

## ADDENDUM #2

### RFI #161706BHC

### Behavioral Health Consultant (BHC)

### For Hardee & Highlands Counties

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A Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) is no longer an eligible credential for the Behavioral Health Consultant (BHC) position under this RFI.

The following highlighted items are hereby amended to read:

Pages 2-3, Section 4:

#### 4. Scope of Work

In 2011, the state of Florida began the implementation of the Child Welfare Practice Model. Part of this implementation required child welfare staff to utilize subject matter experts during case decision making. Research shows between 50%-80% of children are involved in child welfare due to substance misuse and another 40% of their caregivers have a mental health diagnosis. Over the last 4 years, child welfare and behavioral health systems have had to learn to integrate and their systems to better work together to accommodate this new model. One of the models that has shown much success is the BHC's. The Suncoast Region began this pilot in 2015 with 4 co-located positions in Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee and Collier Counties. These positions are Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHC), Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), and Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists (LMFT) and Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) who are co-located with the child protective investigators in their respective counties. Interns do not qualify for this position.

The BHC's provide field consults, access to medical records, record consultation, coaching of child welfare staff, case consultation and any other subject matter expert need identified by the CPI. This information will be entered into the BHC Consultation Form (**Attachment I**) and entered into Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN). Monthly data will also be collected by the BHC and placed in the attached spreadsheet (**Attachment II**) and sent to the ME by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month following services. The CPIs have reported improved decision making, increased understanding of behavioral health needs, expedited receipt of records and some case outcomes have been changed due to the BHC input.

Knowledge gained from the process of integrating behavioral health Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) with child welfare will be shared. Policy and practice challenges in the implementation of such a program will be explored as well as the process of working through those challenges to develop the program. Key lessons learned from the pilot program:

- The behavioral health consultant position is a consultant for the child welfare staff, not for the families.
- The behavioral health consultant position is also a coach for the child welfare staff and needs to



have strong relationships with child welfare staff and providers within the community.

- Creating relationships and processes to ensure access to behavioral health records can occur expeditiously is key to making this position successful.
- Co-location, field visits, and the ability to get up and go is also imperative.
- All BHC's are licensed (LMHC, LCSW, **or** LMFT ~~or~~ LPC) and have prior child welfare experience. See job description (**Attachment III**).
- Creating a training schedule to ensure BHC's are current on child welfare systems and practices must also be implemented.

