or state appropriations assigned to it.
- The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) is the federal employment and training initiative designed to increase occupational skills, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the national economy.
- Under state and federal law, including but not limited to section 20.50, F.S., Chapter 445, F.S., and WIA, AWI has various obligations such as, but not limited to, data verification, measuring outcomes, tracking participation rates, accountability, and reporting.

Some performance measurement, specifically certain outcomes such as earnings, educational attainment, and work status for former foster children, is more efficiently achieved by using data collected and maintained by the other parties rather than redundantly collecting data.

- DOE maintains data regarding individuals' education and work histories in accordance with ss. 1008.385(2) and 1008.39, Florida Statutes, respectively. The Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP) is a data collection system under s. 1008.39, F.S. to provide follow-up data on former students and others.
- AWI maintains data regarding individuals' employment and salary histories in fulfillment of its duties and obligations pursuant to Chapter 445 and section 20.50, Florida Statutes.
- DCF maintains data relating to child welfare and child protection services in fulfillment of its duties and obligations pursuant to s. 20.19, F.S., Chapter 39, F.S, and Chapter 409, F.S., among other state and federal requirements.

THEREFORE, the parties enter into this Agreement in order to ensure efficient data sharing in a secure and confidential manner for mutually determined uses.

IV. PROVISION OF DATA.

- 1) The parties shall establish work orders that define and document relevant details about the data to be transferred or exchanged. Work orders will be developed in consultation among the affected parties, with review and signoff by affected parties' designees, and documented as attachments to this Agreement. The details of work order documentation shall include, but are not limited to:
 - a) The specific purpose(s) for which each party involved will use any resulting data.
 - b) One or more designated individuals to act on behalf of each party for the work order.
 - c) Time frames specifying date by when the work order will be executed, and dates during which it will be valid. Work orders will be expected to be implemented within 30 days of the date of request unless this time frame is changed by mutual agreement during negotiation by the parties involved.
 - d) Definitions and data structure of elements to be transferred, from the requesting and the receiving party(ies) as relevant.
 - e) Matching or selection criteria; specifically, time frames, as relevant.
 - f) Description of the mechanism for data transfer, such as FTP, tape, etc.
 - g) Retention schedule for resulting data.
 - h) Specific confidentiality and security arrangements for the exchange, including signing of confidentiality forms by individuals who will handle or access the data, and the written instructions to be provided to all staff regarding the provisions of this Agreement and the transfer, viewing, printing, accessing, or other use of data, as relevant. All parties shall identify relevant rules and regulations for each work order and inform the other party(ies) in order to achieve effective levels of security and confidentiality.
 - i) At all stages during matching and exchange processes, the parties shall maintain a record describing the data files in their custody and a list of the employees authorized to receive, print, display, or otherwise personally view the data file contents.

*Data Sharing Agreement
DCF, DOE, and AWI*

- j) Determination whether the exchange may invoke the protections of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and 42 C.F.R. Part II, and if so, appropriate mechanisms for identifying and recording uses of the data.
- 2) Data to be shared may be aggregate or may be at the individual client or student level. If the latter, the exchange may involve disclosure of basic demographic and service data, such as but not limited to: Social Security Number, gender, race, date of birth, name, date and type of service.
- 3) Data provided from DOE/FETPIP as a result of any work order under this Agreement may not be used for individually directed action toward a client or student.
- 4) Data to be shared, exchanged, or transferred by DCF may include information about children and families involved with the child welfare system, from data sources including but not limited to the HomeSafenet system or its successor(s). However, data sharing may not include the names of reporters of child abuse or neglect as deemed confidential under the provisions of s. 39.202, F.S.
- 5) Data to be shared, exchanged, or transferred by AWI may include employment and wage information, from data sources including but not limited to FETPIP. Notwithstanding the provisions in the Interagency Data Sharing Agreement executed between AWI and DCF on May 24, 2006, FETPIP is authorized to provide UC data received from AWI to DCF, and in return, DCF will provide AWI data regarding children age 14 and older in foster care.
- 6) Data to be shared, exchanged, or transferred by DOE will be defined in the work order process as discussed in Section IV, Paragraph 1, from data sources including but not limited to FETPIP and the K-20 Education Data Warehouse (EDW). Data that meets the definition of personally identifiable student records pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and s. 1002.22(2), F.S. is confidential and may not be disclosed by the DOE to AWI or DCF for the purposes of this agreement. However, DOE may provide student records in an aggregate form that does not personally identify individual students.
- 7) As documented in specific work orders, all data will be maintained in a secure manner in accordance with all appropriate federal and state requirements relating to privacy and confidentiality, including but not limited to:
 - Individually identifiable client or student information that must be treated, protected, and maintained in accordance with standards consistent with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and 42 Code of Federal Regulations, Part II.
 - Data that meets the definition of student record pursuant to the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and in particular 34 CFR 99.31(a)(3)(iv) and 99.35, and s. 1002.22(2), F. S.
 - Data which may imply an individual's status as a victim of abuse or neglect according to Chapter 39, F.S.
 - Information revealing an employing unit's or individual's identity obtained from the employing unit or any individual under the administration of the Unemployment

Compensation program, and any determination revealing that information, except to the extent necessary for the proper presentation of a claim or upon written authorization of the claimant who has a workers' compensation claim pending or is receiving compensation benefits pursuant to sections 443.171(5) and 443.1715, F.S. and 20 CFR 603.

