



**FY2017/2018
Children's Services Annual Plan
Adopted
December 13, 2016**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES FY17/18 ANNUAL PLAN

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Thank You!

We acknowledge the efforts of those individuals who provide essential information necessary to assess the needs of children in Manatee County. Input received from private citizens, local social service agencies, the business community, various state agencies and county departments play a major role in the development of this plan.

Introduction

Each year the Children's Services Advisory Board (CSAB) presents the Annual Plan to the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) which includes information that covers three fiscal years, reflecting the past, present, and future work of the Advisory Board and Children's Services staff. The Children's Services Advisory Board reviews program performance and budget data from the previous fiscal year, conducts reviews of programs funded during the current fiscal year, and builds the plan for the next fiscal year.

The plan is divided into three sections based on the data, which includes:

- Future Children's Services investment goals and priorities for Fiscal Year 17/18.
- A recap of the 2016/17 Fiscal Year budget, funding priorities, and programs approved for funding.
- A report on the use of FY15/16 funds for each purpose category.

Manatee County Board of County Commissioners

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Charles B. Smith, District 2

Stephen R. Jonsson, District 3

Robin DiSabatino, District 4

Vanessa Baugh, District 5

Betsy Benac, At-Large

Carol Whitmore, At-Large

Children's Services Advisory Board

Membership and Term Expiration Dates

Chair

Kimberly Kutch
Dept. of Children & Families
9/30/18

Vice-Chair

Cornelle Maxfield
Child Advocate
9/30/18

Criminal Justice Representative

**Jeremy
Giddens**
9/30/19

Family Law Division Judge

Vacant

Licensed Mental Health Professional

**Melanie
Teves Bell, LMFT**
9/30/18

Manatee County School Board Member

**Karen
Carpenter**
9/30/17

NAACP Representative

**Lynette
Edwards**
9/30/17

Physician/ Pediatrician

**George
VanBuren, MD**
9/30/19

United Way of Manatee County

**Debbie
Tapp**
9/30/18

Child Advocates

**Xtavia
Bailey**
9/30/17

**Sheryl
Schrepf**
9/30/18

**Eloise
Lisch**
9/30/17

**Pierrette
Kelly**
9/30/19

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world..." ~ Margaret Mead

Fiscal Year 17/18 Investment Goals & Priorities



Fiscal Year 17/18 – Investment Goals and Priorities

The Advisory Board reviews and evaluates comprehensive risk factor and indicator data gathered from a variety of reliable and relevant local, state, and national resources to determine the ongoing and emerging needs of the children and families in our community. At the annual retreat, held on October 21, 2016, the members brought forth serious community problems and indicators of consistent local issues, from their individual areas of expertise, which challenge children and their families.

A new initiative—Results First—recently adopted by the Advisory Board, is a change in philosophy from that of a funder to an investor. In this transitional year, the board will begin to focus less on funding programs and more on investing the Children’s Services Dedicated Millage in results that can move the needle in the established priority areas and be beneficial for children and families in our community.

CSAB FY17/18 Identified Priorities & Desired Results

Opioid/Substance Abuse Crisis & High Demand for Foster Care

- Programs to increase percentage of children exiting foster care within twelve months or less of entering care

Achievement Gap

- Programs to decrease summer learning loss
- Programs to improve third-grade reading proficiency

Developmental Delays & Learning Disabilities

- Programs to increase screenings for developmental delays and learning disabilities
- Programs to aid parents in Individualized Education Program/Plan (IEP) development to meet their child’s learning needs

Behavioral Health

- Programs to increase available and effective behavioral health treatment in early childhood

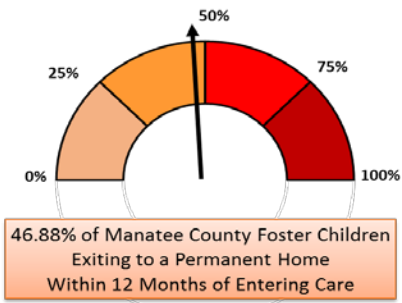
Bullying

- Programs to reduce the instances of bullying for elementary and middle school age children

Healthy Lifestyle

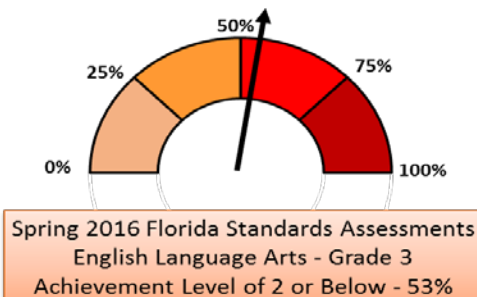
- Programs to increase nutritious and adequate food supply for children
- Programs to reduce childhood obesity

Fiscal Year 17/18 – Priority Data



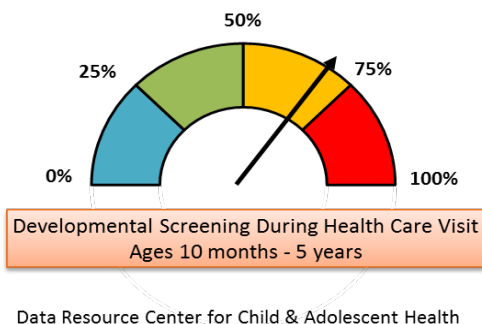
OPIOID/SUBSTANCE ABUSE CRISIS & HIGH DEMAND FOR FOSTER CARE

Child removals in Manatee County are high, largely due to an epidemic of parental opioid/substance use and domestic violence, increasing demand for foster care¹. Children who have experienced abuse or neglect have a heightened need for permanency, security and emotional constancy and are at great risk because of the inconsistencies in their lives and the foster care system. Every effort should be made to rapidly establish a permanent placement for the child.²



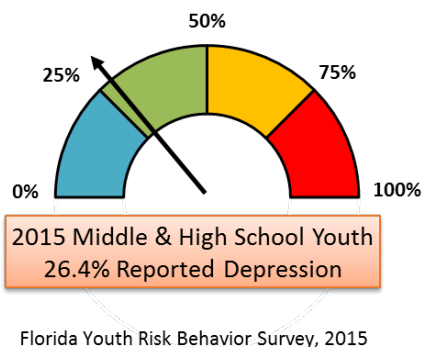
ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Summer learning loss means that many low-income students are 2 to 2½ years behind in reading proficiency by the end of the third grade; and it accounts for about two-thirds of the ninth-grade achievement gap in reading.³



