



ELC Update

FCSC News Update - June 24, 2009; Issue #27

To read partner Florida Children's Services Council's latest news update, please visit <http://elcmdm.org/downloads/FCSC27.pdf>.

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



Issue: #27 June 24, 2009

Quick Links FCSC Home Page Florida Afterschool Network FCSC Brochure Creating a CSC	TOP STORIES
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NOTE: New Date

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TOP STORIES

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and students. Applications are due no later than **July 10, 2009**. To apply, or for more information, go to the Lawton Chiles Leadership Corp at www.lawtonchiles.org/LCLC.html.

Survey Reveals Fewer Resources for Afterschool Programs

Afterschool program leaders across Florida say they are being forced to increase fees and reduce staffing, activities and hours to cope with budget cuts and rising costs. In a recent national survey conducted by the Afterschool Alliance, nearly all Florida respondents (97 percent) say the recession is affecting their communities, and report that they are seeing higher food prices and more families struggling to provide for children. Yet, afterschool programs are unable to offer as much help as children need because their budgets are down. The survey, "Uncertain Times 2009: Recession Imperiling Afterschool Programs and the Children They Serve," revealed that nearly 8 in 10 Florida programs report a loss in funding due to the recession, and 88 percent expect the recession to impact their budget for the coming school year. [See complete survey results.](#)

Chiles Blasts State for Raiding Investment Fund, Threatening Future of Children's Programs

In a June 15 blog on the [Worst to First](#) web site, Lawton "Bud" Chiles wrote, "Today was a sad day for Florida. Ten years of failed economic policies have brought us to where we are. The state of Florida raided \$700 million from the Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund today. More than \$1 billion has been taken in total from the fund that supports children's programs, the elderly and cancer research. We aren't doing well in this state. Too many sick children flocking to emergency rooms because they have no insurance. Mothers without access to prenatal care. High school graduates who aren't ready for college classes. We've lost sight of our values." [Read more.](#)

Summer Learning Day Set for July 9

The fifth annual National Summer Learning Day is scheduled for July 9, 2009. Many Florida afterschool programs will be participating in the celebration. Events will showcase summer programs and raise awareness about how summer programs send young people back to school ready to learn, support working families, and keep children safe and healthy. The Florida Afterschool Network has requested Gov. Charlie Crist to proclaim July 9, 2009, as Summer Learning day in Florida.

Times Magazine Examines How Obama Designed His Administration to Help Pass Health Reform

President Obama has "quietly but methodically assembled the most Congress-centric administration in modern history," something that he believes will help him pass a health care reform bill -- a legislative goal that has eluded every Democratic president since Harry Truman. According to the New York Times Magazine article, "Obama seems to think that the dysfunction in Washington isn't only about the heightened enmity between the parties; it's also about the longstanding mistrust between the two branches of government that stare each other down from twin peaks on either end of Pennsylvania Avenue." [Read the full article.](#)

LEGISLATIVE WATCH

Governor Signs Retirement Bill and Others, Constitutional Amendment Filed on Property Tax Limits

Florida CSC is continuing to monitor bills passed during the 2009 Legislative Session that affect Florida's children and families, as well as CSCs. Below is the latest bill activity since the June 10 issue of *FCSC News Update*.

Signed by Governor

- [HB 479](#) Relating to Retirement -- seeks to prevent "double dipping," where employees leave to take retirement benefits, and then get re-hired. The bill requires any person who retires under the Florida Retirement System (FRS) after 2010 to forgo retirement benefits as long as they are re-employed by an FRS employer. Governor must act by 06/24/09.
- [HB 807](#) Relating to Florida KidCare Program -- Requires OPPAGA to study outreach efforts of Florida KidCare program and provides requirements for the study. Requires report to Legislature by specified date. Governor must act by 06/24/09.
- [SB 788](#) Relating to Gaming Compact - Outlines the Legislature's parameters for a 15-year compact with the Seminole Tribe of Florida that will maximize funding for K-12 public schools. The legislation authorizes the Governor to negotiate a compact with the Seminole Tribe of Florida by Aug. 31, 2009. The compact will guarantee a minimum payment of \$150 million annually.