- 5 U.S.C. section 552(a) (The Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93-579), and the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.
- 8) Any party shall immediately notify the other parties in writing in the event of any unauthorized use or disclosure of confidential information and assist in remedying such unauthorized use or disclosure, as requested by the party whose information has been disclosed (which shall not limit other remedies provided herein or by applicable law). In the event of a breach or threatened breach of confidentiality or security, the party whose confidential information has been disclosed or threatened, in addition to and not in limitation of any of the rights, remedies, or damages available to it at law or in equity, shall be entitled to a temporary or permanent injunction to prevent or restrain any such breach by the other party. The disclosing entity shall bear the costs of remedies or damages as a result of disclosure.

V. AUTHORIZATION.

The parties acknowledge to each other that they have adequate legal authority to perform this Agreement, including but not limited to the authority to use or disclose information contemplated by this Agreement to each other in the performance of their respective duties and responsibilities required by law.

VI. PROGRAM RECORDS: SECURITY, PRIVACY RIGHTS, AND PUBLIC ACCESS.

The parties acknowledge that the performance of this Agreement involves a process in which pre-existing records maintained by each agency for purposes other than the K-20 Education Data Warehouse and FETPIP will be shared and electronically matched to create new records needed to carry out the purposes of the Agreement. All parties further acknowledge their separate obligation to perform this Agreement in compliance with the requirements of 5 U.S.C. section 552(a) (The Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93-579), the Florida Public Records Law, Chapter 119, F.S., and with other applicable statutes that constitute express exceptions to public disclosure of information under Chapter 119, F.S., establishing rights or duties of confidentiality, privacy, and nondisclosure. To fulfill these obligations and all other applicable rules and regulations, the parties agree as follows:

1. As to pre-existing records, each agency will continue to manage its respective pre-existing records in conformance with applicable statutes regarding nondisclosure, privacy, and confidentiality governing such pre-existing records.
2. Computer files exchanged by the parties contain individually identifiable and confidential information. Therefore, the following provisions shall apply:

- (a) If the electronic process described in the specific work order under which files are exchanged does not require personnel to print, display, or otherwise personally view the contents of the file, the personnel shall refrain from doing so.
 - (b) If the electronic process described in the specific work order under which files are exchanged requires personnel to print, display, or otherwise personally view the contents of the file (for example, to avoid or correct a malfunction of the matching process), the personnel shall do so in a manner that prevents viewing or other disclosures of the data file contents in whatever form whether printed, displayed, or otherwise viewed, by persons not involved in the matching process.
 - (c) When any individually identifiable information that is exchanged between or among the parties exceeds the retention schedule determined in each work order, all information that is personally identifiable as to client, student, or other individual shall be destroyed and shall not be retained by either party in any form. The parties shall notify one another of its destruction.
3. Each computer file exchanged by the parties containing individually identifiable information, and each hard copy of such information, shall be stored in a secure location, for example a locked desk or file cabinet, except when in use for the purposes for which it was provided. Automated records shall be stored in secured computer facilities with strict ADP controls, protecting and restricting access to individually identifiable data to those with access authorization. If any party transmits by file transfer protocol (“FTP”) any confidential information to another pursuant to this Agreement, said party transmitting the confidential information shall ensure that the authorization for access to the information by the recipient(s) is encrypted.
4. The parties agree that data obtained under the terms of this Agreement are confidential and will be used only to the extent necessary to assist in valid administrative needs, and shall not be disclosed either verbally or in writing for any purpose not specifically authorized in this Agreement or work orders appended thereto. The parties agree to safeguard access to the data in such a way that unauthorized persons cannot review or retrieve the information; that precautions shall be taken to ensure that only authorized personnel who have a recognized need to know are given access; and to take appropriate action to prevent access to the data by a previously authorized individual when such individual ceases to have authorization. The parties shall instruct authorized personnel regarding confidentiality, security, and the requirements of this Agreement as appropriate to any work orders developed pursuant to section IV.
5. None of the parties will use the shared data for purposes that might constitute research in the meaning of 45 C.F.R. 46 (the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) regulations governing human subjects protection) without receiving the agreement of the other party(ies) and completing all appropriate Institutional Review Board processes and approvals prior to such use.