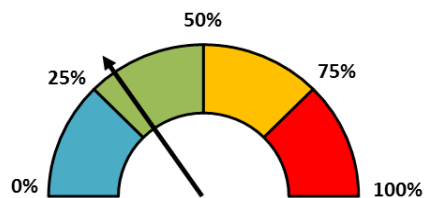
DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS & LEARNING DISABILITIES

Children lack access to early screenings for learning disabilities, developmental delays, and social/emotional concerns. In Florida, 53.6% of school aged children with ongoing emotional, behavioral or developmental issues do not have an Individualized Education Program/Plan (IEP).⁴



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

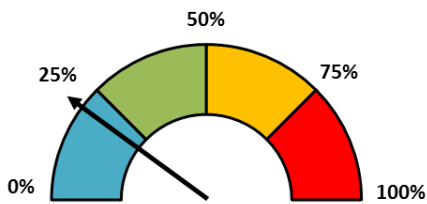
Behavioral health issues affect children of all ages. Approximately 15% of young children ages birth to five experience some type of emotional, relational, or behavioral disturbance. More than 40% of adolescents have experienced a behavioral health problem before they reach 7th grade.⁴ 75-80% of children and youth in need of mental health services do not receive them.⁵



2016 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey
29.6% of Youth Ages 10-14
Victims of Bullying in Past 30 Days

BULLYING

Bullying is prevalent among children in elementary and middle school; 12.4% of middle school girls reported skipping school because of bullying; 15.1% of middle school students reported they were kicked or shoved in the past 30 days; and 29.6% reported being taunted or teased.⁶

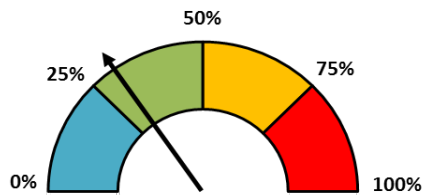


2014 Food Insecurity Rate
for Children in Manatee County
23.9% (16,000 children)

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

The food insecurity rate for Manatee County children is 23.9% (16,000 children). Lack of access to a nutritious and adequate food supply has implications not only for development of physical and mental disease, but also behaviors and social skills. Inadequate nutrition can permanently alter a child's brain architecture and stunt their intellectual capacity, affecting learning, social interaction and productivity.⁷

Poor nutrition is one of the leading causes of obesity in children, a condition which can be very dangerous and lead to a lifetime of health complications. Children in families with insufficient access to nutritious foods are in fact significantly more likely to be obese in early childhood than other children. This is especially true of children who regularly consume fast food. Obesity can also result in a negative self-image, eating disorders, a decreased quality of life and other long-term psychosocial problems that are extremely difficult to reverse.⁸



2015 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey
27.88% of Middle & High School Students
Described Themselves as Overweight

Applications will be reviewed by the Advisory Board in 2017, based on the priorities contained within this report for improving the health and welfare of our county's abused, neglected, at-risk and economically disadvantaged children. The Advisory Board will make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners for the investment of the FY17/18 Children's Services Dedicated Millage in June 2017.

¹Manatee County Sheriff's Office Child Protection Investigations, September 2016 Closures report

²Developmental Issues for Young Children in Foster Care. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/106/5/1145>

³Data Resource Center for Child & Adolescent Health

⁴VanLandeghem & Hanlon, Comprehensive Early Childhood Mental Health Systems to Improve Outcomes and Reduce Costs

⁵National Center for Children in Poverty, www.nccp.org

⁶2016 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey – Manatee Report

⁷Child Hunger & Poverty in Florida, Map the Meal Gap, <http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2014/child/florida/county/manatee>

⁸Children With Poor Nutrition, www.healthyeating.sfgate.com/children-poor-nutrition-6555.html

Children's Services Special Initiatives

RESULTS FIRST INITIATIVE



Over the past 20 years, the Children's Services Dedicated Millage has been used to fund hundreds of programs for children and their families. While this funding has produced volumes of data it was compliance driven data instead of results driven data.

Starting in Fiscal Year 19 *Results First* gives us a solution to the problem. With *Results First*, before any money goes out the door the CSAB and Citizens will know the specific human gain it will achieve and for how many persons. Targets and milestones will be developed so that we will know if the desired results were achieved. This is the heart of the Results First framework.

We will focus much less on document driven compliance and much more on the results of how many people get better. We are no longer a funder of programs; we are an investor for results. As investors, we focus on three questions whenever we consider funding a program:

1. What are we buying?
2. What are the chances that this result will be achieved?
3. Given other ways we could spend the money to achieve the same human gain, is this the best possible use of our resources?

How will we know if we are successful? First, we will have much more clarity on results achieved with our investments. Second, we will see results go up over time. We will track these two factors very specifically for each program; and we can because a result focus gives us fewer documents with richer data. The conversation is harder — but much more streamlined.

Our first steps towards *Results First* began in June 2016 with consultant, Hal Williams who provided training and guidance to nine agencies/programs in the cohort:

- Boys and Girls Clubs – Great Futures Start Here
- Early Learning Coalition – Early Care & Education
- Exchange Club Family Partnership Center – Partners in Education & Support
- Family Network on Disabilities – Respite
- Foundation for Dreams – Dream Oaks Camp
- Hope Family Services – Children's Counseling
- Manatee Community Action Agency – Healthy Families Manatee
- The D.L. Randall Foundation – an Uprising in the Village
- Whole Child Manatee – Whole Child Project

The cohort has worked diligently to develop their results, which include: Targets (specific level of results), Milestones (quarterly accomplishments that forecast success), and Verification (evidence of success). In FY2018, the cohort will be aggressively expanded.

