



Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council
Office of Adoption & Child Protection
Executive Office of the Governor

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND PERMANENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING (*Minutes approved 6 February 2008.*)

Thursday, 29 November 2007, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
110 Senate Office Building, Tallahassee, Florida

IN ATTENDANCE

- **Jim Kallinger**, Chief Child Advocate and Director, Office of Adoption and Child Protection, Executive Office of the Governor
- **Andrea Raasch, LCSW**, Licensed Clinical Director, Camelot Community Care, Inc.
- **Barbara Foster, Ph.D.**, Deputy Chief Child Advocate and Director, Office of Adoption and Child Protection, Executive Office of the Governor
- **Barbara Griffin**, Deputy Director, Agency for Workforce Innovation (Via telephone)
- **Cassandra D. Jenkins**, Assistant Secretary for Prevention & Victim Services, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
- **Christie Ferris**, Director, PCA Florida, Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida
- **Connie Shingledecker**, Investigative Bureau Chief, Manatee County Sheriff's Office
- **Cyndee Odom**, Consultant
- **Daniel Dawson**, Circuit Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit
- **George Hinchliffe**, Executive Director, Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison & Taylor Counties, Inc
- **George Sheldon**, Assistant Secretary of Operations, Florida Department of Children and Families
- **Georgia "Joy" Bowen**, VP, Florida School Boards Association
- **Graciela "Graci" McGillicuddy**, Child Advocate and Community Philanthropist
- **Iris C. Wilson**, K-12 Deputy Chancellor, Florida Department of Education
- **Leonel "Leo" Mesa, Jr., Psy.D., LMHC**, President/CEO, Reflections Wellness Center
- **Lilli Copp**, Director, Head Start State Collaboration Office
- **Marilyn "Bunny" Finney**, Brevard County Community Alliance
- **Mark Perlman, M.A.**, Founder and President, Center for Growth and Development
- **Matthew Claps**, Senior Management Analyst II, Operations, Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- **Michael "Mike" Haney, Ph.D., NCC, LMHC**, Division Director for Prevention and Intervention, Children's Medical Services, Florida Department of Health
- **Nancy Crawford**, Executive Director, Kids House of Seminole, Inc., Children's Advocacy Center
- **Patricia "Trish" Nelliuss-Guthrie**, CEO, Community Based Care of Brevard, Inc.
- **Peter A. Gorski, M.D., M.P.A.**, Director of Program Impact and Innovation, Children's Board of Hillsborough County, Professor of Public Health, Pediatrics and Psychiatry, USF (Via telephone)
- **Sandy Neidert**, Senior Court Operations Consultant, Office of the State Court Administrator, Office of Court Improvement, Florida State Courts
- **Sheila Hopkins**, Associate Director for Social Concerns/ Respect Life, Florida Catholic Conference.
- **Suzanne Gellens, M.S.**, Executive Director, Early Childhood Association of Florida
- **Terry Thomas**, Special Agent, Crimes Against Children Unit, Florida Department of Law Enforcement
- **Tina Hayes**, Director of Department Initiatives, Florida Department of Corrections

MINUTES

Jim Kallinger called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Introductions were made in which the council members shared their visions for the work of the council.

Statutory charge for the CAPP Advisory Council and scope of work

Jim Kallinger reviewed the statutory charge for the council based upon §39.001 F.S. Emphasized in the discussion were:

- §39.001(1) (a) provides the purpose of the chapter which includes the prevention of abuse, abandonment and neglect.
- §39.001(6) emphasizes “that the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect shall be a priority of this state.”
- §39.001(7) creates the Office of Adoption and Child Protection, the appointment of a Chief Child Advocate for the office and the work to be accomplished by the office and the chief. All focuses on the promotion of adoption, the support of adoptive families and the prevention of abuse, abandonment and neglect.
- §39.001(8) provides for a state plan for a comprehensive approach which will include local plans of action and cooperative plans related to the education of law enforcement and education staff, parents and children.
- §39.001(9) provides that future agency funding for related efforts by state agencies will be based upon the state plan and for the plan to be revised, as appropriate every five years.