VII. TIME FRAME.

This Agreement shall begin upon signing by all parties and remain in effect for up to ten years from the date of signing by all parties, or until terminated by any party without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice. This agreement may be renewed for up to an additional ten year period upon agreement by all parties. Any party may, by no less than twenty-four (24) hours written notice to the other parties, terminate this Agreement upon material breach of this Agreement. Notice of termination shall be delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in person with proof of delivery.

Continuation of the Agreement shall be contingent upon the satisfaction of all parties to the Agreement and the understanding that the exchanges will be continued without substantive change unless the Agreement is amended. The parties agree to conduct an annual review of the terms of this Agreement and the status of those work orders initiated during the review period to assess the satisfaction of the parties, compliance with the terms of the Agreement and individual work orders, identify and discuss issues, and determine whether the Agreement requires amendment.

VIII. ADDITIONAL TERMS AND AMENDMENT.

1. This Agreement supersedes the Agreement signed between DOE and DCF on March 9, 2006, with the intent that the data exchange covered by that Agreement will be allowable under this replacement Agreement as defined by a work order (subject to any restrictions specified elsewhere in this Agreement).
2. This Agreement includes prior negotiations, interpretations, and understandings between the parties, and is the full expression of their Agreement with respect to data sharing as described herein.
3. This Agreement may be subsequently amended by written Agreement among the parties. Any change, alteration, deletion, or addition to the terms set forth in this Agreement must be by written Agreement executed by all parties.
4. All provisions not in conflict with the amendment(s) shall remain in effect and are to be performed as specified in this Agreement.

IX. REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS.

The data sharing activities under this Agreement are not expected to result in charges from any party to another. Should costs be a consideration, the work order negotiation process may be used to resolve any cost issues. If the activities conducted under this Agreement become unduly burdensome or cost prohibitive, the Agreement may be renegotiated.

X. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.

All correspondence regarding this Agreement, including, but not limited to, notification of change of custodianship, uses or disclosures of the data not provided for by this Agreement, requests for access to the data, requests for accounting of disclosures of the data, disposition of the data, and amendment or termination of this Agreement, shall be addressed to the points of contact.

DOE designates the following individual as the point of contact for this Agreement on behalf of DOE:

Name of Point of Contact: Jeff Sellers
Street Address: 325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1444
City/State/zip: Tallahassee, Florida 32399
Phone Number: (850)245-0428

AWI names the following as the point of contact for this Agreement on behalf of AWI:

Name of Point of Contact: Duane Whitfield
Street Address: 107 East Madison Street, Caldwell Bldg., MSC#G-229
City/State/Zip: Tallahassee, FL 32399-4135
Phone Number: (850) 245-7409

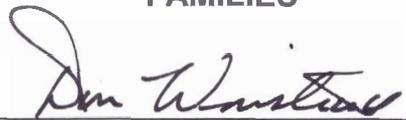
DCF names the following as the point of contact for this Agreement on behalf of the DCF:

Name of Point of Contact: Keith Perlman, Family Safety Program
Street Address: Building 6, Room 131, 1317 Winewood Blvd.
City/State/Zip: Tallahassee, Fl 32301
Phone Number: 850-922-2195 / SunCom 292-2195

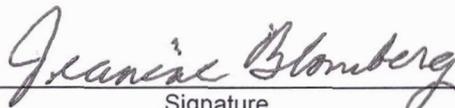
The points of contact shall be responsible for the observance of all conditions of use and for the establishment and maintenance of safeguards as specified in this Agreement to prevent unauthorized use. Each party shall notify the others in writing within fifteen (15) days of any change in contact designation. Notification of change shall be delivered by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in person with proof of delivery.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the parties agree to the terms and conditions of this Agreement as set forth above, and the signatories, being duly authorized to contract for the parties, have hereby caused this Agreement to be executed.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

By: 
Signature
Printed Name: Robert A. Butterworth
Title: Secretary
Date: 3/6/2007

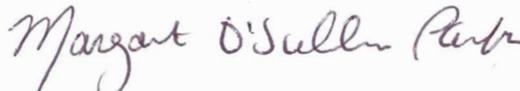
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

By: 
Signature
Printed Name: Jeanine Blomberg
Title: Commissioner
Date: 3/16/07

AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION

By: 
Signature
Printed Name: Monesia T. Brown
Title: Director
Date: 3/26/2007

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BY: 

Chapter 7

Financial and Statistical Information Reporting

Statewide Summary of Child and Family Services Report

The attached report provide critical information of Child Welfare Services for FFY 2006-2007 including number of children and families served, funding sources, service provided, duration of service, etc.

Maintenance of Effort

This second attachment contains a table listing the estimated state and federal expenditures for FY 2006-2007 for family preservation, family support services, time-limited reunification, and adoption and support services. Expenditures for the four service categories are reported separately.

