



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Charlie Crist
Governor

George H. Sheldon
Secretary

September 23, 2010

Dear Colleagues:

The Mental Health Program Office is pleased to share *A FAMILY GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND SUPPORTS*.

The Department of Children and Families is fully committed to the value of family involvement. Families must be included in all decisions regarding the planning and provision of mental health services for their children. It is the responsibility of all who work within the system of care to make every effort to assure that families have a strong voice and are actively involved in the decisions made that impact their child and family.

In order to encourage that strong family voice, the guide was designed to provide families with information they may find helpful in working with health care providers and others to find appropriate, evidence based mental health services and supports for their family members. Please share the guide with the families with whom you work and other stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. V. Lyon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katharine V. Lyon, Ph.D., Director
Mental Health Program Office

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Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency