



30 Years of Creating Safe Pathways

2006-07 Annual Report

Message From Our Leadership



Karen Butler Miller,
President
Board of Directors



Mary "Dee" Richter
Executive Director

The Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Inc. is committed to creating safe pathways for youth. Our local agency providers and their neighborhood partners work diligently everyday to ensure that the nearly 32,000 youth and families we served this year had access to the help they needed. In addition, our agencies served nearly 70,000 communities and schools, children and families throughout Florida, stimulating awareness about CINS/FINS services.

This year, our priorities were focused on six key areas: (1) securing funding to hire part-time nurses at each of the 29 CINS/FINS shelters; (2) developing and implementing an initiative to provide in-home services; (3) helping to host a national conference with a primary focus on at-risk girls; (4) expanding our services to address the growing population of youth in gangs and assisting the Center for Child and Family Enrichment with its' services to unaccompanied youth from other countries; (5) securing recurring funding to provide additional non-residential services to youth, and; (6) implementing a new research-based model in our shelters. We are proud to report our efforts were successful and as a result, we were able to provide our agencies with new and innovative resources, collaborative support and enhanced training opportunities.

This year, the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Inc. celebrated 30 years of proud history. The experience and dedication of our leaders, advocates, government officials and others who have helped us protect Florida's youth has provided the hope and inspiration needed for the next 30 years. The Florida Network has not just changed the outlook of Florida's at-risk youth population, we have also helped to change the way we all look at the lives of our youth at the local, statewide and national levels. Moving forward, we will continue to create safe pathways for the future of Florida's youth by building strong families and safe communities.



Mission Statement:

The Florida Network values young people and therefore creates safe pathways to their future by building strong families and communities.

Vision Statement:

Florida will be a safe place where all young people reach their full potential.

CORE VALUES

Family _____

We are committed to keeping youth and families together and to strengthening family systems

Quality _____

We are dedicated to ensuring the highest standards of practice within our programs and our organization.

Youth Development _____

We value young people as vital resources and partners in finding solutions.

We cultivate a young person's strengths and assets in all of our programs and services.

Safety and Support _____

We believe prevention and early intervention services are powerful, not only in keeping young people from committing crimes and families from being unsafe, but as catalysts for youth to realize their full potential and make a successful transition to adulthood.

We value the collective wisdom, energy and expertise that working together as member agencies affords us in striving toward our vision, adhering to our mission and reaching our common goals.

We believe the whole is always greater than the sum of the parts in making Florida a safer place for children and their families.



LIGHTING PATHWAYS

“When I left home, I remembered the presentation I heard at school and knew there were other options than living on the street. I was able to make it to the runaway shelter in my town and I am where I am today because the people there cared about me.”

Adrienne, CINS/FINS youth

“Congratulations to the Florida Network agencies, Dee Richter and her staff for another year of service to the youth and their families in the State of Florida. It has been a pleasure to work with people who keep the needs of youth in the forefront. When faced with challenges we seem to be able to seek out those who believe in our vision and know that we must stand up for Florida’s families. As we move forward, we must work harder to insure the safety of our youth, continue to keep citizens aware of our successes and challenges, and serve families to the best of our ability.”

Florida Network Board of Directors
Karen Butler Miller, President

“The Florida Network of Youth & Family Services has built a statewide network of services to in-crisis youth and families which is viewed as one of the leading models in the country. It has been an honor to work with them over the 30-years of its development. The providers and the children they serve inspire and inform all of us.”

Roy Miller, President
Children’s Campaign, Inc.

“I want to thank the Florida Network Neighborhood Partner that helped my daughter Shamira. When she needed help, she knew where to find it and called. I now know there are resources that can help when I can’t. Things were bad, really bad, but now my daughter and I are living together and working on being better to each other.”

