

Technical Appendix B

Recommended Strategies for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Abandonment, and Neglect

Statewide	Strategies	
Education and Outreach		
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify and disseminate the reporting of abuse process. • Destigmatize mental illness. • Expand American Professional Society of the Abuse of Children (APSAC) activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of anticipatory guidance that parents receive in primary care settings and each well-care check. • Provide reasonable and adequate protection for all school-age children regardless of setting, from child abuse.
Education (Public)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate the public about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the respite system ○ the medical foster care system • Educate the public about risk factors for delinquency and appropriate interventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate public on factors that contribute to low birth weight. • Promote respite services for parents and care givers. • Train the public and all providers that touch families including staff and contract managers on how to use the comprehensive, updated list of programs and service providers system.
Education (Service Providers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add domestic violence training to the list of topics for child protection worker conferences. • Add Meth Lab training to child protection worker conferences. • Develop and maintain a communications system so that all service providers are aware of best practices. • Educate health care providers. • Educate service providers about the benefits associated with collaboration. • Educate service providers about the need for family preservation and family reunification services. • Identify best practices and encourage their use. • Offer distance learning. • Provide education to system providers and other agencies on program capabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide mental illness information and non-monetary support from other agencies for expanding or starting service providers. • Provide substance abuse information and non-monetary support from other agencies for expanding or starting service providers. • Train Law Enforcement about community links and resources. • Train staff and contract managers on the use of the evaluation mechanism. • Train staff and contract managers regarding the importance of collaborative efforts. • Train the public and all providers that touch families including staff and contract managers on how to use the comprehensive, updated list of programs and service providers system.
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease the percent of newborns exposed to substances prenatally. • Expand outreach and other efforts to increase Medicaid and Florida KidCare enrollment and utilization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase dental health education efforts for children in schools. • Promote infant mental health.

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Statewide	Strategies	
Infrastructure		
Building Infrastructure (Services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the need for a special domestic violence prosecutor with the State Attorney's Office. • Administer the annual survey of parents and caregivers. • Advocate efforts at local, state, and federal levels for economic development in impoverished areas. • Advocate for implementation of mandatory drug testing to be included in the child protection team process. • Advocate for and participate in initiatives that assure that lower economic communities receive full advantages from regional economic growth. • Broaden availability of mental health prevention, screening, and treatment services. • Change focus of state-supported job placement so that livable wage and day shift jobs are offered first to parents. • Define criteria by a statewide workgroup that will be used to determine qualifications for each type of service provider. • Develop an easy-to-use reporting mechanism for existing systems. • Develop an integrated system so that children receive the services they need. • Develop a mechanism to increase the availability of child care in areas that need it. • Develop screening techniques to certify workers and volunteers that have contact with children and families. • Develop statewide indicators that are appropriate for measuring the outcomes expected from a variety of services, using existing models if possible. • Develop the array of services mandated by the Comprehensive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Act. • Engage transportation directors to identify opportunities for improved access in high need, rural and outlying areas. • Evaluate systems that already exist that identify programs and service providers. <p>*Make a comprehensive list of family service providers and the public</p> <p>*Encourage the development for listing for all areas of the state</p> <p>*Test aspects of new system that is based on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Domestic Violence efforts that are currently predominantly crisis-oriented to include preventive measures. • Expand Healthy Families Florida Program. • Expand home visiting services to all at risk families with infants and toddlers. • Expand job training and skill training by providing incentives to businesses that hire and train individuals that are economically disadvantaged. • Expand the availability of health care. • Expand the behavioral health issues to include substance abuse screening and assessment of families that touch the dependency court system. • Implement policies and procedures so that case transfer and management support safety, permanence, and well-being across the continuum of care. • Improve access to health care for pregnant women and infants. • Improve regulation of child care facilities. • Improve the child protective investigation process. • Improve and increase training for all childcare providers. • Increase advocacy on behalf of those providing services to bilingual children and families. • Incorporate developmentally appropriate character traits in school readiness curricula. • Protect students from harm in all educational settings including public and private school. • Provide a comprehensive and integrated behavioral health screening and assessment process that relies on strength-based, non-duplicative evaluations and seeks the earliest possible identification of children needing behavioral health services. • Set standard protocols for collaboration for use with any family seeking assistance or that enters the system in any other way – e.g., through the legal system; through health care; etc. • Support emerging fields of specialization: infant mental specialist, early interventionists, and developmental specialists.

