

## **Quarterly Narrative Report - 3/1/06 – 5/31/06**

### **Building Bridges to Better Outcomes for Children: The Link Between Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Build a Child Welfare Coalition;
- Educate providers and policymakers in both child welfare and juvenile justice fields about the link between child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency;
- Build commonality and unified platform for reform so that youth involved in both systems receive more coordinated services and have a better chance to thrive.

#### **ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS TO DATE**

##### **Continue the bi-weekly meetings of the Juvenile Justice Coalition to underscore the need for a fair and balanced approach to juvenile justice in Florida.**

Continued meeting with the Coalition and helped craft an advocacy strategy and message campaign that brought desperately needed additional funding to providers. Contracted juvenile justice providers were no longer able to effectively supervise, treat, and protect the youth in their care. Since the creation of the Department of Juvenile Justice (1994), the cost of doing business (inflation) had risen 38.8%. During the same 12 years, reimbursement rates for all services across the juvenile justice spectrum had remained essentially flat.

The provider rate increase was given then part of it was taken away in the closing hours of session, apparently tied to the bitter struggle in the Senate over future leadership. Although juvenile justice providers were candid about being on the brink of a cliff, dealing with a huge financial hole to the tune of \$100 million dollars, the money they asked for to inch away from the edge was \$33 million. Budget conferees led by Rep. Barreiro (R-Miami) and Sen. Victor Crist (R-Tampa) awarded almost every one of those dollars but it was reduced to only \$21 million by the Senate President and Appropriations Chair, and part of that is to be shared with other juvenile justice priorities.

The budget included \$1.4 million for PACE and \$2.5 million for CINS/FINS, and money to the Department of Juvenile Justice to fix residential facilities, among other enhancements.

There was also \$10.5 million for Sheriff STAR Academies, earmarked for an alternative to the boot camps. The Sheriff's Training and Respect (STAR) Program is modeled after the Martin County Juvenile Offender Training Center. To participate in STAR, Sheriffs will be required to include components such as education, counseling, rehabilitation services, aftercare and transition services, and family therapy. While offering promise, these programs will require vigilance by advocates to ensure that the harmful impacts of the boot camps truly go away.

Priorities for session changed the day that 14-year-old Martin Lee Anderson died from abuse at a Panama City Boot Camp. The Children's Campaign already was fully engaged in assisting with the development of strategies and messages to help juvenile justice providers receive their first significant rate increase in 12 years. In response to the horrifying death caught on videotape, the Children's Campaign helped mobilize a citizen effort to demand a more thorough and unbiased review of the circumstances surrounding the tragedy. In addition, the Children's Campaign advocated for the closure of the boot camps, a program idea that was both ineffective and had high numbers of use of force complaints.

On the last day of session, the independent investigator, Hillsborough County State Attorney Mark Ober, appointed by Governor Bush, released the second autopsy report that confirmed that Martin Lee Anderson died of unnatural causes.

The previous week, exemplary actions led by Rep. Gus Barreiro (R-Miami) and Rep. Mitch Needleman (R-Melbourne) through the appropriations process closed the remaining boot camps.

Convened a Juvenile Justice Roundtable in Pensacola to bring together group of community leaders and juvenile justice stakeholders to discuss: (1) current public opinion about juvenile justice and public safety; (2) data trends; (3) the mission, vision and core values of Florida's juvenile justice system; (4) better ways to serve troubled youth and families; and, (5) state and local policy and appropriations. Those attending were leaders from business and civic organizations, local philanthropic organizations, law enforcement, judges, state attorneys, public defenders, consumers of juvenile justice services, providers, researchers, advocates, faith-based organizations, education, state government, juvenile justice boards and commissions, minority issues experts, parents, parents and youth. Large turnout of stakeholders including child welfare representatives - Roy Miller and Bruce Barcelo led the discussion.

### **Expand the reach of the Minority Issues Advisory Council (MIAC) by recruiting new members and engaging them in the campaign.**

Members agreed to continue recommending names of potential new members to fill the balance of representation desired. Specifically, members agreed that representation was needed in the following areas: Pensacola and Panama City (Northwest), Ft. Myers and/or Naples (Southwest), Indian River and Ft. Pierce (East coast), and Volusia, Brevard and Seminole (Central). Also need youth representatives. This includes youth who have been in or had some experience within the system and those who have not, but may have served on Teen or Youth Councils for various community organizations.

MIAC co-hosted, with Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, a St. Petersburg "meet and greet" to give the participants of Pinellas county the opportunity to give immediate input into the priority needs of children in the community.