ADOPTION PRESERVATION AND SUPPORT

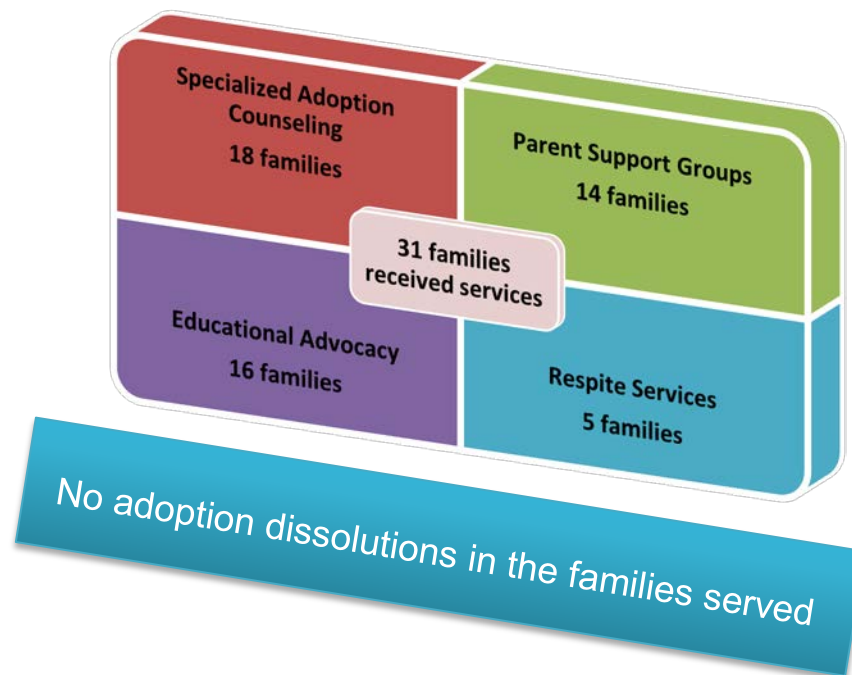


In response to a large number of adoptions in the community that have dissolved in recent years, a Request for Proposals was developed and released for the FY2015/16 funding process. The specifications required multifaceted prevention and intervention services to encompass needs of families formed by adoption, performed by adoption-competent professionals.

Funding for FY15/16 and FY16/17 was awarded to Exchange Club Family Partnership Center for the Chosen Families program, a collaborative effort between three local non-profit agencies with a single point of entry design. The basic premise is to educate and empower adoptive parents to handle problems themselves, maintain their commitment to the child, and encourage realistic expectations.

Specialized services will help adoptive parents understand an adoptive child's identity issues and anger; provide guidance and support throughout the adoptive child's growing years to parents seeking services that address a wide range of issues, behaviors and emotions related to being a family formed through adoption. The program will provide support networks for access to other parents knowledgeable about adoption; coaching for parents to help in assessing their child's need, managing crisis, navigating the school system and advocating for educational needs of the child. Family counseling and respite will help the families in managing day-to-day struggles.

