

Quarterly Narrative Report - 6/1/06 – 8/31/06

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

The Minority Issues Advisory Council has continued recruiting new members and engaging them in the campaign. They represent varied professions, community-based organizations and juvenile justice collaborations and have expertise that will help broaden and strengthen efforts to address the state's public policy priorities and the many gaps of services to minority children. The following individuals have joined the MIAC:

- * Eric Riley (Legislative Director, Florida Education Association, Tallahassee);
- * Marti Johnson (President, Florida's BLACKForum, Tallahassee);
- * Rosby Glover (Director of Program Operations, Safe Harbor Runaway Center, West Palm Beach);
- * Reginald Gundy (Pastor, Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Jacksonville);
- * Dale Landry (Chair, NAACP State Criminal and Juvenile Justice Committee, Tallahassee);
- * Terry Joseph (Program Manager, James E. Scott Community Association, Miami);
- * Kathi Miller (National Education Director, Vision Quest, Orlando);
- * Myriam Campo-Goldman (President, Harmony Development Center, Ft. Lauderdale);
- * Bapthol Joseph (Executive Director, Changing Directions for Youth and Families, Pompano Beach); and

* Maritza Sanz (President, Latino Leadership, Orlando).

Public Information

Children's Campaign, Inc. held a tele-press conference July 18, 2006 with the National Council on Crime & Delinquency (NCCD) to announce the release of a "Rallying Cry for Change", the largest and most comprehensive study ever done of girls in Florida's juvenile justice system. Roy Miller, President of Children's Campaign, Inc. hosted the conference call and Dr. Barry Krisberg, President of NCCD, which conducted the research, presented the study's findings. The study was funded by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. Nearly every Florida daily covered the story and an article was posted on the ABC News website nationally.

A community briefing in Jacksonville attended by more than 80 people followed within a week and another was held in Orlando in September with 90 people in attendance.

Juvenile justice and child welfare reform are incorporated in all events as they occur across the state as part of the 5 Promises Campaign chaired by Betty Castor and Bill Sublette. In addition, letters to the gubernatorial candidates are also keeping our 5 Promises effort and platform on the radar screen of Florida's next elected chief official. To date, more than 5,000 letters have been sent through our website.

Candidate Connection education packets were mailed to every candidate for state office across the state - about 330. Included in the packets are policy briefs covering our major platform issues written in easy to read and citizen friendly language. Four of the nine policy briefs address child welfare and juvenile justice issues.

Additionally, the Children's Campaign is sponsoring events across the state as featured below:

1. 300+ Attend Pinellas Pancakes, Children and Candidates!

Moderators Bill Bentley and Roy Miller eased into the parking lot of the Mount Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church in South St. Petersburg on Saturday, August 27, they knew immediately the event would be a success despite the heavy rain. It was 7:00 a.m. The breakfast wouldn't begin for another hour. The parking lot was already full.

By morning's end, 300+ citizens and 33 candidates had come together to be inspired by speakers, a choir, dancers, and children served successfully by programs embraced by the 5 Promises, and by parents who seek help to keep their children on the right path in life.

Reverend Louis Murphy, event chairman, called the gathering to order promptly at 9:30 a.m. In his welcoming remarks, Murphy exclaimed, "Children being a priority is NOT an option! It is a MUST!"

Former Pinellas County Commissioner Sallie Parks, who served office as a Republican and former House Appropriations subcommittee chair, Lars Hafner, who served as a Democrat, set a refreshing bi-partisan tone for the day. Both urged the candidates, who filled two pews at the front of the sanctuary, that our future elected officials must make it their legacy to provide for the children of Pinellas County and Florida. Both said it was service to children for which they will be remembered most.

A surprise visit by Barbara Sheen Todd, the first volunteer chair of the Children's Campaign and a former Pinellas elected official herself, added more insight into the importance of making children a priority. She said to the candidate hopefuls, "All of your decisions should be based on the question: Is it good for our children?"

