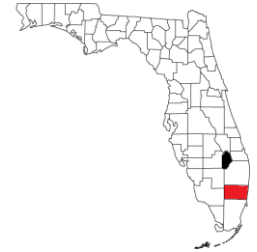




**CIRCUIT 17**  
Broward County



*Florida’s Five Year Prevention and Permanency Plan  
State Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014 Progress*

**Highlights and Accomplishments**

- Child maltreatment rates continued to decrease for third consecutive year.
- Cross collaboration continues to occur for drowning prevention and safe sleep initiatives. Funding for education and resources continue to be a focus for various funders.
- The Children’s Services Council of Broward County was re-elected through referendum by the voters of the community to remain in existence and continue prevention efforts for the children of Broward County.
- The Domestic Violence sub-committee continues to work on strategic planning goals. The community responded to address domestic violence training needs by hosting the David Mandel Safe and Together training for child welfare professionals throughout the county.
- The rate of adoptions finalized in less than 12 months from termination of Parental Rights continues to increase for the fourth consecutive year while the rate of adoptions occurring after 12 months of TPR continues to decrease.

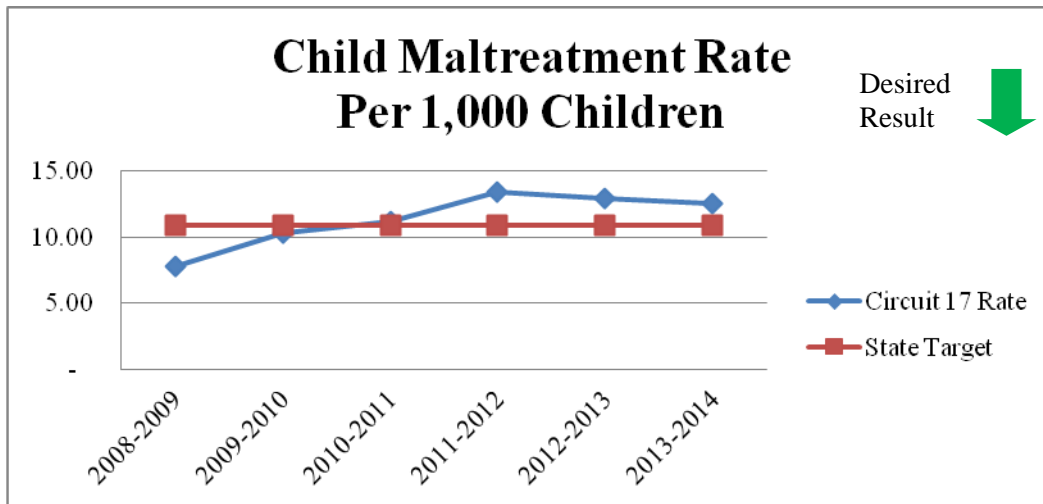
**Desired Population Level Results**

1. **Child Maltreatment Prevention** – By June 30, 2015, the verified findings of child abuse rate will be reduced from the State Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 statewide rate of 10.94 per 1,000 children.

Child Maltreatment Rates						
	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Broward	7.83	10.36	11.18	13.45	12.97	12.53
<b>Circuit Rate</b>	<b>7.83</b>	<b>13.36</b>	<b>11.18</b>	<b>13.45</b>	<b>12.97</b>	<b>12.53</b>
<b>State Target</b>	<b>10.94</b>	<b>10.94</b>	<b>10.94</b>	<b>10.94</b>	<b>10.94</b>	<b>10.94</b>
<b>State Rate</b>	<b>10.94</b>	<b>12.06</b>	<b>12.51</b>	<b>13.23</b>	<b>12.27</b>	<b>11.42</b>

*\*The current Five-Year Prevention and Permanency Plan started on July 1, 2010.*

