



CIRCUIT 4

Clay, Duval, and Nassau Counties



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

Highlights and Accomplishments

The strategies and objectives of our Five Year Prevention and Permanency Plan created a working tool and roadmap used to impact our community. As we near the plan's completion in June 2015, Circuit Four is fortunate that it was drafted and implemented with a community voice so that ownership in implementation and its success belongs to the community. The foundation of this plan was built around the increase of public knowledge and use of primary prevention programs and service, in community-specific approaches through Neighborhood Centers in Duval, Clay and Nassau Counties.

It has proven successful in our efforts to prevent and reduce child maltreatment, promote adoption and support adoptive families. In Jacksonville, there have been several initiatives that were offshoots of the highly successful "Community of Hope" initiative, a collaborative effort of the Florida Department of Children and Families (Circuit 4), Edward Waters College and Family Support Services of North Florida and Casey Family Programs, one of the leading child welfare organizations in the country.

The pledge made by more than 360 residents in the 32209 ZIP code to start meeting regularly in small groups to focus on issues such as keeping kids in school, jobs, mentors, transportation and nutrition continues. Their intent is to remain focused change in their largely impoverished neighborhood to make their families safe, healthy and successful. This area and other nearby communities have the city's highest rates of family poverty, infant and child deaths, teen pregnancy, unemployment and homicides, among other things. The goals of "Community of Hope" (and our Prevention and Permanency Plans) are to bring those rates down and close gaps in education, employment and create opportunities for growth.

In Clay County, Kids First of Florida (KFF) continues to operate the Neighborhood Service Center in Green Cove Springs as a one-stop location for community residents to access services. KFF is also actively involved with the Clay Action Coalition, whose focus is prevention and awareness of the dangers of alcohol and drugs on the youth in our community. Prevention funding is used in a variety of ways to help families who are in a crisis, and need temporary help to prevent possible abuse/neglect/abandonment of the children in the home. In an effort to enhance the prevention outreach in the community, KFF recently created a new position that will work with partner agencies to educate the community on preventing the leading causes of abuse and neglect of children.

Family Support Services (FSS) in Nassau County created a central service hub to assist families in a "one stop shop" approach. To help local families overcome transportation barriers and challenges from limited in-home service provider availability, Family Support Services partnered with local domestic violence, substance abuse and mental health providers to co-locate in the FSS. The office is centrally located in Nassau County and conveniently located along the transit route that connects four key towns. FSS also arranged for the addition of a bus stop in front of the office to better serve clients.

In Duval and Nassau County Counties, FSS provides a monthly educational program for the general public, social services professionals, foster and adoptive parents and kinship caregivers. FSS schedules subject matter experts to be guest speakers at its **Breakfast Learning Series** programs to discuss important topics impacting the community. Recent topics include: "Protecting Children from Child Abuse, Bullying, Cyber-bullying, & Digital Abuse," by Stacy Pendarvis, Program Director for the Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc.;

Child Maltreatment Prevention

“What is Born Learning?” by George Robinson, Born Learning Program Coordinator, and Early Learning Coalition; “Hot Topics in Jacksonville's Public School” by Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools; “Human Trafficking” by Todd Raleigh, Criminal Justice Coordinator, Department of Children and Families; “The Hands of Tobacco and its Reach in the Community,” by Dr. Rob Thomas, Public Health Services Manager, Division of Nutrition and Chronic Disease Prevention, Florida Department of Health in Duval County.

Family Support Services partnered with the Nassau Public Library System and other local agencies and supporters to offer a literacy program for Nassau County children ages 4 – 6. The **FSS Doggone Good Readers** program encourages children to read, improves literacy and encourages families to use their public library. Each child receives a book and backpack of goodies with their new library card.

Schell-Sweet Community Resource Center located on the campus of historic Edward Water College is a hub of social service and resource referrals in Jacksonville. The five protective factors are infused in every area of community support. More than 28 providers and 100 intergenerational volunteers offer prevention and well being services. In addition, FSS hosts a monthly fatherhood program, a monthly food distribution, serving more than 3,000 per year and parenting classes for community residents.

