



2017

Florida Supervised Visitation Program Narratives **From the Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation**

Introduction:

The Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation at Florida State University invited all supervised visitation programs in the state to share information about their crucial work serving vulnerable children and families. These short summaries educate and inspire us.

Every program is doing something unique and wonderful for families. When you review the report, see if you can identify the following programs:

1. Which program won the IKEA Challenge, that provided a free makeover including furniture for two visit rooms?
2. Which three programs held Christmas parties or provided gifts for all their child clients?
3. Which program has a new historic home donated and maintained by the county as a supervised visitation site?
4. Which programs have custom painted murals -- Jungle, Sea Creatures, and Horses -- on their visitation room walls to make their programs child-friendly?
5. Which program has a new video monitoring system to ensure safety donated by the Rotary Club?
6. Which program has law students volunteering (a year at a time) at the program?
7. Which program has offered Trauma-Sensitive Yoga and Coping with Crying classes to prevent Shaken baby Syndrome?
8. Which programs offer the Safebridge program (for kids witnessing DV), the ABC Parent Training Program, and the Healing Arts program for clients which features musical instruments?
9. Which program has full time security donated by the County?

(Answers are at the end of the report)



Circuit 1

Safe Connections Supervised Visitation Center

PO Box 436, Shalimar, FL 32579

Program Director: Sharon Rogers 850-609-1850

Contact E-mail: sharongrogers@hotmail.com

Number of Sites: 3 Counties Served: Okaloosa, Walton

Safe Connections, formerly the Judge Ben Gordon, Jr. Family Visitation Center, celebrated their 20th anniversary of providing supervised visitation services for Okaloosa County. The year was made even more special by the relocation of two of their three sites. The Shalimar site moved from its longtime home in donated space in a local church into a centrally located and completely remodeled house from the 50's. The space is set up to accommodate a separate parking area, entrance and waiting room for custodial parents, ensuring the highest level of safety while still maintaining a comfortable atmosphere for the families.

2nd Site: Defuniak Springs SVC

986 S. US Hwy 331, Defuniak Sps, FL 32433 850-951-0177

The Safe Connections DeFuniak Springs Visitation Center has now been open for more than 11 years serving the northern more rural end of Walton County. The County Commissioners recently commissioned the complete remodel of an historic home in downtown DeFuniak Springs to serve as the new home for Safe Connections. Walton County is providing this space and all associated costs in-kind to ensure the viability of maintaining this much need service to their community. The remodel was designed to provide for the optimum safety and comfort for the families. We continue to work hard to meet the needs of a growing military presence in north Okaloosa County.

3rd Site: Crestview SVC

618 7th Ave. Crestview, FL 850-609-1850

The Safe Connections Crestview Family Visitation Center has now been open for more than 8 years serving the rural areas of northern Okaloosa County.

Children's Home Society FVC – Pensacola

1300 N. Palafox St, Pensacola, FL 32501

Program Director: Brandi Hicks 850-266-2743

Contact E-mail: brandi.hicks@chsfl.org

Number of Sites: 2 Counties Served: Escambia, Santa Rosa

The Family Visitation Center is located inside the Children's Home Society, Western Division. We serve nearly fifty families a year, with several cases ending due to the visiting parent being granted unsupervised visitation. The visitation center is operated by a single director with an occasional intern from the University of West Florida. We have a jungle themed room and a seas creature themed room that the kids absolutely love. We have tables, a television with a DVD player, and all kinds of toys and movies for all age groups to enjoy. We continue to be one of the area's only SV centers and pride ourselves on providing a safe and homey place for families to reconnect.

2nd Site: Milton FVC

6480 Hwy. 90, Milton, FL 32570 850-266-2743

The Milton site was added several years ago to the Children's Home Society Family Visitation Center of Pensacola. With this new site available, the CHS FVC can offer supervised visitation and other services to those families living farther away from Pensacola. This enables many more new families to receive services. Florida has many rural areas that need services, and the Milton Program helps meet that need for noncustodial parents.