Jeanine, CINS/FINS parent



Safe Haven

At various times within the last five years, I have had temporary custody of my three nephews. They were being raised in a tough environment by drug addicted parents who were in and out of jail. I was not prepared for the emotional and mental problems the boys were suffering from as a result of their unstable environment. They constantly ran away from home, skipped school, got into fights and had no respect for authority. I was exhausted and wasn't able to find help anywhere or from anyone. It seemed like I was getting the run around from each way I turned. The school resource officer told me about Capital City Youth Services. They were a God-send. They offered counseling to the boys and listened to me when I needed to vent. The staff at CCYS cared about our issues. What I liked most about having the boys at CCYS was that there was very little disruption in their daily routines. The staff made sure they were at school, had nutritious meals, clean clothes and were involved in activities that helped them focus on positive things. I was able to rest at night knowing they were safe and getting the help they needed. Capital City Youth Services was our safe haven.

CINS/FINS Parent
Capital City Youth Services
Tallahassee, Florida

Getting Help Fast

Alicia, 16, was very withdrawn and had no friends. The only times she came out of her room was to attend school and to eat meals. Some days though, she make to school. Her grades began to drastically decline. She didn't want to participate in family activities and fought often with her other siblings. Alicia is bi-racial and blamed her parents for not being able to connect with either race. Things started to escalate at home and Alicia began threatening her mom with violence. Alicia's mom felt like she couldn't reach her daughter and had tried everything. Alicia's father suggested they commit her to a mental institution. Alicia's mom read an article in the local newspaper about Thaise Educational and Exposure Tours Inc. When Alicia started attending the counseling, enrichment and tutorial programs, she started to blossom. She made new friends, no longer hides in her room and soared academically. In a Christmas card from Alicia her exact words were: "THANK YOU! Enrolling in your program is the best thing that has happened to me. You made my whole year!"

CINS/FINS Youth
Thaise Educational and Exposure Tours, Inc.
Neighborhood Partner, Sarasota Florida



Highlights of 2006

30 Years of Leadership Celebration

The Florida Network Anniversary Gala commemorating and celebrating 30 years of leadership was held in November of 2006 in Orlando, FL. Special recognition was given to those persons who have made outstanding contributions to Florida as youth advocates. Roy Miller, President Children's Campaign, Inc. received the President's Award.

Other honorees included: The Honorable Herbert J. Bauman, Jr., Outstanding Public Servant Award; The Honorable Burton C. Conner, Outstanding Public Servant Award; and Carl L. Weinrich, Milestone Award.

Past Board of Director's Presidents that have served and supported the Florida Network for 30 years were also recognized for their dedicated leadership. They were: Jane Harper, Family Resources, George Magrill, Youth and Family Alternatives, Barbara Cloud, Anchorage Children's Home and Tom Pata-
nia, Youth Crisis Center.



Roy Miller and his wife Jan



Pictured from left to right Dee Richter, Barbara Cloud, George Magrill, Jane Harper and Kathy Tuell

Implementation of Innovative Technology

The implementation of a nationally recognized shelter model (Father Flanagan's Boys Town) began at Crosswinds Youth Services in 2006. The model provides a structured approach for direct care staff to teach skills to the youth in their care and focuses on positive behavior.



Pictured from l to r: Jil Sandler, Cassandra Jenkins, Terri Eggers, Justice Barbara Pariente, Lawonda Ravoria, Dee Richter and Rick Davison.

National Girls Conference — “Faces of Courage: Charting New Directions for Girls Entering the Justice System with a Special Focus on Women of Color”

Conference workshops featured nationally recognized experts and speakers. Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente was the opening speaker. Other highlighted presenters included: Roy Miller, President, Children's Campaign Inc.; Dr. Lawanda Ravoria, Former CEO, Pace Center for Girls; and Dr. Barbara Guthrie, Yale University School of Nursing.

In conjunction with the Florida Network and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, other conference partners included: Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group, Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association, Children's Campaign, Inc. and Pace Center for Girls.

Securing Additional Services

In 2006-2007, the total number of youth and families receiving non-residential services was nearly 11,000. This was due to the \$2.5 million in new funds appropriated in the 2006 Legislative Session.

Expansions

Through collaboration with members of the Florida Legislature, especially Representative Mitch Needleman, and Senators Arthenia Joyner and Victor Crist, Amer-I-Can was established as a CINS/FINS provider and became a member of the Florida Network. Founder, NFL Hall of Famer and actor, Jim Brown, attended the Florida Network board meeting in May.