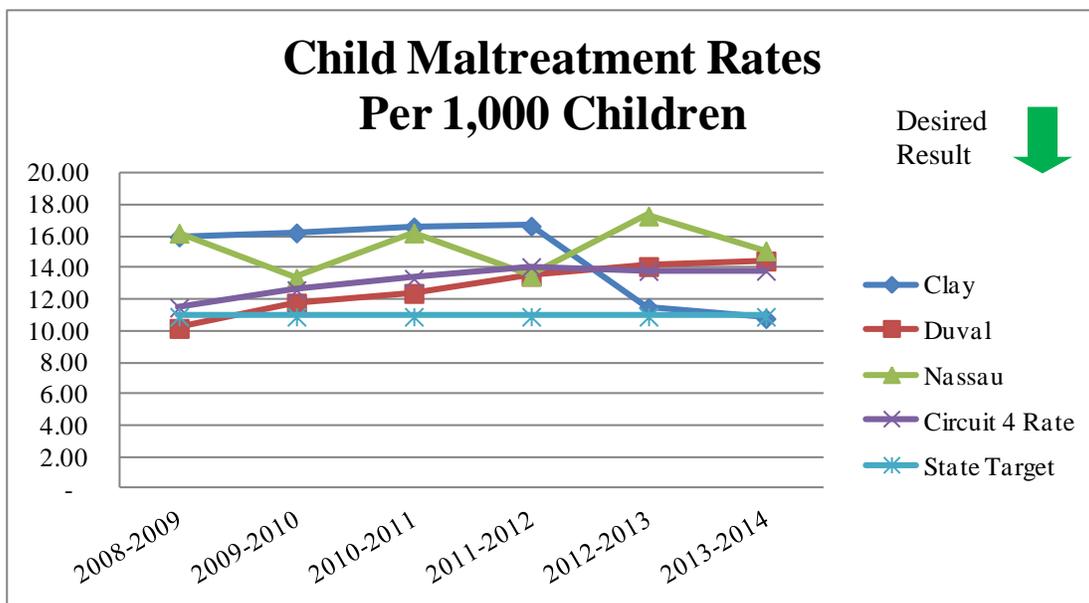
Child Maltreatment Prevention

Desired Population Level Results

- 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
Clay	16.00	16.25	16.63	16.68	11.52	10.82
Duval	10.20	11.80	12.42	13.51	14.12	14.47
Nassau	16.23	13.37	16.25	13.52	17.33	15.12
Circuit Rate	11.52	12.63	13.35	14.09	13.83	13.84
State Target	10.94	10.94	10.94	10.94	10.94	10.94

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



Status of Strategies and Objectives

Strategy 1: By June 30, 2015, Circuit 4 will increase public knowledge and utilization of primary prevention programs and services, in community-specific approaches through Neighborhood Centers.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 By June 2015, identified Circuit 4 grassroots champions and community organizations will have been engaged in Neighborhood Center development and expansion.	Ongoing	<i>Circuit wide our community based care agencies have achieved greater than 90 percent of objectives established in the five-year prevention plan.</i> Grassroots and private industry groups have embraced support of Neighborhood Centers circuit wide in program support. In Duval County, the Schell Sweet is seeking ongoing funding for facility expansion.
Objective 1.2 By June 2015, Circuit 4 will have incorporated the Protective Factors in the enhancement and expansion of	Ongoing	Circuit wide the community resource center's prevention efforts are fueled by the provision of the protective factors that enhance the lives of the children and families we serve. They ensure the key areas of family safety and stability, health and education of children are addressed

Child Maltreatment Prevention

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Neighborhood Center primary prevention efforts		as services are accessed.
Objective 1.3 By June 2015, Circuit 4 will have expanded the use of educational systems, businesses and other community resources to support Neighborhood Center initiatives for sustainability.	Ongoing	<i>Circuit wide our community based care agencies have achieved greater than 90 percent of objectives established in the five-year prevention plan.</i> One of the key change agents has been the community resource centers that have been the hub of prevention efforts fueled by the provision of the protective factors that enhance the lives of the children and families we serve. The Community of Hope event was a mobilizing factor for the community and has renewed a commitment to change throughout neighborhoods. This initiative will be a driving force as subcommittees have been forming to address key areas of family safety and stability, health and education of children.