Presentation & Q/A The 2005-2010 Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Abandonment and Neglect and the 2007 Progress Report

Copies of the PowerPoint presentation, the five-year plan and the progress report can be found at http://www.flgov.com/ca_council_meeting.

Sallie Linton, DCF Chief, Federal Reporting and Planning, described the process used to develop the five-year plan and provided an overview of the plan.

Janet Evans, DOH Unit Director, Prevention & Interventions discussed the 2007 progress report. Barbara Foster noted that the findings for the results provided in the report tend to show:

- Positive findings related to the reduction in child mortality rates, reduction in the teen birth rate, reduction in domestic violence reports, and increase in the number of counties with unintentional injury partnerships, the percent of children under protective supervision served through school readiness funds
- Stable findings related to the percent of youth who remain crime free after receiving delinquency prevention services, the percent of kindergartners entering kindergarten ready to learn, and the percent of children graduating from high school
- Poor findings related to the reduction in the number of children with normal BMIs, the reduction in the percent of children covered by health insurance, the percent of children immunized in kindergarten, increase in the child violence related injury death rate, the removal of the requirement for the life skills class for many high school youth, and the reduction in the percent of high schools offering parenting classes.

Peggy Scheuermann, DOH Deputy Division Director of Prevention & Interventions, provided insights and lessons learned from the last three years of planning and implementation. Insights provided to the council included the importance of:

- A council representing the breadth of issues
- An Inclusive Process at All Levels
- “Buy-in” from Agencies, Providers, and Advocacy groups
- The need for one or more “working groups” with an emphasis on work
 - Executive working group
 - Subcommittees (especially the Chairmen)
- Networking (Linkages)
- Maintain a close working relationship with local planning groups and community partners

Unmet needs included:

- Obtaining and maintaining current data; needs assessment and existing survey and performance measures data
- Re\$ource\$. -- Funding should be made available for:
 - Updating the Needs Assessment
 - Identifying Existing Surveys and Current Data
 - Developing and Conducting Consumer, Provider and Community Surveys
 - Developing standards for “Effective Practices”

Presentation & Q/A 2007 review of child maltreatment and permanency indicators, findings, conclusions and DCF recommendations

David Fairbanks, DCF Assistant Secretary for Programs, gave a PowerPoint presentation that can be found at http://www.flgov.com/ca_council_meeting.

Recommended strategies to reduce child maltreatment include:

Primary and Secondary Prevention

- Strong Local Process for Inter-Agency Communication and Cooperation
- Relationship Skills Education Programs
- Home Visiting Programs

Reduced Rate of Entry into Child Welfare System

- Wrap around supports and services for families in the investigation process
- Safety and risk assessment skills enhancement for protective investigators

Options for reducing *delays* in the adoption process include:

- Analyze timeliness of adoption milestones for the three sources of adoptive parents and determine if process improvements are possible:
 - Timeline for foster parent adoptions by milestones
 - Timeline for relative caregiver adoptions by milestones
 - Timeline for recruited family adoptions by milestones
- Foster parent and relative caregiver adoptions are expected to be more timely.

Issues related to *targeted recruitment* of adoptive parents include:

- Child-specific recruitment efforts are effective and require diligent casework activities by the counselor
- Targeted recruitment efforts are effective and require working within the local communities
- Individualized recruitment plans for children not being adopted by foster parents or relative caregivers are needed.
- Older youth who exit foster care without a permanent connection to an adult are at higher risk for homelessness, drug use and criminal activity.
- Recommended strategies
 - Identify differences between the children adopted last year and those who are awaiting adoption this year.
 - Assess the current process for responding to inquiries from prospective adoptive families.
 - Assess the availability of adoptive parent training.
 - Identify how local groups can be partners in child-specific recruitment efforts – group “owns” child for recruitment activities.

