



State of Florida
 Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist
 Governor

George H. Sheldon
 Secretary

DATE: August 13, 2009

TO: Regional Directors

THROUGH: Peter Digre, Assistant Secretary for Operations
 David Fairbanks, Assistant Secretary for Programs

FROM: Alan Abramowitz, State Director, Office of Family Safety
Patricia Badland for

SUBJECT: The "Family Centered Practice" Training Series

PURPOSE: We are excited to announce the implementation of the Family Centered Practice Training Series. The advancement of Family Centered Practice is a key strategic goal of the Department, and is reflected in both our Child and Family Services Review Quality Improvement Plan and the Department's 2009-2011 Strategic Direction. Promoting a Family Centered approach to services is also an important component of the Goal of Safely Reducing the Number of Children in Foster Care by 50% by the year 2012.

As a part of the implementation plan of the Family Centered Practice Training Series, the Family Safety Program Office will offer training in each of the six regions. The training will be a week in duration.

The dates for the region specific trainings are as follows:

Region	Dates	Location
Southern Region	September 14 th - 18 th	Miami
Southeast Region	September 21 st - 25 th	Delray Beach
SunCoast Region	September 28 th - Oct. 2 nd	Tampa
Central Region	October 5 th - 9 th	Orlando
Northwest Region	October 19 th - 23 rd	Tallahassee
Northeast Region	October 26 th - 30 th	Jacksonville

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

Please note that this training will be a “Train-the-Trainers” event. The target audience for participation includes those child welfare professionals who previously attended the first workshop of the Family Centered Practice Training Series, as well as, other potential trainers, facilitators, family centered practice experts or specialists who will be supporting the implementation of the Family-Centered Practice Model. Those persons who attended the previous Family Centered Practice Training Series are not required to attend Workshop 1, which is will be on Monday and Tuesday of each week (1st two days). In order to be curriculum trainers, however, their participation is encouraged. Any new participant will need to attend the entire workshop series, or all five days, to be qualified to instruct the entire family-centered practice training curriculum.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Department, working in partnership with a team of subject matter experts, has developed a three-part training workshop series focusing on the implementation of the Family-Centered Practice model. The curriculum design team included representatives from Community Based Care agencies, Sheriff’s Offices and Children’s Legal Services. The Training Series is comprised of three modules: (1) two-days of foundational instruction in Family-Centered Practice; (2) two days of Family-Centered Practice skills and casework instruction; (3) one-day of focus on thinking critically about Family-Centered Practice. The entire Family Centered Practice Training Series is five-days in duration and is designed to run in a week; however, each individual module can be instructed on an as needed basis.

In February and March 2009, nearly 100 participants attended a “Train-the-Trainers” workshop for the first workshop in the series. Training content for the following second and third workshops has since been completed. This curriculum development project also included facilitation capacity for the field training so that the curriculum and instructional expertise could be transitioned to the region and circuit level.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please share this information with your Community Based Care agencies, Children’s Legal Services, Sheriff’s Offices, and other interested stakeholders and community partners to identify participants to attend this “Train-the-Trainer” event for the Family Centered Practice Training Series.

Pre-Registration is required to attend these Family Centered Practice Training Series events. Participation will be limited to 30 persons per region. Participants will be provided instruction and materials on the entire curriculum in order to allow for local implementation. The Family Safety Program Office is also prepared to offer support to those persons who will require assistance with covering the costs of travel. Information will be shared directly with those registering to attend. Please contact Audrey Ressler at (850) 921-9333, or via e-mail, Audrey_ressler@dcf.state.fl.us to register.

For information regarding the Family Centered Practice Training Series curriculum and related practice model and working papers, please contact Matthew Claps at (850) 922-8779, or via e-mail, matthew_claps@dcf.state.fl.us.