Strategy 2: By June 30, 2015, Circuit 4 will have built the capacity for providing evidence based parenting practices and Substance Abuse Primary Prevention programs across the circuit.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 2.1 By June 2015, Circuit 4 will have built the capacity to offer evidence-based parenting programs across circuit.	Ongoing	United Way’s Born Learning, Healthy Families - Program serves 525 families annually with the mission to prevent child abuse and neglect. FY 13/14 Healthy Families Jacksonville data shows 95% of families who complete the program have no verified findings of child maltreatment within 12 months after completion. FY 13/14 Healthy Families Jacksonville data shows 98% of families participating in the program for more than 6 months had no verified finding of maltreatment during participation.
Objective 2.2 By June 2015, Circuit 4 offer evidence based Substance Abuse Primary Prevention programs across circuit.	Ongoing	Substance Abuse Prevention addressed by Managing Entity – Lutheran Social Services of North Florida

Additional Activities

Interagency Collaboration

FSS created a Safe Babies Task Force to address the needs of our most vulnerable population of children, ages 0-3. This “Baby Wrap” approach promotes safe and healthy development of infants/toddlers by identifying existing services/interventions and identify remaining gaps of needed services. Community partners from throughout northeast Florida who provide wrap around services (Investigations, Prevention, Diversion and Dependency) collaborate to review and address needs of children and families. United Way RealSense aids in financial literacy and income tax preparation free of charge; Jacksonville Children’s Commission, Clay Action Coalition,

Child Maltreatment Prevention

Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition, Early Learning Coalition, Healthy Start Coalition, Community Alliance of Northeast Florida, Child Welfare Early Education Project all work to develop solutions to improve outcomes in Circuit 4.

Proposed Activities for 2014-2015

Community of Hope & Black Male Achievers Mayor's Initiative: Recognizing the common goals of both groups, the City of Jacksonville's Mayoral Black Male Achievement Initiative joined forces with Community of Hope to work on improving outcomes of students at SP Livingston Elementary School. A sub-committee was developed to pilot a wrap-around model focusing on improving learning achievement outcomes for children by addressing educational, behavioral health barriers. More than 25 State Government employees and local business volunteers are paired with 2nd grade students to mentor in reading and math. The mentors will ultimately mentor parents. A "fast track" referral process has been established to incorporate the five protective factors to meet student and family needs.

Human Trafficking Activities

Summary of Human Trafficking Activities

Family Support Services (FSS) and Kids First of Florida (KFF) are active members of the Northeast Florida Human Trafficking Coalition which covers all counties in Circuit 4. The coalition meets monthly to discuss upcoming events, the overall direction of the coalition as well as discussing active joint investigations with local law enforcement agencies. The coalition consists of World Relief, FBI, DCF, FSS, Child Protection Team, and various other community change agents. FSS developed a detailed Safe Harbor Procedure in conjunction with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, which includes the use of transition trauma therapists for the children involved, a focus on re-engagement in school, and wrap around services. FSS has also provided focused human trafficking trainings to professionals in social services and disciplines, as well as training for the general public.

Jan of this year the NE Florida Human Trafficking Coalition (NEFHTC) brought the city leaders together to discuss Human Trafficking and the Circuit's course of action for the year. In March, (NEFHTC) held a city wide art contest for local high school art students to submit art depicting human trafficking to raise community awareness.

Proposed Human Trafficking Activities for 2014-2015

The NE Florida Human Trafficking Coalition will conduct human trafficking training throughout the area to include local law enforcement, schools, medical community, CPI's and case managers.

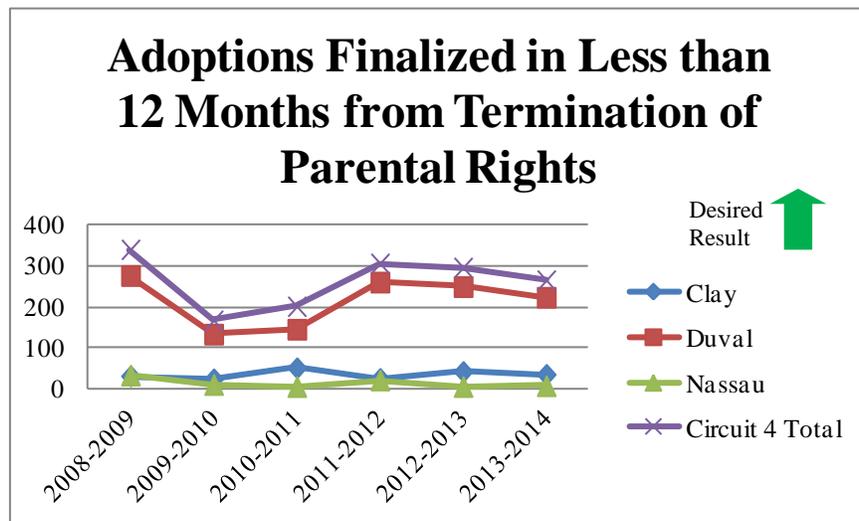
Promotion of Adoption
Desired Population Level Results

