



B. J. Walker, Commissioner

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MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Directors
County Directors

From: Isabel Blanco, Deputy Director *IB*
Division of Family and Children Services

Subject: Family Preservation Services

For the past eighteen months, selected counties across the state have been practicing Family Preservation Services. The concept came from the 2005 Spring Directors' Academy. It is based on family centered practice that embraces early intervention, family team meetings, and building community support for each family.

The pilot counties have shown that this model creates a more positive interaction with families, engages families earlier, and builds strong community relationships. It has resulted in more family involvement and reduces the average length of time in CPS (average has been 4.5 months).

We are now ready to move every county to this model. This will be the new way that we work with all families. Training has been developed and will be offered in all regions over the next three months. It is the expectation that once a Region's staff are trained, they will immediately begin the transition to Family Preservation Services.

Core to this model are family team meetings (FTMs); therefore, the training consists of a one-day FPS training and a two-day initial FTM training. It is mandatory that all CPS staff (Investigations and Ongoing workers) attend these three-day trainings. Regions/counties will also need FTM Coordinators who will be required to also complete the FTM Skill Development sessions (two days), which will be offered at a later time in each region.

We are very excited about this new way to work better with families.

Cc: Ms. Mary Dean Harvey