

2013 Annual Report for Circuit 16

Reporting Period: January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

Summary of Plan Activities

Please provide a summary of five-year plan activities for the five-year prevention and permanency plan. For each activity, please identify how they support/promote the Protective Factors.

Prevention

Strategy 1: Circuit 16 will increase the availability and capacity of Healthy Families to provide home visitation for families at high risk of abuse and neglect needing parenting education and support. These services promote all five protective factors (parental resilience, social connections, concrete support, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social/emotional competence of children). Actions to accomplish this goal include advocacy strategies to align with Healthy Families Florida's legislative priorities; enhancing community partnerships to support program efforts; educating community partners; ensuring multidisciplinary staffing involving joint cases with child protective investigations; and collaboration with Healthy Families Florida to address unmet needs in our community.

Strategy 2: Circuit 16 will support the efforts of the Domestic Abuse Shelter and other community partners to educate the community on gender equity, healthy relationships, positive approaches to expressing feelings and constructive ways to deal with conflict. These efforts help enhance social connections and emotional competence of children. Actions to accomplish this goal include the establishment of a community action team focusing on primary domestic abuse prevention; identification of primary prevention curriculum; and partnering with faith based programs and the school district to deliver curriculum to youth.

Strategy 3: Circuit 16 will increase the availability and capacity of Wesley House Family Services to provide family centered, solution oriented, and skill based intervention services to assist families in crisis with identifying and accessing needed resources and improving family functioning and stability for families in need of parenting education and support. These services enhance all five protective factors. Actions to accomplish this goal include Wesley House continuing to apply for RFPs and grants that align with promoting and enhancing safety and well-being; developing and enhancing community partnerships; and the implementation of the David Mandel Safe and Together model.

Strategy 4: Circuit 16 will support efforts to increase the availability and capacity of substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment programs for children at high risk of abuse and neglect and families in need of substance abuse related services. These services enhance all five protective factors. Actions to accomplish this goal include the reorganization of community mental health and substance abuse services at Guidance Care Center; enhancing Family Intervention Services; expanding substance abuse intervention/prevention services in the schools; expanding in home outpatient services; and providing prevention to off-site community locations.

Strategy 5: Circuit 16 will support the statewide efforts to develop a method to identify child survivors of commercial sex trafficking and provide appropriate services for these youth. Actions to accomplish this goal include training and advocacy. These efforts enhance the social and emotional competence of children.

Supporting Adoptions

Strategy 1: Circuit 16 will provide support for adoptive families through collaboration with the Guidance Care Center and Our Kids. Actions include establishing support groups, post-adoption services and counseling. These services enhance protective factors by increasing social connections of foster/adopt families; developing a method for foster/adopt families to obtain support in times of need; ensuring the emotional/social competence of foster/adopt children; and enhancing parental resilience of adoptive parents.

Promoting Adoptions

Strategy 1: Circuit 16 will implement outreach efforts that target foster care and adoption recruitment within the faith based, military, and school system. Education and information sharing will increase community awareness of this need. Quality foster/adopt parents that are embracing QPI enhance the provision of providing concrete support in times of need and facilitate the social and emotional development of children.

Strategy 2: Circuit 16 will utilize strategies to better support and prepare adoptive parents for the overall challenges and rewards as well as for placement needs of a specific child. Actions include implementation of PRIDE curriculum and partnering with Guidance Care Center for therapeutic services.

Strategy 3: Circuit 16 will engage the community in promoting foster care adoption awareness and in providing support to families involved in the adoptive process. Actions include partnerships with local businesses and increasing adoption day events throughout the circuit.

Progress

Please describe your circuit's progress towards achieving each objective outlined in the five-year plan for Prevention, Adoption Promotion, and Support of Adoptive Families.

Prevention

Strategy 1 Healthy Families

Objective 1 Continue, enhance and expand Healthy Families Monroe (HFM).