Highlights of the program included:

Linda Lee's determination and accomplishments in the face of adversity of being a foster child placed in three different homes. Even as an elected class leader at school, she has to worry about what will happen during her senior year when she "ages out" of foster care. "Where will I live, what will I eat?" she pleaded.

The success and drive of Alvin Brown whose mother worked six days a week to provide a home and food and the other basics. Alvin made it because of the caring and love extended by after-school programs. He remembers the names of the caregivers even to this day.

Melissa Butler was able to turn her life around due to the intervention by gender specific juvenile justice programs. She is studying to be a nurse and doing well at St. Petersburg College.

Other speakers addressed infant mortality and early learning and Leon Russell, chairman of the Minority Issues Advisory Council, had people standing and cheering his rousing and bold speech about "No Child Left Behind" being not just a slogan but a reality!

Sponsors for the day included: The South St. Petersburg Advocacy Project, Minority Issues Advisory Council, Generations United, Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, Operation PAR, R'Club, Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, YMCA of the Suncoast, Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Family Resources, Healthy Start Coalition of Pinellas, and The Tampa Bay Healthcare Collaborative.

Speakers for the day included: Rev. Louis Murphy Sr., Sallie Parks, Lars Hafner, Bill Bentley and Roy Miller. The 5 Promises were represented by Dr. Judi Vitucci, Jenna Finateri, Diane Zambito, Linda Lee, Janet Chapman, Art O'Hara, Alvin K. Brown, Leon Russell, Dee Richter, and Melissa Butler.

2. Castor and Barreiro Educate Miami-Dade Candidates and Community

At a community event tied to a television broadcast with the potential to reach 500,000 Miami-Dade households, 5 Promises statewide chair Betty Castor and Miami-Dade Candidate Connection co-chair Gus Barreiro urged local and state office candidates as well as citizens to make children's issues a local and statewide priority. Local co-chair Cindy Lerner served as the event's primary organizer. The cameras rolled at 4:00 p.m. and focused on moderator Wil Blechman, who led the 2-hour program with insight and passion. Candidates, participants and viewers are praising the program as being highly informative, providing insights on local challenges and successes they had not previously known.

A youth presenter was stirringly effective in describing the impact on his life of living in foster care and lamented the scarcity of services available as children age out of care, many of whom are still in high school when that deadline looms. He voiced a commitment to become politically active, perhaps to run for office one day, to be better positioned to improve the system for other children.

Parents spoke up for their children who are in childcare, stating their need for programs that are safe, nurturing and stimulating so both parents can work.

Castor and Barreiro were joined by local experts and leaders from each of the 5 Promise areas, spanning infant, maternal and child health; family support services and child welfare protection; early learning; after school programs; and juvenile justice reform. In an encouraging sign of unity of purpose, presenters stated their support for the promise areas outside of their own and were excited by the opportunity to learn about and work with the entire range of services covered by the 5 Promises.

Pre-event outreach included flyers, email, and direct mail to nearly 2,000 households known to be active in the political process, thanks to mailing lists provided by the Children's Campaign and the chairs of the 5 Promises Campaign.

The supporters and speakers who made it happen, included with Miami-Dade County Commission Chair Joe Martinez who sanctioned the use of the Miami-Dade County Commission Chambers and television access. The Children's Trust and Human Services Coalition hosted the pre-event planning meetings along with Cindy Lerner whose vision and passion made the event possible.

Planning partners included: Minority Issues Advisory Council, The Children's Trust, Human Services Coalition, YWCA, University of Miami Mailman Center, Guardian ad Litem, Foster Care Review, Early Learning Coalition, YMCA, Children's Home Society, Lawyers for Children America, Florida Fiscal Policy Project, JESCA, United Way of Miami-Dade.

Speakers included: Betty Castor, Gus Barreiro, Wil Blechman, Manny Fermin, Dr. Judy Schaechter, Elise Linder Karen Gievers, Bobbie Ibarra, Maria Hernandez, David

Lawrence, Dr. Henry Green, Johnah Pruitt, Alfred Sanchez, Eileen Maloney-Simon, Wansley Walters, Carlos Martinez, Terry Joseph and Cindy Lerner. Special recognition was given to child advocate Karen Gievers who drove from Tallahassee to Miami to speak on behalf of child welfare and foster care issues.