## Child Maltreatment Prevention



### Status of Strategies and Objectives

**Strategy A.1:** Over the five year period from July 2010-June 2015, Circuit 17 will engage in a comprehensive campaign to educate the community both parents and professionals on Drowning Prevention strategies targeted to the Infant/Toddler age group and Unsafe Sleep Practices which are the leading causes of death in the County.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 Community wide Drowning Prevention Action Plan	Completed	<p>The Broward County Drowning Prevention Taskforce has developed a strategic plan to address drowning prevention initiatives and action steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During, FY 13-14, cities and funders have identified additional money to increase free lessons for children ages 1-4 years old.</li> <li>First responders are being trained to identify water hazards while on site of a call.</li> <li>Department of Health inspectors are looking at deficits in safety barriers when identified by a first responder.</li> <li>Water Smart Broward website was launched by the Drowning Prevention Taskforce. This website contains all drowning prevention resources, contacts, services, and information on one website so the public can receive all needed information at one location.</li> </ul>
Objective 1.2 Community Strategies to eliminate Unsafe Sleep practices	Completed	<p>A safe sleep sub-committee has been formed under the Maternal Child Health Strategic planning committee to have a sole focus on community wide initiatives to address unsafe sleep practices. The sub-committee has developed an initial community plan which includes goals, objectives, and action steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaboration with the Ft. Lauderdale Fire Rescue continues with the DOSE (Direct On-Site Training) initiative. They collaborated with Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies to create a training video which is used for first responders.</li> <li>All in-home service staff including Family Strengthening and Child Protection Investigators have been trained to identify risk factors for unsafe sleep environments.</li> <li>In October 2014, CSC began funding a new Safe Sleep Coordinator (RN) position to coordinate trainings and community wide initiatives. This</li> </ul>

## Child Maltreatment Prevention

		position will also provide hands-on education to medical staff professionals.
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**Strategy B.1:** Over the five year period from July 2010-June 2015, Circuit 17's Early Care and Education Community will infuse in their Quality Enhancement Initiative an emphasis on training of Child Care staff regarding the prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and work with the local Child Care Licensing Office to ensure staff are receiving ongoing education.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 Provide child abuse/neglect training to child care facility personnel.	On-going	Train the trainer sessions are held on a bi-monthly basis for all professional staff in the ELC quality initiative.
Objective 1.2 Quality Improvement Initiative/Positive Behavior Support will be implemented to enhance professional development of child care center personnel, providing them with the skills and resources needed to effectively work with children and parents, leading to the integration of the Protective Factors.	On-going	Pilot has been completed. Positive Behavior Support continues to expand into more child care centers. Performance measures continue to demonstrate success.

**Strategy B.2:** Over the five year period from July 2010-June 2015, Circuit 17 through the School Board of Broward County will implement a school wide initiative that increases the health and well being of children and families.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 Embed information about the Protective Factors in the school district's Parent Involvement webpage.	Completed	Information on protective factors is now included on the School Board's Parent Involvement webpage.
Objective 1.2 Establish a relationship between School Board's Child Abuse Services and the Broward County Council of PTAs.	Pending	Outreach efforts continue but information regarding Child Abuse Services are available on the Parent Involvement webpage.

**Strategy B.3:** Over the five year period from July 2010-June 2015, Circuit 17 through the School Board of Broward County will implement a school wide initiative that increases the health and well being of children and families.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 All programs within Broward County Public Schools' Student Support Department (SSD), the Office of Prevention Programs (OPP), and the Pre-K Thru 2 Dept. and Teen Parent Social Work program will receive training concerning the protective factors.	Completed	The School Board of Broward County Child Abuse Services manager has provided training to the Student Services Department, Office of Prevention Programs, Teen Parent Social Work Department and Pre-K -2 Department. She holds trainings on a regular basis with school personnel and all school social workers. A protective factor power point presentation is included on the Student Services Department website.
Objective 1.2 To establish a School District-wide database, BASIS, that proactively addresses the needs of children K-12 who are exhibiting risk factors that suggest difficulty with successful performance academically, socially or emotionally and creates a single point for district support services.	Completed	The BASIS database has been rolled out district wide and is being used by school personnel. The database identifies children who are exhibiting risk factors and creates a single point of entry for all student support services and community resources.

### Child Maltreatment Prevention

**Strategy B.4:** Over the five year period from July 2010-June 2015, Broward County will reduce acceptance of intimate partner violence through an increase in knowledge about intimate partner violence and healthy relationships among youth.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 Provide age appropriate primary prevention education to Broward County youth about the promotion of healthy relationships, non-violent conflict resolution, reaching out to adults for help, and encouraging productive action when witnessing violence through Women In Distress' multi-session youth prevention curricula—Hands Are For Helping, Get Real About Violence, Imagine...A World Where Love Doesn't Hurt, and Men Advocating Social Change.	On-going	WID provides youth based primary prevention educational programs to youth in Broward County Schools.
Objective 1.2 Increase school personnel and other adult's capacity to support youth's own primary prevention and social change initiatives in their schools and community through ongoing professional education, training and support.	On-going	WID has partnerships with school personnel to provide education to teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators. WID has provided training to social workers and prevention liaisons.
Objective 1.3 Foster continued and further collaborations between school personnel and other community stakeholders to build diverse partnerships addressing intimate partner violence, bullying and teen dating violence.	On-going	A domestic violence strategic plan sub-committee meets on a regular basis and is being led by court administration and Legal Aid staff.

