



MARFY

Maryland Association of Resources for Families & Youth

1517 S. Ritchie Hwy. ♦ Suite 102 ♦ Arnold, MD 21012

Phone: (410) 974-4901 ♦ Fax: (410) 757-9530

Website Address: www.marfy.org

2010 Goals and Priorities

1. Ensure the adequacy of funding for services for children and families with emphasis on:
1) protecting funds needed to ensure quality services for children who require out-of-home placements; 2) funding for home and community based non-residential services and supports including Medicaid reimbursed mental health services; 3) ensuring continued funding for services for children with developmental disabilities who age out of foster care; and preserving and restoring funds for community-based delinquency prevention and diversion services, including alternatives to secure detention.
2. Promote and support child welfare policies and practices which encompass a commitment to a continuum of services including continued access to high quality residential group care and treatment foster care for children who need these services.
3. Promote and support policies and practices that prioritize prevention and diversion services, reduce the use of detention and other forms of incarceration, and increase the use of family focused, home and community-based services to reduce the incidence and effects of juvenile delinquency.
4. Promote the development of an expanded array of services for transition-aged youth through implementation of Maryland's *Ready by 21 Five Year Action Plan* with heightened emphasis on supports for youth with developmental disabilities who are transitioning out of foster care at age 21. This includes ensuring that DHR and the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) have in place, policies and practices that ensure timely transfer of responsibilities from Local Departments of Social Services and private sector agencies to DDA when appropriate.
5. Promote interagency collaboration and service integration through implementation of the *Child and Family Services Interagency Strategic Plan* adopted by the Children's Cabinet in 2008. This includes the development of a uniform protocol and tool for monitoring private providers and a uniform policy and procedure for incident reporting.
6. Promote child welfare workforce development by: 1) increasing salaries/wages for direct care staff; 2) increasing funds available for higher education tuition waivers and tuition assistance; 3) ensure that Maryland draws down Title IV-E federal training funds to support additional professional training for individuals working in the private sector consistent with provisions of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.