

**2008 Innovations Awards Program  
APPLICATION**

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ID # (assigned by CSG): 08-S-18FL

**Please provide the following information, adding space as necessary:**

State: **Florida**

Assign Program Category (applicant): **\_\_Health & Human Services, Children and Families\_\_** (Use list at end of application)

1. Program Name: **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office**
2. Administering Agency: **Success 4 Kids**
3. Contact Person (Name and Title): **Robin Ragan, Children's Mental Health Director**
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7. E-mail Address: **robin\_ragan@dcf.state.fl.us**
8. Web site Address **www.myflorida.com**

Please provide a two-sentence description of the program.

**Successful Kids is a collaborative effort between the professionals and families to create a seamless service beyond traditional treatment. Families are able to direct their own treatment, based on their individual and family needs.**

9. How long has this program been operational (month and year)? Note: the program must be between 9 months and 5 years old on March 1, 2008 to be considered. **July 1, 2007**

10. Why was the program created? What problem[s] or issue[s] was it designed to address?

**In Spring of 2007, the Successful Kids Pilot project was created, braiding funds between the Children's Board of Hillsborough County and the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Program Office. The pilot project was to address the issues of families feeling they lacked access to needed services, the services they needed weren't available, they didn't have choices in their family's treatment, they weren't being listened to by the professionals and they weren't seen as being the expert on their family by the professionals.**

11. Describe the specific activities and operations of the program in chronological order.

**Families are referred to Successful Kids from the Multi Disciplinary Staffing Team for services. Families meet with Successful Kids and discuss their child and family. They discuss their concerns and goals and together build a treatment plan for their child and family. Treatment options are discussed and the family chooses who will be providing services discussed in their treatment plan. Families are linked to provider of their choice and services begin. Successful Kids monitors the family's progress and the services provided.**

12. Why is the program a new and creative approach or method?

**It is unique in its ability to 1) sustain funding after a 1998 SAMHSA grant through braiding in the State's Children's Mental Health dollars, 2) bring in additional funding resources by expanding the reach of service opportunities and 3) stress the value of family members as equitable partners in the treatment planning process.**

13. What were the program's start-up costs? (Provide details about specific purchases for this program, staffing needs and other financial expenditures, as well as existing materials, technology and staff already in place.) **The program utilized existing staff and technology previously funded through an existing program.**

14.

15. What are the program's annual operational costs? **They were given \$672,483 dollars for direct services, and to cover overhead costs within that**

16. How is the program funded? **The program is funded through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office.**

17. Did this program require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations? If YES, please indicate the citation number. **NO**

18. What equipment, technology and software are used to operate and administer this program? **The program utilizes basic office equipment, computer technology and software programs (i.e. Microsoft Office).**

19. To the best of your knowledge, did this program originate in your state? If YES, please indicate the innovator's name, present address, telephone number and e-mail address.

**Yes, The program originated from the collaboration of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program staff.**

**The Director of Children's Mental Health:**

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**Robin\_ragan@dcf.state.fl.us**

20. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does this program differ?

**No. Currently there are other wrap-around initiatives but none that are braiding the State's Children's Mental Health dollars through an administrative service organization. (that acts as a Triage and Assessment facilitator and then links families to the services they jointly select, utilizing family members as sub-contracted employees.)**

21. Has the program been fully implemented? If NO, what actions remain to be taken?

**Yes, The program is fully implemented.**

22. Briefly evaluate (pro and con) the program's effectiveness in addressing the defined problem[s] or issue[s]. Provide tangible examples.

**The program has the ability to be flexible which gives the families more choice in their child's treatment.**

**For example: A single mother has a need for child care after school however her son has been expelled from the after school program because of behavior. She needs psychiatric services for medication management but does not want to go to the large community mental health center. The child is struggling in classes and needs extra assistance with homework.**

**The parent can have access to tutoring, after school care, and can chose a private psychiatrist outside of the community mental health centers, she can also utilize non-traditional forms of treatment such as self-esteem building treatments (sports lessons, art classes) that can help her child in other ways.**

**The program serves the families who are underinsured or without insurance. There are often occasions when children fall onto or off of Medicaid services in which Successful Kids staff must work to access those services while continuing to maintain a seamless approach.**

23. How has the program grown and/or changed since its inception?

**The program has received great feedback from the community which has increased the number of referrals and ability to connect with additional programs in and out of the traditional mental health services realm.**

24. What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program?

**The program is successful due to collaboration of the state and county agencies. There can also be some reluctance from agencies in and out of the mental health realm to use an administrative service organization.**