**Strategy B.5:** Over the five year period from July 2010-June 2015, Circuit 17 will implement a community initiative on Sexual Violence Prevention.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 Increase knowledge and awareness of sexual violence prevention.	On-going	CAT continues to work in the community and support member initiatives within partnering organizations to conduct activities that will increase capacity to prevent sexual violence.
Objective 1.2 Reach youth groups with sexual violence prevention education programs.	On-going	Presentations to high schools and middle schools continue throughout the year. Additionally, presentations were completed to the community at large.

## Child Maltreatment Prevention

**Strategy C.1:** Over the five-year period from July 2010 –June 2015, Circuit 17 will support the statewide efforts to increase the availability and capacity of Healthy Families Florida to provide home visitation for families at high risk of abuse and neglect and in need of parenting education and support.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 Continue, enhance and expand Healthy Families Florida.	On-going	<p>Local Advisory Meetings are held on a quarterly basis. Healthy Families Broward completed their two year process for Healthy Families America Accreditation renewal which is valid until June 30, 2019.</p> <p>During the year, HFB expanded their High Risk Family Specialist capacity this year from 1 FT person to 1 FT and 1 PT person.</p> <p>Healthy Families hosted their annual graduation event to recognize the families that complete the program successfully. Additionally, the program provides community educational activities in program’s areas of expertise (Shaken Baby, Immunizations, Breastfeeding, Attachment/Bonding, etc) at various community events such as, Broward Aware’s Family Fun and Resource Day and the Fatherhood Bootcamp at the Healthy Start/Memorial Healthcare System Event.</p>

**Strategy C.2:** Over the five year period from July 2010-June 2015, Circuit 17 will implement strategies to strengthen the Maternal/Child Health service outreach with the promotion of the Safe Baby Campaign.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 Promotion of the Safe Baby Campaign	On-going	A maternal/ child health strategic planning committee meets on a regular basis to address all safe baby community issues. Strategic planning goals include reduction in teen births, access to prenatal care, breastfeeding, immunizations, and safe sleep.
Objective 1.2 Educate the community on Infant Mental Health.	Completed	The Managing Entity, Broward Behavioral Health, has funded a certification training on Infant Mental Health for various community members.

**Strategy D.1:** Over the five year period from July 2010-June 2015, Circuit 17 will have implemented a faith-based prevention initiative that would provide for either universal or targeted efforts in which the faith community is engaged to provide family and community supports that would build the protective factors identified in the Family Strengthening Initiative.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 Develop county-level strategies to engage at least two faith-based communities in Broward County and in the promotion of child abuse prevention using the protective factors with emphasis on social connections, concrete support in times of need, and knowledge of parenting and child development by June 30, 2011.	On-going	<p>One Champion Identified, Tom Lukasik, who has a network of Faith-Based groups. Progress is improving within the Faith community. Much growth has been seen by this group to make more in the Faith community aware of the major needs in Circuit 17.</p> <p>The Church United – A Network of Faith Based Providers. This group continues to meet and work together to meet the most pressing needs in the community. Foster care and homelessness are the top two priorities for the next year</p>
Objective 1.2 Develop systems for identifying existing and/or needed faith oriented child abuse prevention resources available across the faith community that strengthens families using the Protective Factors by June 30, 2012.	Pending	Establishing a database of the Church United is a work in progress. The local group is working to partner with the Statewide Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council to have a coordinated database by calendar year end 2015.

## Child Maltreatment Prevention

**Strategy D.2:** Over the five year period from July 2010-June 2015, Circuit 17 will support a comprehensive and coordinated system of care for children with Special Needs.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 Increase funding allocation across funders to reduce service gaps.	On-going	Pilot program was implemented between the CSC and the County Human Services Department which increased capacity in summer programming for behaviorally challenged and children with special needs, therefore, maximizing dollars for this population.
Objective 1.2 Support a coordinated system of care for children with special needs.	On-going	Special Needs Advisory Coalition continues its advocacy efforts through its participation in Broward Days. Legislative Agenda seeks 1) funding increase for Early Steps, 2) quality resources for medically fragile children, 3) reducing the DD Home and Community Waiver Waitlist, 4) Transition Services.
Objective 1.3 Strengthen and empower families to foster the best possible development and outcomes for children with special needs.	On-going	Dedicated specialists at 211 for Special Needs and Behavioral Health. Expanded capacity by integrating case management component to assist parents and caregivers in navigating the special needs system.