Signed by Officers and Filed with Secretary of State

- [SB 532](#) Relating to Property Tax Limit/Additional Homestead - Proposes a constitutional amendment to create an additional homestead exemption for first-time homebuyers (25 percent of the just value, capped at \$100,000). Also allows the Legislature to provide an assessment limitation for commercial or residential rental property that is limited to the greater of 5 percent or the annual average percentage of growth in revenues derived from the property during the preceding three years if ownership of the property has not changed. If approved by Florida voters, the amendment will take effect Jan. 4, 2011.

Congressional Delegation Unites to Expand Afterschool Meal Program to Florida

In a bipartisan show of support, 13 members of Florida's congressional delegation signed a letter to Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, Chair of the Agriculture-FDA Appropriations Subcommittee, seeking to expand the Afterschool Meal Program to Florida. The signatories included Allen Boyd, Corrine Brown, Kathy Castor, Mario Diaz-Balart, Alan Grayson, Alcee Hastings, Ron Klein, Susanne Kosmas, Kendrick Meek, Adam Putnam, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and Robert Wexler. Despite their unified support, the Florida delegates were told by the Congressional Budget Office that adding Florida would cost more than \$7 million. Sadly, the Subcommittee declined to add Florida (they only added enough funding for the District of Columbia and Connecticut). The good news is that Congress is set to begin the process of reauthorizing the child nutrition and WIC programs. With this reauthorization, Congress has a unique opportunity to improve access, meal quality and nutrition for millions of children through the Child and Adult Care Food, School Meals, Afterschool Snack, Summer Nutrition and WIC programs.

Chapin Hall Researcher Delivers Testimony on Capitol Hill about Home Visitation and Early Intervention

Chapin Hall Research Fellow Deborah Daro testified recently before the U.S. House of Representatives Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee about research that shows home visitation programs can promote early childhood learning and strengthen parent-child relationships. Chair Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA), Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL), and Rep. Todd Platts (R-PA) introduced the Early Support for Families Act on June 2, 2009. The Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee scheduled a hearing to review proposals to provide funding for grants to states to provide early childhood home visitation programs. Read Deborah Daro's [full testimony](#). (PDF)

CSC NEWS


Art Institute Student Creates New Logo for Broward CSC

The CSC of Broward County announced that David Brunell, an honor student at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, won a school-wide competition to design the new CSC logo. The redesign of the CSC logo coincides with our move to a new building," said Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO of the CSC. "The new logo emphasizes our commitment to children and we were pleased to involve young people in the creative process."



This summer the new logo will be introduced and will become official in October 2009 when the move to the CSC's new community building is complete. Council members approved the new logo at their April meeting and recognized Brunell and Artemis Design Group, the in-house design agency run by Art Institute students, at their May meeting. "Since our inception, we've wanted to project an image that reflects the CSC's focus on children and families in Broward County," said Ana Valladares, Chair of the Broward CSC. "We believe the new logo is indicative of our collaborative and forward-thinking nature."

Florida CSC Makes It Even Easier to Stay Informed with RSS Newsletter Feed

 Now it's even easier to get timely news and updates from Florida CSC with its new RSS newsletter feed for *FCSC News Update*. RSS (Rich Site Summary) is a tool that can deliver regularly changing web content right to your computer. RSS subscribers can easily stay informed by retrieving the latest content from the web sites they are most interested in. Best of all, subscribers save time by not needing to visit web sites individually. The content comes to them. [Sign up today](#) for the FCSC newsletter feed.

Florida Afterschool Network Welcomes New Board Members

The Florida Afterschool Network (FAN) is pleased to announce the addition of three new board members:

- Glen Gilzean, Jr., Executive Director, Educate Today
- Dave McGerald, President, Association of Early Learning Coalitions
- Alexis Gonzalez, Youth Board member

Funded in part by Florida CSC, FAN advocates for the development, enhancement and sustainability of innovative, high-quality afterschool programs and policies statewide. The FAN program is dedicated to the promotion and development of safe and accessible afterschool learning environments for Florida's children.