The maintenance of effort identifies non-federal funds expended for family preservation, family support, time limited family reunification and adoption promotion and support services.

Funds have not been supplanted to meet this federal requirement to equal or exceed the amount spent in 1992 for family preservation and family support services as stated in 45 CFR 1357.32(f).

**Number of Children and Families Receiving Family Support and Prevention
Services by District
October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007***

District	Children			Families		
	Total	Includes Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Does not Include Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Total	Includes Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Does not Include Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education
1	1,308	0	1,308	424	0	424
2	695	0	695	409	0	409
3	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	47	0	47	34	0	34
7	8,027	600	1,979	2,724	631	2,093
8	6,900	466	1,450	2,492	1,016	1,476
9	75	0	75	24	0	24
10	17,090	1,947	6,067	4,538	1,781	2,757
11	3,443	511	1,038	947	280	667
12	890	86	254	275	64	211
13	3,177	126	1,295	878	99	779
14	2,623	471	978	587	544	43
15	3,229	0	3,229	1,428	0	1,428
23	437	0	437	195	0	195
Total	52,969	4,207	18,852	14,955	4,415	10,540

**The chart represents potentially duplicated numbers-counting the services provided.*

**Number of Children and Families Receiving Family Preservation
Services by District
October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007***

District	Children			Families		
	Total	Includes Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Does not Include Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Total	Includes Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Does not Include Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education
1	1,248	0	1,248	471	0	471
2	299	0	299	192	0	192
3	33	0	33	16	0	16
4	1,453	0	1,453	773	0	773
7	2878	82	996	900	73	827
8	509	0	509	307	0	307
9	26	0	26	11	0	11
10	853	0	853	393	0	393
11	5,508	403	2,407	1,349	218	1,131
12	108	9	61	19	2	17
13	5,641	364	2,415	1,431	177	1,254
14	223	0	223	103	0	103
15	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	261	0	261	117	0	117
Total	19,040	858	10,784	6,082	470	5,612

**The chart represents potentially duplicated numbers-counting the services provided.*

**Number of Children and Families Receiving Adoption Promotion and Support
Services by District
October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007***

District	Children			Families		
	Total	Includes Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Does not Include Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Total	Includes Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Does not Include Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education
1	255	5	250	67	3	64
2	6	0	6	6	0	6
3	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	11	0	11	5	0	5
7	1466	54	518	447	68	379
8	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	125	0	125	78	0	78
11	1424	68	496	430	33	397
12	352	0	352	153	0	153
13	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	34	0	34	15	0	15
15	434	0	434	666	0	666
23	707	0	707	11	0	11
Total	4814	127	2933	1878	104	1774

**The chart represents potentially duplicated numbers-counting the services provided.*

**Number of Children and Families Receiving Time-Limited Family Reunification Services
by District
October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007***

District	Children			Families		
	Total	Includes Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Does not Include Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Total	Includes Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Does not Include Information and Referral/Public Awareness and Education
1	633	0	633	215	0	215
2	810	0	810	532	0	532
3	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	75	0	75	40	0	40
7	1,141	0	1,141	579	0	579
8	6	0	6	9	0	9
9	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	90	0	90	47	0	47
11	2689	104	1207	689	54	635
12	44	0	44	21	0	21
13	1,146	0	1,146	892	33	859
14	8	0	8	4	0	4
15	547	0	547	342	0	342
23	686	0	686	320	0	320
Total	7,875	104	6,393	3690	87	3603

**The chart represents potentially duplicated numbers-counting the services provided.*

**Number of Children and Families Receiving Family Support and Prevention Services
by Funding Source Provided
October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007***

Federal Sources	Children			Families		
	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education
CAPTA Grant C.A.N. Basic	5,782	278	2,294	1,605	278	1,327
Promoting Safe and Stable Families Grant	26,304	2,467	9,119	7,359	2,729	4,630
Other Federal Funding Sources	1982	278	500	602	278	324
Total	34,068	3,023	11,913	9,566	3,285	6,281

State Sources	Children			Families		
	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education
Community Org. Prevention Initiatives	1527	278	257	496	278	218
Family Builders	1982	278	500	602	278	324
Home Visitor for High Risk Newborns	2,006	0	2,006	906	0	906
Housekeeper/Homemaker	1,913	0	1,913	823	0	823
Other State Funding Sources	318	13	59	123	76	47
Total	7,746	569	4,735	2950	632	2318

**The chart represents potentially duplicated numbers within the funding source-counting the services provided.*

**Due to a change in funding distribution, the local agencies can no longer definitively identify funding sources, so this data stopped being collected. 61% of the reports for this period have no federal funding source identified and 87% have no state funding source identified.*

**Number of Children and Families Receiving Family Preservation Services
by Funding Source Provided
October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007***