Jim Brown along with Representative Mitch Needleman and Senator Arthenia Joyner speaks to Florida Network Board Members.

In January 2007, a six month initiative began as Friends of Children (FOC) expanded their services by opening the FOC Parenting Program to provide in-home services to families of at risk youth in Gadsden County, Florida.

The Florida Network agencies, with advocacy from Congressman Bill Young and Adjutant General, Major General Douglas Burnett, IFF Data and Comtrust, served 192 soldiers and their families needing help through the Operation Family First Project.

Florida Network Impact in 2006-2007

Crisis Services Provided:

Calls for help answered	31,647
New youth admitted for service	14,994
Youth served in non-residential during 2006-07	10,957
Youth served in shelter during 2007-06	6,380
Days of care for youth in residential placement in 2006-07	73,751

Outreach Services:

Service awareness presentations at school or in community	2,141
Number of group sessions held on substance abuse, parenting, or educational services	585
Adults Attending	7,065
Children Attending	7,757

Of the 14,994 Children Admitted:

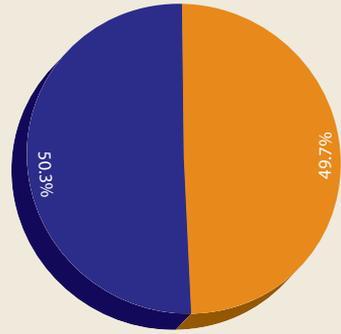
Experienced Problems with	
Family	11,825 or 79%
School	10,867 or 73%
Mental Health	8,131 or 54%
Past Abuse & Neglect	9,579 or 64%
Alcohol & Other Drugs	4,454 or 30%
Previous DJJ Involvement	4,306 or 29%

*The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) tracks adjudications of youth served to see if they are sent to court for a crime within six months after receiving Florida Network crisis services. The most recent data collected was in 2006.

Gender:

49.7% of the youth served were female

50.3% of youth served were male



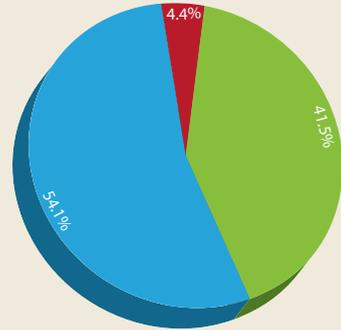
Ethnicity:

African-American 41.5%

White 54.1%

Other 4.4%

% of Children of Latino/
Hispanic Ethnicity 13%



Age:

10 and under: 4.4%

11: 3.0%

12: 5.8%

13: 10.2%

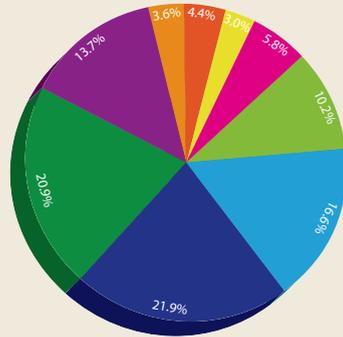
14: 16.6%

15: 21.9%

16: 20.9%

17: 13.7%

18: 3.6%



Youth Outcomes:

Completing the program 86%

Crime-free during services 94%

No adjudication of delinquency for 6 months after release 89%

*The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) tracks adjudications of youth served to see if they are sent to court for a crime within six months after receiving Florida Network crisis services. The most recent data collected was in 2006.

History of The Florida Network

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|--------------|--|
| 1973 | The Beginning, Houston, TX — Police find 27 youth buried in shallow graves — many were runaways |
| 1974 | Washington D.C. — US Congress Passes the Runaway & Homeless Youth Act providing for youth shelters |
| 1974 | Florida — Six youth shelters open in Florida under the Federal Act |
| 1976 | Tampa — The Florida Network incorporates to provide standards of care & advocacy for runaway youth |
| 1981 to 1984 | Tallahassee — The Florida Legislature <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provides state funds to keep shelters open in the wake of federal cuts• passes Florida's Runaway Youth and Family Act• mandates 23 full service crisis centers to serve Florida's troubled teens and their families through referrals from HRS |
| 1988 | Florida's First Lady, Mary Jane Martinez, heads efforts for a statewide hotline runaways & the Youth & Family Foundation |
| 1992 | Florida Legislature creates direct access for families and youth to the shelters, without requiring a referral from government |
| 1994 | CINS/FINS moved to the new Department of Juvenile Justice train agency staff members, and assist with communications and fund raising. |
| 1994-1999 | Additional shelters are added bringing the total to 30 |

