

## Part 4- Areas of Focus for Primary and Secondary Prevention

We as a nation, state, and communities are confronted with the problems of child abuse, abandonment and neglect. The Centers for Disease Control have declared child maltreatment to be the largest public health threat that we face today. Early adverse experiences put children at risk. Problematic adult characteristics may result in child maltreatment and these adverse experiences put those children at risk for poor child well-being which in turn predisposes them to engage in the very problematic adult characteristics that will put their own children at risk. The underlying causes are complex. They include such things as poor health, social isolation, poor academic performance, mental health issues, history of abuse or neglect, substance abuse, domestic violence, poverty, homelessness, poor parenting, and on and on. The federal government, state government, local governments and communities invest millions in response to these problems which, being complex and slow to eradicate will be with our communities, families and children for some time to come.

The means for building family resilience was developed through research and application efforts of the Center for the Study of Social Policy. The Center developed a research effort based upon the *Positive Deviance Premise* that in every community there are certain individuals whose uncommon practices and behaviors enable them to find better solutions to problems than their neighbors who have access to the same resources. As discussed in the peer reviewed *British Medical Journal* (Marsh et al., 2004), although most problems like these have complex, interlinked underlying causes, the presence of Positive Deviants demonstrates that it is possible to find successful solutions today before all the underlying causes are addressed.

Research conducted by the Center for the Study of Social Policy found that there are *Five Protective Factors* that make a difference for families. When families experience the stressors that are highly correlated with child maltreatment, some families maltreat their children and others do not. The Center found that in the homes that do not maltreat their children, although they are experiencing the same stressors, the difference in these homes is the presence of *Five Protective Factors*. These *Five Protective Factors* reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect by providing parents with what they need in order to parent effectively, even under stress. By building relationships with families, programs can recognize signs of stress and build families' protective factors with timely, effective help.

Building on the *Positive Deviance Premise* and the work of the Center for the Study of Social Policy, the five-year prevention plan has three main areas of focus:

- Infuse the *Five Protective Factors* into as many family support systems and services areas as is practicable.
- Strengthen and support many of systems that are critical for providing concrete supports to families.
- Provide information and awareness for professionals, parents, caregivers and community members.

Six strategies and twenty-three objectives comprise the plans of action for the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect before it ever occurs. The table below illustrates the strategies, objectives and the level of prevention supported by each. As shown in the following table, seven of the objectives address primary prevention, ten of the objectives address both primary and secondary prevention, and three of the strategies address secondary prevention.

**Table 11. Overview of the Prevention Strategies and Objectives with the Levels of Prevention Addressed**

Prevention Strategies	Prevention Objectives	Levels of Prevention Addressed
<b>Prevention Strategy 1:</b> Infuse the <i>Five Protective Factors</i> into Florida Systems that Serve Parents and Children	1.1 Early Education and Care	Primary
	1.2 Home Visiting Programs	Primary and Secondary
	1.3 Head Start Programs	Secondary
	1.4 Medicaid Child Health Check-Up Program	Primary and Secondary
	1.5 Technical Assistance to Circuits	Primary and Secondary
	1.6 Faith-Based and Community-Based Efforts	Primary
<b>Prevention Strategy 2:</b> Strengthen Florida Systems to Better Serve the Needs of Florida Families	2.1 Whole Child	Primary
	2.2 Healthy Families Florida	Secondary
	2.3 Healthy Start	Secondary
	2.4 Education Services for Parents/Caregivers of Newborns	Primary
<b>Prevention Strategy 3:</b> Provide Information on Ways to Ensure that Children are Safe and Nurtured and Live in Stable Environments that Promote Well-being	3.1 Public Awareness and Education	Primary and Secondary
	3.2 Evidence-Based Parenting Programs	Primary and Secondary
	3.3 Child Death Review	Primary and Secondary
<b>Prevention Strategy 4:</b> Inform and Instruct Education Communities – <i>The Florida Cooperative Education Child Abuse Prevention Plan</i>	4.1 Professional Development for School Personnel	Primary
	4.2 Resources for Parents of School Children	Primary
	4.3 Resource Awareness	Primary and Secondary
	4.4 Multidisciplinary Curricula	Primary
<b>Prevention Strategy 5:</b> Inform and Instruct Law Enforcement Communities – <i>The Florida Cooperative Law Enforcement Child Abuse Prevention Plan</i>	5.1 Law Enforcement <i>Memorandum of Understanding</i> Review Design	Primary and Secondary
	5.2 Law Enforcement Annual Reviews and Updates	Primary and Secondary
	5.3 Law Enforcement Future Plans	Primary and Secondary
<b>Prevention Strategy 6:</b> Monitor and Evaluate Plan Implementation	6.1 Instrumentation and Procedures Design	
	6.2 Progress Monitoring	
	6.3 Annual Review and Assessment	

