



State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist  
Governor

George H. Sheldon  
Secretary

---

**DATE:** July 10, 2009

**TO:** Regional Directors

**THROUGH:** John Cooper, Acting Assistant Secretary for Operations  
David L. Fairbanks, Assistant Secretary for Programs

**FROM:** Alan Abramowitz, State Director, Office of Family Safety

**SUBJECT:** The "Family Centered Practice" Training Series

---

**PURPOSE:** We are excited to announce the roll out and 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. Likewise, 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 be facilitating in the field training of the training curriculum in each of the six regional areas across the state. The training will be a week in duration and will be completed locally in each region (one week per region). The timeframe window for roll out of the Training Series is September and October 2009. **Exact training dates for each region are still to be determined.** The Family Safety Program Office will work directly with the regional Family Safety Program Administrators and prior workshop attendees to determine the best possible dates, locations and other logistical information in order to maximize attendance. Accordingly, more information regarding your local Family Centered Practice Training Series is forthcoming once these details are finalized. This information will be provided directly to each respective region.

**BACKGROUND:** 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. This 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 and how this applies to Family Centered approaches to services. The entire Family

---

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

Centered Practice Training Series is five-days in duration and is designed to run in a week; however, each individual module can also be instructed on an as needed basis.

In February and March 2009, nearly one hundred participants attended a "Train-the-Trainers" workshop for the first workshop in the series. Training content for the following two workshops has since been completed. This curriculum development project also included facilitation capacity for in 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.

**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 the first two days of the event in order to be curriculum trainers; however, their participation is encouraged. Likewise, any new participant would need to attend the entire workshop series, or all five days if they are to be qualified to instruct the entire Family Centered Practice training series.

The Family Safety Program Office will work directly with the Regional Family Safety Program Administrators to identify workshop attendees. The Family Safety Program Office will also be able to offer support to those persons who will require assistance with covering the costs of their travel. Travel scholarship information will be included in the forthcoming correspondence for those participants identified to attend each of the local training sites.

For Information regarding the coordination and roll out of these six training events, including support for travel related costs, please contact Audrey Ressler at (850) 921-9333, or via e-mail, [Audrey\\_ressler@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:Audrey_ressler@dcf.state.fl.us) .

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](mailto:matthew_claps@dcf.state.fl.us)