Circuit 2

DISC Village, Inc. Supervised Visitation Program

1000 W. Tharpe Street #15 Tallahassee, FL 32304

Program Director: Angela Lindsey 850-617-1192

Contact E-mail: alindsey@discvillage.com

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Leon, Wakulla, Liberty, Gadsden, Jefferson, Taylor, Calhoun, Gulf (8)

The Disc Village Supervised Family visitation center currently has an order of agreement with the second judicial circuit to services family law cases in the Big Bend Community. We create a more enhanced family-like setting for the children and families we serve. In addition to that we have a life-skills curriculum for parents. Our goal is to help these families increase resilience, build on their current strengths and overcome barriers. We are honored to serve our families and look forward to fourth year of providing excellent service to children and families in the Big Bend Community.

Circuit 3

Family Visitation Center of Alachua

1409 NW 36th PL Gainesville, FL 32605

Program Director: Beverly Jones 352-334-0882

Contact E-mail: Beverly.jones@chsfl.org

Number of Sites: 2 Counties Served: Alachua, Suwanee

The Family Visitation Center of Alachua County continues to provide supervised visitations to families in both the dependency and family courts. More than 140 families visited for over 1500 hours in the last year. In addition, a monthly average of 8 volunteers and interns from the community and University of Florida provided over 3,350 hours towards supervising visits.

With assistance from Alachua County, the center was fortunate to be able to provide full-time on-site security. Also, numerous volunteers from the community continue to provide

many hours of monitoring visits. This has allowed more families to utilize the services and to increase the visit time for many families.

2nd Site: Family Visitation Center of Suwanee (Circuit 8)

620 SW Arlington Blvd, Lake City, FL 32025 386-758-0591

Program Director: Kimberly Stratton, LMHC, 386-758-0591

Contact E-mail: Kimberly.Stratton@chsfl.org

Number of sites: 1 Counties Served: Alachua, Gilchrist, Dixie, Levy, Bradford, and Union

The center is fully a part of the community's help for families. It was the recipient of a new video monitoring system from the Rotary Club. Members of the Rotary Club have volunteered at the Family Visitation Center "sprucing up" the playground and grounds. The community fully understands how crucial it is to have a safe place for families to spend time together in a loving, caring, child-friendly environment. Our services are crucial to this community. Currently we average 268 families' visits in the last year. We are working with local agencies to provide an awareness of our services as well as provide community education as needed. Most recently, several United Way community partners have also adopted our FVC to upgrade the facility in keeping with making it a safe warm place for children to come and visit. Those partners include: Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, Troop 2224, Wayne's Flooring, Vann Flooring, and Flooring Zone, all of Lake City, Florida.

Chances for Children

405 E. Duval St. Lake City, FL 32055

Program Director: Sandy Tice 386-752-4453

Contact E-Mail: ChancesforChildren@comcast.net

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Columbia, Suwannee , Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Taylor, Baker, Union

Each year our entire community comes together to throw a Christmas party for the kids. Various churches and organizations sponsor the event and we are able to give gifts to 120+ kids. Each of our 22 sponsors puts up a tree at the event for the children to decorate and have fun. Also, each group hosts a crafts booth where the kids can make gifts they can give, such as picture frames, ornaments, and other crafts items. When they leave, each child gets a gift food bag so they have enough to eat during the holidays when not a school for breakfast and lunch. The highlight is the fact that the whole community works together on this!

In house, we also have our own Build-A-Bear system. Each child begins by building an animal of their choice to keep and hold in therapy sessions. This is a friend they always

have with them when things get rough. Throughout their sessions, they can get clothes for their animal as well. This is by far the kids' favorite thing!

Circuit 4

Family Nurturing Center of Florida - Bartley

2759 Bartley Cr. Jacksonville, FL 32207

Program Director: Elaine Jacobs 904-389-4244

Contact E-mail: elaine@fncflorida.org

Number of Sites: 3 Counties Served: Duval, Clay, Baker, Nassau, St. Johns

2nd Site: Fleming Isle: 2075 Town Center Blvd. Fleming Isle, FL

3rd Site: Nassau: 86029 Pages Dairy Rd. Yulee, FL

The Family Nurturing Center and Florida Coastal School of Law have been partners for several years to provide a variety of services pro bono. FNC selects interns that have expressed an interest in practicing family law to work with our families. FNC FCSL pro bono interns make a minimum of a yearlong commitment and give their time several hours per week providing programmatic assistance to the court and parties during domestic violence injunction hearings and reviewing contracts for new client admissions. In doing so, Florida Coastal Law students fulfill hour requirements and gain invaluable on the job training with families from all walks of life who may be experiencing a difficult time as their family restructures. Several of our pro bono FCSL interns remain with FNC beyond the required timeframe and continue to aid the program in various capacities. FNC is proud of the ongoing relationship we have with FCSL and appreciates the support their interns provide.

