

Florida Children's Services Council

NEWS UPDATE

Issue: #39

December 9, 2009

Quick Links

[FCSC Home Page](#)

[Florida Afterschool
Network](#)

[FCSC Brochure](#)

[Creating a CSC](#)

Dates to Watch

Dec. 10-11, 2009

Early Learning
Advisory Council
Meeting
Tampa

January 5-6, 2010

FCSC Executive Board
Meeting
Ft. Lauderdale

January 26, 2010

[Children and Youth
Cabinet Meeting](#)
Tallahassee

NOTE: Date Change

Feb. 25 & 26, 2010

[Expect
Success Evidence-
Based Programs:](#)

TOP STORIES

Early Learning Budget Faces Major Shortfall

While the Governor develops his budget proposal for 2010-11, early childhood advocates should be aware that a very large funding gap is in the offing for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) and School Readiness programs. In fact, the legislature must potentially find \$146.8 million of general revenue to cover the gap created by VPK growth and last year's move to replace general revenue with non-recurring stimulus funds. The breakdown on various line items is outlined here.

Timing is critical for advocates to reach out to the Governor and legislators to educate them on the negative ramifications of these programs not being protected from dramatic funding reductions. The Governor's budget will be transmitted to the legislature by February 1, 2010. Get the details on the early learning [budget shortfall summary](#) prepared by Florida CSC.

Children's Cabinet Welcomes New Members, Adopts Priority Indicators

The Governor's Children and Youth Cabinet meeting, held Dec. 1 in Gainesville, opened with the welcoming of new members recently appointed to the Cabinet. The new members included House Speaker designee, Rep. Nick Thompson, and gubernatorial appointee Steven Uhlfelder, who were in attendance. Justice Barbara Pariente was announced as Chief Justice Quince's designee, and AHCA Secretary Thomas Arnold will succeed Holly Benson who recently stepped down.

The Cabinet also heard a progress report from Gay Lancaster, JWB-CSC of Pinellas CEO and chair of the Cabinet's Budget Committee. The Budget Committee is undergoing an exercise to align state agency budgets to the Cabinet's outcomes and indicators. During the meeting, the Cabinet also narrowed its priority headline indicators of child well

[Lasting Impacts Conference](#)

March 2, 2010
Legislative Session Begins

March 4-5, 2010
Early Learning Advisory Council Meeting
Tallahassee

March 16-17, 2010
FCSC Board of Directors Meeting
Tallahassee

March 25, 2010
Children and Youth Cabinet Meeting
Tallahassee

April 11-13, 2010
[Children's Week](#)
Tallahassee

April 30, 2010
Regular Legislative Session Ends

May 27, 2010
Children and Youth Cabinet Meeting
Orlando

June 17-18, 2010
Early Learning Advisory Council Meeting
Orlando

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CSCs strategically invest in primary prevention and early intervention programs and services.

being, which will guide work in each of the four outcome areas as follows:

Outcome: Every Florida Child is Healthy.
Key Indicator: Children with health insurance

Outcome: Every Florida Child is ready to learn.
Key Indicator: Children kindergarten entry assessment scores show they are ready for school

Outcome: Every Florida child lives in a stable and nurturing family.
Key Indicator: Children in poverty

Outcome: Every Florida child lives in a safe and supportive community.
Key Indicator: Homeless Children

Toni Crawford and Jim Kallinger announced that implementation of the Cabinet's Data Sharing Initiative is under way. The group also heard budget presentations from each of the cabinet agencies, which reflected very austere proposals and serious cuts to important programs.