### **Continue quarterly meetings of the MIAC to address issues of disproportionate representation of children and youth of color in the juvenile justice system.**

The conference call sparked an excellent exchange of information, ideas and recommendations regarding advocacy strategies targeting public policy messages aimed at addressing minority over-representation issues and the many gaps of services to minority children and communities. Below is a brief summary of the issues addressed, actions taken.

1. MIAC members adopted a platform which will include the following three issues:

- \* Prevention and early intervention advocacy strategy targeted at addressing zero tolerance;
- \* After school and educational enrichment experiences and services; and
- \* High quality early learning and Universal Pre-Kindergarten.

**Form a Child Welfare Collaborative that mirrors the Juvenile Justice Collaborative to begin to bring stakeholders together them on the link between child welfare and juvenile justice.**

Began the grant period announcing the grant award in the Children's Campaign newsletter. Completed personal meetings and group presentations with child welfare and juvenile justice representatives and key stakeholders. The meetings provided research and information about the grant from Jessie Ball DuPont Religious, Charitable and Educational Fund titled, *Building Bridges to Better Outcomes for Children: The Link Between Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare*.

Informed those contacted of our intent to elevate the work we have done in Florida to a new level by establishing linkages and cooperation between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Explained that our ultimate goal was to provide children and youth with enhanced case management and coordination of services that will enable them to achieve improved outcomes in life. Detailing how this work will support a fundamental component of our current juvenile justice reform effort, as these children and youth will receive critical services that will help stem their inappropriate and unnecessary flow from the child welfare system into the juvenile justice system.

In other states CWLA was invited by the Departments to provide the coordinating and integration process. In Florida it was necessary to educate and inform the departments of the grant and our plans in order to gain their support and participation. This has been very labor intensive and necessitated a great deal of meetings with agency personnel and leadership to insure their commitment.

**Florida Department of Juvenile Justice**

George Hattaway had personal visits with Secretary Schembri, providing him with the research, *Understanding Child Maltreatment and Juvenile Delinquency, From Research to Effective Program, Practice, and Systemic Solutions*, and informed him of the project, goals and objectives.

The Secretary enthusiastically supported the project and offered any of his staff needed to participate in the project and even suggested a joint press release. After the visit Secretary Schembri scheduled a joint meeting with Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Barbara Pariente and her staff.

John Tuell, director of the CWLA Child Welfare-Juvenile Justice Systems Initiative, visited Tallahassee from Washington and made presentation to Secretary Schembri's Executive Management Team.

**DJJ Executive Management Team:**

Anthony Schembri, Secretary, Department of Juvenile Justice  
C, Stephen Casey, Deputy Commissioner  
Jane McElroy, Director Administrative Services Office  
Ken Piefer, Assistant Secretary Detention Services Office  
Terri Eggers, Director of Education  
Mary Eubanks, Inspector General  
Keith Knight, Legislative Affairs Director  
Jennifer Parker, General Counsel  
Shairi Turner, Chief Medical Officer  
Greg Johnson, Assistant Secretary Prevention and Victim Services  
Jack Ahern, Deputy for Probation  
Darryl Olson, Assistant Secretary Probation and Community Corrections  
Ted Tollett, Director Research and Planning Office  
Charles Chervanik, Assistant Secretary Residential Services  
Eber Brown, Assistant, Assistant Secretary Staff Development and Training  
Tara Collins, Assistant Press Secretary

After the presentation to the Executive Management Team, Ted Tollett, Director of Research and Planning invited George Hattaway to participate in the department's Quarterly JJDP State Advisory Group meeting in Fort Myers, Florida.

JJDP State Advisory Group is a 22 member panel of persons from across the state who have training, experience, or special knowledge of the juvenile justice system. SAG members are appointed by the Governor and are responsible for the administration and management of federally allocated funds.

George presented information on the project, provided materials including copies of the research, *Understanding Child Maltreatment and Juvenile Delinquency, From Research to Effective Program, Practice, and Systemic Solutions*. As a result of the meeting several members agreed to become involved in the project.

