Upcoming Supervisor Professional Development

The Office of Child Welfare has announced two conferences are scheduled to promote supervisor professional development the first week in June. Each conference will accommodate 120 Child Protection and Case Manager Supervisors from across the State. The conferences are being held at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel and Spa in Orlando. The Central Region is sending 17 DCF CPI Supervisors, 2 Sheriff's Office Supervisors and 15 Case Management Supervisors. There are some great workshops lined up:

- The Critical Role of Supervisors and Managers in Trauma-Exposed Work: Supporting Resilient Staff and Effective Teams
- Domestic Violence Panel Presentation by David Mandel and FCADV
- Supervisor Consultations by Tarrin Reed, ACTION for Child Protection
- Supervising to Your Staff's Strengths

We can’t wait for our supervisors to come back and share the knowledge they have learned with their peers.

Upcoming June Booster Trainings

The Office of Child Welfare has been holding and will hold several booster trainings in Ocala for CPI and CM staff in May and June. Early May trainings included: Establishing a Sufficient Safety Plan, Assessing and Scaling Caregiver Protective Capacity and Assessing Scaling Child Strength and Needs. The remaining boosters for May include focusing on Present Danger (5/19) and Crafting Case Plan Outcome (5/20-21).

June boosters are fast approaching and include CPI Supervisor Consultation Training (6/25-26), CM Supervisor Consultation Training (6/29-30) and Safety Management Training (6/29-30).

The knowledge gained from these booster trainings will further enhance our understanding of the new Methodology.
April CBC Board Meeting Happenings

In Circuit 10, Heartland for Children (HFC) recently submitted a proposal to Polk County for Emergency Services Grant funding. This funding would allow HFC to better bridge together the child welfare system and the network of housing services by establishing a Housing Specialist position. HFC has also submitted a proposal to the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. This is in partnership with S.E. University Social Work Department. This proposal focuses on preventing pregnancies for teens in foster care and on the development of a practice model for foster care youth that are pregnant and already parenting.

HFC also has been invited by the University Area Community Development Corporation (Tampa Bay area) to enter into a contract to expand their Prodigy Program into East Polk County and Highlands County. This is a DJJ funded prevention program that utilizes the arts to deliver youth development programming. HFC will be meeting to review a draft contract with a possibility of implementing these services in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

In Circuit 18, Brevard Family Partnership’s (BFP) Senior Executive of Administration Jim Carlson informed of his participation during Child Awareness Week in Tallahassee, along with foster parent Robin Whiting, Lobbyist, and CARES staff. Jim met with Representative John Tobia and Senator Gardiner’s Chief Aid. Jim advised the focus of conversation was to replace the House Equity Formula with the Senate’s formula. BFP is also requesting a one time allocation for $3.5 million for Brevard CARES.

Dr. Patricia Nellius, CEO of BFP, shared that during the first week in April, their first journal article was published in Families in Society which centered on data collected over the last 7 years through the CARES. Based on the solid data that was collected for the article, Dr. Nellius was able to share the article with Don Winstead whom requested information to present at the White House. Mr. Winstead needed to present an evidence based practice (wraparound) that is cost effective.

Jim Carlson noted that Dr. Nellius has also been nominated for the Woman of Excellence Award and 211 is having an awards ceremony where Dr. Nellius is being nominated for Individual Leadership.

What great work being done by our CBCs for our youth!

FSFN Data Reporting Workgroup Update

While May has multiple popular holiday’s including Cinco de Mayo and Mother’s day, there’s another national holiday most do not know about. May 4th was “Star Wars Day!” Just as Star Wars needed a short break, the DCF Data Reporting Group had been on a small hiatus as well, but are constantly in motion. Here are the April report updates and new releases.

Did you notice a recent spike in the 2nd Tier Consultations Required tab of the CPI Critical Activity Daily Management Report? The report was updated to include investigations where a present danger plan was initiated with the family regardless of the safety plan type; Individual(s) or Family. Previously, only present danger safety plans with a safety plan type of Family were included.

Another report which received an update was the Healthcare Service Information for Children in Out-of-Home Care Daily Listing. It has been updated by adding conditional formatting to both the Most Recent Medical Service Date and Most Recent Dental Service Date columns. The Input controls have also been modified to include the conditional formatting:

- If the Most Recent Medical Service Date is 12 months or more, the cell is shaded red; if the date is ten months or more it is shaded yellow.
- If the Most Recent Dental Service Date is 7 months or more, the cell is shaded red; if the date is 5 months or more, it is shaded yellow.

