

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING/WORKING AGREEMENT

Administrative Office of the Court
Fifteenth Judicial District
Palm Beach County

&

Palm Beach County School District

The agencies named in this document agree to the following:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding/Working Agreement is to coordinate services for the families of Palm Beach County through cooperation, collaboration, and the sharing of appropriate information by agencies within this jurisdiction. The mission of the Community Alliance/Unified Family Court Social Service Component states that this court based program will assist the children and families involved in complex cases (identified as more than one court case, with multiple agency involvement) to achieve self sufficiency by convening large group meetings with all agencies/individuals involved with the family and effectively facilitating the delivery of services.

To the extent set forth in this memorandum of Understanding/Working Agreement all parties assume partial or full responsibility for participating in ongoing UFC Social Service Family Case Plan Conferences for any family deemed appropriate for the program that voluntarily agrees to participate. All parties also agree that staff will bring any applicable information regarding case plans, reports, evaluations, or other information deemed appropriate to the monthly Family Achievement Plan Conferences. All parties also agree to expedite services whenever possible for families participating in the program.

Specifically, this agreement establishes a commitment from the above named agency to provide staff to participate in the ongoing Family Achievement Plan Conferences for the CA/UFC Social Service Component whenever possible in order to:

1. Provide standard and consistent participation in conferences
2. Maximize the resources through a joint multidisciplinary case plan
3. Minimize the duplication of referrals and services for families
4. Ensure the provision of appropriate services when deemed necessary for children and their families
5. Provide a forum for on-going communication and resolution of issues for the family and agency partners and foster an effective collaboration

All parties agree to this Memorandum of Understanding/Working Agreement for the Community Alliance/Unified Family Court Social Service Component in Palm Beach County, Florida.

Signature: _____ / _____
Date

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____ / _____
Date

Print Name: _____



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

Alliance Membership – UFC Social Service Committee

Carey Haughwout, Chair- Public Defender's Office
Barry Krischer-State Attorney's Office
Kathleen Kroll- 15th Judicial Circuit
Tana Ebbole- Children's Services Council
Kathryn Schmidt- Workforce Alliance
Jeannette Corbett- Quantum Foundation
John McCarthy- Child and Family Connections
George Woodley-DCF, Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Scott Badesch- United Way
Feirmon Johnson-DJJ
Ben Shirley-DCF
Bill Graham- PBC School Board
Marsha Fishbane- Health Dept
Dwight Chenette- Healthcare District

UNIFIED FAMILY COURT SOCIAL SERVICE COMPONENT OVERVIEW

This court based program will assist the children and families involved in complex cases (identified as more than one court case, with multiple agency involvement) to achieve self sufficiency by convening large group meetings with all agencies/individuals involved with the family and effectively facilitating the delivery of services.

Highlights of the Program

- Community Effort- all agencies/entities will work together
 - will benefit agencies in the long run as specific tasks are spread among multiple agencies involved, all with benefit from collective knowledge of the group
- Cohesive, coordinated approach and plan for the family- will not replace other systems
- Engage family and promote self sufficiency
- Engage agencies and promote responsibility
- Less duplication of effort/services
- Increased communication
- All agencies/entities maintain individual case plans/goals for the family and legal responsibility, however a large family case plan is developed to ensure all pertinent areas are addressed
- Participation by the family is voluntary
- Meetings are to be goal orientated and solution focused
- Social Service Coordinator is to act as a facilitator, utilizing mediation principles
- Information gleaned at meetings may be confidential
- The large family case plan incorporates all tasks to be completed by the family for each agency and assigns specific tasks to each agency with time frames for completion
- Memorandums of Understanding with agencies that are participating
- Administrative Order outlining community involvement
- Special provisions for cases involving domestic violence
- Community Alliance committee to provide initial oversight
- No fee will be charged for services

Program Start Date: April 2, 2007
Call: 355-1925 for more information