



Community Based Care  
**Integrated Health**

## AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

### Selection of projects to advance use of *Brief Strategic Family Therapy* to improve behavioral health outcomes for youth in Florida's child welfare system

**May 3, 2021** – On behalf of the partners in the Child Welfare Specialty Plan Reinvestment Fund – **Sunshine Health** and **Community Based Care Integrated Health** – Embrace Families Foundation is pleased to announce the intent to fund three proposals received in response to RFP #2021-CWSP, which sought initiatives to advance the evidence based practice of Brief Strategic Family Therapy in Florida.

The purpose of this Reinvestment Fund allocation is to support implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) in Florida through advancement of EBPs designed to improve behavioral health outcomes for children and youth in the state's child welfare system. This release specifically sought proposals to advance use of the Brief Strategic Family Therapy practice model, which is rated "well supported" on the Prevention Services Clearinghouse.

The leadership teams representing Sunshine Health and Community Based Care Integrated Health – partners who contribute equally to the Reinvestment Fund -- have issued the following recommendations for awards. Grant decisions were made by a Review Panel, who based their decisions on quantitative scoring, as well as consideration of factors such as geographic area and target (priority) populations to be served.

A total of \$265,000 has been allocated. Award recipients, who will leverage funding to initiate two-year pilot projects, include:

- **Cayuga Centers**  
Geographic Area to be served: South Florida – Palm Beach and Broward (Circuits 15 & 17)
  
- **Children's Home Society of Florida, Greater Lakeland Region**  
Geographic Area to be served: Central Florida – Polk, Hardee and Highlands (Circuit 10)
  
- **National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP)**  
Geographic Area to be served: North and West Central Florida - Jacksonville and Sarasota (Circuits 4 & 12)

Congratulations to our award recipients. The Sunshine Health CWSP Review Panel and Leadership Team are grateful to all respondents who submitted projects for review.

###

#### About Brief Strategic Family Therapy:

Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT) uses a structured family systems approach to treat families with children or adolescents (6 to 17 years) who display, or are at risk for developing, problem behaviors including substance abuse, conduct problems, and delinquency. There are three intervention components. First, counselors establish relationships with family members to better understand and 'join' the family system. Second, counselors observe how family members behave with one another in order to identify interactional patterns that are associated with problematic youth behavior. Third, counselors work in the present, using reframes, assigning tasks and coaching family members to try new ways of relating to one another to promote more effective and adaptive family interactions. BSFT is typically delivered in 12 to 16 weekly sessions in community centers, clinics, health agencies, or homes. BSFT counselors are required to participate in four phases of training and are expected to have training and/or experience with basic clinical skills common to many behavioral interventions and family systems theory.

**About the Sunshine Health Child Welfare Specialty Plan Reinvestment Fund:**

The CWSP Reinvestment Fund was created in 2017 by the partners of the Sunshine Health Child Welfare Specialty Plan, a Florida Medicaid Managed Medical Assistance Program designed to provide services to Florida Medicaid-eligible children under the age of 21 years who have an open case in the Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) and Florida Medicaid-eligible children who have been adopted through the state's child welfare system and are receiving a state adoption subsidy. The Child Welfare Specialty Plan is administered by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), which contracts with Sunshine Health to serve this specialty population. Sunshine Health sub-contracts with Community Based Care Integrated Health (CBCIH) to perform critical functions of the Child Welfare Specialty Plan. The fund was created with the mutual intent of improving the quality of the state's child welfare system and health outcomes for the children served.

While tremendous strides have been made in providing comprehensive healthcare coverage to youth in foster care under Sunshine Health's Child Welfare Specialty Plan, service needs still exist. In addition to working alongside colleagues at the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) to expand coverage, this partner-funded reinvestment plan is designed to proactively address the following priorities:

- Fund programs designed to improve system quality and health outcomes
- Fund programs designed to increase system capacity and to make the provider network more robust
- Fund programs designed to address gaps in care for youth in the child welfare system

The CWSP Reinvestment Fund is managed on behalf of the partners by Embrace Families Foundation, Inc.

**QUESTIONS?** Email [grants@cbcih.com](mailto:grants@cbcih.com)