

Responding intelligently and effectively to recent, and anticipated, reductions in state funding of child welfare and other social services involves several strategies. Major among these is powerful and repeated advocacy directed at those who ultimately make decisions about such funding, members of the Florida legislature. This Friday morning, **October 10<sup>th</sup>**, from **9:30 to 11:30**, a very significant opportunity for such advocacy will take place at the **David Posnack Jewish Community Center** located at **5850 South Pine Island Road in Davie**.

This event is the fourth in a statewide series of “town hall meetings” sponsored and supported by a unique coalition of major statewide and local organizations, including the Florida Coalition for Children, Florida Tax Watch, AARP and local CBC lead agencies and Children’s Services Councils. The prior events have enabled several hundred advocates to engage both current legislators and candidates in a much needed discussion that involves more than simply urging them to not reduce funding for needed services. Rather, the discussion also recognizes the very real problem of diminished state revenue currently available to support these services and, perhaps most importantly, suggests consideration of additional ways of generating needed revenue. Many of these alternatives are described in the attached article from the Jacksonville Times Union authored by Dave Bundy, CEO of Children’s Home Society and one of the founders of this creative and important advocacy initiative.

I strongly urge you to both participate in Friday’s event and do all that you can to facilitate participation by your colleagues and, crucially, the clients you serve. This is a unique opportunity which we, as advocates for children and families, simply must not ignore.

Larry Rein

Vice President of Network Development

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"To protect Broward's abused, neglected & abandoned children"

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