**Strategy D.3:** Over the five year period from July 2010-June 2015, Circuit 17 will support the Tri-County effort to streamline the eligibility process for health and human services agencies to ensure increased access to Health Care and Public Benefits over the five-year period from July 2010 – June 2015.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 To implement a uniform eligibility system to increase access and enrollment of eligible clients to public assistance programs as well as healthcare and human services.		<p>The Common Eligibility Project is a collaborative effort with multiple Broward partners to identify benefit enrollment opportunities across healthcare and social service systems and share the associated costs. One-e-App is an electronic common eligibility and enrollment platform for Broward County individuals and families to access vital health and human services from multiple Federal, State and County programs using a single streamlined application form. One -e-App enables instant submission of electronic applications for Medicaid, SNAP and TANF to the Department of Children and Families</p> <p>For the period ended 9/30/14, there were 1,217 client interviews, representing 2,759 unduplicated people, both adults and children entered into the System to review eligibility for 6,772 programs.</p> <p>Organizations using One-e-App have seen significant benefits such as increases in efficiency and reductions in service duplication. By using a single streamlined application, individuals and families no longer need to travel to different agencies and locations to enroll in these services. Many times One-e-App consumers are made aware of, and often enrolled in, programs they never knew about or knew they were eligible for.</p>

## **Child Maltreatment Prevention**

**Strategy D.4:** Over the five year period from July 2010-June 2015, Circuit 17 will engage in a Public Awareness Campaign aimed at reducing Abuse and Neglect.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 To implement a Public Awareness Campaign which leverages the community's resource to prevent child abuse and neglect.	Completed/ On-going	<p>The Broward AWARE, Protecting Our Children campaign works as part of the CAPP Planning Committee to raise public awareness on the resources available to help prevent child abuse and neglect and heal its victims. Broward AWARE encompasses nearly 30 agencies and organizations working in this arena and leverages public awareness resources to reach a broad audience of families, educators, public servants, policy makers, law enforcement officials, media and other stakeholders. It partners with the Centralized Information and Referral System – 211 with a dedicated webpage on the 211 site that includes a calendar of events, interactive resources, presentations materials, etc.</p> <p>The Broward AWARE campaign launches in January with a press conference and culminates in April, with a Family Fun and Resource Fair in conjunction Child Abuse Prevention Month activities and state and national Pinwheels for Prevention events.</p> <p>Leverage activities, resources from community members such as parenting groups, training on child development, concrete supports.</p>

### **Human Trafficking Activities**

#### *Summary of Human Trafficking Activities*

Coalition was formed in 2008. It has identified community indicators through regularly held meetings to review identified cases. It has provided community trainings across the county to social services professionals, law enforcement. The STARS Committee (Stop Trafficking and Rescue Survivors) was formed as part of the coalition. It is solely focused on the juvenile aspects of human trafficking. The STARS committee has actively been working to identify gaps in service provision, and work to ensure that there are POCs (points of contact) that will work together to enhance service provision to juvenile victims. The STARS Committee is being recognized as a leader in the development of policy and positive adaptive change for juveniles. The DJJ Circuit 17 and Broward JAC-BSO (representing the STARS subcommittee) assisted in the current development of the DJJ and DCF statewide Human Trafficking assessment tool that is soon to be released. This tool will be utilized to identify youth who are at risk for sex trafficking as well as labor trafficking. The efforts undertaken are to address the systems for those youth who are identified as either domestically or internationally trafficked. Education and awareness are the hallmarks of the BHTC. This Committee receives direction, networking, and information to work diligently to collaborate and coordinate responses within their respective agencies to issues such as Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking. <http://www.bhtc.us/>

#### *Proposed Human Trafficking Activities for 2014-2015*

- January 2015- Human Trafficking Month
  - Training
  - Outreach Activity
- Fundraisers
- October 2015- State of Florida- Human Trafficking Summit