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Statewide	Strategies
	<p>comprehensive, updated list of existing programs and service providers using focus groups.</p> <p>*Put new system based on a comprehensive list of existing programs and service providers on line.</p>

Statewide	Strategies	
Infrastructure (continued)		
Building Infrastructure (Information)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address missing data on child-on-child abuse. • Allow the use of child abuse registry information for employment. • Expand the child abuse death review. • Expand the use of Telemedicine. • Identify statutory impediments and implement changes necessary to support plan goal. • Improve the method for estimating percent of children who are homeless to obtain better estimates of the measure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and promote the database of sexual offenders. • Make National Crime Information Center (NCIC) available to DCF. • Make Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC) available to educators.
Seek Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the development of Children’s Councils (with taxing authority) in each county. • Ensure youth exit high school with the basic academic and other skills necessary to succeed in the workplace. • Improve wages for migrant workers. • Increase advocacy on behalf of children needing subsidized child care. • Increase the availability of jobs that pay a “living wage” and provide benefits. • Increase the visibility of and enhance the role of community alliances and develop legislative/advocacy committees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate quality standards for care providers. • Promote and obtain legislation that creates a mandate for curriculum changes. • Provide expanded health insurance coverage for mental health. • Remove those in contact with families and children who have been associated with child maltreatment or suspected maltreatment. • Request authorization by legislation to fund community prevention initiatives.
Develop Statewide Tools (Evaluation and Regulation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an objective evaluation of the impact of Community Based Care on families and children. • Create a list of needed substance abuse services for each geographical area based on service gaps. • Create and implement mechanisms for system evaluation and continuous improvement. • Develop baseline data before legislation is passed. • Develop and implement a rated licensing program to improve childcare. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate communities on their ability to build on community strengths to nurture children and families. • Evaluate objectively the impact of privatization on Florida’s children and families. • Evaluate the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program with the results being used to modify the enabling legislation. • Look at state needs and make recommendations for a funding tracking system that will create opportunities for collaboration and promotion of prevention. • Measure outcomes for privatized functions.

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Statewide	Strategies	
Infrastructure (continued)		
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for continued and expanded funding targeted for mental illness case management. • Advocate for increased funding or new funding for gaps in mental illness services. • Advocate for increased funding or new funding for gaps in substance abuse services. • Advocate for and develop awareness of the funding needs at the state/legislative level. • Dedicate prevention funds to after-school care. • Develop flex funding (non-categorical) to “purchase” needed family supports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the use of Safe Start Grants. • Explore federal funding opportunities for Alcohol/Drug Abuse, Mental Health (SAMSHA) services • Identify funding sources and obtain additional funding for child care. • Provide enhancement funding for higher rated childcare centers and homes. • Request funding support for quality improvements, specialized child care for children with disabilities, eve and weekend child care. • Refund programs that provide counseling to families in crisis before domestic violence occurs.
Process		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer the annual survey of parents and caregivers. • Analyze screening indicators statewide, locally and by service provider for purposes of improving outcomes. • Analyze the results of the annual survey of parents and caregivers. • Build on community, family, and child strengths to nurture children and families. • Clarify and disseminate the reporting of abuse process. • Coordinate efforts on a statewide and a local level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plan ○ Provide services ○ Provide and share resources ○ Get everyone’s buy in. • Create effective public/private partnerships. • Develop community systems that build on community strengths to nurture children and families. • Ensure access to case management, parenting support, and educational services to all at-risk pregnant women and their infants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a network of providers to share information regarding services to dependent children. • Establish group treatment services for children of substance abusers. • Explore and fix all the gaps in services • Get buy in for collaboration from all sectors. • Heed recommendation of Crimes Against Children Task Force. • Hold one-on-one meetings with agency leaders about importance of program support. • Implement follow-up process after the use of respite care. • Implement policies and procedures so that case transfer and management support safety, permanence, and well-being across the continuum of care. • Improve the child protective investigation process. • Participate in Florida’s Drug Control Strategy sponsored by the Governor’s Office. • Reflect local needs including statewide efforts and allow for local flexibility.
Services		
Health/Mental Health/Substance Abuse/Persons with Special Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a list of needed services for each geographical area based on mental illness service gaps. • Create a mobile in-home mental illness crisis-counseling program. • Increase the availability of mobile dental screening units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the availability/accessibility of services for medically at-risk, developmentally delayed infants and young children. • Increase and improve access to occupational skills training, job placement assistance, and other services for all social populations.