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	Number and Percentages	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Clay	Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	31	24	51	25	42	35
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	74%	55%	93%	66%	81%	81%
Duval	Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	276	133	145	260	249	223
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	80%	73	76%	89%	84%	84%
Nassau	Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	33	10	5	21	5	7
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	79%	67%	71%	86%	63%	64%
Circuit Total	Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	340	167	201	306	296	265
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	80%	69%	79%	86%	83%	83%

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

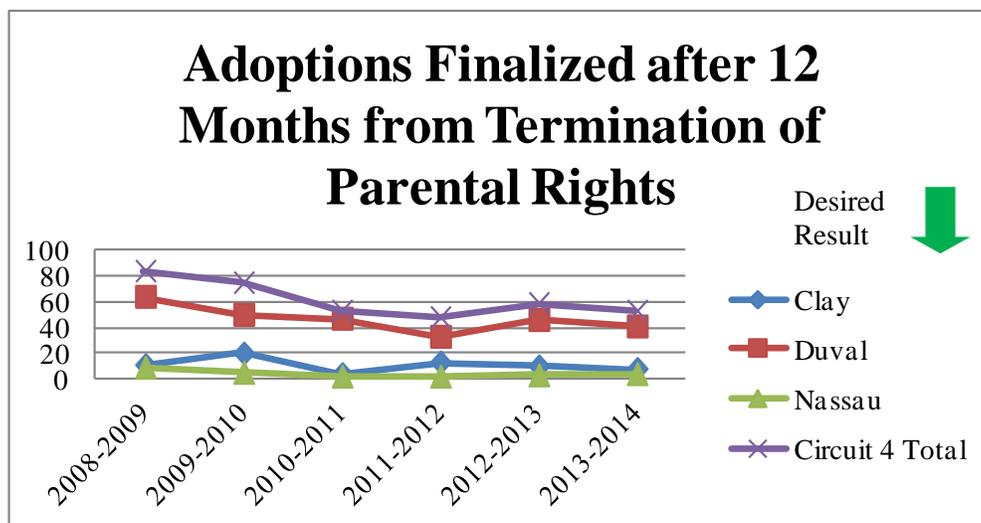


Promotion of Adoption

- 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	Number and Percentages	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Clay	Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	11	20	4	13	10	8
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	26%	45%	7%	34%	19%	19%
Duval	Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	64	50	47	33	46	30
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	19%	27%	24%	11%	16%	16%
Nassau	Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	9	5	2	2	3	3
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	21%	33%	29%	9%	38%	36%
Circuit Total	Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	84	75	53	48	49	53
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	20%	31%	21%	14%	17%	17%

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



Status of Strategies and Objectives

Strategy 1: By June 30, 2015; Circuit 4 – Clay Co. will have established a community-specific recruitment effort to secure and retain adoptive families who best fit children with special needs: teens, siblings groups, racial and ethnic minorities, and medically fragile.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 By June 2015, Circuit 4- Clay Co. will have	Ongoing	1. Children are listed on various adoption websites – www.adoptflorida.org , www.adoptuskids.org ,