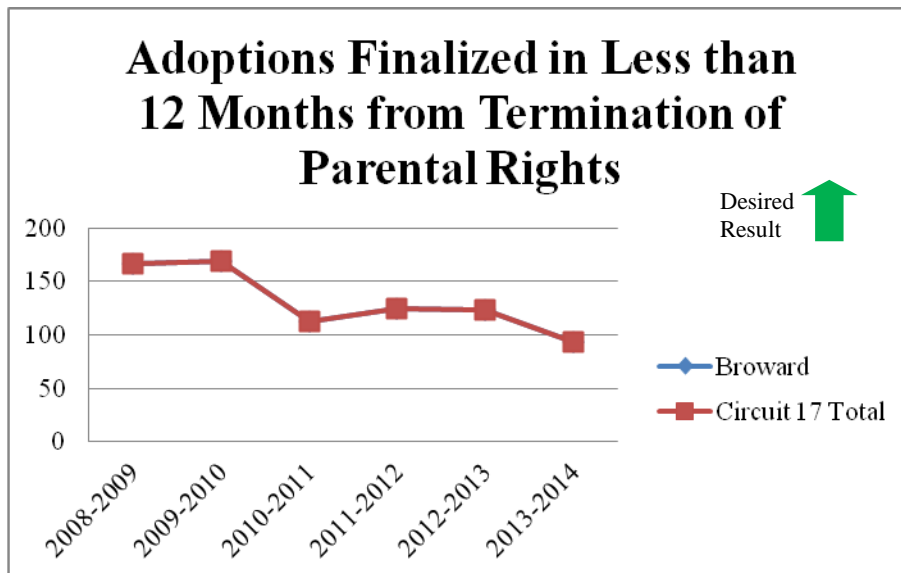
**Promotion of Adoption**  
**Desired Population Level Results**

**2. Promotion of Adoption –**

- a. By June 30, 2015, the percent of children adopted **within 12 months** of becoming legally free for adoption will increase from the State Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 rate of 66.4 percent.

Children Adopted within 12 months of Termination of Parental Rights							
County	Numbers and Percentages	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
<b>Broward</b>	Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	167	139	112	124	123	93
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	72%	71%	67%	66%	71%	76%
<b>Circuit Total</b>	Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	167	139	112	124	123	93
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	72%	71%	67%	66%	71%	76%

*\*The current Five-Year Prevention and Permanency Plan started on July 1, 2010.*



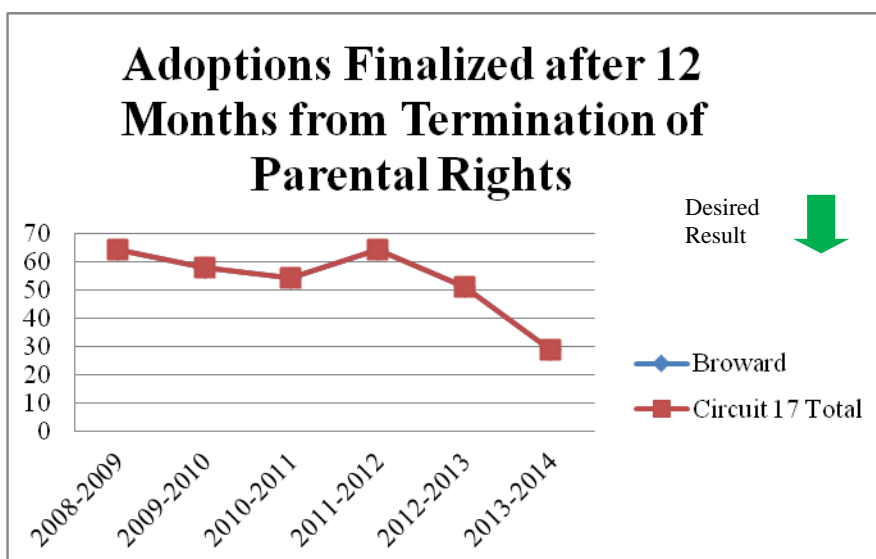
- b. By June 30, 2015, the percent of children legally free for adoption who have been waiting for adoption since the date of termination of parental rights (TPR) for **more than 12 months** will be reduced from the State Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 rate of 53.19 percent.

Children Adopted after 12 months of Termination of Parental Rights							
County	Numbers and Percentages	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
<b>Broward</b>	Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	64	58	54	64	51	29
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	28%	29%	33%	34%	29%	24%
<b>Circuit Total</b>	Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	64	58	54	64	51	29
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	28%	29%	33%	34%	29%	24%

*\*The current Five-Year Prevention and Permanency Plan started on July 1, 2010.*



## Promotion of Adoption



### Status of Strategies and Objectives

**Strategy 1:** By June 30, 2015, Circuit 17 will reduce the time from TPR to adoption finalization of African American children.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 Identify organizations, community groups, and churches that provide support and outreach to this population.	On-going	For FY 2013 - 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During this fiscal year, FaithNet has seen a change in leadership and is not as focused as earlier years. One Church One Child has renewed activity in Broward county and will be working to develop relationships within churches and bring awareness to adoption.</li> </ul> In October 2013, Global Outreach Ministries a mentorship and leadership series for the women of its congregation, and invited young ladies from Foster care and independent living youth to attend.
Objective 1.2 Once such groups have been identified, establish ongoing contact to increase adoption awareness.	On-going	All children available for adoption with no identified adoptive placements are listed on all of the adoption websites. The adoption recruitment supervisor notifies Home Finder of recently TPR'd children with no identified placements within 24 hours of receiving notification from TPR supervisor. The Home Finder and Wendy's wonderful kids recruiters continue to conduct targeted recruitment efforts among all the resources that result from these efforts.

