



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

DATE: March 28, 2016
TO: Secretary Mike Carroll
FROM: Don Winstead, Risk Pool Peer Review Committee
SUBJECT: Risk Pool Peer Review Committee Recommendations

Attached are the reports of the five Peer Review Committees that were convened to review the applications for Risk Pool funding submitted by Community-Based Care Lead Agencies. Applications were received from:

Community-Based Care of Central Florida – Seminole County
ChildNet – Broward County
ChildNet – Palm Beach County
Sarasota YMCA
Brevard Family Partnership

For each application, an on-site review was conducted by the Peer Review Committee. Recommendations were included in each of the attached reports and each of the applicants were recommended to receive Risk Pool Funding. In addition to the reports an additional document with a summary of the findings and conclusions along with the recommendations is attached.

In recommending the distribution of Risk Pool funds, the following approach was used:

1. Determine the level of funds required by each qualifying Lead Agency to operate through the current fiscal year without disruption of services such as making payments to foster parents and paying service providers including case management agencies and employees.
2. With any remaining funds, determine which qualifying entities are potentially on a path to financial sustainability for next fiscal year if their if funds are provided to eliminate ending the fiscal year in a funding deficit.

In applying those criteria, the recommended distribution of funds is as follows:

Lead Agency	Amount Recommended	Comments
Community-Based Care of Central Florida – Seminole	\$2,418,247	This amount will avoid service disruptions and significantly reduce the projected deficit. This should put the Lead Agency on a sustainable path if the Peer Review Committee recommendations are implemented and the issues related to the size of the organization are addressed.
ChildNet – Broward	\$6,100,000	This amount will avoid service disruptions. Longer term sustainability will depend on implementation of recommendations in the Peer Review Committee Report.
ChildNet – Palm Beach	\$3,900,000	This amount will avoid service disruptions. The Peer Review Committee believes that implementation of the recommended actions should put this Lead Agency on a sustainable path next year.
Sarasota YMCA	\$1,891,577	This amount will avoid service disruptions and will eliminate the projected deficit for this fiscal year. This should put the Lead Agency on a sustainable path next year with the implementation of the Peer Review Committee Recommendations.
Brevard Family Partnership	\$2,690,176	This amount will avoid service disruptions and will eliminate the projected deficit for this fiscal year. This should put the Lead Agency on a sustainable path next year with the implementation of the Peer Review Committee Recommendations.

These recommendations total \$17 million, consistent with the funds appropriated.

In addition to the recommendation on the funding distribution and the recommendations found in each report, we offer two additional recommendations for consideration:

1. On each of the Risk Pool site visits, it was noted that there are a relatively small number of high cost children who are potentially eligible for funding or services from programs or agencies other than child welfare. In some cases, the ability of the DCF Region or the Lead Agency to access other funds appeared to be inconsistent, with local relationships or local perceptions of the availability of resources playing a significant role. We recommend the Secretary, working with the heads of other entities or agencies including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Managing Entities, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Agency for Health Care Administration, review the procedures by which funding issues between and among entities related to these children and their families are adjudicated and resolved. The objective would be for any entity serving these children or families who believes resources from a partner entity should be available could have this situation reviewed by experts from each relevant entity who would be empowered to ensure that the most effective and efficient mix of funds are made available.
2. In addition to providing a mechanism for resolving funding issues involving multiple entities, there appears to be a need for review to elevate visibility of high cost children. It is recommended that the department provide each Region with a list of high-cost children and that the Regional Office, working in conjunction with the Lead Agency, review each child to make sure that all potentially available funding resources are being accessed.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Peer Review Committee reviews and trust that the findings and recommendations in the reports will assist each of the applicant Lead Agencies in providing effective services in a way that is fiscally sustainable.

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