



Florida Children's Services Council ***NEWS UPDATE***

Issue: 41

February 2010

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Dates to Watch

March 2, 2010

Legislative Session Begins

March 4-5, 2010

Early Learning Advisory Council Meeting
Tallahassee

March 16-17, 2010

FCSC Board of Directors Meeting
Tallahassee

March 25, 2010

Children and Youth Cabinet Meeting
Tallahassee

April 11-13, 2010

[Children's Week](#)
Tallahassee

April 30, 2010

Regular Legislative Session Ends

May 27, 2010

Children and Youth Cabinet Meeting
Orlando

June 17-18, 2010

Early Learning Advisory Council Meeting
Orlando

TOP STORIES

Military Leaders Say Investments in Early Learning a Matter of National Security

On Feb. 10 Major General Joseph F. Perugino (Ret., U.S. Army) told the Florida Legislature's Early Childhood Caucus and other interested stakeholders that Department of Defense statistics show 75 percent of young Americans ages 17 to 24 are ineligible to serve in the United States military. He explained that these youngsters lack a high school diploma, have a criminal record, or are physically unfit.



Rep. Ari Porth (far left) stands with (from left to right) Children's Forum President Phyllis Kalifeh, FCSC CEO Vivian Alarcon, Major General Joseph F. Perugino, and Rep. Rich Glorioso.

Representing a nonprofit, bi-partisan group of senior retired military leaders -- Mission: Readiness -- Gen. Perugino said making investments in early childhood programs is critical to addressing this national security issue. Mission: Readiness believes that early investments will most directly impact graduation rates, arrest rates, and the health of America's young people so they will have more career options, including military service.



(Left to Right) Rep. Ari Porth, Major General Joseph F. Perugino and Rep. Rich Glorioso.

He acknowledged the daunting fiscal crisis faced by Florida legislators, but cautioned that de-investing in early learning has more costly implications including the impact on the nation's long-term security. In Florida alone, 1.4 million young adults are not eligible to join the military. However, that may be a low estimate because, compared to the national average, Florida has more young people who are overweight and more young people without on-time high school degrees.

Mission: Readiness will be participating in Children's Week where General George Norwood is scheduled to bring their message to Florida lawmakers. Special thanks go to the Children's Forum for providing the financial support for General Perugino's travel to Tallahassee.

Report from Business Community: Early Learning is Key Element in Closing the Talent Gap

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**CSCs strategically
invest in primary
prevention and early
intervention
programs and
services.**

Haiti Earthquake Relief

We are all extremely saddened by the effects of the disastrous earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12. The Florida Philanthropic Network has organized a list of organizations aiding in the relief efforts. To find out how you can help click [here](#).

A report released by the Florida Chamber and the Council of 100, together with Workforce Florida, says Florida is facing a crisis in human capital. The report, titled "Closing the Talent Gap: A Business Perspective," examines the growing need in Florida for a highly skilled and educated globally competitive workforce in order to drive sustainable economic growth and a diversified economy.

Business leaders with the Chamber and Council of 100 are calling on Florida lawmakers to adopt a new approach for energizing Florida's "Talent Supply Chain." They recommend a framework built around the idea that Florida's talent development system must be seamless, integrated, and coordinated; access-oriented; market-driven; focused on high standards, accountability, and incentives; and cost-effective. The report breaks the Talent Supply Chain into Four Zones with the first zone including School Readiness, VPK and Head Start. [Download the full report.](#)

FAN's Pastor Scrubbs Named Governor's Point of Light for Black History Month

Gov. Charlie Crist recognized Pastor Ken Scrubbs of Fruitland Park as the Governor's Point of Light for Black History Month. Pastor Scrubbs is a member of the Florida Afterschool Network (FAN) Board of Directors. "Ken has a tireless commitment to the betterment of youth in Florida communities" said Gov. Crist. "He is a great public servant, and continues to inspire Florida's youth while advocating for their best interests across our state."

"When you think about role models for youth, the first person that comes to my mind is Pastor Scrubbs" said Larry Pintacuda, Project Director for FAN. "I have witnessed first-hand the tremendous impact he has on kids. We are truly blessed to have him on the FAN Board advocating for the needs of all our children."

FEDERAL WATCH

Obama Budget Proposes Increases for Child Care, Early Learning

On Feb. 1, the Obama Administration released its proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2011, which begins Oct. 1, 2010. The budget includes big gains for early childhood programs, investments in the broader education landscape, and a focus on job creation and support for working families. Among items in the Administration's budget proposal are a \$1.6 billion increase for the Child Care and Development Block grant, an expansion of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, a \$989 million increase for Head Start and Early Head Start, \$9 billion over 10 years for the Early Learning Challenge Fund, and \$10 billion over 10 years for child nutrition programs. The Early Care and Education Consortium in Washington, D.C., released a summary of the budget, which can be found [here](#).

CSC NEWS

Prosperity Campaign 2010 Launched in Broward

On Jan. 29, the Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) launched the 2010 Prosperity Campaign, in conjunction with similar efforts promoting the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) nationwide. The launch took place at the CSC building in Lauderhill and included a Community Resource Fair. The EITC is a tax credit for people who work, but earn low wages. Over the



years, the campaign's focus has broadened beyond tax preparations to include information on hunger relief resources, low-cost health insurance for children, financial literacy and more. Since 2002, free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance centers funded by the CSC and operated by Hispanic Unity, Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc., and other partners have increased returns in Broward by more than \$90 million, with many of those receiving the funds investing in a first home, education or debt reduction. To learn more about the campaign, visit the [Broward CSC web site](#).