3. Bay County Candidate Connection

"Lunch, Listen and Learn" took only two weeks from vision to implementation.

The event was the brainchild of Children's Campaign chairman Scott Clemons, a former legislator who knew the ropes both running for office and what to expect once elected. What was especially unique about this event was that it was organized by local business groups, especially Steve Southerland II, Chairman Elect of the Bay County Chamber of Commerce, who served as co-chair. He and Clemons brought together advocates, providers, citizens and candidates to focus on the children.

The site was Gulf Coast Community College. Red, white and blue balloons held in place by miniature Red Flyer wagons led participants from the parking lot to the registration area. Inside the lecture hall, each Promise area inclusive of child welfare and juvenile justice had a table set up with information and hand-outs. A buffet lunch was provided and everyone mingled for a half-hour, until the formal program started at noon. Candidates in attendance included those seeking to replace outgoing Speaker Allan Bense in the Florida House of Representatives, District 6. Joining them was gubernatorial hopeful Rod Smith. United States Congressman Allen Boyd, though not on the ballot, attended as well.

Clemons spoke of Bay County's bountiful natural resources, including its beautiful beaches, and emphasized the critical importance of protecting the area's most precious resource, its children. As Clemons spoke and local television cameras rolled, children from the Chapman Center presented each candidate a picture of their future aspirations to grow up and be doctors, police officers, teachers, even political leaders. These childhood dreams painted a stark contrast to the bleak futures that many of Florida's children face without early intervention and educational nurturing: dropping out of school, repeatedly churning through the juvenile justice system or becoming a teen parent.

Experts across the 5 Promises took the candidates through the basics and a parent spoke about child welfare services. One message was consistently clear in Bay County: the need for state-elected officials to focus on policies beneficial to children and their families. Each promise and success story presenter spoke of the importance of supporting families in the community through resources that involve public, private and faith-based initiatives.

Southerland had spent the previous evening reviewing the 5 Promises policy briefs and realized how blessed he is at being able to provide these promises for his own children and family. Southerland told the candidates that it is incumbent upon them, if elected, to ensure that the 5 Promises are available for all children. Linda Alexionok provided a call

to action, requesting those who would be elected to go to Tallahassee primed to pass laws and appropriations supporting the 5 Promises.

Local Sponsors in Bay County included: Julian-Bennett of Harrison, Rivard & Bennett Law Firm; Scott Clemons, Chairman, Children's Campaign, Inc.; Bill Cramer of Tommy Thomas Chevrolet; Arthur Cullen, Chairman, Bay County Republican Executive Committee; Alvin Peters, Chairman, Bay County Democratic Executive Committee; Steve Southerland II, Chairman-Elect, Bay County Chamber of Commerce; Lisa Walters, Former Chairman, Bay County Chamber of Commerce; and Ed Wright, Former Dean, FSU Panama City Campus.

Speakers in Bay County included: Scott Clemons, Steve Southerland II, Lourdes Sanchez-Rodriguez, Mike Watkins, Randy Butler, Dr. Pam Fleege, Jennifer Speakman, Lynne Eldridge, James McCalister, Pastor Phil Edwards, Darlene Richardson, Barbara Cloud, and Linda Alexionok.

4. Upcoming events include a business group driven Candidate Connection in Alachua County and a statewide MIAC Leadership Breakfast. These will be reported in the next quarterly report.

CWLA Child Welfare Leadership Coalition Established

The initial meeting of Florida's Child Welfare Coalition was held on July 20, at the campus of Hillsborough County's Department of Children located in Tampa. Tom Papin, Executive Director, at Hillsborough welcomed the group to the campus and provided lunch and refreshments.

