

## 2013 Annual Report for Circuit 7

### **Reporting Period: January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013**

(While recognizing information for the annual report will be submitted by October 15, 2013, Local Planning Teams are encouraged to include projected activities that will occur in November and December 2013)

### **Summary of Plan Activities**

Please provide a summary of five-year plan activities for the five-year prevention and permanency plan. For each activity, please identify how they support/promote the Protective Factors.

**The Prevention portion of the plan consists of 5 basic strategies. They are as follows:**

#### *Strategy 1*

**Circuit 7 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 over the five-year period from July 2010 – June 2015. Activities carried out under this strategy will promote or provide parental emotional resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, and concrete support in times of need as well as nurturing and attachment.**

#### *Strategy 2*

**By 30 June 2015, Circuit 7 will reduce the abuse of prescription drugs by developing an awareness program for both the medical community and the community at large. Activities carried out under this strategy will promote or provide parental emotional resilience, social connections, and concrete support in times of need.**

#### *Strategy 3*

**By 30 June 2015, Circuit 7 will support the statewide efforts to increase the knowledge and awareness of sexual violence prevention across the lifespan. Activities carried out under this strategy will promote or provide social connections and concrete support in times of need.**

#### *Strategy 4*

**By 30 June 2015, Circuit 7 will support the statewide efforts to Influence Social Norms that contribute To Gender Equality, Respect and Safety for Men, Women and children. Activities carried out under this strategy will promote or provide social connections and concrete support in times of need.**

#### *Strategy 5*

**By 30 June 2015, Circuit 7 will support the efforts of the Community Agenda's Thrive by Five collaborative to provide the community supports needed to ensure the children of Volusia and Flagler counties are emotionally and physically healthy and prepared to enter kindergarten ready to learn. Activities carried out under this strategy will promote or provide knowledge of parenting and child development, nurturing and attachment and concrete support in times of need.**

**The Promotion of Adoption portion of the plan consists of 3 basic strategies. They are as follows:**

#### *Strategy 1*

**By June 30, 2015, Circuit 7 will research and analyze data of children with a goal of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) for permanency options.**

*Strategy 2*

**By June 30, 2015, Circuit 7 will develop a new approach through the Child to Family Introduction Staffing and involvement of youth in the pre-adoption process in Volusia, Flagler, Putnam, and St. John's Counties.**

*Strategy 3*

**By June 30, 2015, Circuit 7 will enhance training for prospective adoptive parents in Volusia, Flagler, Putnam and St. John's Counties.**

**The Support of Adoptive Families portion of the plan consists of 3 basic strategies. They are as follows:**

*Strategy 1*

**By June 30, 2015, Circuit 7 will engage a local agency or medical provider to increase the availability of services to children with Autism and/or Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in general or specifically to assist post adoptive families who have adopted children with these medical diagnoses.**

*Strategy 2*

**By June 30, 2015, Circuit 7 will develop and coordinate a support system for adoptive parents and teens in Volusia, Flagler, Putnam, and St. John's County.**

*Strategy 3*

**By June 30, 2015, Circuit 7 will enhance training and support for adoptive families.**

**Progress**

Please describe your circuit's progress towards achieving each objective outlined in the five-year plan for Prevention, Adoption Promotion, and Support of Adoptive Families. (Please see Planned Objectives and Strategies document) (If your objective focuses on the State Fiscal Year, please report accordingly. If not, report information based on the 2013 calendar year.)

*Prevention Objectives:*

*Strategy 1, Objective 1.1: Continue, enhance and expand Healthy Families Florida. Progress achievement response*

**Healthy Families Florida (HFF) received an additional \$3 million in non-recurring general revenue funds at the conclusion of the 2013 legislative session. This was a huge victory and shows that the Legislature recognizes the value of the Healthy Families program in preventing child abuse and neglect and the great work Healthy Families projects statewide do to make a difference in the lives of the families served by the Healthy Families program.**

**This resulted in a total HFF grant award increase for Healthy Families Volusia ~ Flagler of \$57,200 for a total budget of \$591,600 which allowed the number of families to be served during the fiscal year to be increased from 167 to 174.**