- Seven families graduated from the Healthy Families program in May 2013.
- Healthy Families has identified two parent leaders from the program who are helping with program planning and advocacy.
- Healthy Families Advisory Committee expanded to include DCF, Guidance Care Center (GCC), Samuel's House (Homeless shelter) and Monroe County Sheriff's Office (MCSO).
- Healthy Families participated in the Cuddlebugs Community baby Shower in April 2013.
- HFM drafted and attached a letter for Mothers to be with program brochures that were distributed to local ob-gyn offices in June 2013.
- HFM contracted to serve 63 families in the 33040 zip code (Lower Keys) from July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014.
- HFM and DCF Child Protective Investigations (CPI) collaborate on any investigation received on a family involved with HFM. HFM has access to the DCF CPI database program (FSFN) and are able to view information related to an investigation involving a HFM client.

Strategy 2 Domestic Violence

Objective 2.1 Engage a diverse group of community partners to address primary prevention of domestic violence.

Objective 2.2 Partner with faith based programs and the school district to educate youth on healthy relationships.

The CHANCE (Creating Healthy and Non-violent Community Environments) coalition was established to focus on primary prevention of domestic violence. Domestic Abuse Shelter (DAS) has several training materials they use when providing education to the community. These materials include the Safe Teen Curriculum; Call to Men Curriculum; Preventing Teen Dating Violence; Promoting Healthy Friendships and Reducing Female Rivalries. The Safe Teens, Healthy Relationships, Prevention Teen Violence, and Reducing Female Rivalries curriculum has been taught at the middle schools, provided to church youth groups and offered to the community via an annual free teen women's conference. A CHANCE Coalition Meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2013 for which grant deliverables related to primary prevention efforts required by the Domestic Abuse Shelter, Inc from the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Abuse Shelter, Inc.

A CALL TO MEN is a leading national violence prevention organization providing training and education for men, male youths and communities. It was founded by Tony Porter and Ted Bunch with the aim to shift social norms that negatively impact our culture and promote a more healthy and respectful definition of manhood. DAS has sponsored several opportunities in our community for this prevention material to be shared. This curriculum has been provided to the community and even included scholarships to help pay for attendance. In April 2011, DAS and Tony Porter facilitated the A Call to Men curriculum at all 3 High Schools which focused on redefining manhood and healthy relationships. In July 2011 the Call to Men curriculum was presented to the Navy Base; youth at Navy Base; and the Florida Keys Outreach Coalition (Homeless shelter). The A Call To Men Community Training Institute was held January 30-31, 2013. The purpose of the training institute was to provide leadership training and develop skills to mobilize men and male youth in primary prevention efforts as it relates to domestic violence and sexual assault. Forty-five community professionals participated. A follow up planning session was conducted on in August 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussion on how to involve adult men and male youth in the issue of addressing domestic violence and sexual assault. Also discussion took place regarding which direction that the core group of attendees felt the group should consider in applying for a grant opportunity with the Verizon Foundation due on August 30, 2013.

The Domestic Abuse Shelter's Children Program, along with Marathon High School students presented a special program in the county preschools during the month of June 2013. The program was titled "Hands are for helping not hitting". Using the book authored by Martine Agassi to illustrate this simple but important message, that they have the power to choose not to hurt people. The program offers youngsters an alternative to hitting and other forms of hurtful behavior while teaching the children all of the wonderful and fun things our hands do for us. At the end of each program, the children took a pledge to use their hands for helping not hitting and each received a certificate with the image of their hand as a reminder to use their hands for helping. The program was presented by students who are part of the Seasons of Service organization under team leaders and was presented in seven preschools to 142 children and teachers.

Other outreach efforts have also included a collaboration of DCF, Community Based Care Wesley House Family Services and DAS conducting an annual DV prevention discussion in conjunction with the Southernmost Seventh Day Adventist Church. The audience includes the members and guests of the Church and allows for education, information sharing, and building community relationships. Our third

annual event with this Church is planned for October 19, 2013 with the focus of “Breaking the Cycle of Violence”.

Strategy 3 CBC Prevention

Objective 3.1 Continue, enhance and expand prevention services in Monroe County.