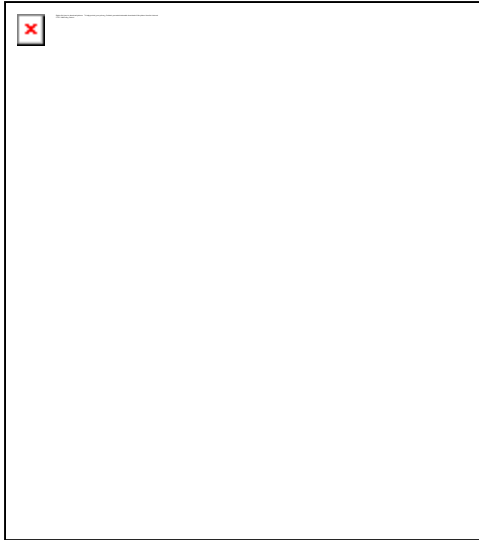
The Cabinet's next meeting was rescheduled from Jan. 28, 2010 to Jan. 26, 2010. The meeting will take place in Tallahassee.

Early Childhood Caucus Convenes to Continue Talks on Investing in Children

Rep. Ari Porth (D-Broward) kicked off the second Early Childhood Caucus meeting today in Tallahassee. The meeting included presentations by Jim Kallinger, Florida's Chief Child Advocate, and Dawn Steward, Orange County Healthy Start Coalition Community Relations. More than 35 people attended, including legislators, advocates and members of the media.



Kallinger spoke first, providing an overview of the work of the [Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council](#) - a 32-member council that serves as a research arm to the Governor's Office to guide the promotion of adoption and the prevention of abuse, abandonment and neglect. He said that the council has made progress in achieving the 20 goals established in its [18-month plan](#) (January 2009 - June 2010). Additionally, the council is developing its next five-year Plan on Prevention and Permanency, which will cover July 2010 - June 2015. He also provided highlights from the recent Children and Youth Cabinet meeting last week (see story above). Kallinger touched on the success of the Explore Adoption Initiative and the continued increases in the number of children adopted across the state.



Next, Dawn Steward gave a brief overview of the work of Florida's Healthy Start Coalitions. She provided compelling data to caucus members on the leading causes of infant deaths in Florida, as well as the short- and long-term costs associated with premature births. She explained that first-year medical costs for a premature baby can be \$32,325 compared to the cost of a full-term baby at \$3,325. There are also the long-term ramifications of learning disabilities, increased risk of school dropout, justice system

involvement, and emotional/social costs. She emphasized that for every dollar spent to prevent an unhealthy birth, six dollars can be saved in areas such as neonatal expenses, child abuse and neglect, and disability and dependency costs.

Caucus members and advocates took advantage of the meeting opportunity to talk about some of the issues presented and appeared eager to continue the dialogue around making better investments in children. Of particular concern are the significant funding cuts to early learning and Healthy Start that will be considered next session.

Rep. Porth thanked everyone for coming and announced that the next caucus meeting will be in January during interim committee week.

Legislators in Tallahassee for Special Session and Committee Week

Florida lawmakers traveled to the capitol city this week for double duty -- a Special Session on rail transit, and December interim committee meetings. Yesterday, legislators approved a rail bill ([HB 001](#)) that clears obstacles for construction of SunRail, a \$1.2 billion commuter rail project in central Florida, and shores up South Florida's Tri-Rail with an extra \$15 million in annual funding. The bill could also help the state win a \$2.5 billion federal grant to link Tampa and Orlando with a high-speed rail line. At press time, Gov. Charlie Crist had received the bill, and has until Dec. 24 to sign it into law.

VPK Estimating Conference Increases Enrollment Projection

The VPK estimating conference also met this week and increased the enrollment projection for VPK concluding that the system will grow by 15,774 children in 2010-11. As a constitutional entitlement program, the growth will require the legislature to increase general revenue appropriations by an additional \$42.8 million or drastically reduce the per student allocation.

On the revenue side, the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) finalized its revisions to the General Revenue Fund forecast, which will be used by the Governor to make his recommendations to the legislature. The REC raised the General Revenue (GR) estimates for FY 2009-10 by \$338.4 million (1.64%), thus increasing the non-recurring GR reserve to \$1.05 million. While the modest increase is welcome, it is not sufficient to offset the FY 2010-11 critical needs budget deficit, which was increased by the ad valorem conference (\$300 million) and the

Medicaid conference (\$250 million). The overall critical needs deficit approaches \$2 billion.