CHOSEN FAMILIES PROGRAM - FIRST YEAR RESULTS – FY15/16



FY2016 Current Funding

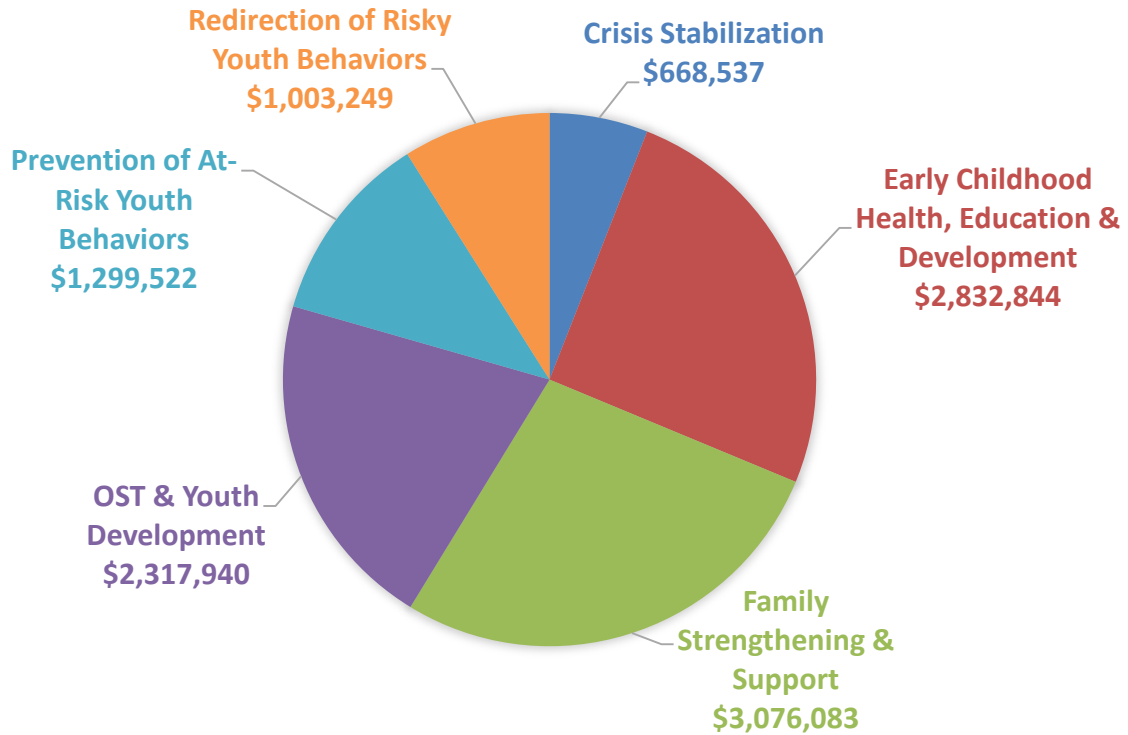


FY2016/17 Current Funding

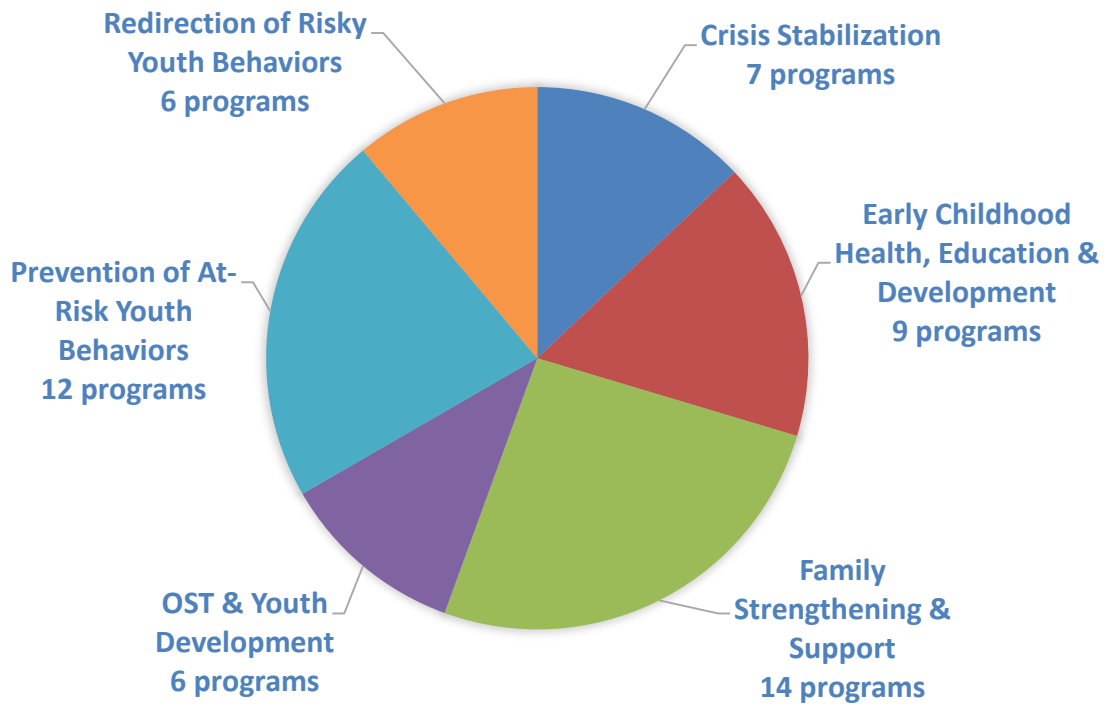
This section of the Annual Plan contains a recap of the 2016/17 Fiscal Year budget, purpose categories, and programs approved for funding.

Crisis Stabilization		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Funding
Stabilizing our community's children and families in crisis	Baker Act	\$668,537
	Counseling for victims of abuse & sexual assault	Programs: 7
	Food security Emergency shelter for homeless, foster children and runaway youth	
Early Childhood Health, Education & Development		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Funding
Ensuring safe and healthy development of our children during early childhood and preparing them to be socially, emotionally, and intellectually ready for school	Child care	\$2,832,844
	Early education and literacy	Programs: 9
	Early screening and intervention for: Developmental delays, learning disabilities, behavior health, social and emotional concerns	
Family Strengthening and Support		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Funding
Strengthening and supporting children and families at risk	Adoption preservation	\$3,076,083
	Family counseling	Programs: 14
	Kinship caregiver Parenting education & support Special needs – parent mentoring, respite, treatment/other	
Out of School Time and Youth Development		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Funding
Providing a safe learning environment for our children through recreation, education, and enrichment opportunities	Before school, after school and summer school	\$2,317,940
	age care	Programs: 6
	Grade level reading assistance	
Prevention of At-Risk Youth Behaviors		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Funding
Preventing or slowing the progression of an identified risk factor	Behavioral and mental health screening and treatment	\$1,299,522
	Bullying prevention	Programs: 12
	Career exploration Human trafficking prevention Mentoring Personal safety education Social and behavior skills Teen pregnancy prevention	
Redirection of Risky Youth Behaviors		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Funding
Promoting positive behavior in our youth through informed decision-making and life skills	Juvenile offenses	\$1,003,249
	School suspension	Programs: 6
	Substance abuse Truancy	

FY16/17 FUNDING ALLOCATIONS BY PURPOSE CATEGORY



FY16/17 NUMBER OF PROGRAMS FUNDED BY CATEGORY



FY15/16 Funding Report



FY15/16 Funding Report

This section of the Annual Plan contains data on Fiscal Year 2015/2016, which includes funding expended for each purpose category and number of clients served, types of programs funded, and accomplishments reported for programs that provided services. Each program area lists preliminary determination of need, which includes data monitored and gathered from a variety of reliable and relevant local, state, and national data sources, and related research.

Crisis Stabilization		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Funding
Stabilizing our community's children and families in crisis	Baker Act	\$971,726
	Counseling for victims of abuse & sexual assault	Programs: 11
	Food security Emergency shelter for homeless, foster children and runaway youth	
Early Childhood Health, Education & Development		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Funding
Ensuring safe and healthy development of our children during early childhood and preparing them to be socially, emotionally, and intellectually ready for school	Child care	\$2,267,807
	Early education and literacy	Programs: 7
	Early screening and intervention for: Developmental delays, learning disabilities, behavior health, social and emotional concerns	
Family Strengthening and Support		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Funding
Strengthening and supporting children and families at risk	Adoption preservation	\$2,028,225
	Family counseling	Programs: 14
	Kinship caregiver Parenting education & support Special needs – parent mentoring, respite, treatment/other	
Out of School Time and Youth Development		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Funding
Providing a safe learning environment for our children through recreation, education, and enrichment opportunities	Before school, after school and summer school age care	\$2,010,382
	Grade level reading assistance	Programs: 6
Prevention of At-Risk Youth Behaviors		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Funding
Preventing or slowing the progression of an identified risk factor	Bullying prevention	\$1,544,592
	Career exploration	Programs: 15
	Human trafficking prevention Mentoring Personal safety education Teen pregnancy prevention	
Redirection of Risky Youth Behaviors		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Funding
Promoting positive behavior in our youth through informed decision-making and life skills	Juvenile offenses	\$598,188
	School suspension	Programs: 5
	Substance abuse Truancy	

Crisis Stabilization

- ❖ FY15/16 County funds, in the amount of \$971,726, were used to help pay for emergency behavior hospitalization; counseling for victims of child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, and sexual abuse; emergency shelter for homeless women and children, shelter/group home beds for dependent children and runaway youth; emergency food assistance; and forensic medical examinations for child victims of abuse/neglect.
- ❖ 5,733 clients received Crisis Stabilization Services.