- Wesley Houses Family Services (WHFS) has signed a service agreement with Our Kids (lead CBC) to provide Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) throughout Monroe County until June 30, 2015.
- IFPS services are based on the nationally recognized HomeBuilders Model.
- WHFS continues to provide the Nurturing Parenting Program throughout Monroe County in both a group and in-home format.
- WHFS provides voluntary case management through the Family Empowerment Program which helps coordinate families with service intervention within the community.
- DJJ and WHFS sponsored training on Human Trafficking presented by Tyson Elliott, DJJ in March 2013.
- Strengthening Families Manager attends Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) Planning meetings.
- WHFS and Guidance Care Center (GCC) meet monthly to staff joint cases.
- WHFS facilitated the implementation of the David Mandel Safe and Together Model for Monroe County in 2011. David Mandel and Associates provided a three day training to 67 professionals in the community which included WHFS, DCF, Healthy Start, Healthy Families, Guidance Care Center, Domestic Abuse Shelter, and GAL.

Strategy 4 Substance Abuse

Objective 4.1 Increase the availability and capacity of substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment programs for children at high risk of abuse and neglect and families in need of substance abuse related services.

The Monroe County Coalition (MCC) is a substance abuse prevention community partnership of community stakeholders including law enforcement, schools, parents, youth, faith based organizations, media, businesses, civic groups, youth serving organizations, healthcare professionals and others to reduce substance abuse and consequences among Monroe County youth and adults. MCC is a 501c3 dedicated to reducing alcohol and drug consequences through community partnerships, education, awareness and resource sharing. MCC works closely with law enforcement and have funded a special county-wide patrol to have additional law enforcement presence at and around after-school activities as well as patrolling for house parties. This Coalition collects information/data from local agencies actively involved in prevention efforts. Law Enforcement is a key member of this group committed to conducting compliance checks at stores and taking action against any vendors that sell alcohol to minors. LE reports monthly on the outcome of compliance checks, DUI patrols, and party patrols.

Guidance Care Center (GCC) is one of the agencies actively involved with the MCC. GCC provides an array of services related to substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment for children and families. GCC has In Home On site Services (IHOS) or known as TBOS (Therapeutic Behavioral Outpatient Services) for Medicaid which is specifically designed to provide in the home to work on familial relationships. GCC has 10 TBOS therapists that provide IHOS services throughout all areas of the Florida Keys. IHOS is also used to support Wesley House (CBC) when parent/child therapeutic visitation is needed as part of the case plan.

GCC has two Family Intervention Specialists (FIS) that are available to DCF Child Protective Investigators to assist with any investigation that involves allegations of substance abuse and/or mental health. The FIS is able to conduct substance abuse/mental health assessments, drug screening, recommendations for treatment/services and assist the client with engaging in recommended services. FIS will also help refer all families with school aged children for assessment and/or IHOS services to give these children a voice.

GCC prevention, intervention and TASC programs (8 additional counselors and therapists keys wide) all focus on helping youth with their individual coping skills for mental health and substance abuse issues which help them to engage in constructive relationships. GCC has a Clinical Coordinator, IHOS, behavioral counselors, and prevention specialists appointed to the schools to provide mental health services and substance abuse intervention. GCC received two grants through South Florida Behavior Network and are providing evidenced based prevention programs throughout Monroe County schools which include Teen Intervene , Too Good for Drugs and Violence and Project Success. GCC also is funded for an environmental strategy Parents Who Host Lose the Most which raises awareness in parents who host parties for minors that it is against the law and they will be arrested.

Human Services Associates (HSA) is also working with LE and MCC on conducting party patrols. They have conducted Alcohol Education in the Lower Keys High School which is an interactive computer program about alcohol and its effect on the body/brain. HSA has implemented training for teachers in order to identify and make referrals to Project Success school counselors for students in need of substance abuse or mental health services. HAS and GCC provide a monthly newsletter “Monroe Parents Know” with the goal of helping parents raise healthy teens, enable parents to protect themselves legally, and inform parents about the effects of teen alcohol use and its legal repercussions on everyone. This newsletter is a collaborative project with GCC Parents who Host lose the Most campaign and Too Good for Drugs programs.