The newly formed Child Welfare Coalition consist of a diverse and balanced group of providers, citizen advocates, grassroots organizations, community based organizations, representatives from government agencies, law enforcement, courts, experts, and researchers concerned about improving outcomes for children and families served by Florida's child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Their purpose is to broaden the discussion of child welfare and juvenile justice issues throughout the state, and to promote improved coordination and integration of key youth serving agencies and service providers concerning the youth and families that populate the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The Coalition facilitates discussions and engages stakeholders to support a system with adequate resources, quality care, strong accountability procedures, well-trained staff and effective partnerships. They also share and disseminate information in a skilled and coordinated way; identify and engage prominent speakers to educate community groups and sponsor local and statewide events to educate voters and elected officials on necessary public policy improvements.

John Tuell, CWLA Director of Child Welfare-Juvenile Justice Systems Initiative, and George Hattaway, CWLA Public Policy Consultant served as moderators for the event.

Following introductions of participants, George informed the members, that the Child Welfare League of America was awarded a generous grant from the Jessie Ball DuPont foundation to expand the current Florida juvenile justice coalition to help child welfare and juvenile justice systems build a unified platform of public education, advocacy and legislative reform to affect public policy and to improve outcomes for Florida's children.

He explained the purpose of this meeting was to inform and educate the group about the link between child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency, providing current research findings; provide an overview of the current grant from the Jessie Ball DuPont foundation; discuss the awareness campaign with CWLA/Children's Campaign in the state of Florida; and listen and learn from them about their concerns regarding child welfare and juvenile justice issues.

He let it be known that CWLA and the Children's Campaign, Inc. were excited by this project as it offers an unprecedented opportunity to elevate the work they have done in Florida to a new level by establishing linkages and cooperation between child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The end result will be to provide children with enhanced case management and coordination of services that will enable them to achieve improved outcomes in life.

John Tuell, Director Child Welfare-Juvenile Justice Systems Initiative, presented a Power Point presentation, "Breaking the Cycle of violence, Child Maltreatment and Juvenile Delinquency, Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems Integration Initiative." He also read a poem he authored entitled "I do not like abuse and neglect."

The power point presentation demonstrated that a solid body of research now confirms that all forms of child maltreatment increases the risk for delinquency and a variety of associated negative outcomes (i.e., educational failures, mental health problems, substance abuse), indicating a pressing need for coordinated and integrated services provided by the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. According to a longitudinal study conducted by Maxfield and Widom (National Institute of Justice "*Research in Brief – An Update on the Cycle of Violence.*" February 2001), childhood abuse and neglect are associated with increased risk of involvement in incidents of delinquency, adult criminality and violence.

John further illustrated how historically driven by separate mission statements, legislative mandates, funding allocations, and service plans have discouraged partnership and collaboration so child welfare and juvenile justice systems have operated independent of each other to the detriment of positive outcomes for the children, youth and families for whom these systems provide service.

He explained that although designed with good intentions, the failed coordination and integration of these systems has led to duplication of resources and services, unnecessary out-of-home placements and costly incarceration, higher rates of recidivism, and reduced safety for our citizens and our communities.

He cited federal legislation that has been enacted in the past five years recognizing the need for greater collaboration of the juvenile justice and child welfare/child protection systems. He explained that this has provided new impetus for accelerating these efforts, however little guidance or direction has been provided to state and local jurisdictions in implementing these mandates. John reviewed independent efforts in scattered jurisdictions across the country that have made some gains in addressing the needs of children and youth occupying both the dependent and delinquent systems.

In Florida however, it was emphasized that through the support from the Jessie Ball DuPont Religious, Charitable and Educational Fund, the state is poised to positively impact the outcomes for this growing number of youth. In our joint project entitled *Building Bridges to Better Outcomes for Children: the Link between Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare*, the Child Welfare League of America and the Children's Campaign, Inc. will partner with state stakeholders to improve the outcomes for dependent and delinquent youth. Discussion followed on a commitment to initiate system reform and the role of the Child Welfare League of America, which is to facilitate, coordinate partnerships, and provide national examples and provide/author a strategic plan for review and acceptance.

The group was informed that an Executive Committee would be formed in Orlando next month, which will be responsible for decisions and actions for system reform. Sub-Committees on Legal and Policy Analysis, Resources and Inventory, Data Collection/Management, and Performance Measurements will be established.