Federal Sources	Children			Families		
	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education
Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant						
CAPTA Grant/C.A.N. Basic	1234	82	426	363	73	290
Promoting Safe and Stable Families Grant	4,201	178	1,613	1,205	129	1,076
Other Federal Funding Sources	290	0	290	204	0	204
Total	5,725	260	2,329	1,772	202	1,570

State Sources	Children			Families		
	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education
Community Org. Prevention Initiatives	293	0	293	194	0	194
Family Builders	1267	26	567	337	11	326
Home Visitor for High Risk Newborns	0	0	0	0	0	0
Housekeeper/Homemaker	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other State Funding Sources	505	0	505	306	0	306
Total	2065	26	1365	837	11	826

**The chart represents potentially duplicated numbers within the funding source-counting the services provided.*

**Due to a change in funding distribution, the local agencies can no longer definitively identify funding sources, so this data stopped being collected. 61% of the reports for this period have no federal funding source identified and 87% have no state funding source identified.*

**Number of Children and Families Receiving Adoption Promotion and Support Services
by Funding Source Provided
October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007***

Federal Sources	Children			Families		
	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education
CAPTA Grant/C.A.N. Basic	745	54	257	217	51	166
Promoting Safe and Stable Families Grant	3,389	116	1,043	1,115	98	1,017
Other Federal Funding Sources	6	0	2	2	0	2
Total	4,140	170	1,302	1,334	149	1,185

State Sources	Children			Families		
	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education
Community Org. Prevention Initiatives	0	0	0	0	0	0
Family Builders	0	0	0	0	0	0
Home Visitor for High Risk Newborns	0	0	0	0	0	0
Housekeeper/Homemaker	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other State Funding Sources	324	0	324	443	0	443
Total	324	0	324	443	0	443

**The chart represents potentially duplicated numbers within the funding source-counting the services provided.*

**Due to a change in funding distribution, the local agencies can no longer definitively identify funding sources, so this data stopped being collected. 61% of the reports for this period have no federal funding source identified and 87% have no state funding source identified.*

**Number of Children and Families Receiving Time-Limited Reunification Services
by Funding Source Provided
October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007***

Federal Sources	Children			Families		
	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education
CAPTA Grant/C.A.N. Basic	116	0	116	89	0	89
Promoting Safe and Stable Families Grant	2201	44	957	600	22	578
Other Federal Funding Sources	328	0	328	200	0	200
Total	2645	44	1401	889	22	867

State Sources	Children			Families		
	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	Total	Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education	NO Info and Referral/Public Awareness and Education
Community Org. Prevention Initiatives	47	0	47	23	0	23
Family Builders	64	0	64	29	0	29
Home Visitor for High Risk Newborns	0	0	0	0	0	0
Housekeeper/Homemaker	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other State Funding Sources	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	111	0	111	52	0	52

**The chart represents potentially duplicated numbers within the funding source-counting the services provided.*

**Due to a change in funding distribution, the local agencies can no longer definitively identify funding sources, so this data stopped being collected. 61% of the reports for this period have no federal funding source identified and 87% have no state funding source identified.*

Community-Based Family Support Services - October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007

Adoption Promotion

District	Children Served	Families Served
10	151	82

Adoption Support Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
10, 12, 23	174	85

After School Enrichment/Recreation

District	Children Served	Families Served
11, 14	920	2

Case Management

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 4, 7, 11	741	592

Child Care/Therapeutic Care

District	Children Served	Families Served
10, 11	50	45

Crisis and Intervention Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 8, 11, 23	441	253

Delinquency Prevention

District	Children Served	Families Served
8, 11	161	152

Dependency Prevention

District	Children Served	Families Served
8	9	11

Developmental Screening/Evaluation

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	11	11

Emergency Shelter

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	1	1

Family Conferencing/ICA

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 10, 11, 12, 13	828	444

Family Visitation Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7S, 8, 13, 15	601	327

Follow-Up Care to Families

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 11	83	55

Health and Nutrition Education

District	Children Served	Families Served
6, 11, 15	130	69

Healthy Families Florida

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	69	0

Home Visiting Activities/Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 23	4,308	2,512

Independent Living

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	9	9

Individual Family Group Counseling Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 8, 10, 11, 23	432	271

Information and Referral

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14	2,096	2,367

In-Home Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 23	2,003	1,047

Intensive In-Home Interventions

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 8, 10, 12	3,599	1,484

Mentoring/Tutoring Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 8, 9, 11, 12	204	71

