



CIRCUIT 9

Orange and Osceola Counties



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

Highlights and Accomplishments

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION: The Central Florida Commission on Homelessness was established as a non-profit organization committed to eradicating homelessness in Central Florida. Through research, strategic policy development, collaborative leadership engagement, and high-impact grassroots campaigns, the Commission has made significant headway in informing our community about the issues facing the homeless, and inspiring them to take action.

On a concrete level, the Commission coordinates non-profits, faith-based institutions, philanthropic initiatives, private sector businesses, and other charitable and community organizations to impact homelessness in the Orange, Osceola, and Seminole county area. Under the leadership of Andrae Bailey, the Commission serves as a hub of information and initiatives, directing resources and energy to the appropriate local pathways.

In 2014, the Commission released a groundbreaking report entitled *The Cost of Long-Term Homelessness in Central Florida*, calculating the true expense for each chronically homeless individual in the community to be roughly \$31,000 a year. In contrast, the research conducted by a top national homeless expert concludes that “providing the chronically homeless with permanent housing and case managers to supervise them would run about \$10,000 per person per year” ([Orlando Sentinel, 5-21-2014](#)). These findings solidified the Commission’s goal of battling all types of homelessness (with a new emphasis on chronic homelessness) through the creation of permanent housing solutions that include healthcare and social services.

Also in 2014, the Commission executed what has become the most successful advocacy campaign in our community’s history. The nationally-recognized Rethink Homelessness campaign has drawn followers and supporters from throughout Central Florida and beyond, giving new visibility to the true plight of the homeless in Central Florida. Its relentless focus on community advocacy has helped it grow to reach a regular audience of more than 30,000 people on Facebook alone, and spurred the local governments to create meaningful change.

One video created by the campaign, “Cardboard Stories,” has spread the message of Rethink Homelessness around the world. Its origins were humble: two Rethink Homelessness team members went out with handheld video cameras, a stack of spare cardboard pieces, and a set of markers. They offered homeless people a piece of cardboard and pen, giving them a platform to tell part of their story to the community at large. The videotaped results went viral, garnering almost 5 million YouTube views and bringing the Commission’s objectives to an even wider audience.

CHILDREN’S SUMMIT 2.0: On June 2, 2014 the Central Florida community convened at the Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World. Convoing over 250 community leaders, the goal of Children’s Summit 2.0: Discover Together was to do a “deeper dive” into a key finding of Children’s Summit 2013: “Our community needs to better support parents and families.” Participants gathered to hear national research and to continue to identify key actions to be taken as part of a roadmap being built to align children’s services with common goals and metrics, also known as the collective impact model.

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Children's Summit 2.0: Discover Together is a direct result of the first Summit held in November 2013, which brought together over 400 stakeholders to ignite strategic discussions about how we best serve the children in our area. Attendees of both Summits came to the table with a variety of perspectives ranging from the big-picture, birds-eye view of government to the thoughtful, analytical view of academia to the boots-on-the-ground, first hand-dealings of non-profits.

This Summit is part of a series of community convenings seeking four outcomes:

- To elevate children's wellbeing and academic success in the community conversation.
- To enrich the knowledge and practices of leaders, families and service providers.
- To identify the two to three community priorities for supporting children and youth.
- To initiate collective impact strategies for creating population level outcomes.

Key findings from the Summit:

1. Our community needs to better identify and map resources and supports for families and provide easier access to these resources.

There are two essential components to this finding:

- a) There is a need to better understand what resources currently exist in the community. Participants identified surveys and focus groups as tools for collecting this information. Mapping or connecting specific resources to specific neighborhoods was identified as a way to make this information more useful. Children's Summit 2.0: Discover Together participants were invited to complete a brief survey identifying their program focused on strengthening families. The results of this "real-time" survey will be released as a community directory.
- b) There is a need to do a better job of informing families of what resources are available to them. Summit participants viewed United Way 2-1-1 and other help lines as key tools for helping families access needed resources.

2. Our community's leaders and service providers must listen to families to understand their needs and priorities.

Summit table conversations were grounded on the understanding that more listening to families should to be done at program, neighborhood and community levels. Specific recommendations included: family focus groups across the five Central Florida counties; community café's and neighborhood surveys. An underlying theme of this finding was the desire to empower families.