The partnership with Roy Miller and the Children's Campaign was discussed along with the successful advocacy of the Campaign in juvenile justice during the past four years.

Kelley Gandy, representing the Florida Supreme Court's Court Improvement Program, discussed the current work of the Supreme Court and the Children's Leadership Forum established under the leadership of Chief Justice Barbara Pariente. The Forum has worked toward child welfare-juvenile justice coordination and collaboration during the past year.

Participants discussed the impact of the research on current practice and began identifying problem areas such as multiple assessments, lack of coordination, duplication of services, lack of resources and information that needed to be shared among agencies. Other individuals were identified that we should consider for membership in the coalition. The group will convene again in November.

Participants representing the various agencies across the state include: Glen Casel Community Based Care of Seminole, Ted Tollett, Director of Research Florida Dept. of Juvenile Justice, Dan Brannen, Kids at Home, Kerrin Sweet Child Welfare League of America Washington D.C., Susan Snell, Dept. of Juvenile Justice, Mary "Dee" Richter, Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, George Hattaway, CWLA, Rick Hess Pasco Kids First Inc., Colville Spencer, Youth Advocate Program, Mike Watkins, Community Based Care Tallahassee, Kelley Gandy, Florida Supreme Court, Court

Improvement Program, Angela Orkin, Statewide Guardian Litem Program, Andy Hindman, Florida Dept. Juvenile Justice, Judy Estren, Associated Marine Institute, Lee Johnson, YMCA, Children's Youth and Family Services inc., Liz Cass, Justice Research Network, Mike Cusick, Florida Coalition for Children, Andrea Moore, Florida's Children First, Beth Englander, Department of Children and Families, Carlos Martinez, 11th Circuit Public Defender's Office, Diane Demark, Florida Children Home Society, Karen Maziarz, Hillsborough Kids Inc. Tom Richter, University of Florida, Frank Orlando, Director for the Study of Youth Policy, Tom Papin Hillsborough County Department of Children's Services, Chris Card, CJ Management & Consulting, Tampa.

At both the Executive Committee meeting and the Child Welfare Coalition meeting all participants were given packets which included the following documents:

Research

Understanding Child Maltreatment & Juvenile Delinquency from Research to Effective Program Practice, and Systemic Solutions

Promoting a Coordinated and Integrated Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice System An Action Strategy for Improved Outcomes

Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems Integration Publications:

Guidebook for Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare System Coordination and Integration: Framework for Improved Outcomes (by Janet K. Wiig, with John A. Tuell)
Built from years of CWLA collaborations and partnerships, co-sponsorship of state and local symposia, regional training, technical assistance, consultation experiences and examination and use of the most credible research, program and practice evidence the *Guidebook* will help state and local jurisdictions achieve greater system coordination and integration. (www.cwla.org/programs/juvenilejustice/jjguidebook)

Promoting a Coordinated and Integrated Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice System
(by John A. Tuell)

CWLA believes that system integration and reform is best accomplished through a comprehensive strategic planning process that includes youth and families, and a broad-based representation of youth-serving organizations. This approach uses the best information, research, and practices to guide the process. The framework detailed in this bulletin outlines the components of this process and action strategy that states and local jurisdictions must consider to implement a more coordinated, integrated child welfare and juvenile justice system. (www.cwla.org/programs/juvenilejustice/jjpubs)

Understanding Child Maltreatment and Juvenile Delinquency: From Research to Effective Program, Practice, and Systemic Solutions

(by Wiig, Janet K., Widom, C. A., with John A. Tuell)

This monograph will aid agency and organizational leaders, policymakers, administrators, judges, attorneys, and practitioners in the field of juvenile justice and

child welfare in understanding the relationship between abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency and advance the effort in developing practical program, practice, and system responses to this important issue. This document describes the best research on the connection between child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency. Also included is a description of a wide array of promising responses for improving outcomes for dual jurisdiction youth. (www.cwla.org/programs/juvenilejustice/ucmjd)

A Guide to Legal and Policy Analysis for Systems Integration (by Jessica Heldman)

Experience gained from work in several jurisdictions provides the background for this valuable guide. The publication details the process of examination of the legal, policy, and procedural mandates unique to each agency/organization in order to make recommendations for changes that will contribute to improved coordination of initial decision-making, case management, and service delivery. (www.cwla.org/programs/juvenilejustice/jjpubs)

THE LINK, CWLA' Juvenile Justice Quarterly Newsletter (Summer 2005)

Improving System Responses to Crossover Youth: the Role of Research and Practice Partnerships.

