



Board of Directors Meeting

October 8, 2009

Children's Policy Report

Item VI. C.

Recommended Action:	Information Only
Issue:	Legislative Update
Strategic Plan Goal:	Increase the efficiency of JWB's work

State Budget

The Florida Legislature Office of Economic and Demographic Research, (EDR) presented the Long-Range Financial Outlook to the Legislative Budget Commission (LBC) in mid-September 2009. Current projections show a deficit of \$923 million for FY 2010- 11 and potentially a \$1.2 billion deficit for FY 11-12 depending on how the Legislature allocates recurring and non recurring revenue, including trust funds.

The LBC voted 9 -1 to amend the projections to factor in the available funds from the Florida Hurricane Trust Fund of \$16 billion compared to maximum obligations of \$23 billion. In addition they want the recognition of Citizen's Property Insurance ability to pay \$16 billion in claims offset with the probable loss maximum of \$23 billion. This further identifies the precarious nature of the state's budget and ability to respond in an emergency situation.

The EDR forecast also indicates that the current recession is the longest on record and will continue until Spring of 2010. Pinellas County's unemployment ranked 42 of 67 counties at 10.9%. Florida ranks in the top five states in foreclosure activity with Pinellas in the top 10 counties with 1,944 foreclosure filings in August, 2009.

Seminole Gambling Compact

The Senate has received the agreement and Florida Statutes requires them to ratify the compact in order to make it valid. As part of their due diligence, the Senate has sent the Governor a list of questions about the gambling deal with the Seminole Tribe. The questions are mostly technical, like the definition of "net gambling profits" and how the state's share of profits is calculated. There are also questions about legal liability, and

exclusive rights to games. Gov. Crist has suggested a special session to get the deal approved, however, Senate President Jeff Atwater does not favor a special session due to the complexity of the issue.

State House Committee Rework

House Speaker Shakes Up Council and Committee Structure

House Speaker Larry Cretul announced a significant restructuring of House Councils and Committee, many of which the changes represented sweeping changes for the panels that regulate health care policy and spending by eliminating four committees and reducing the number of lawmakers on each committee. The Speaker merged two powerful budget-writing committees into one smaller one headed by Rep. David Rivera, R-Miami. Specifically, he eliminated the Human Services Appropriations and Healthy Seniors Committees, and will refer health care and human services bills with a fiscal impact to the Health Care Appropriations Committee. Cretul also placed Rep. Denise Grimsley, R-Highlands (a registered nurse), in charge of the Health Care Appropriations Committee, which oversees the \$17-billion Medicaid program.

CSC Initiatives

JWB Staff and Board Members Participate in Results-Based Accountability Workshops

Mark Friedman, international consultant and author of, Trying Hard is Not Enough! conducted a day-long workshop on Results-Based Accountability (RBA) September 15 in Orlando. Sponsored by the Children's Services Councils and organized by the Policy Group, the event drew more than 125 people, including 7 JWB staff members. RBA is a method for using performance measures to improve program and agency performance and to improve outcomes targeted to population level well-being. According to Friedman, the hallmark of the method is that it is simple, uses common sense, plain language, and minimum paper and, most importantly, focuses accountability on both population and program results. Hoping to make the system easy to understand and manage, the performance measures hinge on three common sense questions: How much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off? Feedback from workshop participants was extremely positive. JWB and the Children's Board of Hillsborough County (CBHC) co-sponsored a follow-up training on September 17 in Tampa at the CBHC offices. Over 60 Pinellas people, including JWB Board members, staff, and community leaders had an opportunity to learn about the common sense approach to answer the question: Do we make a difference? JWB staff will begin implementing components of the RBA process immediately as opportunities present themselves.

Children's Board Votes to Fund Two County Programs Hit by Cuts

The Children's Board of Hillsborough County (CBHC) voted unanimously to approve funding to help address two areas slated by the county for reduction or elimination: child care licensing and afterschool programs. The board vote followed a request by Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners for the Children's Board to provide the county \$1.9 million to maintain the two programs for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. The plan approved by the CBHC creates community collaboration to sustain the local child care licensing effort. It includes recommendations to reduce operating costs, rely on the Children's Board, Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County and Department of Children and Families for additional support, and increase licensing fees paid by child care providers.

FCSC Newsletter – September 30, 2009 – Issue # 34

Attached is the most recent edition that updates topics from the September 10, 2009 Children's Policy Report. This e-newsletter has hyperlinks for additional information and was e-mailed to Board members for enhanced access.

Office of Resource Development Update

Pinellas County to receive \$42,000 to Increase Enrollment in Children's Health Insurance Program

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced \$40 million in grants to 69 grantees in 41 states and the District of Columbia to help them find and enroll children who are uninsured but eligible for either Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The Pinellas Healthy Start Coalition serves as the Healthy Kids Outreach Coordinator and will be the sub-award recipient of the \$998,177 that will be awarded to the University of South Florida/Chiles Center. JWB's Office of Resource Development provided Pinellas-specific content for the grant application.

Recognizing that millions of children are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, but are therefore needlessly uninsured, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) set aside \$100 million for fiscal years 2009-2013 expressly to help find and enroll eligible children. Of the total outreach amount, \$80 million will be given to states and other organizations, \$10 million to Tribal organizations and \$10 million for a national outreach effort. Today's awards are for a two year period ending Dec. 31, 2011, which will then be followed by a second round of \$40 million in new grants.

As called for in CHIPRA, grants were awarded to applicants whose outreach, enrollment and retention efforts will target geographic areas with high rates of eligible but uninsured children, particularly those with racial and ethnic minority groups who are uninsured at higher-than-average rates. For example, 20 percent of the projects to be funded will target Hispanic children, with an emphasis on Hispanic teens, and 11 percent will focus on homeless children and seven percent will be aimed at Native American/Alaska Native children.