Neighborhood Partnership Community Activities

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 10, 12, 23	1,519	739

Parent Support Groups

District	Children Served	Families Served
8, 10	0	15

Parenting Education and Training

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 23	1,347	926

Prevention & Intervention: Community Facilitation

District	Children Served	Families Served
13	179	122

Public Awareness and Education Activities

District	Children Served	Families Served
10, 11, 14	2,111	2,048

Relationship Skills Education

District	Children Served	Families Served
11, 12	26	53

Resource Center

District	Children Served	Families Served
8	0	439

Self-help Groups/Support Groups

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 10	93	75

Substance Abuse Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
2	104	89

Teen Parent/Pregnancy Programs

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 8	395	434

Training/Technical Assistance

District	Children Served	Families Served
12, 14	44	31

Transportation

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	4	4

Unidentified Service

District	Children Served	Families Served
4, 11, 14	18	18

Urgent/Emergency Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 11, 12, 23	173	69

Workshops/Seminars

District	Children Served	Families Served
14	43	21
Grand Total	23,077	14,973

**These charts are unduplicated numbers, counting the children and families that received each service.*

Family Preservation Services - October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007

Adoption Support Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
8, 23	10	8

After School Enrichment/Recreation

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	2	1

Case Management

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 4, 11	440	288

Crisis and Intervention Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 8, 11	516	245

Delinquency Prevention

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	28	14

Emergency Shelter

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	2	2

Family Conferencing/ICA

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 11, 12	59	21

Family Visitation Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 23	766	470

Follow-Up Care to Families

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 8, 11	158	68

Healthy Families Florida

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	135	157

Home Visiting Activities/Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 4, 7, 8, 11	641	262

Individual Family Group Counseling Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
2, 7, 11, 23	184	133

Information and Referral

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 11, 12, 13	820	451

In-Home Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 23	2,775	1,424

Intensive Crisis Counseling

District	Children Served	Families Served
2, 7, 11	75	43

Intensive In-Home Interventions

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14	1,390	628

Mentoring/Tutoring Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	69	6

Neighborhood Partnership Community Activities

District	Children Served	Families Served
23	102	38

Out-of-Home Support

District	Children Served	Families Served
13	393	187

Parent Support Groups

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	54	64

Parenting Education and Training

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14	1,606	903

Prenatal/Perinatal Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	53	55

Public Awareness and Education Activities

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	38	19

Self-Help Groups/Support Groups

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 8, 11	64	37

Teen Parent/Pregnancy Programs

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	54	64

Training/Technical Assistance

District	Children Served	Families Served
12	6	1

Transportation

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	21	9

Unidentified Service

District	Children Served	Families Served
4, 11	13	10

Urgent/Emergency Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 2, 12	55	48

Workshops/Seminars

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	1,114	431
Grand Total	11,655	6,092

** These charts are unduplicated numbers, counting the children and families that received each service.*

Adoption Promotion and Support Services – October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007

Adoption Promotion

District	Children Served	Families Served
4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 23	952	340

Adoption Recruitment

District	Children Served	Families Served
4, 7, 11, 12, 15	210	251

Adoption Support Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
2, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 23	579	636

Case Management

District	Children Served	Families Served
4, 11, 12	336	59

Crisis and Intervention Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 11	205	104

Delinquency Prevention

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	5	3

Family Visitation Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 4	128	33

Follow-Up Care to Families

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	20	17

Home Visiting Activities/Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
4, 7, 11	50	25

Individual Family Group Counseling Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 11, 14	116	56

Information and Referral

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 7, 11	122	102

In-Home Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	8	3

Intensive Crisis Counseling

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	3	1

Parenting Education and Training

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 11	70	82

Prenatal/Perinatal Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	55	44

Public Awareness and Education Activities

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	5	2

Relationship Skills Education

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 11	3	47

Self-Help Groups/Support Groups

District	Children Served	Families Served
10, 11	70	41

Transportation

District	Children Served	Families Served
1	123	32

Unidentified Service

District	Children Served	Families Served
14	7	16
Grand Total	3,067	1,894

** These charts are unduplicated numbers, counting the children and families that received each service.*

Time-Limited Family Reunification Services – October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007

Case Management

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 4, 11, 13	1224	647

Childcare/Therapeutic care

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 10, 12	67	17

Crisis and Intervention Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 11	103	53

Development Screening/Evaluation

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	4	2

Family Conferencing/ICA

District	Children Served	Families Served
4, 12	5	2

Family Visitation Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 23	2740	1662

Follow-Up Care to Families

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	10	2

Home Visiting Activities/Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 4, 11	154	54

Individual Family Group Counseling Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
2, 4, 7, 10, 11	145	77

Information and Referral

District	Children Served	Families Served
11, 13	91	81

In-Home Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 7, 8, 11, 23	236	117

Intensive In-Home Interventions

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 11, 23	313	136

Mental Health Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
4	1	1

Mentoring/Tutoring Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	28	0

Neighborhood Partnership Community Activities

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 23	102	38

Out-of-Home Support

District	Children Served	Families Served
13	306	289

Parenting Education and Training

District	Children Served	Families Served
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1, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 23	677	390
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Phase Two

