



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Rick Scott
Governor

David E. Wilkins
Secretary

DATE: July 3, 2012

TO: Regional Managing Directors

THROUGH: John Cooper, Assistant Secretary for Operations

FROM: Patricia Armstrong, LCSW, Director, Office of Child Welfare

SUBJECT: Fostering Florida's Future Initiative

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information and web links for the Fostering Florida's Future Initiative.

BACKGROUND: Secretary Wilkins shared information about this exciting initiative at the Florida State Foster Adoptive Parent Association Conference on June 23, 2012. The initiative has five key points:

- Awareness Campaign – Fostering changes lives and helps children become successful adults
- A Family For Every Child – Recruitment and retention of foster parents
- Quality Parenting Initiative – Training and support for foster parents
- Letting Kids in Foster Care Be Kids – Extracurricular activities, social media, time with friends
- Promising Futures – Attending school, graduating, and pursuing further education

As part of the Steering Committee on Foster Parent Recruitment led by Tanya Wilkins, the Department's fostering website has been completely renovated. Foster parents and community-based care representatives provided input and guided our Communications staff in developing this great product. The goal is to promote a new brand of fostering consistent with the tenets of the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI): Respected Partner, Nurturing Children, Supporting Families, and Strengthening Communities. The web address is: <http://www.fosteringflorida.com/>

Posters have been printed with the message "Letting Kids in Foster Care Be Kids". A sample of the posters (5 versions) is being mailed to you separately. In addition, samples are being sent to each of the Community-Based Care Lead Agencies. Electronic (pdf) versions can be found at <http://www.fosteringflorida.com/usefuldocuments.shtml>. Additional copies can be printed from these documents. Community-Based Care Lead Agencies are encouraged to disseminate these posters to case management agencies. In

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addition, the youth expectations document has been updated and newly titled to complement this Initiative. It can be found at:
http://www.fosteringflorida.com/docs/Bill_of_Rights_draft_5-4-12jf.pdf

ACTION REQUESTED: Please disseminate this information broadly.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions, or for additional information please contact Gay Frizzell at Gay_Frizzell@dcf.state.fl.us or 850-717-4653.

cc: Community-Based Care Lead Agencies
Sheriff’s Offices

Attachments