3. Our community needs leadership.

This was also a key finding of Children's Summit 2013. Again, participants recognized that our community has leaders, but reiterated the lack of a sustained forum for those leaders to work together to drive the actions and priorities identified by the community. Participants indicated community leaders need to "align resources," "to get everyone on the same page," and to develop common language, planning and an agenda for action.

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CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH: Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs' Youth Mental Health Commission presented its final report to the Board of County Commissioners in late April. Richard Morrison, Regional Vice President of Florida Hospital and co-chair of the Youth Mental Health Commission, made the presentation. The Commission was created in August 2013.

“Protecting and supporting the most vulnerable in our community must be our top priority,” said Mayor Jacobs. “Particularly for families and young people who are struggling with mental health issues, we must provide convenient access to services, and help break down any stigma associated with seeking mental health treatment.”

The Commission conducted an extensive analysis of how needs are met in the Central Florida community and what can be done to help children, youth and their families with mental health issues.

“The community takes mental health and resilience for granted until a crisis occurs,” said Morrison. “The cost of such an approach is great: lives are disrupted or lost, resources are used for expensive services and many children, youth and their families are left to struggle with their challenges.”

To make the changes necessary to enhance the mental wellbeing of our county's children and youth, the Youth Mental Health Commission identified the need to have a group of committed citizens to act as an oversight and implementation commission to fix what is broken, to create what is not there, to teach what good mental health is, and to see that parents are involved in the solutions.

OSCEOLA SAFE KIDS COUNCIL: Osceola County's Safe Kids Council works to prevent childhood fatalities and injuries while also providing education and awareness on child safety issues.

We meet at the Children's Advocacy Center in Kissimmee. While we cover a wide range of topics, we have focused on prevention activities, including Empowerment, Not Fear, and we have organized the annual Child Abuse Prevention kickoff and activities.

SAFE KIDS ORANGE COUNTY: Safe Kids Orange County is a local coalition of Safe Kids USA, the nationwide network of organizations working to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death and disability for children ages 1 to 14.

More than 600 coalitions and chapters in all 50 states bring together health and safety experts, educators, corporations, foundations, governments and volunteers to educate and protect families.

We are housed at the Children's Safety Village of Central Florida, Inc. - our lead organization. While we cover a wide range of topics, we focus primarily on three safety issues through our programs:

Safe Kids Buckle Up - Child Passenger Safety In and Around Vehicles.

Safe Kids Ready to Roll - Wheeled Sports Safety, including bicycle and helmet safety.

Safe Kids Walk This Way - Pedestrian Safety program, participating in International Walk to School Day and Halloween Pedestrian Safety Awareness.

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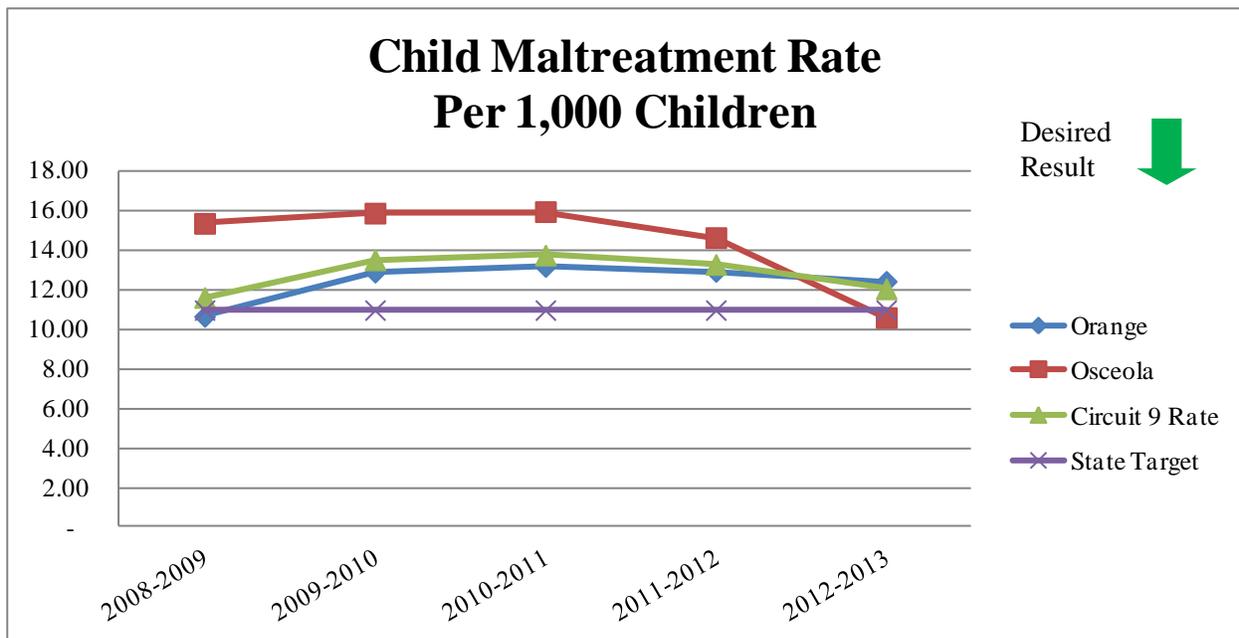
Child Maltreatment Prevention