**Of Note: Prevention Strategy 6:** Monitor and Evaluate Plan Implementation and its three objectives support the implementation of the other five strategies and twenty objectives in the five-year prevention plan. This supporting strategy and objectives are omitted from the last column in the table above and from the three tables that follow. One could conclude that all areas of the prevention continua, all levels of the socio-ecological model, and all of the *Five Protective Factors* are impacted because of the supporting role of this strategy, or one could conclude that none of the levels should be checked because it provides only a supporting role in the effort. Thus, these are omitted from the tables that follow.

The following three tables illustrate how the strategies and objectives encompass the array of both primary and secondary continua of prevention programs and services as well as address the *Five Protective Factors*. The first table illustrates the extent to which the strategies and objectives are primary prevention or universal strategies. The second table illustrates the extent to which the plan strategies and objectives are secondary prevention or selected strategies. And, the third table illustrates the extent to which the plan strategies and objectives address the *Five Protective Factors*.

As shown in the first crosswalk table, this plan was intentional in including **primary prevention** or **universal** strategies and objectives that would benefit all of the people of Florida. That is, they are accessible by the general public and geared toward preventing child maltreatment before it ever occurs. The primary prevention continuum has six categories for programs and services. Four of the plan's objectives have the potential to impact all six categories in the entire primary prevention continuum. And, eleven of the prevention plan objectives have the potential to impact at least four of the six categories in the primary prevention continuum. This plan underscores that Florida is committed to reducing the rate of child maltreatment before it occurs in ways that will benefit all of Florida's families and their children.

As shown in the second crosswalk table, this plan was also intentional in including **secondary prevention** or **selected** strategies and objectives that would benefit children and families at risk of child maltreatment before it ever occurs. These strategies and objectives are targeted to families with multiple risk factors prior to the occurrence of child abuse and neglect. Almost half of the objectives have the potential to impact at least four of the seven programs and services on the second secondary prevention continuum. This too shows that Florida is committed to preventing child maltreatment in those families at high risk before the abuse ever occurs.

The third crosswalk illustrates how this prevention plan's strategies and objectives have the potential to address the *Five Protective Factors* that are correlates with reduced child maltreatment. All of the twenty objectives address at least one protective factor, with over half (eleven) addressing all *Five Protective Factors*. The crosswalk underscores Florida's commitment to ensuring that Florida's children are raised by resilient parents in safe, stable and nurturing homes.

**Table 12. Crosswalk of the Prevention of the Prevention Strategies and Objectives with the Primary Continuum of Programs and Services**

Prevention Strategies	Prevention Objectives	Continuum of Primary Prevention / Universal Strategies <i>Targeted toward the general public prior to the occurrence of child abuse and neglect.</i>					
		Community Development	Community Support for Families	Family Supportive Programs/ Services	Information Referral and Helplines	Public Awareness and Education Campaigns	Workforce
Prevention Strategy 1: Infuse the <i>Five Protective Factors</i> into Florida Systems that Serve Parents and Children	Early Education and Care	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Home Visiting Programs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Head Start Programs						
	Medicaid Child Health Check-Up Program		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Technical Assistance to Circuits	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Faith-Based and Community-Based Efforts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prevention Strategy 2: Strengthen Florida Systems to Better Serve the Needs of Florida Families	Whole Child	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Healthy Families Florida						
	Healthy Start						
	Education Services for Parents/Caregivers of Newborns		✓	✓	✓		
Prevention Strategy 3: Provide Information on Ways to Ensure that Children are Safe and Nurtured and Live in Stable Environments that Promote Well-being	Public Awareness and Education	✓	✓		✓	✓	
	Evidence-Based Parenting Programs		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Child Death Review	✓	✓			✓	
Prevention Strategy 4: Inform and Instruct Education Communities – <i>The Florida Cooperative Education Child Abuse Prevention Plan</i>	Professional Development for School Personnel		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Resources for Parents of School Children		✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Resource Awareness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Multidisciplinary Curricula	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prevention Strategy 5: Inform and Instruct Law Enforcement Communities – <i>The Florida Cooperative Law Enforcement Child Abuse Prevention Plan</i>	Law Enforcement Memorandum of Understanding Review Design						
	Law Enforcement Annual Reviews and Updates						
	Law Enforcement Future Plans						