A new report released is the “Children Receiving Non-Relative Caregiver Funding” in both a summary and listing format. The listing report was designed to display a list of non-relative caregivers who receive financial assistance to aid in the care, safety and well-being of a dependent child for a service or placement. Once the child is transitioned to a service, the DCF Office of Child Welfare will assume responsibility of the financial assistance payments. The Community Based Care lead agencies are responsible for the non-relative caregiver’s financial assistance payments prior to transitioning.

Another new report is the “Adoption Subsidy Payment and Recoupment Listing”. The purpose of this report is to display a list of children who receive Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (MAS) payments and recoupments for a specified time frame. The report includes each MAS payment the child received during the reporting period.

Enjoy the rest of your month and “May the Force [Fourth] be with you.”
QPI Community Events

The Quality Planning Initiative events in Circuits 18, 9 and 5 were a great start for creating QPI awareness in the Central Region. We had over 120 people in attendance alone in Circuit 9 & another nearly 40 community members attend in Circuit 18. More to come next month on the recently held Circuit 5 event and our Circuit 10 team hopes to fill their seats of nearly 300 people in total for their two sessions. Each event really drove home that, “QPI seeks to change what foster parenting, including kinship care means to a community. Bringing the community together to discuss parenting and expectations of caregivers is the first step in increasing mutual respect and team building.” Each area will now be working on the next steps on where do we go from here now that we have educated the community?.

David Brown, QPI Florida Representative from the Youth Law Group spoke on the basic concepts of QPI ensuring Foster Parents are part of the professional "team" and the bio/foster parent connection.

Circuit 10 will end the first round of QPI events. Their event is taking place on 6/26 at Polk State College in Lakeland. There are two sessions being held, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Registration for this event closes on 6/18. You can register at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/qpi2015.

April was Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month…. Check out the Central Region’s Spirit!

Take Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day

April 23rd was National Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day! This day gives us the opportunity to empower our youth by increasing their knowledge of the hard work we do every day and share that knowledge with others. Below is a picture of Contracts with some of our children and Marion CPI Dawn White with her 10 year old daughter holding her participation certificate provided by PA Angie Dietrich.

Administrative Professionals Day

Did you know? During World War II, there was an increased need for skilled administrative personnel, particularly in the United States. The National Secretaries Association was formed to recognize the contributions of secretaries and other administrative personnel to the economy, to support their personal development and to help attract people to administrative careers in the field. The association's name was changed to Professional Secretaries International in 1981 and, finally, the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) in 1998. The first National Secretaries Week was organized in 1952 in conjunction with the United States Department of Commerce and various office supply and equipment manufacturers. The Wednesday of that week became known as National Secretaries Day.

Wednesday, April 22nd was National Administrative Professionals Day! It is on this day we took time out to recognize our clerical staff who do so much for all of us in order to keep our organization running. They are the backbone of the organization! Clerical workers handle some of the most important tasks in any office. We would be lost without them. Thank you for all that you do! Below is a picture provided by FSPO recognizing some of the clerical staff at Hurston.
FSPO Happenings and QA Updates

In April, FSPO has been providing Impending Danger booster trainings throughout the region at various all staffs and unit meetings. In May, Impending Danger continues to be the training topic; however, the focus will be on application and case activities to reinforce information learned and applied through the booster trainings. Stay tuned for next month’s training!

QA Performance: Central Region’s quality in casework and overall performance continues to rise! KUDOS to the front-line staff for the continuous hard work toward fidelity. Your skills and energy are paying off in big ways!

Central Region CPI Supervisor Retreat

We will be holding our semi-annual Central Region CPI Supervisor Retreat on Thursday, July 24th and Friday, July 25th in Brevard County. The exact location is to be determined. As always we would like your input. What do you need to be successful on the front lines, how can we support our most important assets and what would you like to see and hear more of? Ideas, agenda items and suggestions, please notify your Operations Manager or email Fawn at Fawn.Moore@myflfamilies.com. We want to hear from you!

A little hint as to the festivities, there is going to be a Lip Sync Contest. Do you have what it takes? We are expecting everyone to bring their “A” game; choreographed dances and costumes will be make for an interesting time. More to come!

