

Legislative Advocacy Training Initiative

Session 4



**A Florida Pediatric Advocacy Network inspired project
funded by the University of Miami and hosted by Florida CHAIN**

Agenda

- Review Session 3
- Coalition Building Part 2
- Report on capitol experience
- Bills and Budget

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LATI Session 3 Review

- Difference between strategy and tactics
- State and national child health advocacy resources
- Organizations could work together to have a larger community impact; increase their scale and reach; for mutual gains; for self interest; or because it's mandated.

Coalitions Are Relationship Building

Even if the issue is
a good issue
that people are
concerned
about,
you need to build
relationships.



Ways To Estimate Group Resources

- ❖ Financial support or fundraising capability
- ❖ Access to a large constituency
- ❖ Contacts with other potential coalition members or allies
- ❖ Expertise in research or knowledge of the issue
- ❖ Volunteers, office space and/or equipment

Checklist for Collaborating

- ✓ The home organization is ready.
- ✓ Diverse partners are involved.
- ✓ A shared vision unifies the partners
- ✓ Partners are aware of what's expected of them.
- ✓ Partners know the partnership's goals and objectives

- ✓ People to do the work have been identified, staffed, and made accountable.
- ✓ There is a defined governance model.
- ✓ Leadership is effective.
- ✓ Partnership has a communications and outreach plan.

- ✓ Financial needs for the partnership are known and addressed.
- ✓ Partnership's work is monitored, evaluated, and revised on a regular basis.
- ✓ Partnership knows what challenges it faces.

Leveling The Playing Field

Sources of Power

Power of support networks

Power of diversity

Power of research, statistics, and data analysis

Power of the law

Power of public perception and the media



Definitions of Successful Coalitions

- ✓ Achieving goal
- ✓ Gaining recognition from social change target
- ✓ Gaining community support
- ✓ Gaining new consciousness of issues
- ✓ Creating lasting networks
- ✓ Attaining longevity
- ✓ Acquiring new skills

Legislative Updates

- Healthy Start
- KidCare
- IDEA- Part C
- Florida Pediatric Society Priorities

Healthy Start Budget- Great News!

Great start to reducing infant mortality and morbidity rates next year.

- Senate budget
\$9.5 million
- House budget
\$9 million



KidCare Budget

SB 2700

Proposed Budget	\$ 361,723,062
Proposed Reduction	\$ 115.8 federal
	\$ 50.2 state

HB 5001

Proposed Budget	\$ 325,888,660
Proposed Reduction	\$ 205.4 federal
	\$ 50.3 state
	\$ 10.3 tobacco

Next Step: Conference Committee

Who is the Conference Committee?

Members from committees that work on relevant issues

Who appoints the members?

Senate President and Speaker of the House

What is their purpose?

To reconcile differences in the budget

Justification For the Reduction: “Decreased Enrollment”

But...

- Decreased enrollment is directly related to loss of the Community Education and Outreach Program 2004
- Complicated and confusing enrollment for families and mixed communications caused low enrollment and high attrition rates across the state.

Bills To Increase Enrollment

SB 2050; HB 1365

Improve enrollment process and cover more uninsured children in Florida.

SB 2654; HB 1423

Restore community outreach and increase physician/dental reimbursement rates.

SB 972; HB 241

Bills would require AHCA (Agency for Health Care Administration) to implement a buy-in option for MediKids for children from ages 1 through 4 with a family income above 200 % of the federal poverty level.

Basic Messages to Legislators



- **Restore adequate funding to expand coverage and invest in the community based education and outreach programs.**
- **Open up the enrollment for non-Title XXI children (legal immigrant and children of state employees).**
- **Pass proposed legislation to improve the administrative process for enrollment.**

Why Funding Should NOT Be Reduced

- 504,000 uninsured children in Florida
- 374,000 below 200% of poverty
(eligible for the Title XXI KidCare programs)
- The State Child Health Insurance Program for 2007 is up for federal reauthorization
- The state funding formula is based on state allocations.
(Less Funding = Less Federal Dollars)

IDEA- Part C

- Budget falls way below the projected \$10 million need to adequately fund the full array of early intervention and prevention services:
Senate: \$3.5 million
House: Nothing
- Advocates will continue to work together to reach a better budget solution for fully funding the collaborative community partnership.

Florida Pediatric Society

- **Suicide Prevention (S1008/H527)**
- **Universal Health Care for Children (S310)**
- **Fish Consumption and Health (S1302)**
- **Prevention of Obesity (S1324)**
- **Heller Hall/Curran Center/USF (S1086;H0019)**
- **Dori Slosberg Safety Belt Law (H97)**
- **Schools/Health Related Education (H679)**
- **School Food Service Program/Fructose (H629)**
- **Cystic Fibrosis Treatment (S376)**
- **Unattended/Unsupervised Child/Auto (S910)**
- **High School Drug Testing (S1928/H1005)**
- **Mature Driver's Act (S1852/H975)**

- **For tracking or more information, go to www.flsenate.gov or www.myfloridahouse.gov.**

-Next LATI Session-
TBA

-LATI Archives-

<http://peds2.med.miami.edu/mailman/lati.htm>

-To Learn More About Florida CHAIN-
www.floridachain.org