**Table 13. Crosswalk of the Prevention Strategies and Objectives with the Secondary Prevention Continuum of Programs and Services**

Prevention Strategies	Prevention Objectives	Continuum of Secondary Prevention / Selected Strategies <i>Targeted to families with multiple risk factors prior to the occurrence of child abuse and neglect.</i>						
		Adult Education	Community Development	Community Supports for Families	Concrete Services	Family Supportive Programs/ Services	Public Awareness and Education Campaigns	Workforce
Prevention Strategy 1: Infuse the <i>Five Protective Factors</i> into Florida Systems that Serve Parents and Children	Early Education and Care							
	Home Visiting Programs		✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Head Start Programs		✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Medicaid Child Health Check-Up Program			✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Technical Assistance to Circuits		✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Faith-Based and Community-Based Efforts							
Prevention Strategy 2: Strengthen Florida Systems to Better Serve the Needs of Florida Families	Whole Child							
	Healthy Families Florida		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Healthy Start		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Education Services for Parents/Caregivers of Newborns							
Prevention Strategy 3: Provide Information on Ways to Ensure that Children are Safe and Nurtured and Live in Stable Environments that Promote Well-being	Public Awareness and Education		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Evidence-Based Parenting Programs			✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Child Death Review		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Prevention Strategy 4: Inform and Instruct Education Communities – <i>The Florida Cooperative Education Child Abuse Prevention Plan</i>	Professional Development for School Personnel							
	Resources for Parents of School Children							
	Resource Awareness		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Multidisciplinary Curricula							
Prevention Strategy 5: Inform and Instruct Law Enforcement Communities – <i>The Florida Cooperative Law Enforcement Child Abuse Prevention Plan</i>	Law Enforcement <i>Memorandum of Understanding</i> Review Design				✓		✓	
	Law Enforcement Annual Reviews and Updates						✓	
	Law Enforcement Future Plans						✓	

**Table 14. Crosswalk of the Prevention Strategies and Objectives with the *Five Protective Factors***

Prevention Strategies	Prevention Objectives	Five Protective Factors				
		Nurturing and Attachment	Knowledge of Parenting and of Child and Youth Development	Parental Resilience	Social Connections	Concrete Supports for Parents
Prevention Strategy 1: Infuse the <i>Five Protective Factors</i> into Florida Systems that Serve Parents and Children	Early Education and Care	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Home Visiting Programs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Head Start Programs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Medicaid Child Health Check-Up Program		✓			✓
	Technical Assistance to Circuits	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Faith-Based and Community-Based Efforts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prevention Strategy 2: Strengthen Florida Systems to Better Serve the Needs of Florida Families	Whole Child	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Healthy Families Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Healthy Start	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Education Services for Parents/Caregivers of Newborns	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prevention Strategy 3: Provide Information on Ways to Ensure that Children are Safe and Nurtured and Live in Stable Environments that Promote Well-being	Public Awareness and Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Evidence-Based Parenting Programs	✓	✓		✓	
	Child Death Review		✓			
Prevention Strategy 4: Inform and Instruct Education Communities – <i>The Florida Cooperative Education Child Abuse Prevention Plan</i>	Professional Development for School Personnel		✓			✓
	Resources for Parents of School Children	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Resource Awareness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Multidisciplinary Curricula	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prevention Strategy 5: Inform and Instruct Law Enforcement Communities – <i>The Florida Cooperative Law Enforcement Child Abuse Prevention Plan</i>	Law Enforcement Memorandum of Understanding Review Design					✓
	Law Enforcement Annual Reviews and Updates					✓
	Law Enforcement Future Plans					✓