The Health Department is involved in the Tobacco Free Florida Keys campaign. The Tobacco Prevention Program works with the community to encourage policy change impacting youth access to and use of tobacco, enrollment in tobacco cessation programs and public exposure to secondhand smoke. The tobacco prevention specialist and two assistants work primarily with the community-based Tobacco-Free Florida Keys partnership and Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) to educate the community on ways in which policy change in this area can improve overall public health across the Florida Keys.

Strategy 5 Human Trafficking

Objective 5.1 Provide training for staff/community partners to assess dependent and delinquent youth to determine victimization and recognize the risk factors of commercial sexually exploited youth.

Objective 5.2 Support the local community Human Trafficking Task Force.

Human Trafficking and Safe Harbor training is provided for DCF CPI and community partners periodically each year. Each new hire in Child Protective Investigations and CBC case management (Wesley House Family Services) receives HT education during their pre-service training. In addition ongoing refresher/annual trainings are provided by the DCF criminal justice liaison, which include our community partners with DJJ, CBC, GAL, Guidance Care Center (GCC), LE and the SAO. DCF also provides HT training directly to any agency that submits a request and currently has a pending training with the Health Department planned for November 2013.

The Keys Coalition represents a broad spectrum of business, civic and religious leaders who have come together to focus on preventing and combating sex trafficking in the Florida Keys. Objectives are: (1) to

significantly increase the public awareness in our communities that modern day slavery exists. (2) to encourage compassionate action to assist in preventing citizens from our community from being ensnared in the web of human trafficking. (3) to enlist citizens of Monroe County to assist in these efforts. (4) to provide guidance, education and assistance to any local victims of human trafficking. Keys Coalition members attended the Children's Day event in Key West on October 30, 2011 providing HT outreach and awareness. In December 2011, Keys Coalition leaders met with Rep Ileana Ros-Lehtinen to continue discussion of legislative advocacy.

On January 11, 2012 the Monroe County Mayor David Rice and Key West City Mayor Craig Cates signed proclamations for Human Trafficking Awareness day. On this same day many people from Key West to Key Largo joined in a day of prayer for human trafficking victims and survivors. This same month the Keys Coalition held their annual "Our Kids are not for sale freedom rallies" in the Key West and Key Largo areas of Monroe County. During May 2012, Mayor Cates and Mayor Rice collaborated to "stop back page now". They advised the Executive Director of Monroe County Tourist Development (MCTD) that the company (Miami Times News) which was used to place ads promoting travel in the keys was associated with the Village Voice Media that has websites that link to online prostitution services. The MCTD pulled the ads from the Miami News Times and are now using the Miami Herald. During this same month, Keys Coalition leaders attended the Regional Summit on Human Trafficking in Boca Raton. In November 2012, DCF Greg Feldman and Ben Guerrero were keynote speakers at the Upper Keys Coalition Team meeting.

On January 2013 the Keys Coalition held their 2nd annual anti-trafficking rally. Detective Brice Britenum of the Fort Lauderdale Police Special Victims Unit and a member of the FBI Minor Victim Task Force was a guest speaker. Allison Good, a survivor of sex trafficking was also a guest speaker at the event. In March 2013, Tyson Elliott, Human Trafficking coordinator with DJJ, provided a HT presentation to all Keys Coalition members and community partners at a local church.

Supporting Adoptions

Strategy	Support Services
Objective 1.1	Offer three month post placement supervision
Objective 1.2	Provide support groups for post adoption families
Objective 1.3	Provide mental health services for adoption disruption

During 2010 when the plan was developed it was anticipated Wesley House Family Services (WHFS) would use the Neighborhood Center to provide three months of post placement supervision for finalized adoptions, however due to funding issues the Neighborhood Center is no longer a program within WHFS.

As of this date, formal support groups for post adoption families do not exist, however foster parents have developed an informal support system and are aligned with the county's Foster Parent Association. This will be an area to continue to focus on over the next two years.

Pre and post adoption counseling services are available and provided by Guidance Care Center (GCC). All children's therapists with GCC have been trained in the TF/CBT (Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) model.