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Statewide	Strategies	
		<p>special populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer alternative recreational activities for children that expand on anti-drug themes.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help more welfare recipients and the working poor become self-sufficient. 	
School/Child Care Based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand "open airways" programs in schools for children with asthma. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place a school nurse in every school.
Family and Marriage Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase community opportunities for parents to increase their parenting skills voluntarily before crisis occurs. • Increase the availability/accessibility of programs for couples who want to improve their communication and problem solving skills. • Initiate programs that emphasize the importance of fathers in the parenting process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a continuum of services that include intensive counseling and treatment to ensure that pregnant women abstain from tobacco, alcohol and other non-prescribed drugs. • Provide in-home services to all victims of domestic violence involved in dependency proceedings and provide due consideration thereto prior to taking the child(ren) away from the victim/parent. • Provide more legal services re: guardianship for HIV/AIDS infected women with dependant children.
Cross Disciplinary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create effective public/private partnerships. • Increase the availability of in-home and wrap-around services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current models and strategies of service provision to identify opportunities for improvement.

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Local	Strategies	
Education and Outreach		
Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destigmatize parents that are reaching out for prevention services. 	
Education <i>(Public)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver targeted localized educational and recreational programming to individuals, families, and communities that address positive parenting styles, child abuse prevention, community mentor development, and child abuse reporting. • Develop and distribute domestic violence prevention information to individuals receiving services in the dependency court system. • Develop and distribute substance abuse information to individuals receiving services in the dependency court system. • Educate the public about family supportive resources in their communities. • Educate the public about pregnancy prevention strategies. • Educate the public about resources that promote protective parenting capacity. • Educate the public on the factors that contribute to crowded housing. • Educate public on factors contributing to healthy marriages. • Ensure that communities are aware of providers who can offer substance abuse assistance. • Increase substance abuse education, individual and group treatment, and after hours crisis counseling hotline. • Grant opportunities for parents to increase their parenting skills and knowledge of child safety issues. • Offer parenting and life skills education in secondary schools. • Offer parenting training for expectant parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote respite services for parents and care givers. • Promote the Strengthening Families Initiative. • Promote and reward school service learning opportunities. • Review existing public service announcement materials for use and work with local media outlets to broadcast and distribute chosen awareness messages. • Train and educate parents, providers (teachers, social workers, home visitors, lawyers, judges, health care providers, law enforcers), and the public regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What to know about abuse of persons with disabilities ○ How to detect maltreatment ○ How to avoid abuse ○ What to do if maltreatment is suspected. • Utilize organizations and other service partners to lead classes that help teach parents skills for dealing with mental illness while providing them a supportive atmosphere to learn about how to handle their own limitations before abuse or neglect occurs. • Utilize organizations and other service partners to lead classes using research based curriculums and target promotion of the classes to parents of newborns up to two years old.

