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| **Department of Children and Families** |
| **Legislatively Created Advisory Committees** |
|  | *Continue* | **Florida Statewide Task Force on Human Trafficking****Fiscal Year 2008-09 and 2009-10 ▪ Cost:** $2,600 **▪ Authorization:** Laws of Florida 2009-95**Purpose**: The Statewide Task Force on Human Trafficking has been in existence since July 1, 2009. On October 30, the Task Force received the Strategic Plan from the Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights describing obstacles to the identification of trafficking victims, gaps in services to victims, and complexities in the prosecution of trafficking cases.**Assessment:** The Task Force on Human Trafficking has been in existence for only 5 months and has already provided an important view of necessary state actions to end human trafficking. The initial meeting of the Task Force has focused statewide attention on the issue.**Recommendations**: Continue |
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|  | *Continue* | **One Church One Child of Florida****Fiscal Year 2008-09 and 2009-10 ▪ Cost:** $264,000 **▪ Authorization:** The One Church, One Child Corporation Act s. 409.1755, Florida Statutes**Purpose**: Provided community awareness and involvement using black churches to help find permanent homes for black children available for adoption. Conducted statewide campaigns to recruit church partnerships and recruit families interested in adoption. Provided mentoring to recruited families to increase retention of families through the adoption process.**Assessment:** There is currently no alternative to One Church One Child, a designated statewide, faith-based adoption support program implemented to focus on the critical issues of disparity and disproportionality of Black children being over represented in the state’s foster care system in need of adoption. **Recommendations**: Continue |
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|  | *Continue* | **Independent Living Services Advisory Council****Fiscal Year 2008-09 ▪ Cost:** $15,835.06 **▪ Authorization:** Statutory, created in 2002, s. 409.1451(7), *Florida Statutes***Purpose**: The council was created to review and make recommendations regarding the implementation and operation of the Independent Living Services Program, which provides services to help young people in foster care or formerly in foster care successfully manage adult responsibilities. The council is also required to advise the department on how to better meet its established goals, identify any service barriers to effective and efficient integration of services and support across systems of care, inform the department of any successes that independent living transition services have achieved, and submit an annual report. The council continues to fulfill a public purpose by providing advice and recommendations to the Legislature and department to improve the implementation and operation of independent living services through its annual report and proposed legislation. **Assessment:** The council continues to fulfill a public purpose by providing advice and recommendations to the department and the Legislature to improve the implementation and operation of independent living services. The department, Legislature, and community organizations have used the council’s advice and worked with the council to make statutory and programmatic changes and to strengthen service delivery to current and former foster youth. However, the council does not provide adequate public notice of its meetings and does not have a website to inform the public and council members about its current and past activities.**Recommendations**: Continue the Independent Living Services Advisory Council with modifications. Specifically, the council should provide public announcements of its meetings in the *Florida Administrative Weekly* or on a council website. The council should create a website and include general information, meeting times and locations, meeting minutes, and other relevant publications. No legislative action is required to implement our recommendations. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Florida Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation****Fiscal Year** **2008-09** ▪ **Cost**: General Revenue $ 221,689, Federal Grants TF $ 57,462 ▪  **Authorization**: Statutory, created in 2003, s. 394.655, *Florida Statutes***Purpose**: The Florida Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation’s statutory charge is to identify systemic and specific needs for substance abuse and mental health services, facilitate improved coordination among state agencies that provide substance abuse and mental health services, and identify impediments to implementing effective services. The corporation issues an annual report that makes recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on policies to improve coordination and effectiveness of the state’s mental health and substance abuse system. The corporation’s board holds quarterly meetings to discuss its progress, work on initiatives, and obtain public input. In 2007, the Legislature also gave the corporation responsibility for developing criteria and reviewing proposals to award Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Act grants. These grants are awarded to counties to address the growing population of persons with substance abuse, mental illness, and co-occurring disorders in local jails and state prisons. The corporation continues to fulfill a public purpose by providing advice and recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, and state agencies that address the need for substance abuse and mental health services and promoting coordination among these agencies.**Assessment:** The corporation continues to fulfill a public purpose by providing advice and recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, and state agencies that address the need for substance abuse and mental health services and promoting coordination among these agencies. These agencies and the Legislature have used input from the corporation to address impediments encountered by persons needing services. The corporation is accessible to the public and its members reflect the stakeholders affected by its actions. However, the corporation could be of further benefit to the public by working more closely with the Departments of Education and Health, providing a formal assessment of progress in meeting its goals, and serving as a clearinghouse of information on state substance abuse and mental health services and issues.**Recommendations**: Continue the Florida Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation with modifications. Specifically, the corporation should establish contacts and interact with the Departments of Education and Health, provide an annual written evaluation of its progress in achieving its goals, and enhance its website to serve as a clearinghouse of information on substance abuse and mental health services in Florida. No legislative action is required to implement our recommendations. |
