



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist
Governor

George H. Sheldon
Secretary

DATE: September 4, 2009

TO: Regional Directors

THROUGH: David L. Fairbanks, Assistant Secretary for Programs

DF Peter Digre, Assistant Secretary for Operations *Wamer for*

FROM: *DF for* Alan F. Abramowitz, State Director, Office of Family Safety *AF*

SUBJECT: Placement Stability – Quality Assurance Review

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memo is to provide the findings from the high-level Quality Assurance (QA) Review of placement stability conducted during the fourth quarter of FY 2008/2009.

BACKGROUND: Florida's child welfare system is striving to meet federal standards by maintaining stable placements for children who have been removed from their homes and placed in an out-of-home care setting. The national standard is that 86.7% of children in out-of-home care will have no more than two placements during the first 12 months in care. The 2008 Adoptions and Foster Care Reporting System (AFCARS) data indicate Florida is not achieving the target and is currently at 83% compliance.

A statewide Quality Assurance Review was conducted to compare actual practice with the reported AFCARS data that would either validate the data or provide additional data for consideration when measuring performance in placement stability.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please disseminate this report to your counterparts and other interested parties. Please also note the recommendations that have been made, not the least of which is to conduct further and ongoing exploration at the local level to obtain more discrete data that can lead to development and implementation of quality improvement initiatives. A "Guide for Analysis of Placement Stability" published by the Office of Family Safety is attached for convenient reference.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION: Please contact local Regional and CBC QA Managers if you would like to view local findings. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Eleese Davis or Gail Perry, Quality Assurance Unit. Ms. Davis can be reached by telephone at (850) 921-9857 or by email at eleese_davis@dcf.state.fl.us and Ms. Perry can be reached by telephone at (850) 921-7794 or by email at gail_perry@dcf.state.fl.us.

Attachment

cc: Regional Quality Assurance Managers
CBC Quality Assurance Managers
Contract Managers

[To view current placement stability report click here](#)