



PARTNERS FOR FLORIDA'S
— CHILDREN & FAMILIES —



Improve the well-being of children with severe trauma who need access to specialized care

Problem: Children with severe behavioral disorders and complex trauma, combined with developmental and/or medical needs (“children with multi-disciplinary needs”) are not able to access the specialized care they need. Providers have not built new capacity to meet the need due to unclear funding and the inability to get insurance coverage to serve this high-risk population.

Recommendations:

- Conduct a statewide assessment of children with multi-disciplinary needs
- Develop specialized care capacity (based on need)
- Fund capacity-building, and address the contracting and funding environment (below)

Ensure children have immediate access to services in their community

Problem: Performance bonds are currently required in statute, however, they were not enforced. Service providers who provided care for children were not paid for services when a lead agency (Embrace Families) went out of business. This threatens the ability of providers to continue services to meet the need.

Recommendation:

- Amend 409FS to protect service providers who provide care and operate in good faith

Problem: Partners for Florida’s Children & Families (PFCF) believes that each entity (DCF, lead agency and providers) should be responsible for their respective costs of liability if a child is harmed. However, one-sided indemnification clauses in contracts are pushing the costs of liability down to providers for actions by other entities. Absent a solution, capacity will be reduced, instead of growing to meet the need.

Recommendation:

- Amend 409FS to prevent entities from shifting the costs of their liability via contracts

Our Position: We are also closely monitoring the updated funding methodology DCF must present in this next legislative session. We support a fair methodology that recognizes children’s needs and supports the providers’ cost of care to meet that need.



Support parents and caregivers to keep families together when possible

We support policies that protect the rights of parents involved in the child welfare system and expand access to prevention services for parents in need of services and support (so they won't become involved in that system).

Improve safety, permanency and well-being through proven quality of care

We support more transparency and accountability for government funded services. We believe that providers who invest in higher quality of care standards such as Accreditation, Quality Residential Standards, and use of evidence-based practices should be eligible for enhanced rates and funding to support the continuation and expansion of these programs. State agencies should publicly recognize providers that meet these higher quality of care standards and are achieving positive outcomes for children and families.



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As the providers delivering direct services to Florida's children and families, Partners for Florida's Children & Families are at the front lines working to meet the greatest needs facing our children, families, and communities. Our collective on-the-ground experience gives us an unparalleled understanding of how to support the best possible outcomes for Florida's children and families. We provide a collective voice to advocate for solutions to empower our children and families, strengthen our communities, and create generational change.

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