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| **Managerially Created Advisory Committees** |
|  | *Continue* | **Gabriel Myers Work Group****Fiscal Year 2008-09 ▪ Cost:** $8,546 **▪ Authorization:** The Work Group was formed at the direction of Secretary Sheldon following the death of Gabriel Myers, a 7 year old foster child, on April 16, 2009**Purpose**: This is an ad hoc work group charged with conducting an independent review of three specific issues related to the death of a child in state care.**Assessment:** This Work Group was established to focus on a specific set of problems and its lifespan is limited. Such groups will continue to be necessary, however, as specific situations occur and the need for an independent review body is indicated.**Recommendations**: Continue |
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|  | *Continue* | **Advisory Committee on Economic Security****Fiscal Year 2008-09 ▪ Cost:** Estimated at less than $5,000 **▪ Authorization:** Secretary’s managerial initiative.**Purpose**: To make recommendations to leadership on how the Department, working with community stakeholders, can best address the urgent needs facing Florida’s residents in the tough economic times.**Assessment:** Committee was created in 2009 and plans to submit recommendations before the 2010 legislative session**Recommendations**: Continue |
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| **Federally Created Advisory Committees** |
|  | *Continue* | **Task Force on Child Protection / Task Force on Fostering Success****Fiscal Year 2008-09 ▪ Cost:** $14,660.89 **▪ Authorization:** Managerial initiative in 2007and in accordance with Section 107 (a) of the Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act of 1984, 42 *U.S.C.***Purpose**: The task force was created in 2007 by managerial initiative to examine gaps in Florida's child welfare system of care, including efforts at reunification, stabilization, permanency during foster care, and supervision. The task force submitted a report to the Secretary of the Department of Children and Families in October 2007 addressing eight tasks related to child protection review and practice, and is to issue an annual report every year thereafter. In March 2008, the department made the federally required Task Force on Children’s Justice a subcommittee of the Task Force on Child Protection. The Task Force on Children’s Justice was created in 1997 as a requirement of the federal Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act, which authorizes grants to states to develop, establish, and operate programs to improve the handling of specific abuse and neglect cases. The department uses the annual Children’s Justice Act federal grant funding of approximately $800,000 for child protective investigation initiatives and child protection training, including the 2007 and 2008 Statewide Dependency Summits for child protection professionals, judges, guardians ad litem, and law enforcement personnel. In November 2008, the department established new goals for the Task Force on Child Protection and distributed a list of new members. The Task Force on Child Protection continues to fulfill a public purpose by providing advice and recommendations to the Legislature, department, law enforcement agencies, and community-based care lead agencies to strengthen the state’s child welfare system.**Assessment:** The Task Force on Child Protection continues to fulfill a public purpose by providing advice and recommendations to the Legislature, department, law enforcement agencies, and community-based care lead agencies to strengthen the state’s child welfare system. The Legislature and the department have used advice and information from the task force to make statutory, programmatic, and training changes. The department made the Task Force on Children’s Justice a subcommittee of this task force, which continues to help the state draw down federal funding to provide training to child welfare and other professionals. The task force provides adequate public access through its website, which includes information on meetings and publications.**Recommendations**: Continue the Task Force on Child Protection |
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|  | *Continue* | **Refugee Services Task Forces****Fiscal Year 2008-09 ▪ Cost:** $3,500 **▪ Authorization:** Managerial initiative in 1988 in response to federal requirement**Purpose**: Required by the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), these committees are responsible for providing hazardous materials training opportunities and conducting planning and exercise activities in each of the state’s 11 regional planning councils’ districts. The committees develop emergency response plans with stakeholder input, review them annually, and provide citizens with information about chemicals in their communities.**Assessment:** These committees are required by the federal law that requires the establishment of the State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials. Local committees receive federal grant funds that have been used to train hazardous materials first responders under guidelines established by the commission. The committees have also used federal grant funds to fund hazardous materials community preparedness and awareness projects. According to division managers, local committee members provide technical expertise that assists the division in developing hazardous materials programs. In addition, they assert that abolishing the committees would jeopardize public safety by eliminating hazardous materials education and training at the local level.