2010 FCSC Legislative Program Available Online

The Florida CSC 2010 Legislative Policy Program is available for download on the [Florida CSC web site](#). Florida CSC leadership voted to include in its legislative agenda many issues that are supported by other organizations. This collaborative approach serves to help Florida move toward an integrated early childhood system of care. Among some of the critical priorities supported by the Florida CSC are: early childhood funding, streamlining early learning, and continued improvement of Florida Kidcare. View the complete policy program online at: <http://www.floridacsc.org/advocacy/>.



IN OTHER NEWS

U.S. Chief Technology Officer Announces Launch of Free Mobile Health Service for Pregnant Women and New Mothers

Pregnant women and new mothers will be able to get health information delivered to their mobile phones by text message at no charge through a new public service program being launched by a coalition of mobile phone providers, health professionals and Federal, State and Local agencies. The program, called text4baby, is a free mobile information service that provides timely health information to women from early pregnancy through the baby's first year. Women who sign up for the service by texting BABY to 511411 (or BEBE for Spanish) receive three free SMS text messages each week timed to their due date. The

messages focus on topics critical to the health of moms and babies. For more information on text4baby, visit <http://www.textforbaby.org/>.

NAFCC Seeking Observers in Florida

The National Association for Family Child Care is seeking observers in Florida to conduct on-site observations in Family Child Care homes as part of their accreditation process. Florida has 260 accredited homes and many in process. Florida has the second-highest number in the nation. Interested parties are encouraged to send their qualified staff and accredited providers to training during the Florida Family Child Care Association's 18th Annual Conference in Clearwater Beach at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort, 1160 Gulf Blvd. 727-595-1611. The two-day, 16-hour training will be on Wednesday and Thursday, June 23 - 24, 2010. The cost is \$200.

NET DATA

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Posts Annual Report

The Children and Youth Cabinet has released the Third Annual Report for the fiscal period June 30, 2008, through June 30, 2009. The report is available on the Children and Youth Cabinet web site at: www.flgov.com/youth_cabinet.

Handout provides Glimpse of Southern States use of the Stimulus Money

The Childcare Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families has produced a handout that summarizes how some southern states are using stimulus funds relating to childcare. To view the document and to find out more click [here](#).

Web Site Focuses on Afterschool Science Curricula for Kids

The Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California, Berkeley, has launched a new web site featuring an afterschool science curriculum project called AfterSchool Kidzscience. Known as Great Explorations in Math and Science, the program has developed the first four kits focused on physical science. Visit www.lawrencehallofscience.org/gems/ASKS.html for details.

EVENTS

Partnership for America's Economic Success to Hold National Conference in March 2010

The Partnership for America's Economic Success is planning to hold its National Conference March 10-11, 2010, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. This conference is open to all business, finance and economic leaders, advocates, policymakers and philanthropists interested in furthering early childhood development. [Learn more](#) about the conference. [Register online now](#).

National Afterschool Association Convention Set for April 2010

Join thousands of afterschool professionals for outstanding learning and

networking experiences at the National Afterschool Association Convention in Washington, DC, April 19-21, 2010. The event will feature hundreds of workshops from across the afterschool field. For details, visit www.naaconvention.org/registration.html.

17th Annual National Foster Care Conference Coming to Clearwater in May 2010

The Daniel Memorial Institute will be sponsoring the Annual National Foster Care Conference, scheduled for May 12-14, 2010, in Clearwater. This year's conference will address a variety of problems facing foster care specialists, foster parents and various social service professionals who desire to enhance their skills in order to create the best foster home environment. [Click here](#) for more information.

FFCCHA's 18th Annual Conference-Enhancing Our Minds in 2010

The Florida Family Child Care Home Association's annual conference will be held in Clearwater June 25-27, 2010, at the Clearwater Beach Sheraton Sand Key Resort. Some of the topics to be covered include: Legislative and FCC Rules Update, School Age Activities, Tax Information and Updates, Early Literacy, Insurance and Liability, Curriculums for FCC Homes, and NAFCC Accreditation. Conference and registration information can be found [here](#).

23rd Annual National Independent Living Conference - Growing Pains 2010

Scheduled for Sept. 7-10, 2010, in National Harbor, MD, "Growing Pains 2010" is a must-attend event for youth service professionals, independent living professionals and youth ages 15+. Presenters include top leaders and experts in the field of independent living. The national youth conference consists of special sessions dedicated to the needs of youth who are currently in care. These include training sessions, workshops, panel discussions and leadership/team building activities. [Click here](#) for more information.

11th International Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma

The 11th International Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma has been set for Sept. 12-14, 2010 in Atlanta, GA. The highly successful conferences held every other year focus on four areas of expertise; legal challenges in SBS cases, evidenced and creative prevention programs and initiatives, the latest medical information and research, and support and rehabilitation for families and victims of shaken baby syndrome including rehabilitation and continuum of care issues. For questions regarding the conference, please contact Danielle Vazquez, Conference Coordinator, at (801) 627-3399 or email her at dvazquez@dontshake.org.