Recommended strategies for post *adoption support* services include

- Education and Training
 - Develop “adoption competency” for mental health professionals
 - Assess community capacity for mental health professionals who are adoption competent
- Mental Health Assistance
 - Develop residential resources for children who are a serious threat to themselves or others
 - Ensure access to individual and family counseling
- Supportive Assistance
 - Identify current process for adoptive parents to request temporary case management services
 - Assess availability of adoptive parent support groups

Presentation & Q/A The PREVENT Project – a model for evaluating prevention efforts in Florida

Christie Ferris, Director, Prevent Child Abuse Florida, gave a PowerPoint presentation that can be found at http://www.flgov.com/ca_council_meeting.

The *problem statement* for the PREVENT Project:

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

The Child Abuse Prevention Assets Inventory Project has the potential to:

- Support statutorily mandated statewide plan for prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- Define strategies to improve outcomes for Florida’s families.
- Map statewide strategies that are already funded.
- Identify gaps and duplications in funded programs.

Presentation & Q/A Community based prevention planning strategies and priorities

Kay Doughty, VP Family and Community Services, Operation PAR, gave a PowerPoint presentation that can be found at http://www.flgov.com/ca_council_meeting.

A *syndemic* is two or more afflictions, interacting synergistically, contributing to excess burden of diseases in a population. Related concepts include linked epidemics, interacting epidemics, connected epidemics, co-occurring epidemics, comorbidities, and clusters of health-related crises.

Syndemic structures of child abuse and substance abuse

- Are caused by the same biological agent (e.g., disturbed serotonin, dopamine, & stress chemistry)
- Share risk or protective behaviors (e.g., substance abuse, school failure, violence, teen pregnancy, post-partum depression, low expressed warmth from family and community adults and high negative emotion)
- Respond to similar environmental conditions (e.g., increased media violence; perceived stress or loss of status)
- Have reciprocal or interdependent effects (e.g., violence exposure and substance abuse can reinforce each other, exacerbating both conditions)
- Are managed by the same or similar organizations

Evidence-based *kernels* are fundamental units of behavioral influence, and simple gifts for changing communities to become healthy. There are over 50, low-cost evidenced-based kernels that can be planted for community-level change. Multiple low-cost treatment strategies exist that could reduce substance abuse, mental illness, child maltreatment, and improve education and parenting outcomes.

The South Carolina research study: *Triple P* system population trial was discussed. The study received CDC funding. Early results show that in the 18 counties exposed to “Triple P” interventions, there were fewer substantiated cases of child maltreatment, fewer out-of-home placements for children and fewer child hospitalizations and emergency room visits than did those in the 18-county “comparison” group. The counties were matched on child abuse rates, poverty and population size with none of the 36 counties having prior exposure to Triple P.

Recommendations concerning further development and improvement of services and programs for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families and prevention of child abuse, abandonment and neglect.

Barbara Foster, Deputy Chief Child Advocate, Executive Office of the Governor facilitated a council discussion on recommendations and ideas for development and improvement of services and programs. The worksheet that served as the starting point for the discussion can be found at http://www.flgov.com/ca_council_meeting.

Discussion related to *tracking and accountability* for those served by state funded programs:

- Provide for systematic, objective case reviews to determine the extent to which families coming into the child welfare system might have had this prevented by effective primary or secondary prevention actions. The review should categorize those who might not have entered the system, and those who would not have been affected by prevention actions.
- Track the status and well-being of adopted children into adulthood.
- Study the children and youth served by the various child welfare systems (e.g., DCF child welfare, DJJ CINS/FINS, etc.) in terms of the incidence rates of risk factors and risky behaviors upon becoming adults, and whether there is a difference between those who were adopted and those who aged out of foster care as well as those who entered into care or were served in child welfare and

juvenile justice diversion programs. For example, what percentage become homeless, are served in juvenile justice systems, are served in the corrections system, have mental health and substance abuse problems, have founded cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect with their own children, etc.