District	Children Served	Families Served
14	8	4

Public Awareness and Education Activities

District	Children Served	Families Served
11	13	6

Self-help Groups/Support Groups

District	Children Served	Families Served
8, 11	7	6

Transportation

District	Children Served	Families Served
1, 7	225	82

Unidentified Service

District	Children Served	Families Served
11, 14, 15	420	182

Violence

District	Children Served	Families Served
15	38	24
Grand Total	6,917	3,872

** These charts are unduplicated numbers, counting the children and families that received each service.*

**Report on Family Support/Prevention Services
Funded by the CAPTA/C.A.N. Basic Federal Grant Program
*October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007***

Case Management

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	465	422

Health and Nutrition Education

District	Children Served	Families Served
15	97	38

Home Visiting Activities/Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7, 15	1,516	656

Individual, Family, or Group Counseling Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	41	38

Information and Referral

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	278	278

In-Home Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	91	108

Mentoring/Tutoring Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	4	0

Parenting Education and Training

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	80	64

Self-help Groups/Support Groups

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	0	1
Grand Total	2,572	1,605

** These charts are unduplicated numbers, counting the children and families that received each service within the funding source.*

**Due to a change in funding distribution, the local agencies can no longer definitively identify funding sources, so this data stopped being collected. 61% of the reports for this period have no federal funding source identified and 87% have no state funding source identified.*

Report on Family Preservation Services
Funded by the CAPTA/C.A.N. Basic Federal Grant Program
October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007

Case Management

District	Children Served	Families Served
4	64	27

Crisis and Intervention Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	221	111

Family Visitation Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	6	3

Follow-Up Care to Families

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	16	15

Home Visiting Activities/Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	13	6

Individual, Family, or Group Counseling Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	3	3

Information and Referral

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	82	73

In-Home Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	18	43

Mentoring/Tutoring Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	9	6

Parenting Education and Training

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	23	19

Prenatal/Perinatal Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	53	55

Self-help Groups/Support Groups

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	0	2
Grand Total	508	363

** These charts are unduplicated numbers, counting the children and families that received each service within the funding source.*

**Due to a change in funding distribution, the local agencies can no longer definitively identify funding sources, so this data stopped being collected. 61% of the reports for this period have no federal funding source identified and 87% have no state funding source identified.*

**Report on Adoption Promotion and Support Services
Funded by the CAPTA/C.A.N. Basic Federal Grant Program
*October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007***

Adoption Support Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	21	24

Crisis Intervention Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	161	81

Follow-Up Care to Families

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	20	17

Information and Referral

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	54	51

Prenatal/Perinatal Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	55	44
Grand Total	311	217

** These charts are unduplicated numbers, counting the children and families that received each service within the funding source.*

**Due to a change in funding distribution, the local agencies can no longer definitively identify funding sources, so this data stopped being collected. 61% of the reports for this period have no federal funding source identified and 87% have no state funding source identified.*

**Report on Family Time-Limited Reunification Services
Funded by the CAPTA/C.A.N. Basic Federal Grant Program
*October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007***

Crisis Intervention Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	44	19

Family Visitation Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	69	32

Individual, Family, or Group Counseling Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	0	1

In-Home Services

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	3	3

Parenting Education and Training

District	Children Served	Families Served
7	0	34
Grand Total	116	89

** These charts are unduplicated numbers, counting the children and families that received each service within the funding source.*

**Due to a change in funding distribution, the local agencies can no longer definitively identify funding sources, so this data stopped being collected. 61% of the reports for this period have no federal funding source identified and 87% have no state funding source identified.*

Maintenance of Effort

This section contains a table listing the estimated state and federal expenditures for FY 2006-2007 for family preservation, family support services, time-limited reunification, and adoption and support services. Expenditures for the four service categories are reported separately.

From FY 2006-2007, state funding for the combined services was \$680,872,178. The maintenance of effort below identifies non-federal funds expended for family preservation, family support, time limited family reunification and adoption promotion and support services. Funds have not been supplanted to meet this federal requirement to equal or exceed the amount spent in 1992 for family preservation and family support services as stated in 45 CFR 1357.32(f).

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES: State Fiscal Year 2006-2007									
FAMILY PRESERVATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES									
Fiscal Data									
Program/Service	Funding Source	Family Preservation Services		Family Support Services		Time-Limited Reunification		Adoption Promotion or Support	
		STATE	FEDERAL	STATE	FEDERAL	STATE	FEDERAL	STATE	FEDERAL
Adoption Information Center	State, SSBG							83,345	118,030
Associated Marine Institute	State Funds	11,695,660	992						
Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program and Child Protection Teams	State Funds, SSBG	14,333,641	5,804,474						
Child Abuse Prevention	TANF, SSBG				2,528,545				
Child Care and Development Fund	SSBG/CDBG & TANF			208,766,215	437,400,256				
Children's Mental Health and Substance Abuse	DJJ- General Rev DCF – Comm MH Block Grant	23,179,466 (DJJ) 108,498,667	1,005,775 (DJJ) 41,507,499 (DCF)						
CINS/FINS Runaway Shelter	SSBG	32,059,656	1,000,000						
Community Affairs/SRVS	Comm Servs Block Grant				18,232,854				