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
Orange	10.62	12.85	13.14	12.89	12.39	9.36
Osceola	15.32	15.83	15.91	14.60	10.56	7.81
Circuit Rate	11.58	13.47	13.71	13.24	12.01	9.50
State Target	10.94	10.94	10.94	10.94	10.94	10.94
State Rate	10.94	12.06	12.51	13.23	12.27	11.42

*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 9 will have implemented a community-wide effort of universal and targeted objectives related to various dimensions of the Whole Child Project.

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Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 Develop and implement circuit-wide objectives that increase protective factors for Safe and Nurturing Environments for Children and their families by June 30, 2015.	The Circuit did not continue the Whole Child Project but has fully implemented DCF's Safety Based Decision Making Methodology. This methodology has been rolled out to all of the units within the Circuit. Training has been provided to all stakeholders and providers.	

Strategy 2: **Information not provided**

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 2.1 Develop and implement circuit-wide objectives that increase protective factors for Physical and Mental Health for children and their families by June 30, 2015.	The Circuit did not continue the Whole Child Project but has fully implemented DCF's Safety Based Decision Making Methodology. This methodology has been rolled out to all of the units within the Circuit. Training has been provided to all stakeholders and providers.	

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Strategy 3: Information not provided

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 3.1 Develop and implement circuit-wide objectives that increase factors for Social Interaction and Competence for children and their families by June 30, 2015.	The Circuit did not continue the Whole Child Project but has fully implemented DCF's Safety Based Decision Making Methodology. This methodology has been rolled out to all of the units within the Circuit. Training has been provided to all stakeholders and providers.	

Additional Activities

Interagency Collaboration

The Osceola Children's Cabinet / members and the Orange County Children's Cabinet / members continue to collaborate for the upcoming 5 year plan. Additionally both Cabinets have supported child fatality prevention initiatives and that continues to be a focal point on the upcoming 5 year plan.

Many of the organizations that participate in the Cabinets have asked for mandatory reporter training to be provided. This has been done with the assistance of the Children's Safety Village.

The Friendly Funders group (members include, but are not limited to, the Early Learning Coalition, CBC CFL, CareerSource, United Way, Parramore Kids Zone, DCF) continues to meet to discuss new and innovative ways

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to best assist the children in our area. Members will be creating a white paper for Tallahassee and the Governor's Office.

Proposed Activities for 2014-2015

Next steps being taken in the community as a result of Children's Summit 2.0: Discover Together includes:

- A directory of family programs and resources is in development for distribution. This directory is iterative and will be revised as more information is collected.
- Over 120 Summit participants expressed a desire to continue to work together to strengthen and empower families and will be convened as a family empowerment task force.
- LIFT Orlando and Orange County Public Schools are exploring ways to use the data presented at the Summit by the Search Institute in their programming.
- The University of Central Florida, Nemours Children's Hospital, and the Heart of Florida United Way are exploring ways to increase and maintain focus on the families of Central Florida.
- United Way 2-1-1 is applying to become an affiliate of the Help Me Grow network, which is a system for effective, universal, early surveillance and screening for all children, connecting them to existing programs and services.

