



## Children and Youth Collaborative Services Workgroup

Chair Alan Abramowitz, Executive Director, Guardian ad Litem

The Children and Youth Collaborative Services Workgroup was formed to focus on identifying opportunities for organizations to work together in more efficient and effective ways and to address real and perceived administrative barriers at the federal, state and local levels to improve services for children and youth. Since the last update provided at the January 2013 Cabinet meeting, consensus of the members determined additional research is needed to consider legislative and operational impacts, as well as how the Cabinet would be involved.

Since that time, Chair Abramowitz and the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection have explored project opportunities through the *Performance Partnership Pilots (P3)* identified in the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act 2014. The goal of the P3 is to improve outcomes for disconnected youth by increasing the rate at which individuals between the ages of 14 and 24 (who are low income and either homeless, in foster care, involved in the juvenile justice system, unemployed, or not enrolled in or at risk of dropping out of an educational institution) achieve success in meeting educational, employment, or other key goals. Working with the Children Services Council of Broward County (CSC), a proposed P3 would seek approval and support at the State and Federal levels to enable youth to enhance their workforce learning within the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers structure and meet identified performance outcomes for each federal funding stream. Flexibilities sought through the proposed P3 include:

- Waive certain eligibility requirements,
- Waive certain reporting requirements,
- Blend 2014 funds from the:
  - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) grant (Title IV, Part B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended),
  - Workforce Investment Act, and
  - Investments made by the CSC and affiliated partners.

Efforts are currently underway to outline a draft proposal that includes an analysis of associated data, framework for program logistics, monitoring and assessment; and development of benchmarks and performance outcomes for disconnected youth that are being served by the CSC and affiliated partners. This proposal will be forwarded to the Forum for Youth Investment in Washington, DC, who will assist in working with federal agencies to provide insight and support to utilize flexibilities. Additionally, efforts to work with state agencies (e.g., Florida Department of Education and Department of Economic Opportunity) will occur to ensure they are informed and support the pilot.

If the proposed P3 is selected as a pilot under this initiative, information will be presented to the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet and updates regarding P3 progress and performance will be shared to enable additional considerations for replication/duplication, and to identify additional proposals that can improve outcomes for youth in this population. The workgroup will also assist other Cabinet agencies interested in developing a P3 proposal.