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Local	Strategies	
Education and Outreach (continued)		
Education (Service Providers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate with service providers about the benefits of assessing strengths as part of family service plans. • Develop a comprehensive list of all after school programs and directors to collaborate efforts and provide parent education, support, and outreach. • Develop a comprehensive list of all schools and other organizations currently providing services to teen parents and directors to collaborate efforts and provide parent education and support to teen parents. • Develop a comprehensive list of all pediatricians and other medical providers, meet with key personnel, and distribute created parent education materials discussing child abuse prevention. Solicit funds to purchase child abuse prevention videos to play on continuous loop in waiting rooms. • Develop and maintain a communications system so that all service providers are aware of best practices. • Educate employers on the importance of offering daytime employment at living wages to people with children as well as the benefits to them. • Educate providers on all mental illness services available. • Educate providers on all substance abuse services available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the Health Department and local ob/gyn physicians are aware of resources and how to make referrals for substance abusing pregnant women. • Increase the number of interagency trainings for agency staffs to increase their knowledge of available services and providers. • Provide multi-disciplinary education to all hospitals and health care providers. • Provide education and resources to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the respite system ○ the medical foster care system. • Routinely review mental illness assessment needs and train staff and other partners on targeted case management needs. • Train Healthy Start staff on responsive care giving. • Train and educate parents, providers (teachers, social workers, home visitors, lawyers, judges, health care providers, law enforcers), and the public regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What to know about abuse of persons with disabilities ○ How to detect maltreatment ○ How to avoid abuse ○ What to do if maltreatment is suspected.
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate parents about the Shaken Baby Syndrome. • Promote mental health prevention, screening and treatment services for children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide nutrition programs for pregnant women. • Provide outreach and education about health care.

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Local	Strategies	
Infrastructure		
Build Infrastructure (Services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with local law enforcement to make neighborhoods safer. • Create a menu of needed services that could be provided by faith-based organizations. • Create interagency meetings for existing providers and faith-based organizations. • Create Prevention Task Forces in the rural counties. • Develop an integrated system so that children receive the services they need. • Develop a Region wide domestic violence taskforce to address ongoing issues. • Develop collaborations and working agreements with local Domestic Violence Providers. • Ensure at-risk children have priority access to pre-k programs and after school programs. • Expand access to bereavement and grief counseling for children affected by death, violence and extreme loss. • Expand substance abuse services, especially in the rural areas, to include adult and child in-home education, treatment services, and an after hours crisis counseling hotline. • Expand the domestic violence task forces to the rural counties. • Implement follow-up process after the use of respite care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement more initiatives for the early detection and treatment of developmental and learning disabilities. • Increase the number of community-based centers and activities that provide a safe and nurturing environment for children and families by 2007. • Institutionalize practices that are evidence-based to improve high school graduation rates. • Maintain and support the Amber Alert System. • Negotiate services to expand Behavioral Health screening to include assessment for families to other counties. • Offer distance learning. • Partner with Substance Abuse providers when targeted programming opportunities become available to build intervention services for individuals and families affected by substance abuse and serious mental illness. • Promote infant mental health. • Promote the availability of employment opportunities throughout the community in English and Spanish. • Provide single plans of care for identified children that are outcome driven and directly tied to the child's assessment. • Provide domestic violence prevention programs in schools by Resource Officers. • Support the evolution of integrated community planning efforts.
Build Infrastructure (Information)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of anticipatory guidance that parents receive in primary care settings and each well-care check. • Strategize to develop central repository for information and referral. 	
Develop Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct community needs assessment. • Establish a substance abuse prevention pilot for Family/Drug Court with a local judge and evaluate its effectiveness for expansion to other counties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish baselines for the substance abuse prevention pilot. • Set standards for quality.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tie outcomes to dollars. 	