MENTAL HEALTH:

The next steps will be the creation of an "Implementation Team and Management Network" to recommend strategies for carrying out the following:

- providing the platform for the multitude of recommendations centering on accountability,
- credentialing and expansion of qualified clinicians,
- centralizing intake and behavioral health navigation,
- in-depth assessment, care coordination using unified plans,
- increasing the use of evidence-based practices,
- data collaboration and management,
- expanding the service array,
- creating a model for public awareness and community education forums to increase family support and advocacy,
- increasing accessibility for children, youth and young adults in our community, and
- determining long-term financial sustainability.

"It's crucial that our community takes a holistic approach to creating a healthy, livable community, and that must include mental health," said the Mayor. "Knowing that the overwhelming majority of mental health issues arise before the age of 25, it makes great sense to focus on providing resources for families and parents."

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Human Trafficking Activities

Summary of Human Trafficking Activities

The Osceola Human Trafficking Task Force has been established and created the goal of increasing awareness. The members of the task force attend the larger umbrella task force, Greater Orlando Human Trafficking Task Force. During the first year, members have ensured training for Law Enforcement has occurred. Law Enforcement has been reaching out to by GOHTTF leadership and DCF for many cases. Additionally, members have attended several state and local events.

The Greater Orlando Human Trafficking Task Force continues to grow. GOHTTF has attended many national conferences and been invited to speak at Human Trafficking events nationally.

Proposed Human Trafficking Activities for 2014-2015

The Osceola Human Trafficking Task Force will continue awareness and education efforts for the coming year. It will also try to increase faith-based participation. The task force's biggest challenge is housing for adults, and sources will be explored to help fill that gap. The task force will continue to work with law enforcement to better our processes and responses to situations of commercial sex trafficking and labor trafficking with children and adults. The task force will work to ensure that all faces of human trafficking, young and old, male and female, will be seen, and the unique differences with all of them addressed.

The Greater Orlando Human Trafficking Task Force is planning the Annual Human Trafficking Prevention Day in Downtown Orlando, Lake Eola in January 2015.

GOHTTF also continues to provide survivor backpacks to first responders.