Fact Sheets

Building Bridges to Better Outcomes Child Welfare - Juvenile Justice Initiative;
Executive Committee;

Child Welfare Leadership Coalition;

CWLA's Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Initiative;

Building Bridges to Better Outcomes for Children: The Link Between Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare (Project Summary 2006).

CWLA Executive Committee Established

On August 2, the initial meeting of the Executive Committee convened at the Children's Home Society of Florida's corporate office in Winter Park. Dave Bundy, the President and CEO of Children's Home Society of Florida, served as host.

The Executive Committee is constituted with key leaders and stakeholders who control resources and direct policy in the public or private domain at the state and local level. The committee consists of a broad-based representation of youth serving agencies and organizations that provide oversight, direction, and maintain responsibility for decision making throughout the course of the *Building Bridges to Better Outcomes for Children: The Link Between Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare* project. The Executive Committee provides input regarding the construction of the Systems Integration Stakeholder Committee and directs the schedule of meetings and activities during the ongoing project

study and analysis. As such, the Executive Committee governs the structure and personnel that constitute the working subcommittees during their efforts to complete the four phases of activity contemplated by the Child Welfare League of America framework being utilized to advance the goals of the Systems Integration project. These phases of activity include: Mobilization and Advocacy; Study and Analysis (including focus areas of data collection, information management and sharing, assessment instrument inventory, resource inventory, legal and policy examination); Recommendation and Action Strategy Development; and Implementation.

The Executive Committee will identify statutory, policy, procedure, practice, and program issues that provide the opportunity for improved system reform through effective coordination and integration. The work will focus on evidenced-based practices, strategies, programs, and services that increase the efficacy of community-based prevention and intervention efforts. The committee will be responsible for prioritizing and institutionalizing a range of recommendations and action strategies developed through the study and analysis conducted by subcommittees that result in a more coordinated and integrated service delivery system for youth and families. The Executive Committee will ensure the targeted work toward improving outcomes for dependent youth that are entering the juvenile justice system.

George Hattaway, Public Policy Consultant, Child Welfare League of America, welcomed the group, introduced everyone present and thanked them for traveling long distances to attend the meeting.

George outlined the purpose of the meeting, which was to inform and educate the group about the link between child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency, and discuss current research findings; provide an overview of the current grant from the Jessie Ball DuPont foundation and its major goals:

- (1) forming a combined child welfare and juvenile justice coalition to engage stakeholders to address the gaps in linkage between the child welfare and juvenile justice system;
- (2) educate providers and policymakers in both child welfare and juvenile justice fields about the link between child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency;
- (3) build a commonality and unified platform of reform resulting in improved linkages and cooperation between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems so that children benefit from better case management and coordination of services; discuss engaging the media on the issue by meeting with editorial boards and building grassroots understanding and support for reform.

Roy Miller, President of Children's Campaign Inc., discussed the 5 Promises to Parents campaign that his organization is sponsoring. It provides a unifying vision for children's issues, spanning maternal and children's health, child welfare, and child protection, early learning and quality Pre-K, after school services, and juvenile justice reform. He also

discussed the CWLA/Children's Campaign project and an awareness campaign to reveal the true needs of children and families and making them a priority for elected officials and public officials.

John Tuell, CWLA Director Juvenile Justice – Child Welfare Integration Initiative, presented a Power Point, “Breaking the Cycle of Violence, Child Maltreatment and Juvenile Justice – Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice System Integration.”