Circuit 5

LifeStream Best Practices SVP Wildwood

901 Industrial Dr. #101 Wildwood, FL 34785

Program Director: Melinda Musick, (352) 348-7999

Contact E-mail: judy.shelton@kidscentralinc.org melinda.musick@chsfl.org

Number of Sites: 2 Counties Served: Sumpter, Lake

2nd Site: Best Practices SVP Tavares: 1300 S. Duncan Dr. Tavares, FL

Youth and Family Alternatives Best Practices SVP

201 S. Howell Ave. Brooksville, FL 34601

Program Director: Melissa Atkinson (352) 754-1111

Contact E-mail: melissa.atkinson@kidscentralinc.org

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Hernando, Citrus

Utilizing our SV program and its services YFA has been able to be a constant leader within our Circuit for timely reunifications at 40.36% average, above the state and federal averages. In addition, with the intense services and supports received while our parents participate in the program our recidivism rate is amongst the lowest at 95.8% if our reunified children do not re-enter care. YFA staff are dedicated to working with our families to help strengthen and build their resolve so they do not re-enter our system after addressing the issues that brought them to the department's attention.

The Centers, Inc. Best Practices SVP

3300 SW 34th Ave. #101 Ocala, FL 34473

Program Director: Robin Lanier (352) 867-1536 x5312

Contact E-mail: Robin.Lanier@kidscentralinc.org

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Marion

Circuit 6

Family Partnerships – New Port Richey

8044 Old County Rd. 54 New Port Richey, FL 34654

Program Director: Tina White 727-807-9826

Contact E-Mail: familypartnershipssouth@gmail.com

Number of Sites : 2 Counties Served : Pasco, Pinellas

Family Partnerships does a great job of using volunteers and interns. We use Master of Social Work interns, Psychology and Counseling interns. I think they make the program better by constantly asking questions and making suggestions. It's great to have new thoughts and ideas. I also believe that they make our program better because it enables us to offer free groups and counseling to the community because our interns are unpaid. We even have an MSW intern that is yoga certified. She provides trauma sensitive yoga for free to dependency clients. We also receive volunteers from the community college and many have changed their major to social work after volunteering with us.

We work with our clients to do domestic violence safety plans, and we cross train with our local DV center and child protective services agencies. We also do local presentations to community groups about child safety. Local law enforcement does periodic walk-throughs of the facility to ensure everything is safe.

Our staff is also exemplary. We have one Spanish speaking staff member and one of my employees is becoming certified in ASL. We also do cross training with the local court and DV center or child protective agency. We teach Coping with Crying to every family with a child under the age of three due to a child dying from shaken baby syndrome. Whenever possible we hold a Christmas and holiday parties for our clients.

To make our center more like a home, we had a local artist paint every wall in the center. We also use the local performing arts middle school to do our murals. They design them and then we have an art showing in which they dress in formal attire and the community votes on the mural that wins. Our theme in each room is hope and each contains inspirational messages. The middle school artists can design the room in any manner that says hope to them. In addition, we throw a Christmas party every year and collect gifts for the children.

2nd Site: Family Partnerships - Clearwater

1421 Court St. #B, Clearwater, FL 34657 727-234-7795

Sustainable Family Services

8487 9th St. North St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Program Director: Brandice Almeida 727-318-3224

Contact E-mail: Brandice@susfamservices.com

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Pinellas

Sustainable Family Services offers a home like environment for safe, comfortable, and nurturing visits. Our visitation center includes multiple visitation rooms, kitchen, lush backyard, sensory garden, butterfly garden, chicken coop! We engage with families to identify barriers to success and work to increase supportive factors and positive relationships between visiting parent and child.

Circuit 7

Deland Harmony House SVC

247 W. Voorhis Ave. DeLand, FL 32720

Program Director: Debra Whites 386-740-3839 x226

Contact E-mail: debra.whites@cshfl.org

Number of Sites: 3 Counties Served: Flagler, Volusia

Harmony House is a Children's Home Society Visitation Center located in the city of Deland, Florida. Harmony take dependency cases only. We are so proud of the work we do for the families we serve. We are rewarded each day knowing we make it possible for the visits to happen in a safe environment.