FEDERAL WATCH

Casey Pushes for Full Funding of CHIP

In October, Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.) rescued the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) from oblivion in the Senate Finance Committee. Last week, Sen. Robert Casey (D-Pa.) pushed to provide full funding (and then some) for the popular program as the Democrats' health reform bill moved on the chamber floor. Under Casey's proposal, CHIP would receive full funding through fiscal year 2019 (Rockefeller's amendment authorized the extension but didn't fund it), with extra federal dollars going to those states that meet certain enrollment standards. The proposal would also expand CHIP eligibility, requiring all states to cover kids in families living below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. Read the [full story online](#) at *The Washington Independent*.

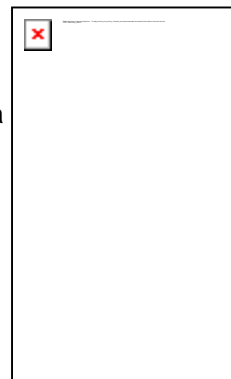
Federal Funding for Replication of Harlem Children's Zone

The *Chronicle of Philanthropy* cites \$10 million in the federal budget for planning grants for communities to begin to replicate the Harlem Children's Zone Project across the country. Harlem Children's Zone is one of the most lauded - and emulated - charities in the country. Nonprofit groups and government agencies regularly send emissaries to Harlem to study the organization's acclaimed poverty-fighting strategy, which involves providing a comprehensive set of educational, medical, and social services to children and their parents in a designated neighborhood. President Obama has proposed spending \$10 million in the 2010 fiscal year on planning grants to help nonprofit groups create what he calls "Promise Neighborhoods" in 20 cities - a budget request that is now working its way through Congress. To read the article that appeared in the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, [click here](#).
~ Source: Florida Ounce of Prevention newsletter

CSC NEWS

2010 FCSC Legislative Program Now Available

The Florida CSC Board of Directors has approved its 2010 Legislative Policy Program, which is now available on the [Florida CSC web site](#). Florida CSC leadership decided to include in its legislative agenda many issues that are supported by other organizations. This collaborative approach serves to help Florida move toward an integrated early childhood system of care. Among some of the critical priorities supported by the Florida CSC are: early childhood funding, streamlining early learning, and continued improvement of Florida Kidcare. View the complete policy program online at: <http://www.floridacsc.org/advocacy/>.



IWR-CSC of Pinellas Launches New Web Site

After months of planning and development, the JWB-CSC of Pinellas County has launched a new, interactive web site at www.jwbpinellas.org. The easy-to-navigate site features information for everyone, including community partners, grant writers, students, parents and others. Exciting new features include a direct link to the "Latest News" affecting children and families, information on upcoming board meetings, details of the programs funded by JWB, a search function, and much more. The "Help for Parents" link in the top navigation is designed to provide an array of options for parents who need help with any number of problems or issues, from crime victim services, to mental health counseling, to addiction services, to youth development activities.

Learn more about the JWB website by visiting the JWB YouTube page: www.youtube.com/jwbpinellas, or by watching the video directly, here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlofiAdm-hg>. The site and content management system were designed and built by the St. Petersburg creative firm of MityMo Creative Services Agency (www.mitymo.com).

St. Lucie CSC to Host Southeast Youth Development Seminar

The CSC of St. Lucie County will host the first regional Kids at Hope Youth Development Master's Seminar from Jan. 10 to 13, 2010. The seminar will feature a terrific lineup of workshops, speakers and site visits to further familiarize participants with the power of Kids at Hope. The mission of Kids at Hope is to inspire, empower and transform schools, organizations serving youth, and entire communities to create an environment and culture where all children experience success. The seminar will feature speaker Sara Truebridge, a WestEd Research Associate with experience in the development of new schools, curriculum development, character education, arts in education, resilience, conflict resolution, special education, and parent education. Seminar participants will also have an opportunity to network and exchange ideas. Learn more at www.kidsathope.org/training_pd.html.