Promotion of Adoption

<p>implemented a targeted community-specific recruitment effort specifically tailored to provide adoptive families for children with special needs.</p>		<p>www.childrenawaitingparents.org, www.afamilyforeverychild.org.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Bi-monthly advertisement in Clay Today featuring two of our children 3. Recruitment book featuring our kids is taken to PRIDE classes for prospective families to review 4. A Family For Every Child is doing a targeted recruitment blast flyer for two of our kids (Christian & Collin). They anticipate they will reach 4,000 families with this targeted recruitment. 5. Adoptuskids featured one of our kids (Sebastian) as their site's featured child for a week. We have matched Sebastian with a family who saw him featured on the main page. That adoption will finalize on 11/18. 6. Continuation of checking in with foster parents and relatives to explore connections that our kids may have that could turn into forever families. 7. Foster parent liaison also takes adoption flyers featuring our kids to various recruitment events at area churches for foster/adoptive parents
<p>Objective 1.2 By June 2015, Circuit 4- Clay Co. will provide enhanced services and resources for prospective parents regarding the rewards and challenges of adoptions.</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>PRIDE replaced MAPP. The change resulted in prospective adoptive families having and even greater understanding of the challenges that they may face when adopting the special needs children in our population. Solid promotion strategies, community awareness and media support has aided in the continual support and success of adoption efforts.</p>

Strategy 2: By June 30, 2015, Circuit 4 will develop a targeted recruitment campaign geared toward singles, families and professionals most likely to adopt children most in need of placement.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
<p>Objective 2.1 Use established resources of the Explore Adoption Targeted Recruitment Resource Guide to engage targeted community as a source for adoptive parents and a greater resource for raising awareness of the need</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuation of checking in with foster parents and relatives to explore connections that our kids may have that could turn into forever families. 2. Foster parent liaison also takes adoption flyers featuring our kids to various recruitment events at area churches for foster/adoptive parents

Strategy 3: By June 30, 2015, Circuit 4 will develop a campaign to raise community awareness about the need for adoptive homes for teens and children with special needs.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
<p>Objective 3.1 By June 2015, Circuit 4 will have partnered with active community outreach and neighborhood associations to</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Annual Adoption Dinners, National Adoption Month Proclamations and Home For The Holiday events with Circuit Courts serve as community outreach and recruitment opportunities for Adoption Ambassadors.</p>

Promotion of Adoption

recruit and secure candidates for Community Ambassadors for adoptions.		
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Strategy 4: By June 30, 2015, Circuit 4 will develop marketing efforts to promote adoption throughout the community.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 4.1 Use established resources of the Explore Adoption Targeted Recruitment Resource Guide.	Ongoing	See Above

Strategy 5: By June 30, 2015, Circuit 4 will develop a plan to address cultural awareness essential to overcoming barriers.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 5.1 Use established recruitment programs to increase the number of African American families interested in adopting children from the child welfare system.	Ongoing	Partner with One Church One Child in support of their efforts i.e., Prayer Breakfasts held in each Circuit and/or Region.

Additional Activities

Heart Gallery (available online, throughout FSS offices, & at the Main Public Library), CBS 47 Interviews (airing on Action News Website & TV channel, as well as airport kiosks) Lunch and Learn Recruitment Events, PRIDE Classes, Employee & Community Trainings & Webinars, DCF Monthly Conference Calls (Adoption Home Finders & Adoption Specialist), Brochures, Billboards, Newsletter, & Websites Circuit Court Specialized Adoption Events, Wendy’s Wonderful Kids (posters, brochures, CBS 47 AHFTH), AdoptFlorida promotional items (website, kits, flyers), Attendance at Jacksonville Bar Association luncheons, Appearances on First Coast Living show, Appearance on morning radio show, Facebook Page, Instagram, Twitter and Scrapbook of available children.

Interagency Collaboration

Family Support Services (FSS) celebrated its 3,000th adoption during National Adoption Month with a media-covered adoption ceremony to generate community interest in adopting from foster care. FSS hosts recruitment events, focuses extensively on community outreach and holds special event adoption ceremonies connected with major holidays to draw public attention to the availability of children in care, particularly teens and sibling groups. Through a strong partnership with the local judicial system, “Home for the Holidays” and Mother’s Day Adoption events help expedite adoptions so pending adoptions are completed and children are home with their forever families in time for the holidays. In addition, the intense media attention generated by these events raises community awareness of adoptions.