**The local allocation plan for the increase is as follows:**

**Additional funding allocated to increase the cost per family from \$3,200 to \$3,400. This increase was approved to reduce the attrition in the family support worker position (salary increase) and to assist with the increased costs of doing business to sustain the quality of services.**

**Expansion of services in Volusia County high risk zip codes based on 0-5 verified and not substantiated child maltreatment rates provided by DCF, the birth rate and the current level of community investment.**

**Healthy Families Volusia ~ Flagler has completed 75% (3/4) of the action steps identified in Objective 1.1. The action steps that have been completed are as follows:**

**Implement advocacy strategies to align with Healthy Families Florida's legislative priorities.  
Develop and enhance partnerships to support program efforts.  
Educate community partners about Healthy Families services and its benefits.**

**The action step that has not been completed and has been an ongoing challenge is as follows:**

**Facilitate multi-disciplinary staffings for families with an open child protection investigation or case.**

**While Healthy Families Volusia ~ Flagler has struggled with being included in DCF or CBC staffings, access to FSFN has enabled the project to be more aware of the details and results of the DCF investigations for mutually served families. Healthy Families Volusia ~ Flagler will discuss how to improve access to the DCF and CBC staffings with the Circuit 7 Community Relations Consultant.**

**Advocacy Strategies in Putnam County: Healthy Families Putnam/Clay (HFPC) will continue to encourage local elected official to go on a home visit. HFPC was awarded another position for a Family Support Worker this fiscal year. HFF received an increase in funding and HFPC was fortunate to increase the number of families served. HFPC was serving 121 and the families to be served this fiscal year are 142. This is still not as many families that HFPC was serving prior to the 2010 budget cuts.**

**The Verified Child Abuse in Putnam County Congratulation letters were sent to local elected official and to legislators thanking them for their continued support of Healthy Families Florida (HFF). Community in Schools, Healthy Start and Healthy Families presented to the County Commissioners during April. HFPC provided each of the county commissioners with a packet of information on HFPC's accomplishments and advocacy handouts. The proclamation was presented by the County Commissioners dedicating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Carl Flag, County Commissioner, and former board member for Healthy Families Putnam, read the proclamation. Commissioner Flag expressed to the audience the following words: "Collaboration among agencies in Putnam County has provided the community a united front." He further stated that this has taken a few determined individuals to bring together the agencies that support our children as "future citizens who care."**

**HFPC will continue to engage community leaders to visit their legislative delegation to advocate for HFF. In April, Community in Schools, Healthy Start and Healthy Families placed pinwheels in front of the Putnam County School Board. The message this year is to bring the community together to be part of the solution: take action now—even seemingly small actions—that can help all of America's children grow to become healthy, caring and contributing adults. The Palatka Daily News placed the article and picture of the event on the front page of the paper.**

**In May, the Program Manager met with the local Rotary Presidents to discuss the program strengths and needs. As a result of this meeting, the Hastings Rotary provided HFPC with a check for \$150.00. The funds provided items needed to ensure that the home environment was safe and to**

further prevent child abuse. The items purchased were smoke detectors, door alarms (for those families that live near water), cabinet latches, safety gates and other safety items. Environmental hazards are often the first involvement with the department. In the Month of June, the Program Manager attended the Rotary Inaugural Ball as an opportunity to expand contact with community leaders.

**Enhance Partnership in Putnam County:** MOAs are completed; the program is developing a system to ensure that all MOAs are updated every two years as required by the HFF contract. The Program Manager attends the Service Decision Team meeting as often as time permits. The meetings are designed to provide Department of Children and Families child investigators with input from community agencies to help families that enter the system. HFPC works closely with the DCF and the Community Partnership with Children. The Program manager attends the Transformation Team meetings monthly to learn the delicate parts of system change and the transformation of child safety. The relationship between DCF investigators and HFPC is cooperative and informative.

Healthy Start and Healthy Families Putnam continue to staff cases and develop strategies together that help each of the programs serve the families without duplication of services. The Parent as Teacher program, overseen by Healthy Start, has resumed in Putnam County. This needed program has been initiated when the child abuse rate for Putnam County has increased to 18.46 per 1000 children. This is double what it was when this plan was begun.

