

## **Florida Children and Youth Cabinet**

### **Priority Recommendations for Administrative Flexibility**

#### **Supporting Interagency Efforts to Reconnect Disconnected Youth**

##### **Florida Department of Children and Families**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) limits data sharing between state Departments of Education and/or local school boards and DCF/partners. This is true in Florida and many states. Currently, only the parent can access educational data of the child. Some agencies are exempt, such as DJJ. However child welfare entities are not exempt. We propose that Federal DOE renders an opinion that exempts state child welfare entities, or the exemption is added to the legislation.

##### **Florida Department of Health**

One of the hallmarks of comprehensive care is the ability to coordinate care across delivery systems and even within delivery systems. The financing of case management or care coordination occurs in multiple federal programs: Title IV, Title V, Title XIX, Title XXI, etc. In some cases there are different definitions and in other cases there is no clear delineation of responsibility. For example, there are multiple ways of financing case management under Title XIX and they do not necessarily fit the more recent approaches to health care delivery (e.g., medical home, managed care). In other instances, there is a form of care coordination delivered in a social services setting and another form of care coordination delivered in a health care setting; however, there is no integration of activities. Some of this is driven by definition, rule, and funding source. It is also recognized that methods of communication are not efficient and at times individuals are unaware of activities of other professionals with the same case.

This is a very complex issue and one that calls for a few test sites to work through the funding and coordination issues. In particular, sites that are involved in child welfare and child health care.

(1) FERPA has caused most school districts to not utilize the free Medicaid Tracking System software to do monthly mass verification of student eligibility for Medicaid and then provide the information to the county health department. In many cases the county health department is the sole provider of school health services in the district but since they are not a part of the school district it is

deemed that FERPA prevents sharing of this information. As a result, county health departments have to check eligibility one student at a time every month, creating a deterrent to Medicaid Certified Match being a feasible means of paying for services provided to children in the school setting, this combined with low reimbursement rates makes it difficult for county health departments to have a viable payment source.

(2) Some school districts do not allow county health department staff to review hard copy Certificates of Immunization (DH 680) and log-in to SHOTS (the state online system for immunizations) Registry at schools to update student immunization records online - even if the student already has a record in SHOTS. An existing record in SHOTS has a corresponding parental consent to enter immunization information into the SHOTS system; these consents are kept on file at the county health department.

### **Florida Department of Juvenile Justice**

Provide fiscal incentives or specific allocations for federal Department of Labor and Florida's Agency for Workforce Innovation to provide job training and placement services to youth within, and transitioning from, residential commitment programs. All juveniles in residential commitment are eligible for Workforce Investment Act funding but lack dedicated funding.

Establish post-secondary and adult education tuition waivers for juveniles committed to residential facilities.