



Bullying Workgroup

Co-Chairs: Secretary Elizabeth Dudek and Dr. Judy Schaechter

At the April 2013 Cabinet meeting in Tallahassee, the members agreed to consider establishing a Bullying Workgroup upon outlining the scope of activities performed by the workgroup. At the July 2013 Cabinet meeting in Jacksonville, Co-Chairs Dudek and Schaechter presented background information on *The State of Bullying – What the research is telling us* and presented the following suggestion on what the Cabinet could do:

- Work with state agencies to infuse prevention into each agency’s mission.
- Collaborate with school districts to create a comprehensive strategic plan that is integrated across disciplines with an evaluation plan that is outcome driven.
- Increase awareness among youth-serving agencies and organizations (youth of all ages and staff) and families.
 - Encourage the development of prevention and intervention plans.
- Conduct statewide/regional forums on the topic of bullying/prevention that:
 - Bring together school/organizational personnel to share strategies and develop skills,
 - Provide legal case reviews to increase knowledge base, and
 - Educate citizens outside the school system.

From the presentation, members offered suggestions to consider including information on bullying with other similar topics and developing public service announcements.

As such, the following activities outline the proposed scope of what the Bullying Workgroup would encompass:

- Work with State Agencies, Local School Districts, child-serving organizations, and other key stakeholders to conduct a statewide bullying awareness campaign during the month of October (Bullying Prevention Month). Consider focusing on a positive message such as “Positive Character Development”.
- Explore statewide/regional forums to bring school/organizational personnel together to share effective reporting and response strategies, review data and trends, and review legal cases resulting from incidents of bullying.
- Explore public services announcements addressing bullying/promoting positive character development that target youth and adults. Consider messages developed by youth.
- Explore state agency policies related to bullying and make necessary recommendations for policies, staff training, and programs for children and families.