**Members of JJDP State Advisory Group:**

Judge Robert Evans, SAG Chair Orlando, Florida  
Jacqui Colyer, SAG Vice-Chair, Miami, Florida  
Sheldon Gusky, SAG Finance Committee Chair, Tallahassee, Florida  
Donnie Read, SAG DMC Chair, Bristol, Florida  
Mitch Wilkins, SAG Grants and Contracts Committee Chair, Tampa, Florida  
Emilio Benitez, Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
Sophia Campbell, Miami Florida  
Jim Clark, Jacksonville, Florida  
Nathan Crock, Treasure Island, Florida  
Georgia Jones-Ayers, Miami, Florida  
Jacquelyn Ledbetter, Tallahassee, Florida

Diego Mella, Miami, Florida  
Judge Frank Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
Patti Pieri, Tampa, Florida  
Ray Pilon, Sarasota Florida  
Dennis Shulman, Pensacola, Florida  
O.B. Stander, Tampa, Florida  
Janet Ter Louw, Tallahassee, Florida  
Susan Tholl, Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
Aimee Wilson, Tallahassee, Florida

### **Florida Supreme Court**

Secretary Schembri and George Hattaway met with Chief Justice Pariente and staff members, Rose Patterson, Chief of Court Improvement, Florida Supreme Court and Kelly Gandy, Court Operations Consultant, Florida Supreme Court. George provided them with the research, *Understanding Child Maltreatment and Juvenile Delinquency, From Research to Effective Program, Practice, and Systemic Solutions*, discussed the project, how it was funded, goals and objectives. Chief Justice expressed her support of the project. She then described her efforts to bring solutions to the complex problems involving children and families through commitment, collaboration, communication, and cooperation both within the community and throughout the state. Improving services to children and families is one of her initiatives and she is very committed. An invitation was extended to speak at the Family Court Judges Conference in Orlando, 8/3/06. John Tuell and George Hattaway have scheduled the conference and will providing materials making a power point presentation to the Children's Leadership Group. John Tuell traveled to Tallahassee and he and George met with the Chief Justice again providing her with a national perspective on the work John and CWLA are doing in other states and the expectations for the project in Florida.

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

John Tuell and George Hattaway, met with Don Winstead, Deputy Secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families, Steve Holmes, Chief of staff, and Beth Englander, Director of Family Safety. Secretary Lucy Hadi was scheduled to meet with group but called away to appear before a legislative committee. Everyone was provided with copies of the research, *Understanding Child Maltreatment and Delinquency...* and educated them on the project then asked for their support and participation. Deputy Winstead, asked why they should get involved when they have all their other obligations and activities. After listening to his concern we discussed the benefits this work will bring to children and families, and the success we have seen in other states where CWLA is doing similar projects. He finally agreed and said the department will support and participate in the project.

Beth Englander, DCF, Director of Office of Family Safety and a supporter of our original grant application was excited about the opportunity to participate in the project and scheduled a meeting for John and George with her staff. At the meeting staff let us know there is a need for collaboration and they are ready to get involved.

Many trips were made to meet with individuals and groups to gain the support and cooperation necessary for a successful collaboration.

Among those visited:

Don Winstead, Deputy Secretary,  
Steve Holmes, Chief of Staff  
Beth Englander, Director Office of Family Safety  
Laurie Blades, Operations Liaison to Headquarters  
Sue Ross, Children's Mental Health  
Maria Leon, Family Safety Program  
Reagan Rogers, Missing Children  
Jane Street, Children's Mental Health  
Sherrie Michel-Singer, Bureau Chief Prevention and Family Preservation  
Frank Platt, Behavioral Health  
Ellie Hayes, Training  
Sally Linton, Bureau Chief  
Patricia Badland, Bureau Chief Policy Training  
Tim Nickel, Data Reporting  
Kathleen Walters, Adoption Policy  
Linda D. Johns Director Foster Care, Out of home care, ICWA and MEPA policy/programs

### **Legislature**

George and John visited the Florida Legislative Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability meeting with Kathy McGuire, Deputy Director, Rashada L. Houston Senior Legislative Analyst, and Lucy Ann Walker-Frayser, Senior Legislative Analyst. They were provided information on the project, the goals, objectives and the research. They were supportive see a definite need for the work and will assist when appropriate. We requested information on children inappropriately placed from child welfare into juvenile justice but found it is not available. They could begin a search for the data and provide the results but only if requested by the legislature. Although they are unable to become part of our coalition as a member, they let us know it's possible for them to attend as observers.

### **Advocates**

George met with Chris Card, CEO, and CJ Management & Consulting in Tampa, outlined the project and gained his support and commitment to participate with us. Chris then introduced him to Andrea Moore, Executive Director, and Florida's Children First, Inc. She agreed to join our efforts and is requesting her board's support of the project. Chris and Andrea are two of the most knowledgeable and committed advocates in Florida with access to many networks across the state.