Promotion of Adoption

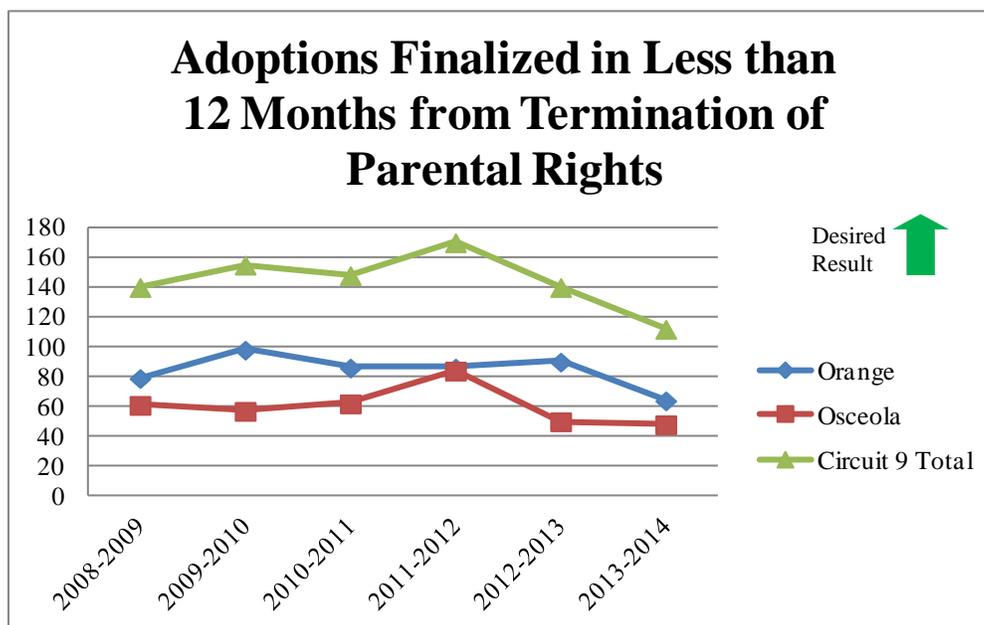
Desired Population Level Results

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
Orange	Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	79	98	86	86	90	64
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	63%	73%	23%	67%	76%	75%
Osceola	Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	61	57	62	84	50	48
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	76%	63%	23%	72%	69%	57%
Circuit Total	Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	140	155	148	170	140	112
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized within 12 Months	68%	69%	77%	69%	74%	66%

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

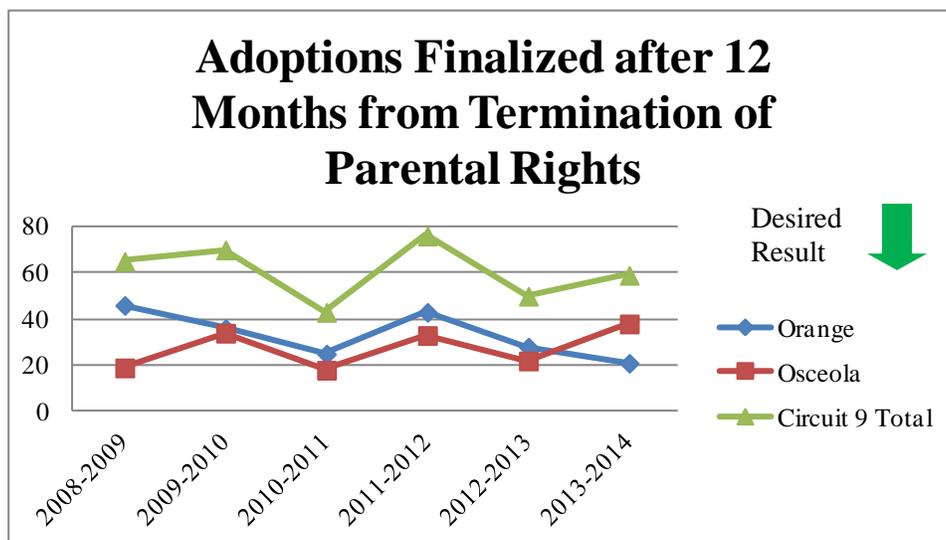


Promotion of Adoption

- 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	Numbers and Percentages	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Orange	Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	46	36	25	43	28	21
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	37%	27%	23%	22%	24%	25%
Osceola	Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	19	34	18	33	22	36
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	24%	37%	23%	28%	31%	43%
Circuit Total	Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	65	70	43	76	50	57
	Percentage of Adoptions Finalized over 12 Months	32%	31%	23%	31%	26%	34%

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



Status of Strategies and Objectives

Promotion of Adoption

Strategy 1: By June 30, 2015, Circuit 9 will Increase prevalence and visibility of targeted recruitment efforts through incorporation of Explore Adoption Campaign Materials.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 Increase Match Events so children and families have the opportunity to meet each other in a comfortable setting. Objective 1.2 Implement additional targeted recruitment efforts focused on teens.	No update	

Strategy 2: By June 30, 2015, Circuit 9 will provide a more consistent marketing and promotion of adoption awareness to the community.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 2.1 Develop an adoption promotion plan and schedule.	No update	

Strategy 3: The children with the permanency goal of APPLA will be reduced from 187 to 100 by June 30, 2015.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 3.1 Develop strategies to reduce the number of children with the goal of APPLA.	No update	