- Rework MAPP training classes to better address the needs of adoptive parents.
- Prior to finalizing the adoption provide to the adoptive parents more specific information on child's physical and psychological state along with anticipated future needs that may arise due to trauma exposure.

Discussion related to educating all of Florida's children from pre-kindergarten to grade 12:

- Qualifications, fingerprinting and background screening of staff and employees should be consistent across all systems, whether public, private, or charter schools.
- Utilize Florida's education system to prevent abuse, abandonment and neglect. The Curriculum Frameworks adopted by the Department of Education underscore the importance of conflict resolution and interpersonal problem solving skills at every grade level from kindergarten through the 12th grade. Curricula (i.e., Pre-kindergarten, K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12) should teach skills that would enable children to engage successfully in conflict-resolution, forge nurturing relationships and develop interpersonal problem solving skills.
- Provide relationship skills and parenting education to young children, well before they begin having children.
- Bring agencies (i.e., Office of Adoption and Child Protection, the Department of Education, the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Health) to work together on the enhancement of culturally appropriate (e.g., sensitive, responsive and relevant) curriculum materials to assist instructional personnel in providing instruction through multidisciplinary approach on the identification, intervention and prevention of child abuse, abandonment and neglect.
- Implement strategies (including legislatively supporting this within a workable school day for teachers and their training) to encourage all school districts to utilize the curriculum.
- Provide incentives and initiatives to schools, after-school programs, summer camp and recreation programs to include curricula that teach basic parenting, child development and interpersonal skills at a young age.

Discussion related to educating Florida's adults:

- Develop curriculum and materials for use in Florida's schools for parents concerning protective factors, appropriate developmental expectations, positive parenting, positive educational play practices, responding to and redirecting difficult behavior, etc. Adults need an understanding of developmental expectations for all children, birth through grade 12.
- Develop similar materials and courses for use in Florida's correctional facilities to better prepare inmates for their transition back into families and society.

Discussion related to state government:

- Develop and implement cohesive communication mechanisms and operational strategies between and within state agencies to share information and resources to promote a continuum of integrated and comprehensive services for children, youth and families. Methods could include the adoption of common benchmarks, integration of funding streams, shared data and information, and shared practice protocols and operations.
- Increase the Child Abuse Hotline's (1-800-96-Abuse) and the Parent Helpline's (1-800-FLA-Love) visibility and cooperative sharing of information with Florida's 211 Network for resource and referral.

- Build upon existing infrastructures, such as the screening offered to new mothers in hospitals as opportunities to get good information into the hands of new parents and other adults who will be involved in the lives of these children.
- Adopt a statewide view that prevention of child abuse is a public health issue and that all service systems (e.g., juvenile justice, public health, child welfare, etc.) work together to assist and strengthen families.

The basic format for circuit plans of action to promote adoption, support adoptive families and prevent child abuse, abandonment and neglect

Barbara Foster, Deputy Chief Child Advocate, Executive Office of the Governor facilitated a council discussion on the basic format to be used by the local planning teams in the development of circuit-level plans of action. The outline that served as the starting point for the discussion can be found at http://www.flgov.com/ca_council_meeting. The outline that resulted from the deliberations can be found at http://www.flgov.com/ca_lpt_plan.

Scope of work and 2008 schedule for the CAPP Advisory Council

Barbara Foster, Deputy Chief Child Advocate, Executive Office of the Governor facilitated a council discussion on the basic dates and topics to be covered in future meetings. The informational schedule provided to the council can be found at http://www.flgov.com/ca_council_meeting. The next three meetings were set:

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| • Meeting #2 – Focus on Prevention | Wednesday, 6 February 2008 | Tallahassee |
| • Meeting #3 – Focus on Adoption | Friday, 14 March 2008 | Gainesville |
| • Meeting #4 – Focus on Action Planning | Tuesday, 6 May 2008 | Gainesville |

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.