**Advocacy Strategies in St Johns County:** Children's Home Society's legislative agenda endorsed full support and funding of the Healthy Families Florida program. CHS Board members visited Tallahassee legislators to discuss the legislative agenda during Legislative Week (January 2013) . CHS/HFSJ Program Manager made presentation at St. Johns Legislative Meeting.

CHS/HFSJ received a funding increase in 2013-14. Funding was provided for a full time Family Assessment Worker and one additional Family Support Worker position. The program will be expected to serve 92 families in the contract year.

CHS has brought several clinical staff to the St. Johns area. HFSJ staff has referred families who are on Medicaid for clinical services. Services are available to adults, children, and there is a certified Infant Mental Health Specialist to assist with bonding/attachment issues. An adoptions counselor also does counseling out of the St. Johns County Office.

**Enhance Partnership in St Johns County:** JCP Cares (Julington Creek Planation) has assisted the program by providing gently used Pack and Plays and safety items for families in the program. JCP also has a Christmas Giving Tree. This year the program has asked for diapers for families. The United Way of St. Johns funds the HFSJ program and the Program Manager serves as a loaned executive. CHS/HFSJ received a 2013 Red Coat Grant (the Players) to purchase Pack and Plays for parents who cannot afford a crib and to prevent co-sleeping of infants and parents. CHS/HFSJ received a grant from Target to purchase books for children. The program has not secured any new Memorandum of Agreements.

**Educate community St Johns County Partners about Healthy Families services and its benefits:** Throughout the year, HFSJ staff attends outreach events. Ancient City Kids Day is held each October and staff are at an information table to discuss the program with interested families. Staff also participates in a UW outreach event at Nocatee each fall. Staff regularly attended Integrated Team Meetings each month and also attends local Service Delivery Team Meetings.

**The program has Memorandum of Agreements with many local partners-EPIC, Full Service Schools, Stewart Marchman, Early Learning Coalition, DCF, Betty Griffin House, etc.**

**CHS staff attended a Family Integrity Meeting on September 6th to discuss CHS programs and services. Staff was involved with the Family Integrity Program on a high risk case. HFSJ conducted visits once a week, as did FIP Diversion, and the Healthy Start Program. Mom was visited three times each week.**

**Staff attended a community meeting to hear David Abromowitz on 8/13 and attended several DCF Transformation Meetings (3/25 and 5/20).**

*Strategy 2, Objective 2.1: Develop a community task force to organize prescription drug abuse prevention efforts in Circuit 7.*

**This objective was completed in Volusia and Flagler counties by the due date. This organization continues to stay very active. The gravity of the problem and the community's desire to address this issue has provided the impetus for growth. Currently there are approximately 130 members of the task force representing almost 60 different organizations.**

*Strategy 2, Objective 2.2: Develop a community awareness program to prevent prescription drug abuse*

**Progress on this objective continues. The task force has held four public forums over the past two years in Volusia and Flagler counties with an excess of 1000 total people in attendance. At the beginning of this reporting year, the task force partnered with the Narcotics Overdose Prevention Education (NOPE) program to bring prevention presentations to schools in Volusia and Flagler counties. These graphic presentations by parents that have lost loved ones to prescription drug abuse are emotional and effective for our school age population. In this past year, over 14,000 students have received this presentation and the group serving our two county areas reached more students than any other group operating in Florida. The task force is discussing the possibility of having NOPE presentation at substance abuse treatment facilities in Volusia and Flagler counties as well. Currently, the task force has partnered with two radio stations to create four different public service announcements regarding the abuse and addiction potential of prescription drugs. They are planned to begin airing prior to the end of the calendar year. In addition the New Smyrna Beach High School and the Marketing 2 Go ad organization have committed to help produce a video to attach to the audio public service announcements. The task force continues to work with local legislators as well as local governments to enact legislation to help prevent drug abuse. The task force worked specifically with Representative Fasano to attempt to close some loop holes in the previous year's state pill mill legislation. Though unsuccessful with forcing physicians to use the prescription database prior to issuing a new prescription or refill there was success in securing state funding to continue the database. Also, the task force was successful in getting the Volusia Council of Government (VCOG), which is an organization made up of city governments and the county government in Volusia, to issue a request to the cities to consider ordinances banning the sale of synthetic drugs. This effort was partially successful with a number of cities passing ordinances making the sale of these drugs illegal. In addition the mayor of Orange City, FL has joined our task force.**