Baker Act - Emergency Behavioral Hospitalization

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of children admitted to the Crisis Center, for risk of self-neglect or harming self or others, decreased Symptom Severity Rating and were considered safe to return home upon discharge. 90% of children previously discharged from the Crisis Center remained stabilized and were not readmitted within 30 days of discharge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11% of youth experience a depressive disorder by age 18. This is approximately 7,544 youth in Manatee County.¹ In a nationwide study, 16% of students considered suicide, 13% actually made a plan, 8% made the attempt. Suicide is the 4th leading cause of death among youth.¹

Crisis Counseling – Child Victims of Domestic Violence

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of children who participated in the Domestic Violence Counseling program developed a greater internal locus of control by learning what they were responsible for (staying safe, behavior in school, fighting with siblings) and what they were not responsible for (domestic violence). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children living with family violence result in behaviors such as academic failure, nightmares, truancy, crime, low self-worth, aggression toward peers, substance abuse, unwanted teen pregnancies and intergenerational abuse as either the victim or perpetrator of domestic violence.²

Crisis Counseling & Advocacy– Child Victims of Sexual Abuse/Sexual Assault

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88% of child victims of sexual assault reported they have followed their safety plan to prevent any future victimization. 93% of child victims of sexual abuse who received counseling services exhibited decreased trauma symptoms such as avoidance, hyper-vigilance, and anxiety. 96% of child victims of rape/sexual assault followed through with at least one referral given by Victim Advocates. 87% of child victims of rape/sexual assault had a decrease in anxiety/trauma symptoms including fears, as a result of receiving therapy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manatee Sheriff's Office investigates an average of 199 hot line reports of child sexual abuse where the alleged perpetrator is a non-caregiver or a child.³ Childhood sexual abuse puts children at significant risk for long-term emotional damage, indicating a need for immediate professional evaluation and treatment for victims and their families.⁴ Child victims of sexual assault are reluctant to report sexual abuse when the perpetrator is someone they know, have a low rate of participating with the legal system, and do not obtain victim services.⁵ The nature and dynamics of sexual abuse and sexually abusive relationships are often traumatic. When sexual abuse occurs in childhood it can hinder normal social growth and can be a cause of many psychological problems.⁶

Crisis Counseling & Advocacy – Child Victims of Abuse/Neglect	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 86% of sheltered child abuse victims who received clinical services demonstrated improved interpersonal skills. • 87% of child abuse victims who participated in group life skill sessions demonstrated a reduction in maladaptive behavior. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in foster care are at greater risk of psychological issues, delays in development, and social skills which are directly related to history of deprivation, neglect/abuse, lack of security, and permanence in their lives.⁷
Emergency Shelter - Child Victims of Abuse/Neglect	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 99% of victims of child abuse/neglect, in a foster care shelter or group home, demonstrated an increased sense of security and stability after one month or more in their placement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2015, Department of Children & Families reported 10% of the 652 children removed from their homes for child abuse entered facility-based licensed care⁸
Emergency Shelter – Runaway or Ungovernable Youth	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 99% of runaway, locked out, or ungovernable youth who received services while residing in the shelter gained knowledge needed to manage and change behaviors so they are better able to solve problems and resolve family crises after discharge to continue to remain at home or in a guardian approved placement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of runaway reports in 2015 to Manatee Sheriff's Office was 485 and Bradenton Police Department received 147.⁹ • SafePlace2B is the only shelter for runaway youth in Manatee County.
Emergency Shelter – Homeless	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 68% of families residing in the Family Shelter moved from homeless to transitional or permanent housing upon exiting the shelter. • 98% of families residing in the Family Shelter, who participate in life skills classes while living in the shelter, demonstrated gains in the self-sufficiency matrix. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Family Shelter operates at 100% capacity, with 100-150 more requests for help than can be accommodated each month.¹⁰ • The average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment is \$1,012 per month.¹¹ • A single mom earning FL minimum wage (\$8.05 per hour) would have to work 97 hours per week to afford an average 2-bedroom apartment.¹²
Emergency Food	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of participating families with infants under age 2 received an emergency 7 day supply of formula and baby food to help the family through a crisis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43% of Manatee County households live at or below the federal poverty line.¹³ • 17.2% of Manatee County residents are considered food insecure, and 61% of residents are eligible for federal nutrition assistance.¹⁴

Forensic Medical Examinations – Child Victims of Abuse/Neglect	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In FY15/16, a specially trained pediatrician conducted 364 forensic medical evaluations of children to determine the validity of reported allegations of physical abuse or child neglect.¹⁵ • Manatee Child Protection Team provided a variety of services for cases referred, including forensics/specialized interviews, staffing, social assessments, psychological evaluations, etc. as needed for victims of child abuse or neglect.¹⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In FY15/16, there were 4,348 reports of abuse and neglect in Manatee County; 22% with verified findings of abuse/neglect, 42% with findings not substantiated, and 36% with no indication of abuse/neglect; 587 children were sheltered.¹⁶ • The Child Protection Investigation Unit of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office reported the FY15/16 top 3 reasons for verified findings of abuse/ neglect: ¹⁶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family violence threaten harm to child • Substance misuse/neglect by parents • Inadequate supervision/neglect
<p>Sources: ¹National Institute of Mental Health fact sheet; ²Rossman 2001, Raphael 2005, updated 2010; ³Manatee Sheriff's Office; ⁴American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Facts for Families—Child Sexual Abuse; ⁵National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (2009); ⁶Sexual and Relationship Therapy (Maltz); ⁷Child Welfare League of America; ⁸Child Welfare Services Trend Reports; ⁹Manatee County Sheriff's Office and Bradenton Police Department; ¹⁰HMIS – Salvation Army; ¹¹"Out of Reach 2015" National Low Income Housing Coalition; ¹²Coalition on Homelessness 2015 Annual Report; ¹³United Way, 2014 ALICE report; ¹⁴Feeding America Food Bank Network; ¹⁵Child Advocacy Center of Manatee County; ¹⁶Manatee Sheriff's Office Child Protection Unit and Florida Department of Children and Families.</p>	

Early Childhood Health, Education & Development

- ❖ FY15/16 County funds, in the amount of \$2,267,807, were used to help pay for child care subsidies, early literacy and education, developmental screening and therapy, and training parents of preschool children to be their child's first teacher.
- ❖ 2,849 clients received Early Childhood Health, Education & Development Services.