2nd Site: Family Tree House SVC

525 S. Ridgewood Ave. Daytona Bch, FL 32114
Program Director: Stephanie Pete 386-323-2550
Contact E-mail: Stephanie.Pete@chsfl.org

Tree House is a Children's Home Society Visitation Center located in Daytona Beach, Florida. The Tree House take dependency and Family Law cases. We at the Tree House feel honored that because of the work we do, children and their parents can visit in a safe and fun environment.

3rd Site: Sally's House

103 E. Moody Blvd. Nummell, FL 32110
Program Director: Christine Heichel 386-263-8771
Contact E-mail: Christine.Heichel@chfl.org

Sally's Safe Haven in Flagler County has Domestic Violence only cases, Dependency Cases with Domestic Violence and Dependency only cases. Every Thursday morning the Sally's Safe Visitation Support Workers sit in on the DV cases at the court house to make it easier for families to complete orientation right then and there. Program Supervisor and staff are also involved with The Domestic Violence Summit in Flagler County where agencies have gotten together to make the community more aware of DV and to try and combat the issue with the ideas from several different focus groups. On October 2, 2017 Children's Home Society's Regional Program Director Eric Loscial accepted a Proclamation from the city for the stellar work that Sally's Safe Haven does when it comes to Domestic Violence.

Kid's Bridge

238 San Marco Ave. St. Augustine, FL 32084
Program Director: Sandy Acuff 904-824-8810
Contact E-mail: lynnandmatt@bellsouth.net

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: St. John's

Our program offers the Healing Arts therapeutic program which includes various musical instruments and art supplies/projects for the children to use. It is by far their favorite part of each visit. In addition, we offer parenting classes/coaching, BIP, and divorce stabilization classes for kids.

Family Resource Connection

309 Main St. Palatka, FL 32177

Program Director: Stephanie Morrow 386-385-5093

Contact E-mail: stephanie@familyresourcefl.org

Number of sites: 5 Counties Served: St. John's, Duval, Putnam, Clay

Our main center is in Palatka, but we offer visits at 4 other sites as needed. We are now in a new building donated by TD Bank which has been a wonderful addition to our service abilities. We have several community organizations that donate gifts via Christmas Trees around town. They have also been recognized as the Charity of the Season which brings in many special perks for the kids.

Our staff is incredibly dedicated in good times and bad. They do so much for too little and without their dedication and compassion for the children, we wouldn't be in operation.

2nd Site: Satellite Office

1023 State Road 20, Interlachen, FL 32148

Program Director: Stephanie Morrow 386-385-5093

Circuit 8

FVC Alachua Site: Family Visitation Center of Suwanee

620 SW Arlington Blvd, Lake City, FL 32025 386-758-0591

Program Director: Kimberly Stratton, LMHC, 386-758-0591

Contact E-mail: Kimberly.Stratton@chsfl.org

Number of sites: 1 Counties Served: Alachua, Gilchrist, Dixie, Levy, Bradford, and Union

The center is fully a part of the community's help for families. It was the recipient of a new video monitoring system from the Rotary Club. Members of the Rotary Club have volunteered at the Family Visitation Center "sprucing up" the playground and grounds. The community fully understands how crucial it is to have a safe place for families to spend time together in a loving, caring, child-friendly environment. Our services are crucial to this community. Currently we average 268 families' visits in the last year. We are working with local agencies to provide an awareness of our services as well as provide community education as needed. Most recently, several United Way community partners have also adopted our FVC to upgrade the facility in keeping with making it a safe warm place for children to come and visit. Those partners include: Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, Troop 2224, Wayne's Flooring, Vann Flooring, and Flooring Zone, all of Lake City, Florida.

Circuit 9

Family Support and Visitation Center (Devereux)

118 Pasadena Place, Orlando, FL 32803

Program Director: Sylvanita Trevino 407-999-5577

Contact E-mail: strevino@devereux.org

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Orange

In operation since 1997, not only do we provide supervised visitation, we also provide the nationally acclaimed Nurturing Parenting Program to the interested parents. This is a 15 week family program that includes the whole family, whether they are reunified or not during the program. We afford the parents the ability to “graduate” in front of their children, a proud event for the first time for many of these parents.

