



# The Children and Youth Cabinet of Florida

## Strategic Plan

December 2007

## **The Charge**

*Section 402.56, Florida Statutes* creates the Children and Youth Cabinet, which is a coordinating council as defined in s. 20.03.

## **The Vision**

All children in Florida grow up safe, healthy, educated and prepared to meet their full potential.

## **The Mission**

To ensure that the public policy of Florida relating to children and youth promotes interdepartmental collaboration and program implementation in order for services designed for children and youth to be planned, managed and delivered in a holistic and integrated manner to improve the self-sufficiency, safety, economic stability, health and quality of life of all children and youth in Florida

## **The Guiding Principles**

Actions proposed to implement Florida's Children and Youth Cabinet Strategic Plan must:

1. Empower families to provide a nurturing, healthy and safe environment for children
2. Invest in children's health, safety, education and well-being
3. Align public finances, information technology, and human resources to support the healthy growth and development of children
4. Ensure a long-term commitment to at-risk children and youth
5. Improve family and child outcomes related to the Cabinet's vision for children
6. Engage families, the community, stakeholders, and businesses to improve child and family outcomes

## The Goals

### **1. Promote increased efficiency and improved service delivery by all governmental agencies that provide services for children, youth and their families**

- a. Develop and implement a shared and cohesive vision for child and youth outcomes across state agencies, departments and programs
- b. Create communication mechanisms and strategies between state agencies to share information and resources
- c. Coordinate planning between state agencies to promote a continuum of integrated and comprehensive services for children and youth through adoption of common benchmarks, integration of funding streams, and shared data
- d. Develop and implement a child and youth budget structure and nomenclature for use among state departments
- e. Identify existing and potential public and private funding streams for children and youth services, including opportunities for revenue maximization of federal funding
- f. Create a child and youth impact statement to evaluate all proposed legislation appropriations and program proposals with the goal of maximizing positive outcomes and eliminating the potential for unintended consequences

### **2. Ensure that all children live in permanent, safe and nurturing environments**

- a. Establish mechanisms and strategies to support families in providing for the optimal growth and development of their children and youth
- b. Promote the creation and maintenance of an integrated prevention framework that enables local communities, state agencies and organizations to collaborate to implement efficient and properly applied evidence-based child abuse prevention practices
- c. Develop structures to ensure children have adequate representation to receive the services that are in their best interest, including effective legal representation through a guardian ad litem and an attorney when needed
- d. Identify and implement policies to increase youth success and decrease the number of children entering the juvenile justice and criminal justice system
- e. Support environmental and policy improvements to reduce the risk of child injury, acquired disease and disease exacerbation

**3. Ensure that all children in Florida have access to high-quality preventative, primary, specialty and long-term healthcare**

- a. Promote the development of a culturally-competent and comprehensive system of quality health care and medical home services, including prevention; prenatal; early and continued developmental, mental and behavioral screening and diagnosis; early intervention and on-going treatment
- b. Identify and implement policies to support access to affordable health insurance for all children
- c. Develop opportunities for child, youth and family health education and injury prevention
- d. Support the transitioning of adolescents into adult health care, especially those with special needs

**4. Assure high-quality, seamless, research-based education and learning opportunities for all children**

- a. Support policies and practices to increase high quality early learning environments for children birth through age three
- b. Identify and implement strategies to improve Florida's Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Education Program
- c. Build opportunities for service coordination and improvements to Florida's K-20 Education System
- d. Create transition mechanisms between education and learning entities and systems

**5. Build, allocate and align sufficient resources and functions to meet the goals set forth by the Children and Youth Cabinet**

- a. Develop public awareness and partnerships to benefit all children and youth
- b. Establish annual Revenue Estimating Conference for children's funding
- c. Identify gaps and resources required to meet the health, safety, educational and support needs of children and their families