*Strategy 2, Objective 2.3: Develop a program within the medical community to prevent prescription drug abuse*

**A number of doctors and the Volusia County Medical Examiner's Office are members of our task force. Presentations have been made to the Volusia Medical Association and to the Grand Rounds**

physician training function at Halifax Medical Center. An offshoot of the Substance Abuse Task Force is the Drug Exposed Newborn Task Force which is addressing specifically both prevention and treatment measures for pregnant mothers who have substance abuse problems. Also, the task force is currently taking a position with the legislature on making NARCAN, an anti-overdose injection treatment, available to parents and family members of people with known drug abuse problems.

*Strategy 3, Objective 3.1: Provide at least one sexual violence prevention education program to each school/s during each academic year. Progress achievement response*

**Putnam County:** Lee Conlee House is currently in the process of continuing to build relationships within the Putnam County school system. The Prevention Coordinator has been working during 2013 on building a relationship with two of the local schools and is in the process of implementing a violence prevention program with one of those schools by the end of the year 2013. Although we do not currently have any prevention programming provided in our local schools, the Prevention Coordinator has been successful in maintaining a program with the local Department of Juvenile Justice as well as establishing a program with the local Interface youth shelter. These two programs provide prevention curriculum and concepts to a number of Putnam county youth each year.

There have been some struggles for Lee Conlee House to gain and maintain momentum with regards to Objective 3.1. Currently there is only one person employed with Lee Conlee House whose job is specifically focused on prevention efforts. This position has also seen a higher turnover rate than in the past with three people having managed this position since 2010. Due to this turnover, there have at times been lapses in implementation of plans or programs or loss of contacts that had previously been established.

**Volusia and Flagler counties:** Domestic Abuse Council (DAC) staff regularly speaks to community organizations, churches, private groups, educational institutions and at various area events. Presentations about domestic violence are regularly given to employees and students in the medical and social service fields at Bethune-Cookman University and Daytona State College, as well as area hospitals and assisted living facilities. Staff also regularly gives trainings to law enforcement personnel. Since January 2013, 17 professional trainings reached 497 individuals, and 121 community education presentations reached 2,731 individuals.

At the request of the Office of the State Attorney, staff offers weekly domestic violence awareness classes to individuals who wish to drop charges of domestic violence. These activities vary as to which levels of the Socio-Ecological model they address. They promote social connections and give attendees concrete information domestic violence, sexual violence, and provide information about available resources in the community.

*Strategy 4, Objective 4.1: Collaborate with members of the Sexual Assault Response/Task Force teams to encourage community agencies to unite their efforts to influence policies of their counties*

**Putnam County:** Lee Conlee House has staff members who attend the local SART meetings. The Executive Director is also a chair in the local Domestic Violence Task Force and regularly attends those meetings while the Prevention Coordinator heads up the local Community Action Team. Through these groups the Lee Conlee House helps to organize and provide awareness events throughout the year to educate the community on domestic and sexual violence.

**Volusia and Flagler counties:** In February and March of 2013, DAC staff provided two 8-lesson sessions about bullying and violence prevention to elementary school-aged children. These sessions focused on changing social norms, respectful environments, violence prevention, bully prevention, and healthy relationships. The curriculum used was “I Can Make My World a Safer Place”. The curriculum was supplemented with numerous role playing activities. These are Prevention activities which address all four levels of the Socio-Ecological model. They promote social connections and give students concrete information about available resources in their school, and community.