NET DATA

Track Where Stimulus Dollars Are Going in Florida

Onvia, a Seattle-based, public company that tracks spending at every level of government, has launched [Recovery.org](#) to track all American Recovery and Reinvestment Act spending by federal, state and local government agencies. Onvia developed Recovery.org to bring transparency and accountability to recovery spending. In Florida, the web site is tracking 960 projects that have received Recovery Act funds, totaling nearly \$4 billion. [See Florida projects.](#)

Five Steps to Health Care System Savings

The Center for American Progress released a new report that identifies five promising reform options that have the greatest potential for controlling health care costs:

- increasing the amount Medicare pays for primary care;
- paying for episodes of care instead of individual procedures;
- encouraging Medicaid and private insurers to adopt Medicare's payment methods;
- reforming the tax treatment of employer-based health benefits; and
- expanding research that identifies best practices in treating diseases effectively and affordably.

According to the report, the current system results in government programs that pay too little for primary care and too much for specialty care, which the authors say leads to poor quality and higher costs. The report also states that the current way in which health benefits are taxed results in consumers using too much health care and suggests guidelines to curb the over-use of new, expensive procedures that may not yet be proven to be most effective. [Read the report.](#)

Foundation Launches Consumer Confidence in Health Care Index

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has created a Health Care Consumer Confidence Index (RWJF Index). The index reveals results from a monthly survey that evaluates consumer confidence in American health care. The RWJF Index is created from data collected by the Surveys of Consumers, a monthly survey of 500 households conducted by the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan. Analysis of the data is provided by the University of Minnesota's State Health Access Data Assistance Center. [Learn more.](#)

EVENTS

One Goal Summer Conference Happens in July

The "One Goal: Building the Future Together" conference is scheduled for July 22-24, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Tampa City Center. The conference brings together more than 1,000 early education and care providers and leaders from around the state. It is designed to share information on best practices in the field and to build common frameworks of knowledge and understanding to assist in unified planning for young children and their families.

For more information, go to www.onegoalsummerconference.org/

FAN Hosts Seminars on Florida Standards for Quality Afterschool Programs

The Florida Afterschool Network (FAN) has received a sponsorship from the Agency for Workforce Innovation's Office of Early Learning to host 15 regional seminars throughout Florida. The seminars will feature The Florida Standards for Quality Afterschool Programs. [Learn more, or register now.](#)

22nd Annual National Independent Living Conference in Nashville

The Daniel Memorial Institute presents "Growing Pains 2009," on Sept. 1-4, 2009, in Nashville, TN. The conference is a must-attend event for youth service professionals, independent living professionals and youth ages 15 and older. Presenters include top leaders and experts in the field of independent living. The national youth conference features special sessions dedicated to the needs of youth who are currently in care. These include training sessions, workshops, panel discussions and leadership/team building activities. Visit the Daniel Memorial Institute [web site](#) for more information.

Florida Coalition for Children to Hold Annual Conference in October

The Florida Coalition for Children is holding its 2009 conference with a focus on "Protecting & Preserving Florida's Most Valuable Resource - Our Children and Families." The event will take place October 12-14, 2009, in Orlando at Rosen Shingle Creek. Register by Sept. 15 and save. For more information, visit the [Florida Coalition for Children web site.](#)

Do you have an update for *FCSC News Update*?

Send your information at least three days prior to the issue date. *FCSC News Update* is published every other week on Wednesdays. Updates should be 200 words or less. Longer updates can include a link to more detailed information. FCSC reserves the right to omit, edit and/or adjust the content of your contribution for space considerations.

FCSC News Update is a bi-weekly compilation of news and information relevant to the work of Florida's Children's Services Councils (CSCs). The Florida Children's Services Council is a statewide, non-profit organization working on behalf of the CSCs to promote policies that build effective primary prevention and early intervention systems of supports for Florida's children and families.