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES: State Fiscal Year 2006-2007

FAMILY PRESERVATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Fiscal Data

Program/Service	Funding Source	Family Preservation Services		Family Support Services		Time-Limited Reunification		Adoption Promotion or Support	
		STATE	FEDERAL	STATE	FEDERAL	STATE	FEDERAL	STATE	FEDERAL
Comm-Based Family Resource	State, Family Resource & Support	547,911	1,398,040						
Community Food & Nutrition	Comm Food & Nutrition Grant				121,580,744 (DOH)				
Day Care Quality Improvement	Child Care Dev Block Grant				41,011,498				
Day Care Resource & Referral	Child Care Dev Block Grant				8,904,879				
Domestic Violence	Fam Viol Prev & Svcs/STOP/SSBG TANF			10,296,171	17,936,939				
Early Delinquent Prev Program	State Funds	1,291,617							
Early Intervention Services	State, IDEA, Part C			22,932,514	20,247,180				
Epilepsy	State Funds			3,843,632					
Even Start	ESEA, Title I, Chapter				290,669				
Family Builders	DJJ - GR DCF - GR, SSBG, TSTF, TANF	787,235 (DJJ) 13,342,730 (DCF)	7,819 (DCF)						
Family Day Care Home Enhancement	State Funds			9,860					
Family Planning	Title X, Family Planning, State	5,690,533	9,230,600						
Florida First Start Program	State Funds								
Full Service Schools	DCF - State Funds DOH -				7,643,392 (DOH)				
Home Visitor-High Risk Newborn	State Funds				22,447				
Healthy Families	TANF, State			21,929,815	6,395,767				
Improved Pregnancy Outcome	Maternal & Child Health Blk Grant			32,212,680	17,255,395				

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES: State Fiscal Year 2006-2007

FAMILY PRESERVATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Fiscal Data

Program/Service	Funding Source	Family Preservation Services		Family Support Services		Time-Limited Reunification		Adoption Promotion or Support	
		STATE	FEDERAL	STATE	FEDERAL	STATE	FEDERAL	STATE	FEDERAL
Infant A/N Life Management Center	Federal Grant Trust Fund								
Interstate Compact/ ISS	State Funds	391,240	256,329						
JASP	State Funds	1,075,146							
Legal Services – TPR(a) - Adop (b)	SSBG, Title IV-E, TANF							15,326,113 a(DCF) 2,500,000(a) (DCA) 2,346,074 (b)	20,856,413 (a) 3,164,473 (b)
Local Services Program	Refugee Assistance Fed Grant TF			329,542	52,820,733				
Maintenance Subsidy	GR,FGTF,TSTF,S SBG,O&MTF							41,460,446	56,617,705
Medical Subsidy	GR/FGTF							319,435	
Migrant Education	Federal Grant								
Non Secure Detention Shelter	State Funds								
One Church, One Child	Adopt Asst							117,684	132,773
Ounce of Prevention	State	2,750,000 (DOH)							
PACE	State Funds			11,272,579					
Prevention Projects				11,750,338	4,819,256				
Primary Care (CMS)	Maternal & Child Health Blk Grant			3,848,049	1,795,745				
Protective Services Staff	SSBG,Med Asst,TANF, CWS-State, & Title IV-E	41,577,478	58,235,168 (DCF) 49,897,465 (DJJ)						
Purchase of Adoption Services	GR,FGTF,O&MTF							363,167	371,578

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES: State Fiscal Year 2006-2007**FAMILY PRESERVATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES****Fiscal Data**

Program/Service	Funding Source	Family Preservation Services		Family Support Services		Time-Limited Reunification		Adoption Promotion or Support	
		STATE	FEDERAL	STATE	FEDERAL	STATE	FEDERAL	STATE	FEDERAL
Regional Perinatal Program				1,189,551	327,197				
School Health				9,448,361	7,000,000				
Services to children awaiting adopt	Title IV-E, Adop Asst, CWS-State, TANF, SSBG & Med Asst							15,639,788	19,368,417
Women, Infants & Children Program	Women, Infants & Children Program				265,092,301				
Totals by Program AREA & FUND SOURCE		257,220,980	168,344,161	345,495,146	1,023,639,958	-	-	78,156,052	100,629,389
Totals by AREA		425,565,141		1,369,135,104		-		178,785,441	
State Grand Total								680,872,178	
Grand Total								1,973,485,686	

Florida's Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare Practice

Attachments for this report are available at:

http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/kb/flres/DCF_APSR2008part2attachments.pdf