IN OTHER NEWS

Chamber's Economic Development Forums Offer Chance to Emphasize Investments in Children

In October, hundreds of business, education, and government officials gathered in Orlando for the Future of Florida Forum to discuss and identify solutions to Florida's greatest challenges. Among the top issues was the need to train, support, and recruit the world's best talent. The work accomplished was targeted toward creating a change management system involving collaboration among the Florida Chamber, Enterprise Florida, and the Council of 100. As part of that process, a series of regional economic development forums are being held across the state. Early childhood advocates are encouraged to attend the forums to establish partnerships with Florida's business leaders and to promote the importance of investments in the state's most valuable asset - its children. Remaining forum dates are:

- **Friday, December 11:** St. Petersburg Area Chamber
- **Friday, December 11:** Florida's Great Northwest
- **Friday, January 15:** Greater Miami Chamber

For more information, visit the Florida Chamber Foundation [web site](#).

Attorneys: Florida Officials Lamented Medicaid Delays

Doctors and advocates suing the state used Florida officials' own words against them during opening arguments of a trial Monday by playing video clips of top health officials lamenting health care delays for Medicaid patients. The suit, filed four years ago against the Department of Children and Family Services, the state Health Department and the Agency for Health Care Administration, claims 390,000 children did not get a medical checkup in 2007 and more than 750,000 received no dental care as reimbursement rates are among the lowest in the country. Twenty of Florida's 67 counties have fewer than two dental providers for Medicaid patients, according to AHCA's 2007-2008 budget request to increase reimbursement rates. Read the [full story online](#) at The New York Times.

Survey Shows Overall Drug Use Down Among Florida Youth

Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp yesterday announced significant long-term reductions in drug use among Florida's middle and high school students as reported in the 2009 *Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey*. The annual survey found that overall, Florida's school-aged children are making responsible choices. The past 30-day abstinence rates for middle school children revealed that 83 percent do not drink alcohol, 95 percent do not smoke cigarettes, and 95 percent do not smoke marijuana. Among high schoolers, 61 percent do not drink alcohol, 87 percent do not smoke cigarettes, and 82 percent do not smoke marijuana. Among the survey's 20 measures of past 30-day drug use, 18 indicate long-term reductions. The full report is available online at: www.dcf.state.fl.us/mentalhealth/publications/fysas/.

Miami Children's Initiative Reports Substantial Progress

A newsletter from the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida recently reported that, "Thanks to the dedication and involvement of the residents and community leaders in Liberty City, the Miami Children's Initiative (MCI) has made substantial progress. The draft MCI Community Strategic Plan is complete."

The Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners must review and approve the draft plan for it to become final. The final plan will become the foundation for the development of MCI's 10-year business plan. The MCI project steering committee will meet Dec. 12 to develop the action steps and timeline for the next six months. Tasks expected to be completed before the end of this fiscal year include: development of a selection protocol for board members, incorporation of MCI as a 501(c)3, design MCI agency staffing composition and development of the 10-year business plan. Additionally, a targeted media campaign will be launched in Liberty City in January 2010 to educate the community on the Miami Children's Initiative. The campaign will also encourage residents, businesses and organizations to rally together in an effort to design a system of service delivery that enhances the strength of the community. [Learn more about the MCI.](#)

NET DATA

States Safeguarding Public Coverage

In 2009, despite the bleakest economic picture in years, states managed to safeguard and, in some cases, expand health coverage for children and parents in their Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs. The positive news is, in large part, due to the substantial help that states received through the congressional reauthorization of CHIP and the

enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Kaiser Family Foundation's Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured recently released its annual 50-state survey and a package of related reports that examine trends and key issues in the coverage of low-income children and adults. [Learn more.](#)

Health Reform Discussed in Washington, but Felt in States

With federal health reform on the horizon, state governments will face new opportunities and challenges to improve local health care delivery systems-and ultimately, the health status of their residents. Exploring the effects of health reform on states is essential, as states play critical roles in financing, organizing, and regulating local health care systems. Three documents released by the National Academy for State Health Policy and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation identify the most challenging and pressing health policy issues that states are currently addressing; describe the array of tools states have to improve their health care systems and look at how federal health reform may affect those tools; and examine the support states will need to implement the changes contemplated in federal health reform legislation.

