

Change Forces: A Model for Ensuring the Well-Being of Florida's Children

* And their Families

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Florida Context

Strengths:

- Diversity
- Increased community awareness of children's needs
- Communication networks
- Examples of integrated services
- Emerging service delivery networks
- State-local partnerships
- Citizens' interest in prevention investments
- Children's Services Councils

Challenges:

- Age, cultural and language differences
- Poverty
- Population growth and mobility
- Gaps in services
- Inflexible funding
- Inadequate prevention resources
- Inadequate fiscal incentives for service integration
- Inadequate leveraging of funds
- Lack of implementation capacity

Goal: Prevention Orientation

It is the goal of this model to create a prevention oriented society that builds upon natural community supports and integrates child health, parent skill building and early care and education.

The well-being of children and families is the highest priority for Florida:

- All of Florida's children are healthy, safe, and ready to learn at every age.
- All of Florida's families are stable, nurturing, and economically self-sufficient.
- All of Florida's communities are supportive of families raising children.

Strategy: Comprehensive Integrated Service Delivery

Key Policies and Practices:

- All children and families have access to affordable, quality:
 - health care;
 - parenting support (e.g., home-visiting) services;
 - early care and education; and
 - integrated health, economic and family support services.
- All communities, in partnership with the public and private sectors, have the capacity to provide a comprehensive, integrated continuum of natural, primary, and specialized supports.
- All public and private employers in Florida promote family-friendly employment practices and a livable wage.

Essential Components

- Prevention Orientation
- Implementation Capacity
- Holistic Service Delivery
- Evidenced - Based Practices and Programs
- Supported Front-Line Staff
- Highly Competent Staff at all Levels
- Staff Education and Training
- Fiscal Policies that Promote Integration of Quality Services
- Local Community Decision Making
- Continuity of Care and Practice
- Family Supportive Policies
- Adequate Resources
- Accountability and Continuous Improvement at all Levels

Outcomes

Healthy Children

Children Safe in their Families and Communities

Children Ready to Learn and Succeed in School

Stable and Nurturing Families

Economically Self-Sufficient Families

Supportive Communities

Supports Necessary for Sustainable Comprehensive Initiatives

Partnerships between Specialized Services and Natural Supports

Balance between Regulation and Accountability

Multi-partisan Commitment

Local Level Involvement

Coherent Framework

Leadership

Longer View of Change

Accountability

Strategic Communications

Our Vision: Together, we will ensure a generation of young people who grow up to be responsible adults — ready, willing and able to contribute to self, to family and to their community.