

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Workgroup on Multi-System Children and Youth

Update on Interagency Agreement To Coordinate Services for Children Served by More than One Agency

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Interagency Agreement To Coordinate Services for Children Served by More than One Agency

Actions/Accomplishments

- Agreement signed by all agencies in October 2012
- As lead agency for the first year of implementation, DCF responsible for coordinating meetings and tracking information
- The State Review Team developed a statewide membership directory, reporting structure, and has provided operational guidance and expectations to all teams
- State, Regional and Local Review Teams have been formed and meet regularly to resolve difficult cases. Teams also meet on an ad hoc basis when a case needs immediate resolution. Teams are submitting information required in the Agreement.

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Agency Participation

- A State Review Team, twenty Local Review Teams (by circuit) and six Regional Review Teams (by DCF regions) are in place and are meeting to resolve difficult cases and other interagency issues
- Every agency* has one or more representatives designated to serve on the State Review Team and on each Local and Regional Review Team

***Agency for Health Care Administration, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Children and Families, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Education, Department of Health, Guardian ad Litem, Florida's Office of Early Learning**

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**Numbers of Cases Reviewed/Referred
January-March 2013**

- Local and Regional: 123 of 126 cases brought to Local Review Teams were resolved locally. The remaining were referred to a Regional Review Team and resolved.
 - State: no cases were formally referred to the State Review Team during this quarter, however, State Team members were frequently consulted informally and assisted in resolving cases without calling together the entire State Review Team.
- * It is important to note that the reporting period includes an implementation phase, and numbers of cases are likely underreported.**

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Issue and Concerns Identified

Particularly difficult issues that have surfaced include:

- Challenges in identifying successful, appropriate placements for children in the dependency system returning from commitment
- Residential cost sharing between agencies
- Services for children with particularly difficult problems, such as habitual runaways, child-on-child sexual abusers, histories of violent/threatening behavior, parents unwilling/unable to care for children at home
- Children with significant mental health issues and a developmental disability

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Next Steps

- Finalize the resolution of residential cost sharing issues between agencies
- Track and identify patterns regarding prevalent local and statewide issues, and make recommendations to develop services and resources where needed
- The State Review Team will provide training for Local and Regional Review Teams to strengthen interagency collaboration, reinforce ongoing implementation of the Interagency Agreement requirements, and provide technical assistance