

**Report to the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet
on the
Interagency Agreement
To Coordinate Services for Children Served By More than One Agency**

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

General Updates:

- Local, Regional and State Teams meet monthly or more often in the event of a case in need of immediate resolution.
- Statewide training for all local and regional review teams was held in April to ensure understanding and compliance with all aspects of the Agreement.
- The Department of Children and Families will continue to serve as lead agency for fiscal year 2013-14. The State Review Team will determine which agency will take on this role for the following year.

Examples of Cases Referred to Regional Review Teams for Resolution this Quarter:

Northwest Region: A youth with mental health issues and a low IQ aged out of foster care. He was in jail for battery, and was in danger of becoming homeless upon release. The case was referred to the Region Review Team, and the team was able to locate an appropriate assisted living facility placement for the youth.

Northeast Region: A seventeen year old foster child was placed in the Northeast region, and was in need of complex service needs upon returning to her home county. These needs involved multiple agencies, and the case was referred to the Review Team for assistance in working cross-agency and cross-region.

Central Region: A child being served by DCF, APD and DJJ will turn 18 in August. Weekly meetings are being held with the three agencies as well as the Guardian ad Litem, with a goal of securing an appropriate APD placement prior to her 18th birthday. The team is currently awaiting the results of psychological testing for APD continued eligibility.

Suncoast Region: This complex case involved a girl who was discharged from DJJ who was believed to have been involved in Human Trafficking. She was adopted from another county as a young child. With the assistance of Review Team members and the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, an appropriate placement was secured. The parents' insurance is covering the placement, and close follow-up will take place as the insurance will only pay for the first thirty 30 days.

Southeast: A child being served by DOE, APD, and DCF was referred to the Review Team as the child's complex needs were reportedly not being met in the current placement or educational setting. She has a history of multiple admissions to mental health facilities under the Baker Act and absconding from APD group care placement. The Team is currently gathering pertinent information from multiple providers to resolve the issue.

Southern: A parent who is a client of APD (her children are not APD clients) is in need of additional services to care for her children due to her disabilities. The team is working to resolve cost sharing between agencies to ensure the family has the services it needs.

In addition to staffing cases in need of resolution, Local, Regional, and State Review Teams collaborate to share important information and improve their systems of care. Examples of issues discussed this quarter include:

- Agency-specific information was shared among the agencies, including child protection transformation, APD/DCF cost sharing pilot, transportation issues, subsidized child care, review and update of the APD waitlist, development of a staffing form to be used to provide information to other agencies when a case needs to be staffed, legislative issues affecting multiple agencies.

Resource needs were also discussed locally and regionally this quarter, including:

- The need for immediate placements for complex medical and mental health needs. It often takes a series of staffing and assessments to place a child in a specialized home, and many specialized homes have restrictions on taking children with certain criminal or behavioral issues.
- DJJ lock out cases: families either refuse or are unable to take a child back into their home following release from detention. These children are at risk of entering the dependency system, becoming homeless or running away.
- The need for additional substance abuse and mental health assessments in DJJ detention facilities.