Child Care Subsidies (Birth – Age 12)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% low income children in early care and education programs demonstrated age-appropriate development in at least two domains as evidenced by Battelle Developmental Inventory assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child care is a critical support for employed parents and an important context for children's learning and development.¹ When high quality, child care can have positive effects on children's cognitive, language, and social-emotional development.²

Developmental Screening and Therapy – Children Ages 5 and Under

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of children receiving speech and language therapy demonstrated progress toward therapeutic goals as determined by speech therapists. 87% of pediatric clients achieved success on targeted goals as indicated in their therapeutic Plans of Care, which included skill growth in cognitive, fine/gross motor and communication abilities. 99% of children under age 5 with developmental delays, who received services for 6 months or more, demonstrated improvement in positive social-emotional skills; acquisition and use of knowledge and skills; and use of appropriate behaviors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech and language delay in children is associated with increased difficulty with reading, writing, attention, and socialization.³ Screening children (ages 1-5) for achievement in the developmental domain allows effective remedies to prevent issues with academic achievement, behaviors, and social development.⁴ 16% of all children in Manatee County have some type of need for Speech/Language, Occupational, Physical or Behavior Modification therapy.⁵ Early developmental intervention and early childhood services can be particularly valuable when a child is first identified to be at high risk of delayed development.⁶

Early Education (ages 2 to 5)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% of children improved school readiness skills in math, language and literacy, and/or social and physical development after at least 90 days in the program as evidenced by Get Ready to Read curriculum post tests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most crucial time for early childhood development is the first five years of life when the brain is developing rapidly and social and emotional patterns mature.⁷

Early Literacy

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of children participating in the Nemours Bright Start! Classrooms achieved reading gains, as evidenced by the Get Ready to Read-Revised literacy instrument. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53% of the 4,186 3rd grade students in Manatee County failed the English Language Arts state test in the 2015/16 school year.⁸

Teaching Parents of Preschool Children	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of preschool children, completing the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters curriculum for their age level, demonstrated progress toward school readiness skills for their age measured by Bracken School Readiness pre and post assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disadvantaged children enter school lagging behind their more advantaged peers in terms of knowledge and social competencies that enable children to perform at basic levels. Substantial gaps are evident in measures of reading and math proficiency, social behaviors and behavior problems, and in readiness to learn.⁹
<p>Sources: ¹Who's Minding the Kids? (Laughlin); ²Overview of the NICHD Study of Early Child Care; ³Speech & Language Delay in Children (McLaughlin); ⁴National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center; ⁵Florida Department of Education, LEA Profile for Manatee County; ⁶American Academy of Pediatrics; ⁷Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine-Archives; ⁸Manatee County School District Third Grade ELA Scores; ⁹Children at Risk: Consequences for School Readiness and Beyond (Rand.org).</p>	

Family Strengthening & Support

- ❖ FY15/16 County funds, in the amount of \$2,028,225, were used to help pay for adoption preservation, parenting education and support, relative caregiver support, navigating special education system and specialized services for youth with special needs and their families.
- ❖ 2,558 clients received Family Strengthening and Support Services.

Adoption Preservation and Support

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 94% of parents receiving intensive post-adoption services maintained placement and improvement in parenting skills, children's behavior, parent commitment and parental stress. 100% of parents participating in parenting and/or counseling services maintained or increased their sense of parenting competency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many children entering adoptive homes have experienced abuse or neglect and exhibit behaviors that impair the development of a bond with adoptive families.¹ Adopted children have feelings of loss and grief, regardless of age/type of adoption they experienced.²

In-home Parenting

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 97% of parent participants receiving Healthy Families in-home services for 6 months or longer had no substantiated DCF report of child abuse. 100% of parents demonstrated skills targeted in their Family Support Plan after completing 20 home parenting sessions, as evidenced by post (Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory) results. 98% of participants who completed court-ordered parenting education had no additional record of child maltreatment for two years after completion. 100% of participants demonstrated life skills improvement in relationship with family and friends, children, and support resources; education and employment, health and medical care, and mental health/substance abuse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child abuse and neglect have been shown to cause important regions of the brain to fail to form or grow properly, resulting in impaired development.³ In 2015, 1,154 verified reports of child abuse in Manatee County and 585 children were removed from their homes for neglect, threatened harm or domestic violence.⁴ Research indicates parents who feel connected to support systems and resources are less likely to abuse their children.⁵ Manatee County was identified in the 2010 Florida Home Visiting Needs Assessment as an area of high-need in regard to risk factors which significantly impact young children's healthy development.⁶

Parent/Caregiver Support & Educational Groups

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 99% of parent participants increased knowledge of parenting topics that correlate with protective factors and encourage positive child development as measured by post-test. 100% of grandparents raising grandchildren who participated in support groups reported an increased connection to community resources to strengthen the family and an increased knowledge in parenting and support. 98% of child participants that are in custody of a relative caregiver did not experience a new child maltreatment case or a placement disruption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How parents respond to and interact with their child has great influence on all areas of the child's development including mental health, school success, self-esteem, behavior and social competence.⁷ In 2015, 49% of Manatee victims of child abuse/neglect are placed with grandparents. Frequently placements are sudden, leading to need for emotional support and emergency services.⁸ Kinship care is better for children emotionally and psychologically than other types of out of home placement.⁹