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Local	Strategies	
Process		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually address domestic violence issues with the local Community Alliance. • Build on community, family, and child strengths to nurture children and families. • Collaborate on a community grass-roots level that builds on community strengths. • Coordinate training and services across family and child support services. • Develop partnerships with Domestic Violence Coalitions, Domestic Violence Shelters, and other community resources in service areas to identify opportunities to support domestic violence education. • Develop systems that build on community strengths to nurture children and families • Create a mental illness service provision matrix and continue to update it. • Create effective public/private partnerships. • Ensure safe and stable placements for all children. • Engage families and neighbors in community prevention efforts. • Establish a partnership with community resources to identify opportunities to support education on the prevalence and impact of substance abuse. • Establish a sub-committee of the Community Alliance to address the identified domestic violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a sub-committee of the Community Alliance to address relevant substance abuse. • Establish partnership between Department of Children and Families and Community Based Care to establish an environment of teamwork for child protection workers. • Establish partnership with the United Way to help spread the information already gathered for First Call for Help to other service providers. • Explore and fix all the gaps in services. • Investigate intervention programs that support parents under stress due to environmental factors. • Foster stable family structure. • Get buy in for collaboration from all sectors. • Heed recommendation of Crimes Against Children Task Force. • Promote and reward school service learning opportunities. • Protect students from harm in all educational settings including public and private schools. • Provide linkages between early childhood settings and mental health. • Report specified outcomes of providers with local contracts. • Welcome parents that are reaching out for prevention services.
Services		
Health/ Mental Health/ Substance Abuse/ Persons with Special Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assure that educational materials and trainers used in substance abuse intervention programs are consistent with the cultural and language context of the communities they serve. • Build support systems for the mentally ill. • Build support systems for substance abusers. • Decrease the percent of newborns exposed to substances prenatally. • Establish group treatment program for parents with mental illness. • Expand of the availability of health care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the use of Telemedicine. • Increase percent of pregnant women receiving prenatal care. • Increase the number of children who have access to a medical home. • Provide widely available mental health prevention, screening, and treatment services for children. • Support and expand substance abuse programs to rural counties.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve wages for migrant workers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce underemployment.

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Local	Strategies	
Services (continued)		
School/Child Care Based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage local business to provide daycare services by providing incentives. • Expand the number of subsidized childcare centers. • Increase the number of licensed child care centers. • Increase availability/accessibility to pre-school childcare for special populations including homeless families, sick children, and those with special needs. • Increase the number of subsidized childcare slots. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue enhancement of employer sponsored childcare services. • Promote and reward schools service learning opportunities. • Protect students from harm in all educational settings including public and private school. • Promote intergenerational day care centers to service young children and the elderly.
Family and Marriage Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a child advocacy center for abused children. • Develop non-mental health counseling resources for couples and families. • Expand Healthy Families Florida Program • Expand public transportation incentives to relatives and other agencies. • Expand services for families ineligible for court-mandated programs. • Explore alternative means of transportation for areas that have limited or no public transportation. • Implement follow-up process after the use of respite care. • Improve the diagnosis and treatment of children and adolescents by increasing the use of clinically and culturally sensitive interventions. • Include housing counseling in all case management. • Increase the accessibility and affordability of adult vocation training throughout the community in English and Spanish. • Increase the amount of shelter space available for both male and female victims of domestic violence, and their children. • Increase the number of children that receive developmental screening. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of community-based centers and activities that provide a safe and nurturing environment for children and families by 2007. • Offer interventions that give parents in high risk groups additional skills to meet the needs of their children while living in over crowded housing. • Prevent homelessness by instituting early intervention programs to detect and provide interventions for economic crises that threaten ability to stay current in rent and other home-related expenses. • Provide access to parks and recreation programs for all children. • Promote respite services for parents and care givers. • Reduce caseworker turnover. • Reduce homelessness. • Support referrals from the Child Protection Team. • Target communities and neighborhoods that have been identified as having less strength and more risk factors than the others in the District. • Welcome parents that are reaching out for prevention services.
Cross Disciplinary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist faith based organizations providing or wanting to provide services with program development and grant writing. • Assist and support start-up of local 2-1-1 program. 	