Proposed Activities for 2014-2015

Promotion of Adoption

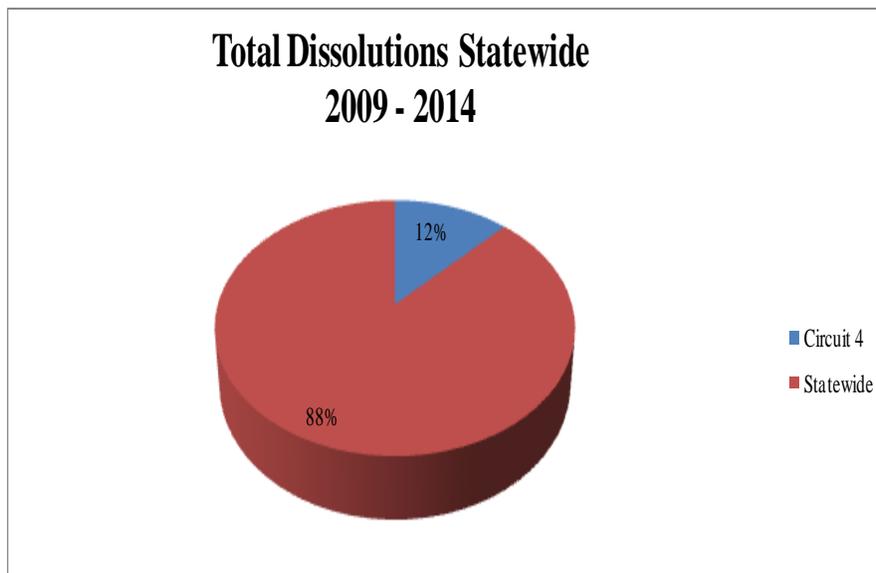
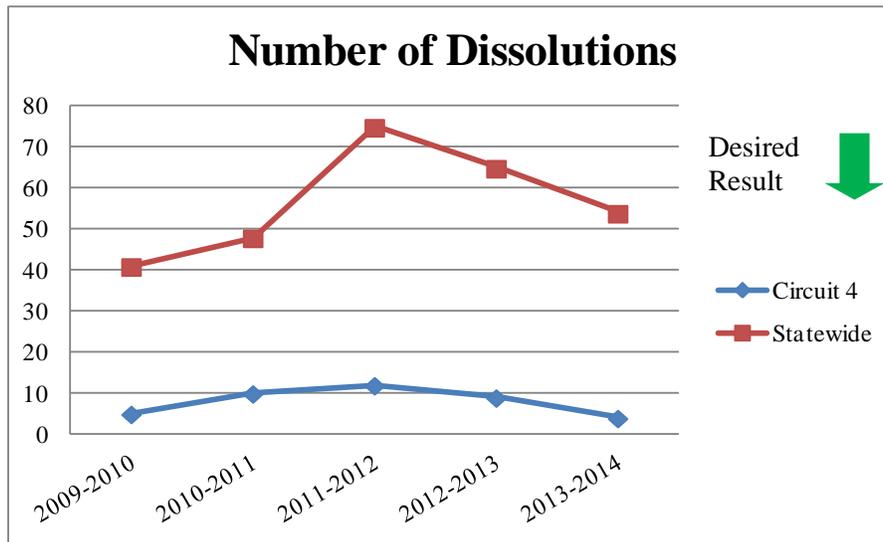
A continuation of established activities above.

Support of 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	5	10	12	9	8
State Total	41	48	75	65	54

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



Support of Adoptive Families
Status of Strategies and Objectives

Strategy 1: By June 30, 2015, Circuit 4 Clay Co. will have enhanced parental supports for adoptive families incorporating the Protective Factors.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1 By June 30, 2015 respite care will be available for all adoptive parents when needed.	Ongoing	Coordinated through Kids First of Florida's Post Adoption Support Group Coordinator. Post Adoption Support Groups are held monthly at KFF offices. Services include case management, referrals to community resources, crisis intervention and counseling. Core Adoption classes provide an overview of the adoption process.