**Strategy 2:** By June 30, 2015, Circuit 17 will reduce the wait time for sibling groups who need to be adopted together.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 2.1 ChildNet staff will increase efforts to place children together from the time of initial placement.	On-going	For FY 2013 - 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ChildNet and Broward's Heart Gallery partnered to feature Broward sibling groups in the gallery</li> <li>WWK recruiters provided enhanced recruitment through the Dave Thomas Grant for 5 challenging sibling groups (totaling 17 children) and is anticipated to achieve permanency for 6 of these groups, keeping all or some of the sibling connections in tact</li> <li>Separation of sibling staffings are conducted at within 30 days of initial intake to address when children are separated based on placement limitations; if missed staffings are again revisited after goal change to adoption to determine efforts to preserve the sibling group.</li> </ul>

## Promotion of Adoption

**Strategy 3:** By June 30, 2015, Circuit 17 will reduce the wait time for children over the age of 8 to be adopted.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 3.1 Increase the number of approved adoptive families interested in adopting children over 8.	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ChildNet continues to prioritize admissions to the MAPP classes to prospective adoptive families who have expressed an interest in adopting a child over the age of 8.</li> <li>• ChildNet continues to host monthly Adoption Orientation and Pre-service trainings (MAPP) for prospective adoptive families. Over 140 prospective adoptive families attended the monthly Orientations during the fiscal year, with 66 families moving on to have adoption home studies completed.</li> <li>• ChildNet's Homefinder and WWK recruiters worked with partners Broward Heart Gallery and Forever Families to host matching events for older children, as well as feature older waiting children engaged in fun activities throughout the year.</li> </ul>

### Additional Activities

#### Interagency Collaboration

- Broward County's Heart Gallery a private non-profit managed by its own Board of Directors. We share an active partnership through co hosting of fun filled photo shoots at interactive locations, matching events with waiting families and children, and collaborating about general and targeted recruitment.
- ChildNet also continues to partner with Forever Families to feature waiting children on the local NBC / Channel 6 news to generate child specific interest and bring attention to children waiting to be adopted from Foster Care.
- ChildNet has 2 Wendy's Wonderful Recruiters, whose positions are grant funded by the Dave Thomas foundation. These recruiters provide targeted efforts for their assigned children based on the foundation's child-specific model of case mining and in-depth review of case history, and outreach to all persons in that child's life to find a connection, and work to develop into adoption resources. They partner with that child's team to research and develop any and every possibility of connection for that child.
- ChildNets adoption team also participates in generalized recruitment by staffing informational booths at community events. Some highlights include :
  - August 2013 Back to School event; a local artist hosted children at a studio in Miami during the Coconut Grove Art festival, to teach about art and have everyone create their own original work. The Heart Gallery sponsored the event and photographed children for the gallery.
  - September 2013 Forever Families arranged for children to ride in a blimp , and children were recorded for their televised recruitment videos
  - October 2013, ChildNet and WWK recruiters hosted a teen matching event at Boomers, a local bowling alley, where families from neighboring counties along with waiting Broward families interested in teens were invited to attend.
  - November 2014 our annual Adoption Appreciation event brought together families who finalized adoptions in the prior year, as well select families who were visiting with newly matched children; local support group leaders led activities and built relationships with local families in an effort build communities of multi-directional support
  - December 2014 Teen Talk ; local community news Beacon TV hosted Teens from foster care and young adults in independent living to talk about their experiences of either waiting to

### **Promotion of Adoption**

be adopted , refusing to be adopted or their uncertainty. It was a powerful and candid reflection of our children.

