

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (“DCF”)

Brief Summary

Budget Reductions in the General Appropriations Act
affecting the Department of Children and Families

The purpose of this brief summary is to provide highlights of some of the actions in the appropriations act in the final Conference Report.

Service Reductions Restored / Increases to Services – The final bill restored service cuts of 62 positions in our state-run mental health institutions, \$6.9 million to adult community mental health services, 71 Child Protective Investigator positions, \$1.3 million to Healthy Families services, 19 Children’s Legal Services positions, and 289 positions in our ACCESS program. The Community-Based care risk pool was funded at \$7.5 million. There is a net increase in community mental health services of \$29.7 million (\$21.1 million of which is non-recurring). The final bill also included \$11.2 million in Fixed Capital Outlay, \$3 million of which is for Domestic Violence shelters. There was also non-recurring funding provided for almost \$7 million in new projects, including \$3.6 million for the Children’s Zone in Miami. The \$7 million House proposed cut to Independent Living was restored in the final conference report.

Adoption Maintenance Subsidies – The Governor’s office negotiated an amendment to the department’s Child Protection bill (HB 7077) authorizing the department to submit a request for additional funding to the Legislative Budget Commission for issues “relating to child protection and adoption,” to be funded out of available trust funds. Currently funds have been identified to continue funding for the adoption maintenance subsidies for fiscal year 2008-09. Other funding requests may also be made depending on available resources.

Community-Based Care (CBC) – The final bill reduces CBC Administration by \$5.3 million and further reduces CBC services by a net of \$14 million (after considering the \$4.4 million Title IV-E Waiver annual increase).

Sheriff’s Protective Investigations – The final bill reduces Sheriff’s administration by \$537 thousand and Protective Investigation Services by \$2.4 million.

Mental Health Institutions – The final bill eliminates 27 contracted forensic mental health beds with a reduction of \$4 million in funding. Contracted facilities were also reduced by \$1.1 million in administration. In addition, state run hospitals were reduced by \$5.7 million. No funding was provided for transforming Florida’s mental health system, nor was any funding provided to address increased capacity needs at the Violent Sexual Predator Program (the Governor requested \$4.3 million for this program).

Community Mental Health – The final bill reduces administrative costs in community mental health services by \$3.5 million.

Substance Abuse Services – The final bill reduces substance abuse services by a net amount of \$3.2 million. This resulted from a fund reduction of \$7 million in TANF funding with an offset of \$3.8 million in general revenue.

Position reductions – The final bill includes a net reduction of 270 positions. These include 151.5 administrative reductions in the Office of the Secretary, Administrative Services functions and Region / Circuit Administration, 49 net reductions in Program Administration, 14 moved to Agency for Persons with Disabilities, and an elimination of 55.5 unfunded positions. The dollar amount reduction in administration is \$15.1 million which is on top of current year reductions in administration of \$6.1 million. The dollar amount reduction in program administration is \$8.7 million which is on top of current year reductions of almost \$9 million.