Our Kids (lead CBC agency) provides or refers for the following services: Mental Health Evaluations; Individual and Family Therapy; Adoption Support Groups (Miami); Supplemental Educational Services such as Tutoring; Medicaid benefits; Tuition Waiver; Financial assistance for summer camp or other extracurricular and enrichment activities; Request for Subsidy Increase or benefits review; Medical and

Dental services that Medicaid does not cover; Income Tax Credit; Orthodontic/braces; In-home Mental Health crisis counseling.

Our Kids ensures services and resources are communicated to adoptive parents through a monthly adoption newsletter distributed in the adoption subsidy check envelopes. In addition, monthly email blasts are sent to adoptive parents about upcoming events such as conferences and group support meetings. Our Kids recently implemented a system wherein telephone contact (monthly) is made to adoptive families who have adopted within that particular month. They are reminded that services are available and are contacted again within one month. Our Kids Full Case Management Agencies are also instrumental in making sure that prospective adoptive parents are given the post-adoption contact form prior to their adoption finalization. The form provides the contact information for adoptive families to get post-adoption services and support. Our Kids Adoption Manager or Adoption Advocate will make additional contact with any family that finalized an adoption that is considered complex for example, children placed out of State, trans-racial adoption, children that are adopted at 16 years and older, severely medically needy or those placed for only 90 days prior to adoption finalization. Our Kids is sponsoring 4 Town Hall meetings in Monroe County for Foster and Adoptive Parents and Caregivers. These town hall meetings are focused on improving our system of care, provide training opportunities and support to the Florida Keys families that are caring for children who live out of their homes. First meeting was on August 24, 2013 and the next following meetings will be held on November 23, 2013; January 11, 2014 and June 12, 2014. The meetings have been scheduled at Hawks Cay resort which is located in the middle of the Florida Keys with convenient access from lower and upper keys.

Promoting Adoptions

Strategy 1 Foster Care/Adoption Recruitment

Objective 1.1 to 1.5 Each year ongoing presentations will be provided to targeted organizations.

Annually Wesley House and Adoption Advocates implement recruitment efforts by providing presentations to targeted groups and attend community events to share information on the need for foster and adopt parents. Examples of recruitment efforts this year have included the following:

- Our Kids has sponsored a Bill Board ad for foster care recruitment under our local “One Human Family” creed. Our Kids has also produced and distributed bumper stickers and brochures advertising the toll free number to obtain information about foster care and adoptions.
- At this year Circuit 16 Break Out session at the Dependency Summit, our Circuit agreed to develop a local Heart Gallery for children free for adoption. A local photographer volunteered her time and work to take our children’s pictures and Our Kids is coordinating the efforts to promote and develop the project. We currently have some local children in the Miami Gallery and will have 5 children participating in the local Heart Gallery this year.
- WHFS CEO, Doug Blomberg shared information with the community via a local radio station. Additionally, print media attention was focused upon other opportunities for community members to assist children in the dependency system, such as tutoring, carpooling, etc. with a view toward exposing more of the community to children in care.
- DCF, WHFS and a foster parent have teamed up to share information and ask for GAL assistance in recruitment. This group attends each of the GAL pre-service training classes and provides an overview of the system of care as well as provide the GAL recruits with information on the need for foster/adopt parents. GAL recruits are asked to share the information with friends, family, post information at their work, share with their church etc. We have had that opportunity to speak with two separate groups of GAL volunteer recruits this past year and typically conduct at least four of these sessions a year.

- Each April, during Child Abuse Prevention month DCF and WHFS conduct a presentation at the Navy Child and Youth Advocacy Center. Information is shared regarding mandatory reporting, the system of care and we ask the audience for their assistance in sharing information with their family, friends, church, colleagues etc. on the need for foster/adopt parents.
- WHFS and DCF participated in the Upper Keys Stone Crab and Seafood Festival providing a booth that had information on foster care/adoption and provided books to the children.
- DCF provided an overview of the child welfare system of care and asked for assistance with recruitment with the Wild Women of the Water (WWOW) organization. WWOW has 96 members and they all received information regarding the need for foster/adoption parents.
- DCF shares recruitment information with all Partners for Promise and ask for their assistance in distributing/sharing the information.
- The next annual event with Southernmost Seventh Day Adventist Church is scheduled for 10/19 and will provide another opportunity to provide recruitment outreach reach among the faith based community.