UCF CPI Simulation in Progress

The Department has been working with the University of Central Florida to partner with CBCCFL on a simulated training opportunity for all CPI staff. What does this mean exactly? Have you ever seen or heard of test simulations for Fire Department and Law Enforcement staff? You know when they are learning to become a police officer or fireman, they are faced with actors who simulate a robbery, shootout or burning building and are left with only their decision making skills from what they have learned during training to properly navigate the situation. This is what we want to accomplish for CPI’s and Case Managers. You walk in to a dirty house, what do you do? You encounter a hostile family who won’t let you inside the house to see the child, what do you do? CPI’s and Case Managers will have the opportunity to role play using technology that will adapt to their step-by-step decision making. This is a work in progress, but we are hoping the delivery date is by October 2015. How exciting! We will keep you posted.

Central Region CPI Supervisor Retreat

We will be holding our semi-annual Central Region CPI Supervisor Retreat on Thursday, July 24th and Friday, July 25th in Brevard County. The exact location is to be determined. As always we would like your input. What do you need to be successful on the front lines, how can we support our most important assets and what would you like to see and hear more of? Ideas, agenda items and suggestions, please notify your Operations Manager or email Fawn at Fawn.Moore@myflfamilies.com. We want to hear from you!

A little hint as to the festivities, there is going to be a Lip Sync Contest. Do you have what it takes? We are expecting everyone to bring their “A” game; choreographed dances and costumes will be make for an interesting time. More to come!

The Family Safety Program Office would also like to welcome Carmen James, as our newest member of the FSPO. She joins us from Child Protective Investigations in Orange County where she was a Sr. CPI. Carmen is filling the role of DCF Licensing Specialist for the Central Region and will be learning her new role in the next several months. Welcome aboard Carmen!
Circuit 5 CPI

Marion County Sr. CPI Jowanna Dove-Walsh and CPIS Quantricia Thomas led a team building project to promote child abuse prevention month. Jowanna said “It was a great opportunity to share our enthusiasm for serving our community. Members of our entire team participated in painting recycled water bottles in shades of blue. Then we turned them into flowers to represent the positive impact our efforts can have on the lives of children and families.”

Circuit 18 CPI

On April 15th a CPI All Staff was held with both the Rockledge and Palm Bay Service Centers together. Staff were given a booster training on Impending Danger and CLS Attorney Angela Sturm also presented on her role as the new "shelter” attorney in Brevard County. Lots of fun activities during the all staff with many awards given out for Teamwork efforts across the county. Also to loosen us up a little, a Zumba Instructor came and provided some excitement for all staff. Ops Manager Katie Guemple spoke about the importance of exhausting all efforts to find appropriate relative/non relatives caregivers prior to placing children in foster care. Discussion also centered on the need for including parental visits in our safety plans.

Circuits 9 CPI

Ops Manager Shakira Hunt along with her PA’s and some CPISs circuit wide joined CBC, CMA, CLS, Impower and Family Preservation staff for the kickoff of the Circuit 9 System of Care Round Tables. Based on feedback, staff found this meeting to be very beneficial, would like to see it occur quarterly and are willing to participate in focus groups surrounding the hot topic items. Check out the attached picture of Circuit 9 diligently at work discussing our current system of care, presenting barriers and things they love and would not want to see changed.

Adult Protective Investigations

The Statewide APS Meeting was held at the Turkey Lake Service Plaza on April 16th and 17th. At the meeting, Services Supervisor Randall Colley was honored for his outstanding service for the Central Region. Randall received this award for his demonstration of leadership by going above and beyond his assigned duties and exceptional performance. Randall is the epitome of a servant leader and assists his Team, Circuit and Region however and whenever needed. He is the backbone of Services in Circuit 5 and is a shining example of the mission of this Department. Congratulations Randall!!

Child Care Regulation

Maria Santos, the Director of My First Academy had a bouquet of balloons delivered to the office for her licensing counselor, Lisa Lassabe. The card stated… “Thank you to the whole DCF Child Care staff. Lisa - thank you for making our new license possible.... Thank you for your hard work and dedication. We are looking forward to working in partnership with you.”

Circuit 10 CPI

PA Natisha Barnes hosted a Cinco de Mayo all day event with food, pin the tail on the donkey. While PA Tammy Tomlinson held an appreciation breakfast for staff at the Lake Wales Service Center and held Crazy Hat Tuesday. Was it crazy hat day or crazy PA day? Take a look at these pics!