



## JUDICIAL

### **Dependency Court Outcome Enhancement**

A dependency court outcome enhancement was initiated by the Honorable Judge John Parnham in partnership with the Department of Children and Families, court administration, the local Community Based Care provider, community mental health center, private mental health service provider and local lawyers serving parents in the dependency system. A goal of this initiative is to help preserve the integrity of families and safety of children by front-loading services. For more information please contact Mike Martin at (850) 595-8293 or email [mike\\_martin@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:mike_martin@dcf.state.fl.us). 2006-DCF-035

### **Meeting the Needs of Children in Dependency Cases**

Joint training and recruitment efforts of child welfare professionals from the Department of Children and Families, the Legal Aid Society, Guardian ad Litem Program and Family Services of Metro Orlando has resulted in saving time, money and energy on resolving legal issues that would otherwise be litigated in court. For more information, please contact Barbara Dirienzo at (407) 897-5906 or email [Barbara\\_Dirienzo@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:Barbara_Dirienzo@dcf.state.fl.us). 2006-DCF-059

### **Increased Number of Judicial Review Social Study Reports**

A multi-layered strategy involving agency and non-agency individuals significantly increased the percentage of timely filed judicial review social study reports. The strategies can be adapted and implemented by CWLS and Community Based Care agencies throughout the state. For more information, please contact Keith C. Edwards at (904) 798-4900 or email [Keith\\_Edwards@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:Keith_Edwards@dcf.state.fl.us). 2006-DCF-062

### **Protective Supervision Guide to Increase Quality Services**

A guide to assist counselors in providing quality protective supervision case management includes a fill in the blank, step by step process to help insure that all policies, statutes and court ordered actions are completed. This guide can be adapted by any Department of Children and Families unit since it is based on state law and department policy. For more information, please contact Emilio Maicas at (954) 267-2118 or email [Emilio\\_Maicas@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:Emilio_Maicas@dcf.state.fl.us). 2006-DCF-071

### **Jail Diversion Program**

Judge Steven Leifman of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit and Deborah Dummitt of the Department of Children and Families developed and implemented a jail diversion expansion program.

This initiative redirects individuals with mental illnesses away from the criminal justice system and into community-based mental health treatment and services.

Individuals in acute psychiatric distress who are arrested for a misdemeanor and booked into a jail are evaluated and, if appropriate, transferred to a crisis stabilization unit within 48 hours. Upon stabilization, legal charges typically are dismissed and individuals are assisted with accessing treatment services, housing, and other entitlements in the community.

This program has reduced recidivism from more than 70% to 18%. Miami-Dade County is saving \$2.3 million per year. In addition, the program was awarded funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in 2003 for a three year grant of \$1,000,000 to expand Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to police and linkages to mental health treatment.

For more information, please contact Deborah Dummitt at (305) 377-5811 or [deborah\\_dummitt@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:deborah_dummitt@dcf.state.fl.us). 2006-DCF-080

**For a list of adaptable achievements in the Judicial field from the 2003-2005 awards competitions, please click [here](#).**