Osceola FVC

2653 Michigan Ave. Kissimmee, FL 34744

Program Director: Erika Ramos 407-846-5077

Contact E-mail: Erika.ramos@chsfl.org

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Osceola

Florida has a diverse population, and our site has bilingual staff that are fluent in Spanish as well as English. We also have terrific volunteers from the Foster Grandparents program who do a wonderful job of making the children feel comfortable and at home. One room has a large mural on the wall depicting an outdoor scene with horses – this seems to be a favorite of our 3 visit rooms, as is our video game room.

We are very proud of our ability to provide transportation for children attending the center. We pick them up from home or school and bring them to the center for their visits. The Nurturing Parent program is also used in our center where parents learn better parenting skills. This program has been a tremendous success in helping our clients achieve reunification.

Family Ties Visitation Center

425 N. Orange Ave Room#330 Orlando, FL 32801

Program Director: Valerie Tolentino 407-836-0426

Contact E-mail: ctfcvt1@cnjcc.org

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Orange

The Family Ties program just celebrated our 20th anniversary of helping families reunite and rebuild their lives together. Our visitation site is at a public school so we are able to provide a large variety of activities for kids including art, music, games, and a nice playground. We have the most incredibly talented and dedicated staff, many who have

been with us for over ten years. They do this work with compassion and a passion for helping others. Without them we would not be able to serve the community as we do.

Circuit 10

United Way Family Fundamentals

1021 Lakeland Hills Blvd. # 2 Lakeland, FL 33805
Program Director: Carolyn Ivey 863-686-1221 x222
Contact E-mail: Carolyn.Ivey@uwcf.org

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Polk, Highlands, Hardee

Our supervised visitation program is modeled on the parent training program, Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up (ABC). The goal of the ABC training is to enhance parents' capacities for interacting with their children in nurturing, synchronous, and non-frightening ways. HFC is the lead agency for Community Based care in Polk Hardee, and Highlands Counties. HFC partnered with United Way of Central Florida to bring this program to the Polk County community, both organizations also collaborating with Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, a local case management organization for the benefit of creating an opportunity for parents who are going through the dependency court process to be able to visit with their children in a home like setting that is supervised by an unbiased individual who then reports the interaction to the court.

The primary purpose of these supervised visits is to allow the children to preserve relationships with their primary caregivers, giving children the reassurance that they have not been abandoned and in allowing the children to see and interact with their parents on a weekly basis. The supervised weekly visits also reassure the parents that the agency wants the family to be unified and is not trying to separate them from their children. Upon completion of the weekly visits, the children are each given an age appropriate book by the visitation coordinator to promote early learning and literacy.

The weekly visits take place at Family Fundamentals, which is a parent resource center and a project of Success by 6, an early childhood education and literacy program sponsored by United Way of Central Florida that promotes early childhood development; the physical, emotional, social, and mental foundation to succeed in school and in life.

What makes Family Fundamentals stand out is that we are partnered with a health care facility, Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine (LVIM) that provides free medical care to uninsured and the underinsured. Additionally, Family Fundamentals serves a diverse population with over forty-six community agencies that partner to provide free services to children and their families with the idea of strengthening families with resources such as child and caregiver interactive classes, while offering many ideas and activities to promote brain development and family relationships children need to enter school ready to succeed. Recurring activities for parents and children include pre-school story and activity

time, Mommy and Me Playgroups, consisting of various ages and stages of children from under 12 months to 3-5 year olds.

Circuit 11

Children's Home Society FVC Miami

800 NW 15th St. Miami, FL 33136

Program Director: Harold Hankerson 305-755-6574

Contact E-mail: Harold.Hankerson@chsfl.org

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Dade

The Family Visitation Center of the Children's Home Society serves the visitation needs of parents and children in the dependency court system of District 11, and has always done so completely without charge to the parents. We provide both supervised and therapeutically supervised visitation for families. We view as our greatest accomplishment the positive role we play in aiding in the re-unification of families and children by providing a safe, home-like environment for visitation.