The Domestic Abuse Council, Inc. works closely with many area agencies, serving on and facilitating committees to develop a coordinated community response to family violence. The Domestic Abuse Council, Inc. is part of the Domestic Violence Advisory Committee, the Department of Children and Families Transformation Implementation Team, One Voice Volusia Circuit 7 Victim’s Services Coalition, the Volusia Flagler Continuum of Care, and the Volusia County Homeless Education Steering Committee. These collaborations between the various legal, judicial, and social service agencies, work to promote understanding, education and cooperation to help better serve families experiencing domestic violence. These community partnership activities vary as to which levels of the Socio-Ecological model they address. They promote social connections and give attendees concrete information domestic violence, sexual violence, and provide information about available resources in the community. They promote public awareness, community development and adult education both to the staff of the various agencies and to the clients they serve. These partnerships allow the dissemination of information and resources well beyond the program participants served directly by the individual agencies.

The DAC 24-hour, seven days a week hotline provides crisis intervention counseling, shelter screening, safety planning and information and referral to survivors or concerned individuals experiencing domestic violence. The target population for the twenty-four hotline is victims of domestic violence or individuals seeking information about the agencies services or community referrals in order to help a victim of domestic violence. The crisis line is open to anyone and callers may be seeking information to prevent violence. Various posters and pamphlets advertising the hotline number and service are distributed through the county to public and private organization. Since January 2013, the Domestic Abuse Council, Inc. has received 2,009 calls. The hotline will vary as to which levels of the Socio-Ecological model is addressed, because the caller determines the conversation. The hotline promotes social connections and gives callers concrete information domestic violence, sexual violence, and information about available resources in the community.

*Strategy 5, Objective 5.1: Provide support and collaboration for the desired outcomes of the Thrive by Five (Whole Child Florida Affiliation community initiative). - Progress achievement response*

**Thrive by Five, Volusia County:** Over the past year (July 2012 through June 2013), executive directors, presidents and CEOs of Collaborative partner organizations (the Leadership Team) met to utilize Source Problem Analysis to select desired outcomes for priority action. Through this process, it was determined that taking priority action on two desired outcomes would have a greater impact on the remaining five outcomes. Quality Early Childhood Education and Family Involvement were the two desired outcome selected for priority action in 2012-13 and 2013-14. As these outcomes are addressed the Leadership Team will select the next desired outcomes for priority action.

Upon selecting these desired outcomes, the Strategy Team began meeting regularly to identify the strategies and actions steps to achieve the outcomes. Four strategies were identified for each desired outcome. Implementation of these strategies is planned for 2013-14 into 2014-15.

**The Thrive by Five Collaborative has achieved 40% of its five-year strategic plan. The initial plan was to bring together community-based organizations and agencies serving prenatal through age five and their families to enhance the early childhood system in Volusia and Flagler Counties. The Collaborative has been meeting regularly since May, 2010, and completed drafting the strategic plan in 2011. Bringing together the leaders from these organizations and agreeing on a plan of action was a significant achievement. Agreement on a universal message about quality early childhood education was another joint success. Partnerships on grants, funding and services has also resulted. Information sharing has been greatly increased and subsequently support of events and strategies among partner organizations. Partner organizations have opened their staff training to other organization's staff and some are also sharing an electronic data system. Additionally there was a strong promotion for Trauma Informed Care Training and most staff in all organizations have received at least overview training. Partnerships are in place toward a cohesive two-county system to ensure women without private health insurance access early quality prenatal care. There is still much to achieve with the implementation of the Strengthening Families framework and protective factors.**

Promotion of Adoption Objectives:

*Strategy 1, Objective 1.1: Case-by-Case reviews of all children in Volusia County with an APPLA goal to develop innovative solutions to permanency.*

**Answer here**

*Strategy 1, Objective 1.2: Form a task force to analyze data regarding children with a goal of APPLA and determine the significance of those youth who also have DJJ involvement.*

**Answer here**

*Strategy 2, Objective 1.1: Develop process for In-depth disclosures of the child's needs and strengths prior to meeting prospective adoptive family.*

**Answer here**

*Strategy 2, Objective 1.2: Develop process to involve youth in the selection of prospective adoptive families.*

**Answer here**

*Strategy 3, Objective 1.1: Increase the number of trainings offered to prospective adoptive families. This will help to expand the quality of skills parents will have to deal with issues that may arise throughout the youth's life.*

