

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

October 17, 2013

Wansley Walters, Secretary  
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice  
Knight Building  
2737 Centerview Drive  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3100

Dear Secretary Walters:

Though I am unable to attend the upcoming meeting of the Children and Youth Cabinet, I want to share a few of the Department of Health's key activities since the last meeting in July.

The Healthiest Weight Florida initiative is making significant progress for Florida's families: Florida is now the 12<sup>th</sup> healthiest weight state in the nation, improving from 19<sup>th</sup>. Healthiest weight remains our top priority as we strive to eclipse Colorado and become the healthiest weight state in the nation.

The Department recently released our *Year in Review 2012-13*, a comprehensive overview of the significant strides made across the state in meeting our mission to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida. This publication is available on the Department of Health Internet site and at <http://issuu.com/floridahealth/docs/yir.issuu> 9-13 x.

In early August, the Department officially launched the new electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. This program makes fresh foods more accessible to mothers and their children, links a specific food "prescription" to nutrition outcomes, and saves commercial grocers up to 90 percent in processing costs.

Ensuring a bright and healthy future for our state's children is at the heart of the Department's collaborative efforts to encourage healthy choices in nutrition and activity for all Floridians. The Cabinet's support is appreciated!

Sincerely,

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS  
Surgeon General & Secretary

JHA/vp

cc: Zackary Gibson