**Recommendations**: Continue. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment (SBRIT) Steering Committee****Fiscal Year 2008-09 ▪ Cost:** Less than $1,000 from the SBIRT federal grant **▪ Authorization:** Federal grant requirement, created in 2006 in accordance with federal grant from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, 2006-2011**Purpose**: The Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral, and Treatment (SBIRT) steering committee was created to serve a narrow focus as required by a federal grant. The steering committee provides oversight and consultation on the structure and operational activities of the grant program, which provides services to adults age 55 and older who need substance abuse intervention and treatment. Grant funds are used for an evidence-based pilot project in several areas of the state. The pilot project provides services to emergency rooms, trauma centers, urgent care facilities, and primary care offices to help identify and serve older adults who are at risk of developing substance abuse disorders. The committee also is working with the department and the Agency for Health Care Administration to develop and adopt Medicaid billing codes for services so that federal funding can continue beyond the grant. The steering committee continues to fulfill a public purpose by providing oversight and consultation on the structure and operation of the grant program that helps older adults who need substance abuse intervention and treatment services.**Assessment:** The steering committee continues to fulfill a public purpose by providing oversight and consultation on the structure and operation of a grant program that helps adults age 55 and older who are at risk of developing substance abuse disorders. The department has used advice and information from the committee to implement the grant program. The steering committee is also helping develop Medicaid billing codes so that the program can continue beyond the grant. The federal grant does not require a public forum for input. The steering committee is required by the federal grant and if abolished would eliminate federal funding of $2.8 million used to provide services.**Recommendations**: Continue the Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment (SBIRT) Steering Committee |
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|  | *Continue* | **Florida State Mental Health Planning Council****Fiscal Year 2008-09 ▪ Cost:** $49,564 **▪ Authorization:** Federal Law, created in 1993 in accordance with Title V of the Public Health Services Act 42 *U.S.C***Purpose**The planning council was created to review, monitor, and evaluate the community-based system of mental health care, advocate for persons with serious mental illnesses and youth with serious emotional disturbances, and submit a letter of support to the Federal Grant authority and the Governor on the department’s block grant application and annual implementation report for federal block grant funds. The state is required to have a state mental health planning council to continue to receive funds from the Federal Community Mental Health Services Block Grant. The council assists the department in complying with requirements for the block grant by reviewing the department’s block grant application annual implementation report and submitting a letter of support with information on the status of the state’s mental health plan. The council continues to fulfill a public purpose by assisting the department in completing the federal grant application each year, providing a forum for stakeholders to voice their concerns, and ensuring that the department receives public input on supports and services available statewide.**Assessment:** The State Mental Health Planning Council continues to fulfill a public purpose by helping the department complete the federal grant application each year, providing a forum for stakeholders to voice their concerns, and ensuring that the department receives public input on services available throughout the state. The department has used advice and support from the council to ensure compliance with federal funding requirements and the council works to strengthen the state’s mental health services system. The council provides public access through its website, which provides information on meeting times and minutes, and other relevant information.**Recommendations**: Continue the State Mental Health Planning Council. |
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|  | *Continue* | **Florida Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Council (FLSAPAC) Fiscal Year 2008-09 ▪ Cost:** $40,000 **▪ Authorization:** Federal Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) – State Incentive Grant ended in 2003. State has continued prevention activities subsequent to grant closure. **Purpose**: The Department of Children and Families is the Single State Agency for the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. National Outcome Measures for substance abuse prevention are measured at the population level. The funding for prevention is spread across local, state, and federal funding streams. Achievement of the NOMs requires a high level and broad engagement of state resources and communities. This council provides a practical vehicle for achieving the greatest benefit of these dispersed resources and diverse interests.**Assessment:** The Council completed input for the prevention portion of the Florida Drug Control (ODC) Strategy, published by the Office of Drug Control in June 2009; initiated an ad hoc committee at the request of ODC to consider the Future of Prevention in Florida; and provided input at the request of ODC to the state prevention resource assessment/gaps analysis.**Recommendations**: Continue |
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