**Answer here**

Support of Adoptive Families:

*Strategy 1, Objective 1.1: Build community awareness of the issue to gain collaboration and a lead agency.*

**Answer here**

*Strategy 1, Objective 1.2: Develop community support and collaboration.*

**Answer here**

*Strategy 1, Objective 1.3: Support the lead agency with seeking grant opportunities to support the initiative.*

**Answer here**

*Strategy 2, Objective 1.1: Establish a support system for adoptive families in Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.*

**Answer here**

*Strategy 2, Objective 1.2: Establish a support system for adoptive teens in Circuit 7.*

**Answer here**

*Strategy 3, Objective 1.1: Develop a method for adoptive parents and youth to have access to trainings that will address any issues that may arise post adoption.*

**Answer here**

Please identify the percentage of achievement of the five-year prevention plan you think your circuit has achieved, and describe why.

**Overall the progress on the objectives is going as planned. Completion would be estimated at 60% since we are 70% through the five year cycle. Putnam County reports that it is struggling with objective 3.1 due to turn over and the Thrive by Five program in Volusia County reports that it has completed 40% of its five year plan and has had some directional change as well as funding challenges. However, overall progress reported is positive. Some programs have suffered budget cuts during this plan and feel that if those cuts had not occurred they could have reached more families and provided more services.**

Please identify the percentage of achievement of the five-year permanency plan you think your circuit has achieved, and describe why.

Do you think your circuit is on target to accomplishing your four target goals by June 2015? Why or why not?

### **Highlights and Accomplishments**

Please describe any highlights and accomplishments connected to your circuit's five-year plan.

**For the reporting period of July 1st 2012 – June 30th 2013, Healthy Families of Volusia – Flagler counties achieved the following outcomes:**

**100% of children in families who completed the Healthy Families Florida program more than 12 and up through 24 months earlier than the end of the report date had no verified findings of child maltreatment within 12 months after program completion. 96.7% of children in families participating in the Healthy Families Florida program for more than six months had no verified findings of child maltreatment during their participation.**

**Additionally, the Lead Entity for Healthy Families Volusia ~ Flagler, The Healthy Start Coalition, has continued to promote The Strengthening Families model and The Protective Factors throughout our community through the local Community Café located in the 32114 zip code area, monthly Café Dialogues held at the Community Café and Café Dialogues held at other venues throughout our service delivery area. Trainings and other presentations have been provided within our community and throughout the state to spread the message of The Strengthening Families model and the Protective Factors.**

**Healthy Families of St Johns County achieved the following:**

**Greater understanding of Family Integrity Program services and FIP staff has a greater understanding of services offered through Children's Home Society.**

**Increase of HFF funding and restoration of staff positions that were eliminated based on 2010 funding cuts.**

**HFSJ moved to a new program office (12/1) on US 1 South/25 Deltona Blvd. Several CHS programs will be housed at the new office space. Office space provides more visibility for the program.**

**For domestic violence in Putnam County: Lee Conlee House has maintained a stable relationship with the Department of Juvenile Justice and continues to provide curriculum for the youth in the county who are involved in their services. During 2012 the Lee Conlee House Prevention Coordinator became a part of the local Juvenile Justice Council, allowing the agency access to one more group in the county committed to prevention.**

**During 2012 we were also able to develop a relationship with the local youth shelter, Interface, and have established a routine for working with youth residing in that shelter.**

**The month of October will see the Lee Conlee House hosting once again its Annual Survivor's Art Show, which showcases artwork from survivors of domestic and sexual violence throughout Putnam County.**

**The Lee Conlee House is also working to establish partnerships and communication with the local faith community in order to build a relationship that will allow the agency to begin providing more violence prevention classes and trainings throughout the county.**

**The Thrive by Five Collaborative in Volusia County received the 2013 Children's Week Community Innovation Award presented in Tallahassee on April 8, 2013. This coveted award recognizes communities that embrace collaboration by working across multiple sectors and providers to address problems facing children 0-18 and their families.**

#### **Next Steps**

**Please identify what your circuit's proposed next steps are for 2014 related to the five-year plan.**