



Board of Directors Meeting

May 13, 2010

Child Welfare Advocacy Update

Item V.D.

Recommended Action:	Information Only
Issue:	Child Welfare System Report
Program:	Child Welfare Advocacy
Budget Impact:	NA
Strategic Plan Goal:	Child Maltreatment

Family Reunification Week

According to Florida Statutes, reunification with parents is the preference for helping children achieve normalcy and permanency. In Florida from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, 10,634 children were reunified with their parents. To recognize mothers and fathers for expressing love and commitment to their sons and daughters by bringing their families back together to ensure safety, well-being and permanency for children, Governor Charlie Christ has proclaimed May 2-8, 2010, Family Reunification Week in the State of Florida. Communities across the state will host events where parents who have achieved and sustained reunification with their children will be honored and presented with awards for their accomplishments. Eckerd Community Alternatives (ECA) is working on finalizing the details of a local event.

Foster Parent Project

Eckerd Family Foundation and the Youth Law Center are continuing to work with ECA and its community partners on the initiative to improve the quality of foster care in Circuit 6. There have been small and large group meetings to determine what the responsibilities and attributes of successful foster parenting are and how messaging both externally and internally can support successful foster parenting. Based on input at the meetings the following has been identified as the Circuit 6 brand for quality foster parenting:

“Today’s ECA foster families are skilled, valued partners who parent, nurture, and advocate for children and who mentor and support families. Foster parents maintain a lifelong commitment to children in their care, whenever possible. Foster parents are privileged to improve and positively impact the futures of children and families.”

Recent meetings have focused on identifying factors that support or undermine the goals the project is trying to achieve and determining the steps needed within the system of care to fulfill the brand.

Sallie House Update

The Salvation Army (TSA) held a Community Partners Meeting to assist with Sallie House Utilization and Program Design on April 5, 2010. Representatives from the Salvation Army (staff and board members), Eckerd Community Alternatives (ECA), Department of Children & Families (DCF), Sheriff’s Office Child Protective

The Community’s Investment in Our Children

Investigations (CPI), Eckerd Family Foundation, Sixth Judicial Circuit and the Juvenile Welfare Board attended the meeting. The Salvation Army (TSA) is proposing to launch a pilot Attachment and Bonding Clinic in Pinellas County which would utilize the Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up intervention (ABC) founded by Mary Dozier, Ph. D., the Amy E. du Pont Chair of Child Development at the University of Delaware.

Status of the Salvation Army Pilot Project:

- TSA submitted a concept paper for a planning grant to the Eckerd Family Foundation on April 1, 2010.
- Eckerd Family Foundation invited TSA to submit a full proposal for the ABC Intervention concept by April 23, 2010.
- TSA submitted the full proposal to Eckerd Family Foundation. TSA is requesting \$50,000 in planning funds for the six-month period from July 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010, and another \$50,000 in challenge funds to help TSA in securing the implementation funds to launch the pilot program beginning January 2011.
- TSA obtained a firm commitment from Dr. Dozier to provide TSA (Sallie House staff) with the ABC Intervention training and 1:1 consult
- Ongoing partnership meetings will be scheduled to discuss the viability and roles of the partnership moving forward.

Circuit 6 Town Hall Meeting

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) will convene a Circuit 6 Town Hall meeting on Monday, May 10, 2010, from 1:00 pm -5:00 pm at the Juvenile Welfare Board. The purpose of the meeting is to update partners, stakeholders and the public on progress DCF has made during the year and the impact of the recent legislative session. The meeting will also provide community members an opportunity to help set the direction of the Department through input into their strategic plan.