Strategy 2 Training and Assistance

Objective 2.1 Implementation of PRIDE curriculum.

Objective 2.2 Develop and maintain ongoing list of support networks available to waiting families.

Objective 2.3 Partner with Guidance Care Center for adoption competent therapists.

Objective 2.4 Wesley House will provide case managers with annual training on the needs of adoptive children.

WHFS implemented the Parent Resources for Information, Development, and Education (PRIDE) model in 2010. The PRIDE program is designed to strengthen the quality of family foster care and adoption services by providing a standardized, consistent, structured framework for the competency-based recruitment, preparation, and selection of foster and adoptive parents, and also includes ongoing in-service training for professional development. PRIDE Pre-service, PRIDE Core, and PRIDE Specialized and Advanced Training are all designed to teach knowledge and skills in five essential competency categories for foster parents and adoptive parents: 1)Protecting and nurturing children; 2)Meeting children’s developmental needs, and addressing developmental delays; Supporting relationships between children and their families; 3) Connecting children to safe, nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime, and; 4)Working as a member of a professional team. Integral to all three components is the belief that protecting and nurturing children at risk and strengthening all their families (birth, foster, or adoptive) requires teamwork among individuals with diverse knowledge and skills, but all working from a shared vision and toward a common goal. Foster and adoptive parents are essential members of this team. This model is aligned with the Quality Parenting Initiative.

The primary support group for foster and adoptive families consists of the informal supportive relationships that have been developed among the foster /adoptive parents and from involvement with the Monroe and Miami Dade Foster Parent Association.

Pre and post adoption counseling services are available and provided by Guidance Care Center (GCC). All children’s therapists with GCC have been trained in the TF/CBT (Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) model.

WHFS provides annual in-service trainings to their staff of case managers and family consultants.

Strategy 3 Community Engagement/Awareness

Objective 3.1 Ten businesses or individuals are identified who will promote and support foster adoptive families by June 2015.

Objective 3.2 Increase the number of events during National Adoption month and promote increased community participation.

Objective 3.3 Four open house events will be held throughout the Circuit annually.

WHFS has partnered with many local merchants that help provide funds to support the foster and adoption programs. Examples of local merchants and individuals that help are Centennial Bank, First State Bank, Southernmost Insurance, The Gardens Hotel, John and Karen Lockwood, Eden House, Truman and Company, Old Town Dental, Waste Management, Keys Federal Credit Union, Niles Sales and Service, Mizel Holdings, Bender and Associates Architects, Prudential Knight Gardner Realty etc. The Bottlecap has hosted several fundraisers and the Toy Factory, Fishbowl (bowling alley) and Boondocks Restaurant have been extremely generous in their help with the national adoption day events. WHFS exceeded the target goal for this objective.

WHFS has National Adoption Day celebrations annually in the Upper and Lower Keys. Prior to the implementation of this plan only one event was held that was not conducive to the geography of the Keys. These events are well attended and include activities for the children, recognition of foster and adopt parents and helps raise community awareness of the need for foster and adopt families

Open House events have not been held. Information is available on Wesley House Family Services (WHFS) website. Brochures are also available. WHFS Adoptions Supervisor meets one-on-one with interested families for at least 1 hour to provide detailed information about foster to adoption when contacted.

Please identify the percentage of achievement of the five-year prevention plan you think your circuit has achieved, and describe why.