Special Needs - Respite Care	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of participants with special needs children reported participation in respite services reduced feelings of stress and isolation. • 94% of families with disabled children reported a reduced level of stress as a result of receiving respite services, as evidenced by the Stress Index Rating Scale with a score of 3 or lower. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families of children with disabilities face unique challenges and many daily life stressors such as higher divorce rates and feelings of isolation.¹⁰ • Families raising children with disabilities have higher emotional, physical, economical, and social demands thus increasing risk of child abuse and neglect. Children with disabilities are twice as likely to be abused.¹¹
Special Needs – Parent Mentoring/ESE System Navigation & Support	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of parents, raising a special needs child, increased knowledge about Special Education and the process after completion of the 12 week intensive education course. • 100% of parents of a special needs child reported a decrease in feelings of isolation from participation in peer support group sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7,458 children in Manatee County have been identified as having a diagnosed special need and receive Special Education Services; 2,983 of these students are considered moderate to severely impaired and require additional support and resources.¹² • Families with disabled children face overwhelming financial, emotional, and practical pressures and without information, education, and support find it difficult to cope and become isolated.¹³
Special Needs Camp - Skill Development & Respite Care	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of children with special needs who participated in camp learned an activity of daily living (life skill) by the end of the week resulting in a greater sense of independence. • 80% of special needs children participating in therapeutic horseback riding achieved three of their identified short term goals that improve physical, cognitive, emotional and social functioning of the rider. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with disabilities are often at higher risk for experiencing lower levels of social, and related emotional, well-being than their peers without disabilities. They are among those more likely to be bullied and harassed, have a small number of friends, participate in few extracurricular activities, and generally be connected to few people outside their families.¹⁴
<p>Sources: ¹ Adoption and Disruption: Rates, Risks and Responses (Barth & Barry); ²Post-adoption Services: Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Children Adopted from Foster Care (North American Council on Adoptable Children); ³childwelfare.gov; ⁴Manatee County Sheriff's Office; ⁵The Six Protective Factors (hhs.gov); ⁶2010 Florida Home Visiting Needs Assessment; ⁷Glasser and Heath, 2004; ⁸Child Welfare Services Trend Report Relative Placements; ⁹Brookdale Foundation, Kinship Care Center at U.S.F.; ¹⁰The Challenge of Children with Special Needs (Heller); ¹¹The American Academy of Pediatrics and The National Center of Child Abuse and Neglect; ¹²Florida Department of Education; ¹³Contact A Family 2011 Survey; ¹⁴Institute on Community Integration, 2011</p>	

Out of School Time & Youth Development

- ❖ FY15/16 County funds, in the amount of \$2,010,382, were used to help pay for before and after school care, summer time care, and youth development services.
- ❖ 2,427 clients received Out of School Time/Youth Development Services.

Out of School Time Care & Youth Development

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88% of youth in the OST program at Boys & Girls Clubs, ages 9 and up, indicated an expected level of learning beyond a high school diploma. 84% of the girls who regularly attend the OST program at Just for Girls improved their attitude about reading and learning, study habits, and relationships with groups and partners as measured by curriculum evaluation tools. 92% of Myakka City Community Center participants increased study habits by completing homework and school assignments as indicated in daily homework completion logs. 92% of Palmetto Youth Center OST participants increased knowledge of the negative impact of drugs and an ability to make better personal health decisions. 93% of Tallevast Community Center OST participants demonstrated the ability to develop and maintain positive relationships with others; and process information to make effective decisions and positive choices. 83% of United Community Center OST participants demonstrated improved skills in making safe and healthy decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today more children are being raised in single parent homes or homes where both parents work full time, often leaving children without adequate supervision during out of school time hours.¹ Children without affordable out of school time care and supervision are at higher risks for: academic failure, using drugs and alcohol, becoming crime victims, perpetrating juvenile crimes, and becoming teen parents.² 2016 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey report for Manatee County students' prevalent risk factors associated with negative behavior outcomes:³ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Middle School student prevalent risk factors:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59% transitions and mobility 53% lack of commitment to school 46% poor family management 40% community disorganization 37% laws and norms favorable to drug abuse <u>High School student prevalent risk factors:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 69% transitions and mobility 52% lack of commitment to school 44% poor academic performance 40% community disorganization 39% poor family management The activities children engage in while outside of school hours are critical to their development, highlighting the need for quality afterschool programs in all communities.⁴

Sources: ¹The Future of Children (futureofchildren.org); ²U.S. Dept. of Education: Safe and Smart After-School Programs; ³Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey 2016; ⁴Findyouthinfo.gov.

Prevention of At-Risk Youth Behaviors

- ❖ FY15/16 County funds, in the amount of \$1,544,592 were used to help pay for services to reduce child and teen risk factors that lead to bullying and personal safety, prevention of human trafficking, teen births and repeat births, alcohol/drug use and juvenile crime; and increase protective factors that lead to positive behaviors and successful children and teens.
- ❖ 23,655 Manatee County children received Prevention and Redirection Services.

Child Safety Education/Bullying & Predator Prevention

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86% of non-disabled students demonstrated improved skills in acceptance or sensitivity of their disabled peers as observed and recorded by their teacher after each training session. 100% of 3rd-5th grade students identified a safe person they can go to for help when threat to their personal safety occurs (bullying, child abuse/neglect, sexual abuse). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of adolescents with autism, intellectual disability, speech impairments, and learning disabilities are bullied at school.¹ 16% of Manatee County students are identified as having a disability, at high risk of bullying and child abuse/neglect.³² There are 458 Registered Sexual Offenders or Predators residing in Manatee County.³

Human Trafficking Prevention

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of participants in program learned strategies and personal empowerment to resist grooming tactics used by sexual predators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The average age a teen enters the sex trade in the U.S. is 12 to 14 years old. Many victims are runaway girls who were sexually abused as children.⁴ Florida is ranked as the 3rd highest trafficking destination in the country, with half of all trafficking victims under age 18.⁵

Mentoring

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91% of at-risk youth matched with an adult mentor for at least 3 months demonstrated school engagement by maintaining adequate academic performance and required attendance. 100% of youth identified as high risk for juvenile justice involvement who have been matched with an adult mentor for 3 months or longer, were not arrested while participating in the program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey: Manatee County reports elevated Middle School student risk factors on several scales associated with negative behavior outcomes:⁶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53% Lack of Commitment to School 46% Poor Family Management 36% Poor Academic Performance 36% Favorable Attitudes toward Antisocial Behavior

Special Needs – Transition to Adulthood

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of participating high school students with disabilities, stayed in school, improved academic, social, & employability skills, and a graduation goal on their Individualized Education Program (IEP). 100% of participating high school seniors with disabilities are academically and socially prepared to graduate and have developed a Career Path Plan or Post-Secondary Education Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptional Student Education/Disabled population in each Manatee public high school varies from 12-20%, 1 in every 6 students. Only 49% of Florida students with an IEP graduate from high school.⁷ Dropping out of school, risky behavior, and chronic unemployment are major risk factors for disabled teens.⁸

