



Florida's Children First Summary of Recommendations to the Children and Youth Cabinet

October 1, 2007

- 1. Adopt, as a core principle, the need for improved communication and collaboration with, among and between all of the agencies providing prevention, protection and treatment services for children.*
- 2. Identify opportunities across Departments and Agencies for collaboration, including the transferring or merging of programs where appropriate; and find opportunities in your own areas of authority for collaboration and rapid implementation of needed changes.*
- 3. Immediately create and implement a common process for obtaining informed consent for information release and sharing among all state agencies and their sub-contractors that serve children and families.*
- 4. Join with the Governor's Commission on Open Government and update Florida laws regarding confidentiality practices, privacy protections and information sharing.*
- 5. Develop a meaningful yet simplified system to monitor privatized services and contracts.*
- 6. Develop a budget structure and nomenclature that includes all relevant departments, funding streams, and programs to implement the state's vision and strategic plan and to facilitate improved coordination and efficiency for children and youth. Make it a budget for children and youth that citizens can understand and review to see if you have aligned public resources consistent with public will.*
- 7. Conduct a Children and Youth Estimating Conference to obtain and analyze real data on the real need.*
- 8. Develop a meaningful Child and Youth Impact Statement for legislation to be considered in the 2008 Legislative Session and seek collaboration from the Legislature on use of the Impact Statement.*