



BAYS works in partnership with individuals, families, and communities to inspire change, growth, and success.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BAYS and Family Support Services Partner to Expand Evidence-Based Therapeutic Services in Pasco and Pinellas Counties

TAMPA, FL — BAYS is proud to announce it has been selected by Family Support Services (FSS) of Pasco and Pinellas Counties to provide evidence-based Functional Family Therapy (FFT) services following a highly competitive and intensive Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) process. This strategic partnership aims to bridge critical gaps in family preservation and reunification services within the Pasco and Pinellas judicial circuit.

By implementing the specialized FFT Child Welfare (FFT-CW) model, BAYS—the largest FFT provider in Florida—is expanding its comprehensive array of services to meet the specific needs of families involved in the child welfare system. This evidence-based practice is specifically designed to reduce out-of-home placements and provide families with the therapeutic tools necessary to maintain safe, stable, and supportive environments.

The collaboration focuses on high-risk cases where targeted intervention can facilitate successful reunification or prevent the initial removal of children from their homes. BAYS and FSS will work together to enhance the local social services infrastructure and deliver impactful outcomes for the community.

"At FSS, our mission is to provide safety, stability and quality of life for all children; and this collaboration with BAYS allows us to do exactly that," said Jenn Petion, President and CEO for FSS. "This initiative is specifically designed to meet families where they are, providing intensive support that prioritizes family preservation and successful reunification. We are excited to work alongside the BAYS team to strengthen the system of support for children and families across Pasco and Pinellas Counties."

"This opportunity allows us to strengthen our FFT presence in Florida and ensures we remain at the forefront of providing essential services to children and families," said Robert Patterson, President and CEO at BAYS. "We are incredibly excited to begin this journey with FSS, working together to deliver high-standard, compassionate care".

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For more information visit www.bayskids.org

About BAYS: For over 43 years, BAYS has been a dedicated advocate for children and families. Through innovative programming, legislative engagement, and community-based services, BAYS works to enhance the quality of life for youth by providing community based-intervention services and fostering personal growth and accountability.

About Family Support Services (FSS) of Pasco and Pinellas Counties: Family Support Services is the lead agency for community-based care in Pasco and Pinellas Counties. FSS is committed to the safety, permanency, and well-being of local children through foster care, adoption, and family preservation services, ensuring every child has a stable and loving home.

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