- February 2014 – Elite Reality Family Day community outreach recruitment booth
- February 2014 – Butterfly Festival recruitment booth
- March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 – Pride Fest LGBT community out reach recruitment booth
- March 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 – FAPA mini conference recruitment and informational booth for Adoption promotion and adoption support
- March 28<sup>th</sup> Spring adoption Mixer ; a matching event geared toward teens and sibling groups
- April 2014 – Family Fun and Resource Fair for Child Abuse Prevention Month – Recruitment and Adoption support booth
- April 12<sup>th</sup> 2014 – LVL 2<sup>nd</sup> Fashion and Design Expo recruitment booth
- May 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 – Career Day at Royal Palms elementary ; presentation to teachers and parents
- June 21<sup>st</sup> 2014 – Stone Wall Festival recruitment booth

### *Proposed Activities for 2014-2015*

- Light House for the Blind-Staff meeting presentation: July 11, 2014
- Pride Center Expanding your family presentation on July 26, 2014
- Chat with Cheyenne/Forever Families: July 28, 2014 – Former adopted youth who led a group discussion with waiting children
- Adoption Back to school mixer: August 14, 2014
- Local Broward FAPA Presentation: September 23, 2014
- Tri County Humane Society Forever Families taping

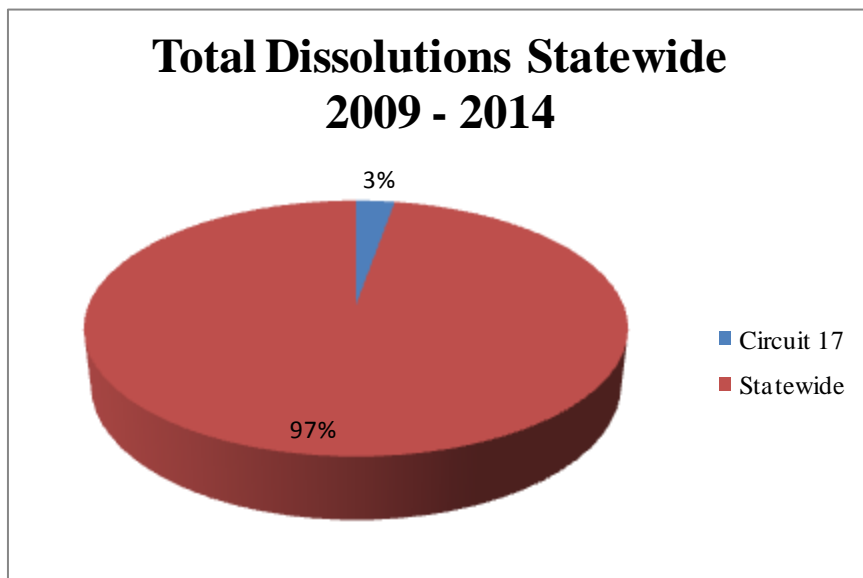
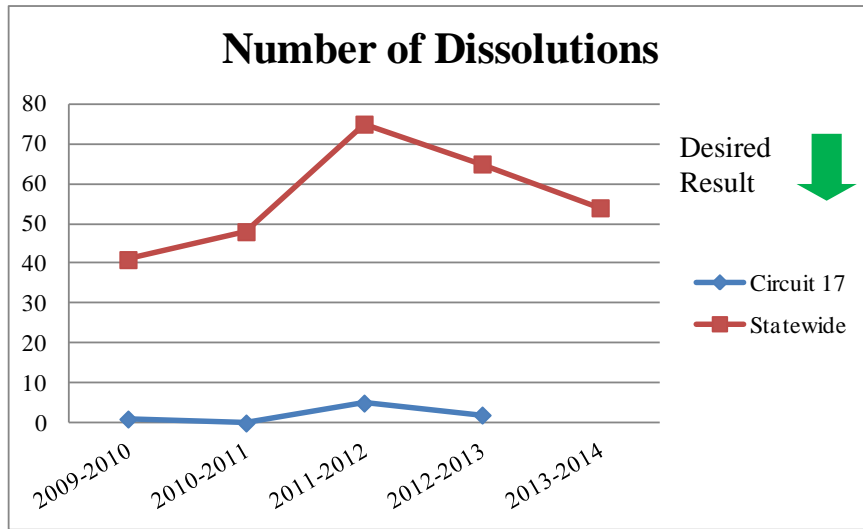
**Support for Adoptive Families  
Desired Population Level Results**

3. **Support of Adoptive Families** – By June 30, 2015, the annual number of adopted children who are returned to foster care (regardless of when the adoption was finalized) will be reduced from the State Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 number of 98.