> [Read the documents](#)

> [Read the blog posting](#)

EVENTS

Families USA to Host Health Action 2010 Conference in Washington

Every January, Families USA, in conjunction with a wide range of national organizations, organizes a health advocacy conference in Washington, DC. This year's "Health Action 2010" conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, from Jan. 28-30, 2010. Join hundreds of other advocates to learn more about health care legislation, share field strategies with others from across the country, and gear up for the year ahead. Early-bird registration is \$395. After Dec. 31, 2009, registration is \$445. For more information, visit www.familiesusa.org/conference/ or write or call Families USA: 1201 New York Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20005, 202-628-3030, field@familiesusa.org.

Florida Philanthropic Network to Hold Statewide Summit February 2010

The Florida Philanthropic Network (FPN) will host a 2010 Summit on Philanthropy Feb. 11-12, 2010, at the Peabody Hotel in Orlando. The summit will bring together state leaders in philanthropy, nonprofits, government and business to engage in a discussion and exploration of how to work together in new ways. Discussions will also focus on making adjustments to Florida's new realities - economic and otherwise - both by overcoming new challenges and identifying new opportunities. Learn more, and register at the [Summit website](#).

Partnership for America's Economic Success to Hold National Conference in March 2010

The Partnership for America's Economic Success is planning to hold its National Conference March 10-11, 2010, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. This conference is open to all business, finance and economic leaders, advocates, policymakers and philanthropists interested in furthering early childhood development. [Learn more](#) about the conference. [Register online now.](#)

National Afterschool Association Convention Set for April 2010

Join thousands of afterschool professionals for outstanding learning and networking experiences at the National Afterschool Association Convention in Washington, DC, April 19-21, 2010. The event will feature hundreds of workshops from across the afterschool field. Those who register before Dec. 11 will be entered for a chance to win a Utah Vacation Package in the Wasatch Mountains. For details, visit www.naaconvention.org/registration.html.

17th Annual National Foster Care Conference Coming to Clearwater in May 2010

The Daniel Memorial Institute will again be sponsoring the Annual National Foster Care Conference, scheduled for May 12-14, 2010 in Clearwater. This year's conference will address a variety of problems facing Foster Care Specialists, Foster Parents and various Social Service Professionals who desire to enhance their skills in order to create the best foster home environment. Each general session and workshop will present innovative ideas on how those working with youth can deal with these ever-changing situations. [Click here](#) for more information.

23rd Annual National Independent Living Conference - Growing Pains 2010

Scheduled for Sept. 7-10, 2010, in National Harbor, MD, "Growing Pains 2010" is a must-attend event for youth service professionals, independent living professionals and youth ages 15+. Presenters include top leaders and experts in the field of independent living. The national youth conference consists of special sessions dedicated to the needs of youth who are currently in care. These include training sessions, workshops, panel discussions and leadership/team building activities. [Click here](#) for more information.

Do you have an update for *FCSC News Update*?

Send your information at least three days prior to the issue date. *FCSC News Update* is published every other week on Wednesdays. Updates should be 200 words or less. Longer updates can include a link to more detailed information. FCSC reserves the right to omit, edit and/or adjust the content of your contribution for space considerations.

FCSC News Update is a bi-weekly compilation of news and information relevant to the work of Florida's Children's Services Councils (CSCs). The Florida Children's Services Council is a statewide, non-profit organization working on behalf of the CSCs to promote policies that build effective primary prevention and early intervention systems of supports for Florida's children and families.

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