Strategy 1.2: By June 30, 2015; Circuit 4 – DUVAL CO. will have increased the number of adoption competent child welfare workers to address the special needs of adoptive families.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.2.1 By June 2015, Circuit 4 – DUVAL CO. will have increased the number of adoption competent child welfare workers providing services to adoptive families.	Ongoing	FSS support of adoptive families includes monthly Parent Support Group and monthly Adopted Children Support Group, individual and family therapy with Adoption Competent Therapists, Crisis Intervention (24 hours, 7 days a week) and Respite.
Objective 1.2.2 By June 2015, Circuit 4 – DUVAL CO. will have expanded pre-adoption education to include the Protective Factors for prospective adoptive parents and their families.	Ongoing	Parenting classes are available year-round in Duval County through the CHS Family Life Education Program. CHS will explore the opportunities to provide this service in other participating counties. Protective factors: (Parental Resilience, Knowledge of Parenting /Child Youth Development, Societal Connections)

Strategy 2: By June 30, 2015, Circuit 4 Clay Co. will have increased knowledge and use of the Protective Factors in support for adoptive families.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 2.1 By June 30, 2015, Circuit 4 Clay Co. will have incorporated the Protective Factors into a support group for adoptive families.		Post Adoption Support Groups are held monthly at KFF offices. Various topics of interest are presented all incorporating the protective factors. Services include case management, referrals to community resources, crisis intervention and counseling. Core Adoption classes provide an overview of the adoption process.

Additional Activities

- Parent education classes are offered to assist families with improving parenting skills, as well as training on child development as it relates to adopted children and adoption issues (i.e., attachment, loyalty, entitlement, trans-racial /trans-cultural issues).
- Children's Home Society (CHS) uses a research-based curriculum highlighting topics such as: building nurturing parenting skills, increasing parent's awareness of developmental needs and the educational needs of their children, positive self-concept and self-esteem for adopted children, behavior management and age appropriate consequences.

Support of Adoptive Families

- Parenting classes are offered in a group setting and take place in the evening hours to accommodate working parents.

In Clay County, Kids First of Florida continued its efforts to recruit adoptive families, primarily those who are interested in adopting teens. The agency ensures PRIDE pre-service training helps prospective adoptive families have a better idea of the realities of adopting a child. KFF has used billboards advertising foster care and adoption, as well as a photo display at a local church in its recruitment efforts.

The Adoption Home Finder position not only utilizes the adoption website for prospective adoptive parents, but also researches each child's case to locate family, friends, or other connections to the child who might be interested in adopting.

POST ADOPTION (Clay County)

A monthly post adoption support meeting is held, with different trainers coming to cover topics relevant to post adoptive parents. Child care is offered during these trainings in order to encourage more people to come. Although there is no formal respite program for post adoptive parents available, the KFF post adoption counselor works with adoptive families in seeking available resources and services in this area.

Interagency Collaboration

Circuit Courts, Faith Based Organizations, Florida Blue, City of Jacksonville, the Mercy Network, Clay Action Coalition, Clay County Commissioners, Nassau County Commissioners, Jacksonville Public Library, Broadcast, Print and Radio media circuit wide.

Proposed Activities for 2014-2015

Parenting classes are available year-round in Duval County through the CHS Family Life Education Program. CHS will explore the opportunities to provide this service in other participating counties incorporating the Protective factors: (Parental Resilience, Knowledge of Parenting /Child Youth Development, Societal Connections). Clay County Commissioners will recognize an adoptive family and will read the "Adoption Proclamation" declaring November the National Adoption Month. KFF will also host its annual adoption dinner on celebrating local adoptive families.

Inventory of Faith-Based Partners

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

In Circuit 4 there are more than 200 faith-based partners that have supported the Five Year Prevention and Permanency Plan. Most efforts are coordinated by the Community Based Care Agency in each county.

Organization Name	Type(s) of Support Provided
First Baptist Church of Orange Park	Trip to Legoland with the church. In July the church offered a trip to DinoWorld & Tampa Aquarium.
Christ's Church	Host the 1 st Community Day of Hope for almost one hundred youth and family members in April 2014.
Faith Field Ministries, Abundant Life Christian Fellowship & Emiles Pack of Hope	Family Fun Day and Christmas Party
Orange Park United Methodist Church, St. Catherines Church, Grace Episcopal Church, St. Luke's Catholic Church, Eagle Harbor, Adams & Harper, Raven Transportation Raven Committee, Sacred Heart Church ladies group and Fleming Island High School as well as a number of individual donors.	Monetary donations, holiday gifts, hosting adoption support group meetings, adoption month observances, back to school supplies, birthday gifts, transportation, camp fees and sponsorships.