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OUTCOME EVALUATION REPORT ON
FLORIDA’S CONTINUING COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS

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Prepared for the
Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Standards and Evaluation

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NOTE: Additional copies of this report, the Preliminary Implementation Study Report for District 5, and the two previous privatization evaluation reports are available from the Office of Standards and Evaluation of the Department of Children and Families. The address and telephone number is as follows:

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An additional acknowledgment goes to Human Systems and Outcomes, Incorporated, located in Tallahassee. They allowed their quality service review case study methodology to be used by the evaluation effort to conduct three case studies using Sarasota County Coalition for Children and Families cases. This methodology is being used in child welfare in a number of states to develop rich, descriptive information on system performance and individual case status.

To The Reader: The terms “community-based child welfare” and “privatization” are used interchangeably throughout this report. Privatization has been the term most commonly used to describe the significant system change that has (and is) occurring in Districts 4, 8, and 13. However, privatization does not take into account the shift of the protective investigations functions from the Department to local sheriffs, or the shift of the child welfare legal function from the Department to local offices of the Attorney General or to the State Attorney. Sheriffs, the Attorney General, and state attorneys are all government entities and therefore cannot be considered a part of privatization. They can, however, be considered part of a shift toward a more community-based child welfare system. Thus, when describing the current changes in child welfare in our state, there seems to be a shift away from the term “privatization” and a shift toward “community-based child welfare.” This evaluation report attempts to take into account this shift, but also continues to reference privatization. This is, at least in part, due to concern that those who still identify current system changes as “privatization” would benefit from references to privatization; i.e., a report referencing only “community-based child welfare” might cause some to go in search of a separate report on “privatization.”
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