Circuit 12

Youth & Family Alternatives

5729 Manatee Ave. West

Bradenton, FL 34209

Program Director: Tiffany Vandemark 352-754-1111 x4342

Contact E-mail: tvandemark@sarasotaymca.org

Number of Sites: 2 Counties Served: Manatee, Sarasota

2nd Site: Y&F Alt. – Sarasota

1500 Independence Blvd. #200

Sarasota, FL 34243

The program is currently serving children and families in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. We have served over 800 children in the last 18 months. The number of children coming into care has increased significantly over the last 18 months due to the Heroin epidemic. Staff work closely with families to ensure they maintain a strong connection with their children as they work their way to reunification.

In Sarasota, we have piloted the Early Childhood Court Model which allows children achieve permanency more quickly. Our transport staff work closely with the foster parents and the parents to ensure visitation is consistent and meaningful. This model is likely to roll out soon in Manatee and when it does, the transport staff will be working toward the same goal of quality visitation.

Circuit 13

Children's Justice Center

700 E. Twiggs St. Suite 102 Tampa, FL 33602
Program Director: Trish Waterman 813-272-7179
Contact E-mail: watermpl@fljud13.org

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Hillsborough

The program has an advocate to work with caregivers and children who have been exposed to domestic violence. The program is called Safebridge and the advocate who helps navigate the parent through the system, provides referrals, and safety planning. Communication is face to face, through emails and phone calls and the advocate assist the family as long as there is a need. Another of our program highlights is Hillsborough County Sherriff's Office (HCSO) annual toy drive and gift wrapping event. It provides gifts for over 135 children at the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's Children's Justice Center – Supervised Visitation Program (CJC).

In early November, CJC provides HCSO with a list of all the children's ages and gender connected to a number only. HCSO purchases gifts and CJC sponsors a gift wrapping party. Once gifts are wrapped and tagged with an identifying number, CJC staff matches to the gift to each child visiting and presents the gift after the visits during the two weeks before Christmas!

Circuit 15

Children's Home Society – West Palm

4100 Okeechobee Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL 33409
Program Director: Julie Demar 561-352-2500
Contact E-mail: Julie.demar@chsfl.org

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Palm Beach

Circuit 17

SAFE Visits - Kids in Distress

819 N.E. 26th St. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33305
Program Director: Cindy Fuller, 954-390-7654 ext. 1507
Contact E-mail: cindyfuller@kidinc.org

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Broward

Kids In Distress Visitation Program is the only accredited program in all of Broward County. KID receives funding via ChildNet through the Access and Visitation Grant

Program. This funding provides Therapeutic Visitation to families with children ages birth through 17 years of age who reside in Broward County who have been removed from their homes.

Our program has one full time Visitation Specialist who is a Master's level therapist. She lends her expertise to help the families process the therapeutic visits as well as facilitate the supervised visits.

The quality of work that our program provides is recognized by other agencies in the community. We work closely with ChildNet to provide therapeutic and supervised visitation.

Our campus provides a fun site for visits with two beautiful playgrounds, and visitation rooms full of toys for every age group. Our two visitation rooms were recently redone by IKEA as Kids in Distress recently won the IKEA challenge.

Kids In Distress prides itself with quality programs and the best staff and the visitation program reflects that in every way.

Circuit 18

Eckerd Youth – Brevard Family Visitation Services

2226 Sarno Rd/ #107 Melbourne, FL 32935

Program Director: Talia Bryant 321-307-5102 Stanley Brizz

Contact E-mail: tbyrant@eckerd.org

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Brevard

We offer Four (4) Levels of Visitation

1. Therapeutic Supervised Visitation (Most Intensive Level)
 2. Standard Supervised Visitation (Intermediate Level)
 3. Group Visitation (Moderate Level)
 4. Intermittent Visitation (Lower Level)
- All of our visitation clients are offered the opportunity to participate in a Parenting Assessment if indicated (parents with a recommendation for a Parenting Assessment and or Parenting Classes indicated on their Dependency Court case plan)
 - All of our visitation clients are offered the opportunity to participate in a 16-week parenting program if indicated (parents with a recommendation for a Parenting

Assessment and or Parenting Classes indicated on their Dependency Court case plan)

Supervised family visitation, or supported family visitation, is an important component in child welfare cases in which children have temporarily been removed from their parents' or guardians' homes for abuse or neglect. This service allows a parent to visit with their child in a safe, home-like environment with visits monitored and documented by licensed counselors. The program offers an objective approach to giving parents and families a second chance at unification. We provided two forms of therapeutic visitation via two contracts with our local Community-Based Care Organization. One format involves intense coaching and mentoring as part of the visitation process, which is focused on helping the parents develop and improve beneficial parenting skills through phases of development. The other format is standard therapeutic supervised visitation which aims to ensure the safety of the children during the visit and redirect the parent to correct behaviors when necessary. We also do local presentations to community groups about child safety.