Prevention of Teen Risky Behaviors	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% of teen club participants, ages 13-17, affirmed they have abstained from risky behaviors such as smoking, drinking, and illicit drug use. 92% of middle and high school students in the program for at least six months of the school year have shown progress toward the next grade with the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to be successful. 87% of teens attending the program demonstrated gains in family relationships, job readiness/employability skills, knowledge and participation in community resources and a decrease in risky behaviors. 80% of participating students, ages 14-17, increased knowledge in content areas tested for certification in media industry careers such as music production, radio, internet music, sound engineering, and TV broadcasting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2015, Florida high school students reported: 2.6% currently smoked cigarettes daily; 33% drank alcohol in the past 30 days; 15.3% drank 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row in the past 30 days; 21.5% used marijuana in the past 30 days.⁹ 62% of students enrolled in Manatee County schools were economically disadvantaged.¹⁰ 19.3% of low-income parents expect their child to do no more than finish high school.¹¹ Targeted youth attend schools within the top 3 highest 2014-15 arrest rates in Manatee County for misdemeanors and felonies.¹² The transition from youth into independent adulthood involves many challenges, one of the most important of which is gaining secure employment. Among youth between the ages of 16 and 19, about 1 in 12, as of 2014, were neither in school nor working.¹³
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91% of middle school girls who participated in <i>Baby Think It Over</i> demonstrated an increase in knowledge and understanding of specific challenges and consequences of becoming a teen mother. 98% of male/female participants who received advocacy and case management services reported no pregnancies within 6 to 18 months after program completion. 99% of girls who participated in the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program demonstrate increased knowledge of birth control options and did not become pregnant. 90% of male/female student middle school participants reported they refrained from sexual activity and refused to engage in unsafe sexual activity as evidenced by post test results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015 Teen birth rate per 1,000 girls ages 15-17:¹⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manatee County = 27.7 (256 births) Florida = 20.3 (11,956 births) 2015 Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 girls ages 10-14:¹⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manatee County = 0.5 Florida = 0.3 According to Healthy Teens Manatee's "Get the Facts," 37% of teen parents do not complete their high school education following the birth of a child, leading to a cycle of poverty.¹⁵ Children born to teens are at higher risk for child abuse, low birth rate, infant mortality, lower academic achievement, chronic medical conditions and ongoing behavioral problems.¹⁶ 60% of teen moms do not finish high school. Pregnancy is the number one reason girls drop out of school; the impact is academic and economic.¹⁷
<p>Sources: ¹University of California, Berkeley; ²Florida Department of Education; ³Florida Department of Law Enforcement; ⁴Study of HHS Programs Serving Human Trafficking Victims. Accessed February 25, 2014, http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/07/humantrafficking/LitRev/; ⁵Floridahealth.gov/newsroom; ⁶2016 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey: Manatee County Data Tables; ⁷Florida Department of Education 2015 LEA Profile; ⁸Employment of Persons with a Disability (US Dept. of Labor 2014); ⁹High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Florida 2015 (nccd.cdc.gov); ¹⁰edstats.fl DOE.org; ¹¹Parental Expectations for Their Children's Academic Attainment, Child Trends (2012); ¹²http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/research-reports/delinquency-in-schools/school-delinquency-profile; ¹³Youth Neither Enrolled in School Nor Working, Child Trends (2015); ¹⁴Florida Charts; ¹⁵Manatee County Health Assessment & Community Health Improvement Plan; ¹⁶American Academy of Pediatrics, 2008; ¹⁷National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy</p>	

Redirection of Risky Youth Behaviors

- ❖ FY15/16 County funds, in the amount of \$598,188, were used to help pay for behavior health and substance misuse, vocational readiness, school suspension alternatives, treatment for youth sexual offenders, and truancy prevention and intervention.
- ❖ 749 clients received services in this category.

Behavior Health & Substance Misuse

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88% of children with challenging behavior health issues, improved their overall level of functioning as evidenced by the Children's Functional Assessment Rating Scale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For children and adolescents, the estimation is that one in every five has a mental health disorder, with about 11% of youth between the ages of 9 and 17 having a major mental health disorder.¹

Disconnected Youth

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82% of youth completing the 7 week Certification Phase exhibited vocational readiness through increased knowledge and experience within their employability skillsets. 86% of youth completing the Job Shadow Phase demonstrated an increased understanding and effectiveness of the work environment and as a potential employee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implications of youth unemployment extend beyond whether a particular youth does or does not have a job. The reality for some youth is that lack of opportunity has created a sense of despondence and hopelessness about future prospects.²

School Suspension Alternatives

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83% of students who completed alternative to out of school suspension program demonstrated gains in motivation toward academic performance and career exploration, and improved decision-making skills. 89% of suspended Lincoln Middle School students who completed the Alternative to Out of School Suspension program demonstrated improved behavior and self-regulation and received fewer behavior-related referrals during the next grading period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2014-15, 2,847 Manatee County middle and high school students received out of school suspensions.³ Suspension in 9th grade doubles a student's likelihood of dropping out, from 16 % to 32%, for those suspended just once, and students with a history of disciplinary issues are at risk of ending up in the criminal justice system.⁴ Lincoln Middle School is listed as 3rd highest in Manatee County for total school arrests, with a combined misdemeanor and felony arrests for 2014-2015.⁵

Sexual Offender Treatment - Youth

ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 98% of youth, that completed comprehensive sexual offender treatment, did not have a new sexual offense charge at 1, 3 or 5 year follow-up. 93% of youth, that completed comprehensive sexual offender treatment, did not engage in any criminal law violations at 1, 3 or 5 year follow-up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the past 5 years, Manatee County has had 370 juvenile arrests for committing felony sex offenses with child victims; making this type of crime the third most prevalent felony crime.⁶ Exposure to hard core pornography, prior to adulthood, lends to porn becoming a youth's base-line for acceptable sexual behavior.⁷

Truancy Intervention/Prevention	
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89% of school age youth, while actively participating in truancy intervention services demonstrated improved attendance over a 90 day period. • 90% of youth who completed truancy intervention services had a reduction in barriers to school attendance and completed service plan goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the 14/15 school year, nearly 500 students participated in Truancy Court due to chronic absenteeism.⁸ • Chronic truancy is a strong predictor of adolescent academic failure, dropping out of school, substance abuse, gang involvement, and criminal activity.⁹
<p>Sources: ¹www.americanpsychiatricfoundation.org; ²National Alliance to End Homelessness: Facilitation Workplace Success for Disconnected and Disadvantaged Youth 2013 www.endhomelessness.org; ³Manatee County School District Office of Dropout Prevention records; ⁴www.childtrends.org; ⁵http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports/research-reports/delinquency-in-schools/school-delinquency-profile.</p>	