### **Meeting at Children's Campaign Office**

Our first meeting of a core child welfare group was held at the Children's Campaign's office, hosted by Roy Miller, and Linda Alexionok. The purpose was to inform and educate them about the project and gain their commitment to the project and to participate as members of the Child Welfare Collaborative. John Tuell, traveled to Tallahassee and provided background information on himself his work in other states and the current project. Group included:

Marcia Hilty, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program  
Tom Richter, University of Florida, Behavior Analysis Services Program  
Kristin Parsons-Winokur, Director of Research Justice Research Center  
Julia Blankenship, Justice Research Center  
Dennis Moore, General Counsel Statewide Guardian ad litem Office  
Mike Cusick, Florida Coalition for Children  
Mike Watkins, Big Bend Community Based Care  
Stacy Gromatski, Capitol City Youth Services  
Dee Richter Florida Network of Youth and Families  
Karen V. Waddell, President/CEO Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc.

**Others Contacted:**

Several individuals were contacted and recommended to serve on the Child Welfare Coalition were unable to attend meeting but have shown support and requested to be considered.

David Bundy, President/CEO Children's Home Society,  
Lee Johnson, Executive Vice President YMCA  
Carl Willis, Vice President Programs Florida Baptist Children's Homes  
Glen Casel, CEO, CBC, Lake Mary, Florida  
Angela Orkin, Executive Director Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office  
Andrea Moore, Executive Director, Florida's Children First, Inc.  
Judge Niki Ann Clark, Second Circuit  
Wayne Wallace, Director Quality Assurance Big Bend Community Based Care  
Renee Ramirez, Court Project, Niceville, Florida

Individuals identified for Child Welfare Collaboration.

Mike Cusick, Florida Coalition for Children, Tallahassee  
David Bundy, President/CEO Children's Home Society, Winter Park  
Tom Richter, University of Florida, Behavior Analysis Services Program  
Christine Epps, Executive Director Executive Roundtable, Shared Services Network  
Mike Watkins, CEO, Big Bend, CBC, Tallahassee  
Angela Orkin, Executive Director, Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office, Tallahassee  
Lee Johnson, Executive Vice President YMCA Children Youth and Family Svs. Inc. Sarasota  
Renee Ramirez, Director Court Project, Niceville, Florida  
Kristin Parsons Winokur, PhD, Director of Research, The Justice Research Center, Tallahassee  
Dee Richter, Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Tallahassee  
Ron Zychowski, CEO, CBC  
Carl Willis, Vice President Programs Florida Baptist Children's Home,  
Karen Waddell, President/CEO Eckert Youth Alternative, Inc.  
Glen Casel, CEO, CBC, Lake Mary  
Chris Card, CJ Management & Consulting, Tampa  
Angela Moore, Executive Director Florida's Children First Inc., Fort Lauderdale  
Dan Brannen, President/CEO, Kids at Home, Inc  
Gordon Johnson, President/CEO, Neighbor to Family, Daytona Beach  
Jim Clark, President/CEO, Daniel Memorial, Jacksonville, Fl.  
Patricia Pieri, Assistant State Attorney, Tampa, FL.  
Marcia Hilty, Guardian ad Litem 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial  
Stacy Gromatski, Capitol City Youth Services, Tallahassee, FL.  
Nicki Ann Clark, Circuit Judge 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit St. Tallahassee, FL.

Frank Orlando, Director Center for the Study of Youth Policy, Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
Carlos Martinez, Chief Assistant Office of the Public Defender, Miami, FL.

### **PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD**

Continue meetings of the Juvenile Justice Coalition to underscore the need for a fair and balanced approach to juvenile justice in Florida.

Continue quarterly meetings of MIAC to address issues of disproportionate representation of children and youth of color in the juvenile justice system.

Facilitate meetings of the Child Welfare Coalition begin to bring stakeholders together and educate them on the link between child welfare and juvenile justice.

Combined meeting of both Juvenile justice Coalition and Child Welfare Coalition.

Use emerging data as a platform for further reform of the juvenile justice system (awareness building among key stakeholders). This data will include, among others, the work that Lawanda Ravoira and NCCD are doing under duPont auspices in Florida.

Engage the legislature, providers, and the Coalitions in an information and awareness campaign that brings to light the connection between the two systems and the need for a collaborative approach.

Build grassroots understanding and support of a collaborative approach by using the media (begin meeting with editorial boards of major newspapers in Florida, place media stories, and disseminate information to key stakeholders).