Visits are conducted in a safe environment conducive to parent-child bonding. The licensed counselors also participate in Family Team Conferences. Eckerd provides services designed to help families reintegrate children into their homes after they have been in foster care or other out-of-home placements. Reunification services typically begin with the family while the child is still living outside of the home, helping to create a safe and successful transition.

Safe House of Seminole – The YANA Project

901 S. French Ave. Sanford, FL

Program Director: Tina Eudell 407-302-1010

Contact E-mail: teudell@safehouseofseminole.org

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Seminole

The YANA Project honors a beautiful two-year old named Yana who was murdered by her father here in Seminole County after he received unsupervised visits. Yana's name stands for "You Are Never Alone". The fact that we have not had any major incidents to take place at The Y.A.N.A Project, along with the overall satisfaction from the families served has been outstanding. The staff at The Y.A.N.A. Project goes far and beyond assisting families by providing them with additional services such as information and resources about jobs, housing, clothing, food and toiletries', both male and female.

As all team members at The Y.A.N.A. Project are Core Comp and are trained as Victim Advocates against domestic violence, through the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV); safety planning is a number one priority. To ensure the safety of everyone, families with allegations of domestic violence are provided with separate visiting times. Oftentimes we find ourselves providing crisis counseling, empowerment-based advocacy and encouragement to some of our families; both English and Spanish

speaking. The Y.A.N.A. Project also provides armed security on property to ensure everyone's safety.

The YANA Project, a program of the Seminole County Victims' Rights Coalition, Inc., dba Safe House of Seminole, a private, non-profit domestic violence center. The YANA Project, designed to help families who have experienced domestic violence or other types of abuse, is the newest program of the Safe House of Seminole.

YANA Project has six different visitation rooms painted and decorated in a variety of entertaining themes by AAA of Lake Mary. Each room has a different theme and features age appropriate toys and games. Highlights include an art room where children can paint or draw with their visiting parent and a game room featuring a foosball table, a frogger video game and a pool table which converts to ping pong or table hockey. A child who comes to YANA painted and decorated a picture in our art room, the picture reads: "The YANA Place", come and be happy! The picture is now located in our front lobby and is YANA's featured theme.

Circuit 19

Devereux CBC

10570 S. Federal Hwy #300 Pt. St. Lucie, FL
Program Director: Tavaris Williams
Contact E-mail: tavaris.williams@devereuxcbc.org

Number of Sites: 1 Counties served: Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River,
Okeechobee

The Family Support Workers of the Treasure Coast do a tremendous job in ensuring that supervised visitation is available for all Devereux families. Children are transported from our four counties to locations that are safe and accessible for each visiting party. Parents are given multiple confirmation attempts to secure their visits, and scheduling change requests are accommodated whenever possible. Through Devereux's supervised visitation program, families are able to safely transition into less restrictive visitation arrangements, which aid in faster reunifications as each case's circumstances dictate.

The Toby Center

100E. Linton Blvd. #104B Delray Beach, FL 33483
Program Director: Meredith Schlegel 855-862-9236 x1
Contact E-mail: MSchlegel@tobycenter.org

100 E. Linton Blvd.

Number of Sites: 12 Counties Served: Pinellas, Hillsborough,
Broward, Palm Beach, Polk, Orange, Seminole, Highlands

The Toby Center for Family Transitions, Inc. is 501c3 non profit agency founded by Dr. Mark D. Roseman in South Florida in 2008 as a one stop child centered model for serving single, separate, divorced and never married parents and their children. All services are available during the week, weekends and holidays. The Center staff hours are flexible to accommodate our client family needs.

Fifteen professional and clinical staff throughout Florida offer supervised and therapeutic supervised visitation services and electronic phone monitoring, family therapy, the Florida mandated co-parenting education course both online and in classes, in several counties and serve seven circuit courts for family and dependency (foster children) custodial and reunification needs. The Toby Center also provides trainings for parents in high conflict divorce with an online course, High Conflict Solutions.