Number of Dissolutions					
	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Circuit Total	1	0	5	2	**
<b>State Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>54**</b>

*\*The current Five-Year Prevention and Permanency Plan started on July 1, 2010.*

*\*\*Incomplete data due to error in tracking system.*



**Support for Adoptive Families**  
**Status of Strategies and Objectives**

**Strategy 1:** By June 30, 2015, Circuit 17 will increase awareness and accessibility to post adoptive supports and services.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Summary/Action Needed</b>
Objective 1.1 Adoptive families in Broward County will be supported through post adoption services.	On-going	Adoption advocates and post adoption specialist continue to provide all adoptive families with the post adoption informational packet. Post adoption specialist continues to conduct follow up calls to adoptive parents, 1 month, 6 months and 12 months after finalization. The post adoption specialist attends the support groups with Kids in Distress , Fab Familyz, and FAPA, and most Adoption MAPP panel discussions to talk about the post adoption program Post adoption specialist attends all legal sufficiency staffing concerning adoptive families after finalization, in an effort to advise all parties of interventions and services he may have already provided to families, or offer assistance that may prevent an adoptive child from coming back into foster care .
Objective 1.2 Adoptive families will gain an increased awareness of all available services in the Circuit.	On-going	The Adoption Connection newsletter was distributed to prospective adoptive and adoptive families quarterly during the 2013 – 2014 fiscal year. The post adoption specialist attends the support groups with Kids in Distress , Fab Familyz, and FAPA, and most Adoption MAPP panel discussions to talk about the post adoption program
Objective 1.3 Adoptive families will gain access and availability to adoption competent service providers and support services after finalization.	On-going	ChildNet continues to sub contract with Kids in Distress and Children’s Home Society to provide adoption specific therapy to pre and post adoption families. These contracted services can accompany other Medicaid billed service providers without conflict based on the service contract.

***Support of Adoptive Families include:***

- ChildNet’s adoption team includes a full time home finder and two full time pre- service training specialists, who conduct a monthly informational orientation meeting for prospective adoptive families, and lead pre service trainings and complete adoption home studies. MAPP is the primary pre service training used for prospective adoptive families, and there are a minimum of 5 MAPP training cycles per fiscal year. Two training cycles occurred during the first quarter, and a third class will start in October.
- The home finder is the primary point of contact for all children listed on web based recruitment sites, and provides preliminary screening for all inquiring families. She facilitates information disclosures between the child’s assigned team and the families, and supports all waiting families through their initial match.
- The training specialists also conduct all courtesy adoption home studies that are requested from other counties and states; they will assess the prospective adoptive candidate’s needs, make training recommendations and ensure that families who have children placed for adoption by other jurisdictions, are connected to all local supports and services.
- ChildNet has a full time dedicated post adoption specialist who meets with all local adoptive families at the time of adoptive placement to introduce the program and the services available after adoption finalization. All families are provided with a resource folder of information at that time.
- Broward’s Adoptive family support groups include :

**Kids In Distress** adoption support group meets once a month from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on the fourth Wednesday of the month at KIDS, at 819 NE 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilton Manors, Fl. 33305. If you are interested in

### Support for Adoptive Families

adopting this meeting can help you better understand the needs of abused, neglected and abandoned children. For further information you can contact Camie Vincent at (954) 390-7654 ext. 1392 or e-mail [camievincent@kidsindistress.org](mailto:camievincent@kidsindistress.org).

**FAB Familyz, Inc.** is in the planning stages of hosting there monthly meetings and educational programs “live” on-line. This support group is open to all foster or adoptive parents in need of community services for children. For further information contact Rosa Gordon by e-mail at [Rosa@FABFamilyz.org](mailto:Rosa@FABFamilyz.org) or Text to (954) 439-8832.

**FAPA’s** mission is to support, educate and advocate for all foster and adoptive parents. FAPA meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM at Plantation Church, 6501 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation, Fl 33317. For further information contact Tina Severance-Fonte at (954) 804-9220 or at

[www.brfapa.org](http://www.brfapa.org), [browardfapa@aol.com](mailto:browardfapa@aol.com), [www.twitter.com/BrowardFAPA](http://www.twitter.com/BrowardFAPA).

#### Proposed Activities for 2014-2015

The Post Adoption program has continued all the above listed services and supports since the beginning of the 2014 – 2015 fiscal year, and anticipates no challenges in provision of support through post adoption.

Please provide information for all faith-based partners that have provided support to your Five-Year Prevention and Permanency Plan.

#### Inventory of Faith-Based Partners

Organization Name	Contact Name	Type(s) of Support Provided
FaithNet	Derrick Roberts	Collaboration between ChildNet Heart Gallery and the faith community on behalf of children in Foster Care ; this effort was more active during prior years, but has less
4Kids of South Florida	Tom Lukasik	4Kids licenses traditional and enhanced foster homes, recruits and manages volunteers who care for children at intake, and actively promotes the need for adoption from foster care
One Church One Child	Arie Sailor	Prayer Breakfast planned for Spring 2014 postponed. Offers connection to the faith community to bring awareness to adoption