Additional Activities

Promotion of Adoption

Interagency Collaboration

Proposed Activities for 2014-2015

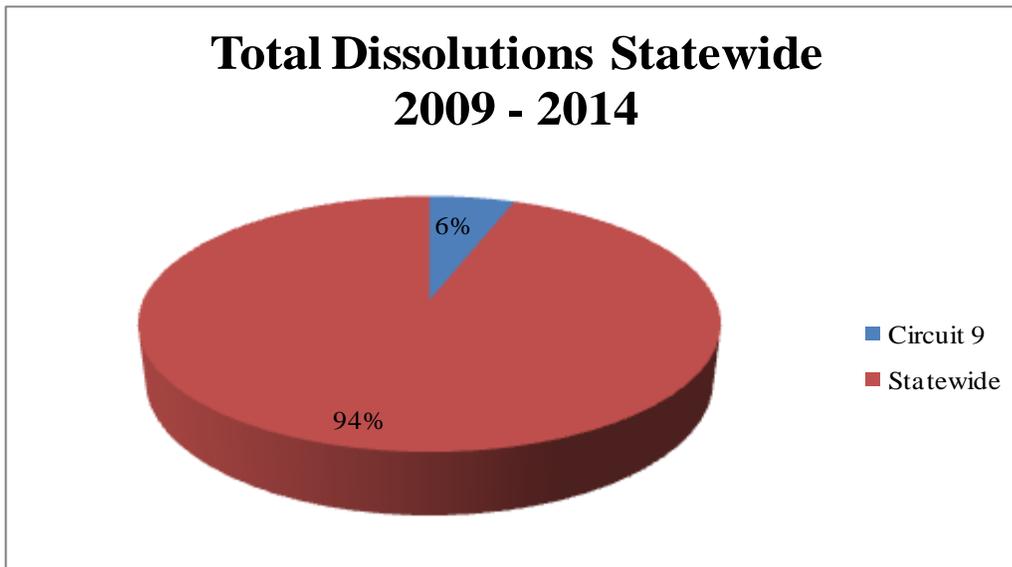
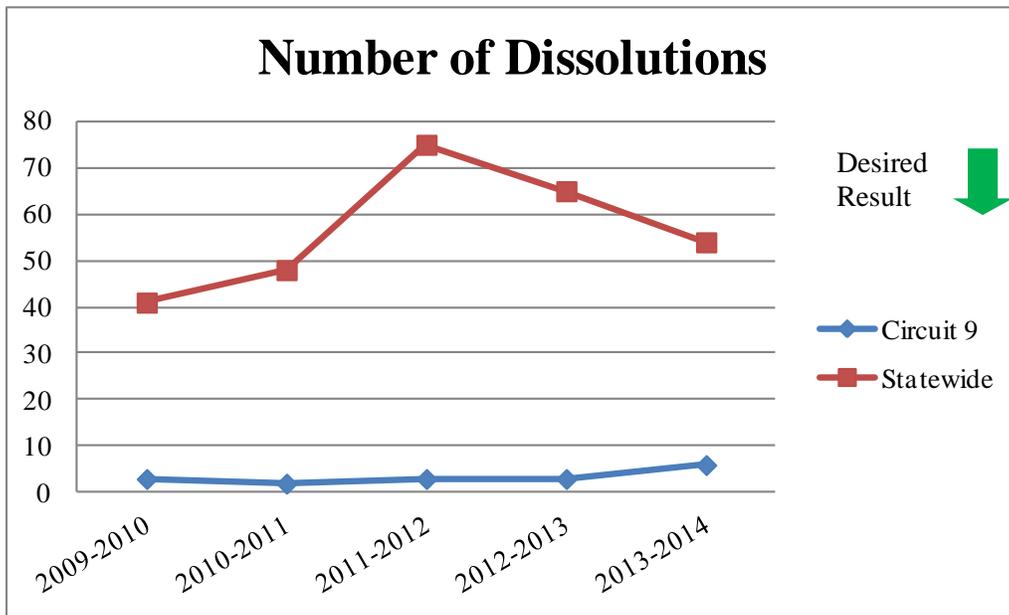
Support of Adoptive Families

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	3	2	3	3	6
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 9 will implement adoptive support initiatives to engage families in building protective factors identified in the Family Strengthening Initiative.

Objective	Status	Summary/Action Needed
Objective 1.1 Build mentors for pre-adoptive parents to be connected to seasoned adoptive families for support.	No update	
Objective 1.2 Have an adopted teen support group that coincides with the adoptive parent support group.	No update	

Additional Activities

Interagency Collaboration

Proposed Activities for 2014-2015

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.

Organization Name	Contact Name	Type(s) of Support Provided