The power point presentation reviewed the research mentioned above, in addition John spoke about his work in other states and how child serving systems can embrace common goals and responsibilities to interrupt the trajectory of juvenile and criminal offending behavior that is clearly the destiny for a disturbing percentage of maltreated children and youth.

He spoke of the work CWLA is doing in other states and how they have developed tools and resources that assist state and local jurisdictions in a four-phase framework for strategic planning designed to improve outcomes for dual jurisdiction and youth/families that populate multiple youth systems. He then defined the role of the Executive Committee and the Child Welfare Coalition and the difference.

Discussion followed along with question and answers. The group identified several areas of concern and the need to appoint individuals to the stakeholders committee that will staff the various task forces, mobilization and planning, data collection, assessment and inventory, action strategies implementation. A meeting will be scheduled in November.

Member of the Executive Committee or their representatives include:

Secretary Anthony Schembri, Department of Juvenile Justice, Dr. Joseph Chiaro, Department of Health Prevention and Intervention, represented by Janet Evans Prevention Unit Director, Patricia Badland, Dept. of Children and Families, Rick Parker, President, Public Defenders Association, Carlos Martinez, Public Defender Miami, Justice Barbara Pariente, Florida Supreme Court, (Consultant not member), Judge Frank Orlando, Director Center for the Study of Public Policy, Angela Orkin, Statewide Office Guardian Ad Litem, Mike Cusick Florida Association for Children, Mark Fontaine, Florida Juvenile Justice Association, David Bundy, Florida Children's Home Society, Mary “Dee” Richter, Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Kristin Winokur, Justice Research Center, Dan Brannen Kids at Home, Renee Ramirez, Dependency Court Resource Facilitation Program, Christine Epps, Executive Roundtable Shared Services Network, St. Lucy County, Gordon Johnson, Neighbor to Family, Dr. Luanne Panachek, Children's Board of Hillsborough County (unable to attend), Buddy Tricquet, President Florida Association of School Resource Officers, Triste Brooks, COO, Planned Parenthood Palm city, Kelley Gandy, Court Operations Consultant FL Supreme Court, Rose Patterson, Chief of Court Improvement FL. Supreme Court, Kathy Basile, Children's Services Council Port St. Lucy, Beth Englander, Dept. of Children and Families, Ted Tollett, FL Dept. of Juvenile Justice, Cindy J. Arenberg Seltzer, Chair Children's Services Councils of Florida.

Family Court Conference – Children’s Leadership Forum

John Tuell and George Hattaway attended the Family Court Conference in Orlando August 3, 2006 and presented information on the Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice Initiative funded by the Jessie Ball DuPont foundation.

They explained that the Child Welfare League, in partnership with the Children’s Campaign, Inc., has been awarded a grant from the Jessie Ball DuPont Religious, Charitable and Educational Fund titled, *Building Bridges to Better Outcomes for Children: The Link Between Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare*.

John reviewed the research that has shown the undeniable link between child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency, explaining that many youth are served by both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems simultaneously, and many “graduate” from one to the other. Many also receive or are in need of mental health, substance abuse, and special educational services. However, in most jurisdictions profound shortages exist regarding the services and supports children and their families need to change the course. Additionally, available services are too often provided by each of these systems in isolation from the other, without sharing of information and concerted effort in support of successful outcomes.

John Tuell told the group that this Initiative works to mobilize and organize leadership in Florida to promote improved coordination and integration of key youth serving agencies and service providers concerning the youth and families that populate the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Further, he let them know the Initiative provides consultation and technical assistance to juvenile justice, child welfare, relevant youth-serving organizations and agencies regarding the need for an integrated approach to programs and services across the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

He emphasized the long term goal of this effort is to develop improved cross system coordination and integration through implementation of reformed statutes, policies, procedures, protocols, and practices. The result will be to provide children with enhanced opportunities to achieve improved outcomes in life.

John explained how CWLA has developed tools and resources that assist state and local jurisdictions in a four-phase framework for strategic planning designed to improve outcomes for dual jurisdiction and/or youth and families that populate multiple youth systems.

Both George and John asked for their support and participation in the Florida Initiative.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

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

Continue 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).