Circuit 16 has achieved approximately 60% of its five-year prevention plan, given the limitations created by reduced funding of available programs and geographic challenges. The community has a strong network of supported prevention programs and Coalitions, and a greater awareness of the need to promote and support adoptions through the dependency system in order to achieve permanency for children in care. Not only is the community working toward a more collaborative way to achieve the goals of the plan, but the successes are celebrated as part of our strategy to enhance the visibility of adoption opportunities in the community. Some goals will likely not be fully met as established through metrics due to the very small numbers used in evaluation and the opportunity of a single event to significantly skew the perceived performance. The LPT has decided to focus upon one prevention and two permanency goals for the remainder of the planning period. We know, however, that by simply having a plan available to maintain focus, that we have moved the community's awareness and efforts forward in a way that enhances achievement of the protective factors more broadly across Monroe County. Similarly, through efforts identified through the LPT process, both agencies and community members have a greater awareness of the need to promote and support adoptions from within the dependency system.

As importantly, the process has created a working group and a forum to routinely discuss what is needed in our community and how to best achieve the established goals. Community partners are discussing areas of concern, how to best align limited resources and using the lessons learned through the planning process and how they can be applied to the next five year Prevention Plan. For instance, an effort is

currently underway to house the Local Planning Team under the Community Alliance for even greater visibility, monitoring and inclusion of agency decision makers in the process.

Do you think your circuit is on target to accomplishing your four target goals by June 2015? Why or why not?

Circuit 16 is focusing on 3 goals (2 for permanency and 1 for prevention)

Permanency Note: *Goals set for Circuit 16 are proportionate to those of the State as a whole. However, the committee adjusted the Circuit's actual goals to reflect a similar level of improvement predicated upon the local base line measure. For example, the state seeks to in goal 1 improve the percent of children adopted within 12 months of becoming legally free for adoption from the 2008-09 rate of 68.3% to 70% by 30 June 2015. Circuit 16's goal is to improve their performance in this measure from the 2008-2009 rate of 40% to 45%. Similarly, in goal 2, the state seeks to reduce the percent of children legally free for adoption who have been waiting for adoption since the date of TPR for more than 12 months from 51.4% to 46%, while the Circuit will work to reduce the percentage from 60% to 56%. Analysts reviewing the data must be mindful of the very small numbers of cases managed within the Circuit and the disproportionate statistical impact a single adoption can have on the entire scope of performance measures.*

Goal 1

The percent of children adopted within 12 months of becoming legally free for adoption will increase from the fiscal year 2008-09 rate of 40% percent to 45% percent by 30 June 2015.

The length of time between becoming legally free for adoption and adoption finalization for children adopted during SFY 2012-13 was 75%. WHFS finalized 4 adoptions this past fiscal year and 3 of those children were completed in less than 12 months. This is much improvement from 2008-09 performance and for this fiscal year WHFS exceeded the targeted goal.

Total adoptions finalization for 2012-2013: 4

Less than 12 months	3 children	75%
12 months to 24 months	1 children	25%
24 months to 36 months	0 children	0%
36 months to 48 months	0 children	0%
48 months or more	0 children	0%

Goal 2

The percent of children legally free for adoption who have been waiting for adoption since the date of termination of parental rights (TPR) for more than 12 months will be reduced from the June 2009 rate of 60% percent to 56% percent by 30 June 2015.

As of October 2013, there are eight children legally free for adoption in the 16th Circuit, and five of those have been waiting for more than 12 months since their date of legal termination of parental rights or 62%. Because the numbers of children in this category are generally low, the change in status of one child can significantly impact the measure.

Prevention:

Goal 3

Children and teenagers are free from abuse, abandonment, and neglect and have safe, loving and permanent homes as measured by a reduction in the circuit-level child abuse rate from the fiscal year 2008-09 of 17.5% to a rate of 17% per 1,000 children by 30 June 2015.

Maltreatment rates are calculated by dividing the child population by the number of children with a verified finding of abuse/neglect and multiplying the result by 1,000. Below is the outline of Monroe County data for the past six fiscal years:

2007-08	13505 child population	927 received reports	259 had verified maltreatment	19.2%
2008-09	13434 child population	671 received reports	196 had verified maltreatment	17.5%
2009-10	13505 child population	927 received reports	259 had verified maltreatment	19.2%
2010-11	13296 child population	894 received reports	217 had verified maltreatment	18.1%
2011-12	10869 child population	874 received reports	197 had verified maltreatment	16.3%
2012-13	10883 child population	842 received reports	210 had verified maltreatment	19.3%

The average maltreatment rate over the past six years is 17.5% which indicates we have not made improvements in reducing the maltreatment rate in our community.