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| 2001 | Governor supports CINS/FINS as a statewide delivery system and the Florida Network oversees a single contract with the DJJ |
| 2001 | Florida TAXWATCH releases a study noting that CINS/FINS services save taxpayers millions of dollars by diverting children from delinquency and DJJ state care |
| 2003 | Florida Legislature Encourages formation of Neighborhood Partnership Initiative |
| 2005 & 2006 | The Florida Legislature & Governor increase starting pay for staff in the shelters statewide |



Financial Audit

Support and Revenue:

DJJ CINS/FINS Contract	\$31,343,558
Other Programs and Services	\$ 3,096,916
Non-Governmental	\$ 456,972
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TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$34,897,446

Expenses:

DJJ CINS/FINS Contract	\$31,342,235
Other Programs and Services	\$ 3,104,520
Other Non-Governmental	\$ 456,145
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$34,902,900
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Net Income (loss)	\$ (5,454)

Summary of Audit Report: There are no exceptions on the audit of the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Inc for the period ending June 30, 2007. The audit was conducted by Law, Redd & Crona, P.A. located in Tallahassee, Florida and complies with the Single Audit Act. A copy of the audit report is available upon request.



Florida Network Local Providers

1. Lutheran Services of Florida, Currie House (Pensacola)
2. Lutheran Services of Florida, Hope House (Crestview)
3. Anchorage Children's Home, Hidle House (Panama City)
4. Capital City Youth Services, Some Place Else (Tallahassee)
5. CDS Behavioral, Interface Northwest (Lake City)
6. Youth Crisis Center (Jacksonville)
7. CDS Behavioral, Interface Central (Gainesville)
8. CDS Behavioral, Interface East (Palatka)
9. Arnette House (Ocala)
10. Act Corporation, Beach House (Daytona Beach)
11. Father Flanagan's Girls & Boys Town of Central Florida (Sanford)
12. Youth & Family Alternatives, New Beginnings (Brooksville)
13. Orange County Youth & Family Services (Orlando)
14. Youth & Family Alternatives, RAP House (New Port Richey)
15. Family Resources, SafePlace2B (St. Petersburg)
16. Family Resources, SafePlace2B (Largo)
17. Hillsborough County Children's Services, Haven Poe (Tampa)
18. Youth & Family Alternatives, Cornerstone (Mulberry)
19. Park Place Behavioral Heath Care (Kissimmee)
20. Crosswinds Youth Services, Crosswinds (Cocoa)
21. Children's Home Society, Wave C.R.E.S.T. (Ft. Pierce)
22. Family Resources, SafePlace2B (Bradenton)
23. YMCA Children, Youth and Family Services, Sarasota YMCA (Sarasota)
24. Lutheran Services of Florida, Oasis Youth Shelter (Ft. Myers)
25. Children's Home Society, Safe Harbor Runaway Shelter (West Palm Beach)
26. Lutheran Services of Florida, Lippman Youth Shelter (Oakland Park)
27. Miami Bridge Youth & Family Services, Central Dade (Miami)
28. Miami Bridge Youth & Family Services, Homestead/South Dade (Miami)
29. Florida Keys Children's Shelter (Tavernier)

* Staff Secure Shelters

**FLORIDA
NETWORK**
of youth and family services

Florida Network Of Youth & Family Services

2850 Pablo Avenue • Tallahassee, FL 32308 • 850-922-4324

Statutory Authority

Chapter 984, F.S. defines and mandates services to Children in Need Services, (CINS) and Families in Need of Services (FINS); and Chapter 1003.27, F.S. establishes services to habitually truant children. The statues provide for round-the-clock counseling and shelter for runaway, ungovernable, homeless, troubled and/or habitually truant children (ages 10-17) and their families. Children who are adjudicated dependent and delinquent are not eligible for services. The Florida Network provides CINS/FINS services through contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice.