The staff firmly believes that when children are able to properly adjust to the trauma of separation and conflict between their parents, they are more likely to experience a better quality of life. Standard and therapeutic visitation services are provided both onsite and offsite with the goal to normalize parent and child bonds with valuable, and enjoyable parenting activities in order for your children to have the best possible transition through your changing family situation.

Circuit 20

Lutheran Services

2285 Victoria Ave. Ft. Myers, FL 33907

Program Director: Cheryl Green-Ervin 239-461-7651

Contact E-mail: cgreen-ervin@childnetswfl.org

Number of Sites: 1 Counties Served: Lee, Charlotte

Lutheran Services Florida Visitation Program has been in existence since 2007. We provide services to families that are a part of the dependency system, working to regain custody of their children. Our staff receives some training from the training unit of the CBC Lead Agency. We are planning a Christmas party for the clients and their children in the visitation program. This year we held another Easter Egg Hunt for the children. The food, eggs, and prizes were donated.

Our visitation rooms were painted by members of the Lutheran congregation church. A private donor donated flat screen TV's, DVD/VCR combos, and paint for each visitation room. The donor has also donated pampers, wet wipes and some gift cards to the program as well.

The Lutheran Church also raised monies to help purchase furniture for the visitation rooms. We have partnered with SIYA, a program that helps teens to transition out of foster

care. They have assisted with getting toys donated, helping to move furniture and with some gently used children's clothing.

Family Resource Center of SW Florida

P.O. Box 07248 Ft. Myers, FL 33919

Program Director: Tina Friedman 561-706-6715

Contact E-mail: TFriedman01@comcast.net

FRC has served the community for the past seven years. FRC holds an annual fundraiser in collaboration with The Association of Family Law Professionals of Lee County. The agency's Masters level therapist works in conjunction with Masters level Psychology interns from Hodges University as well as community volunteers.

Until last year, we operated through the generosity of The Children's Advocacy Center, in Fort Myers, where we had use of that facility on Saturdays and Sundays only. In January, 2016 and again, because of another generous community member, a highly respected, medical professional, FRC was incredibly fortunate to have been offered a space of our own. Since this November, we have our own lovely, comfortable, family friendly, six room center and have been able to offer Supervised Parenting Time during the week, weekends and holidays. The Center staff hours are flexible to accommodate the client family needs.

FRC is gradually expanding the scope of services offered to include Reunification Therapy and Therapeutic Visitations. FRC's long range goal is to offer a wide array of family enhancing services, classes and community resources in support of the entire family system. We seek to successfully transition families from the effects of trauma, pain and chaos that prevails in broken homes.

Over the past several months, a collaboration of seven family law professionals, FRC board members and FRC alumni have volunteered hours of personal time to create and develop a Supervised Parenting Time Model for Best Practices for the Lee County Court. This model has been created with the intention of providing the Judicial System and the family with a template or unified formula for measuring and determining the level of supervision necessary for the family system. The model pays special attention to goal achievement during Supervised Parenting Time and is meant to serve as a road map for all concerned to move effectively and productively through the process while offering a projected time line for completion. The Model was just recently, unanimously accepted by the 20th Circuit and is being launched in the near future. This has been a very positive and productive year at FRC and we anticipate more good things to happen in support of the community we serve.

Answers

1. Kids in Distress - Circuit 17
2. Lutheran Services - Circuit 20, Children's Justice Center – Circuit 13 Chances for Children –Circuit 3
3. Safe Connections, Defuniak Springs – Circuit 1
4. Children's Home SVC Society Pensacola/Jungle theme and Sea Creatures theme – Circuit 1 and Osceola Family VC/ Outdoor scene with horses – Circuit 9
5. FVC of Suwanee – Circuit 8
6. Family Nurturing Center – Circuit 4
7. Family Partnerships, New Port Richey – Circuit 6
8. Children's Justice Center – Circuit 13; United Way Family Fundamentals -- Circuit 10, and Kids Bridge –Circuit 7
9. Family Visitation Center of Alachua – Circuit 3

Submitted to DCF November 22, 2017 by Karen Oehme, Director koehme@fsu.edu