Highlights and Accomplishments

Please describe any highlights and accomplishments connected to your circuit's five-year plan.

- Congratulations to Lori Thompson, a foster/adopt parent and member of this local planning team on the finalized adoption of her daughter!!
- Guidance Care Center conducted the "Too Good for Drugs" curriculum to approximately 950 youth for the school year 12-13. Teen Intervene served 50 youth for the school year 12-13
- The confluence of an unprecedented increase in the number of dependency cases from March 2013 through present (90 to 160) and a high rate of staff turnover created difficulty for case management in the Circuit by WHFS. They will, however, be fully staffed by November 2013 and intend to hire and train additional case managers so that by January 2014, the case management agency in the Circuit will have sufficient staff to avoid any problems created by unforeseen staff disruptions.

Next Steps

Please identify what your circuit's proposed next steps are for 2014 related to the five-year plan.

Our Judicial Circuit is implementing the Model Court initiative. Magistrate Sharon Hamilton has the lead on this project. The Model Courts Project works to identify impediments to the timeliness of court events and delivery of services for families and children and then design and implement court and agency-based changes to address these barriers. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) Model Courts Project has partnered with courts across the country to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children, juvenile offenders and their families. The NCJFCJ bench book provides a recommended practice approach to improving court processes and is guided by the Key Principles for Permanency Planning for Children.

DCF Children's Legal Services and the CBC will be implementing permanency roundtables (PRT) which is an intervention designed to facilitate the permanency planning process by identifying realistic solutions to permanency obstacles for youth. Key players (a permanency consultant, a master practitioner, a youth's case manager and supervisor, etc.) convene to create individual permanency plans. Preceding the roundtables is an interactive values training session for agency staff focused on issues surrounding permanency, including the importance of individualized permanency planning, the role of effective legal representation, and the value of judicial leadership. The purpose of the evaluations is to document outcomes, to identify components of PRTs associated with positive outcomes, and to provide practice and policy recommendations for achieving permanency for children and youth.

Our Kids and Wesley House are working to re-organize the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) in Monroe County. Our Kids will coordinate the meeting in the Keys for a dialogue regarding revisiting Monroe County's Branding Statement and commitment to QPI.

There are currently four families enrolled in PRIDE training in Key West (two for the purpose of adopting) with the projected completion date in December 2013. There are two families enrolled in the Upper Keys with a projected completion date in October 2013. Future classes for potential foster/adoptive parents are scheduled for February and August 2014. Classes will also be scheduled for Full Case Managers.

Our Kids is working on Foster Parent Retention by developing a Foster Parent Mentor (FPM) Program. The Foster Parent Mentor program will work with newly licensed foster parents. The Monroe County Foster Parent Mentor Program will begin in December 2013 with an application, interview, selection and training process.

Our Kids is working on a recognition campaign for those employers who support Foster Parents. Foster friendly businesses will be recognized and posted on OK Website and other media outings like Facebook, Instagram, etc.

Community events sponsored by Wesley House, to include the Inez Martin Backpack program, a Valentine's Day Gala, and Summer Jam will continue to bring ongoing and year-round attention to the services provided by the agency, as well as the need for support from the community for the foster/adoptive program. The Local Planning Team will continue to seek out similar community-wide opportunities to raise the overall awareness of the need for greater support of the Circuit's prevention, promotion and support of adoptions in our community.

Our Kids and community partners are working to establish a Keys Heart Gallery. The team is in the process of identifying children and securing their interest in participating; working with the pro-bono photographer to plan the shoot; seeking needed court orders; recruiting additional photographer, videographer, hair and makeup and provide the children with clothing; identify a location (with the photographer) for the shoot depending on the geographical location of the children; create a web page to display the pictures, videos and information; create printed materials for each child; identify locations to display the photos; and start working on a kickoff reception.

The LPT will work on establishing formal local support groups for foster and adopt caregivers.