



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist
Governor

George H. Sheldon
Secretary

DATE: December 23, 2010
TO: Regional Directors
THROUGH: Peter Digre, Assistant Secretary for Operations
David L. Fairbanks, Assistant Secretary for Programs
FROM: Alan Abramowitz, State Director, Office of Family Safety
SUBJECT: Bilateral Agreement (Partnership Plan)
ACTION REQUESTED: Please disseminate broadly.
DUE DATE: January 3, 2011

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the revised bilateral agreement (Partnership Plan) for dissemination throughout your systems of care. The attached Partnership Plan and the implementation guidance were developed in collaboration with foster parents and Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) participants to be consistent with the community-based system of care in Florida.

BACKGROUND: In working with QPI sites over the last year, foster parents and staff have raised policy and program issues needing revision to support the QPI brand. The Bilateral Service Agreement (CF-FSP 5226) was one of the forms identified for updating. While the core values of the original agreement are retained, the revised document is more consistent with the community-based system of care in Florida today. A group of foster parents, youth representatives, lead agency staff, Children's Legal Services and program staff worked together to develop the new partnership framework and the implementation guidance.

Carole Shauffer, Executive Director, Youth Law Center, presented the Partnership Plan and guidance to the Department's senior leadership team on December 13 and to the statewide management team on December 17, 2010. It was agreed that the attached Partnership Plan will be a replacement for the bilateral agreement specified in 65C-13, 65C-28, and 65C-30, F.A.C. The Policy Council (a collaborative rules revision oversight group) will meet in early 2011 to consider all proposed changes to the existing child welfare rules.

ACTION REQUESTED: Please disseminate to foster parents and staff/stakeholders serving children in out-of-home care. Thank you for your continued efforts to provide high quality care.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For additional information, please contact Gay Frizzell at Gay_Frizzell@dcf.state.fl.us or at (850) 921-3005.

cc: Carole Shauffer, Youth Law Center
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Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency