



# budget action alert january '09

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## Issue: Child Protection Teams (CPT)

CPTs are independent, community-based programs that provide expertise in evaluating alleged maltreatment of child abuse and neglect, assessing risk factors and providing recommendations for interventions to protect children. CPT services provide invaluable resources to assist child protective investigation activities of DCF and law enforcement. The CPT program is a medically directed, multidisciplinary program based on the idea that child abuse and neglect involve complex issues and require the expertise of many professionals to protect children. Statutory authority for the creation of CPTs is found in Section 39.303, F.S. and authorizes Children's Medical Program in the Department of Health to develop maintain and coordinate CPT services with local community-based programs.

### Services Provided:

- Medical diagnosis and evaluation
- Nursing assessment
- Child and family assessments
- Multidisciplinary staffings
- Psychological and psychiatric evaluations
- Specialized and forensic interviews
- Expert court testimony
- Training for child protection investigators, emergency room staff and other medical providers

### Mandatory referrals to a CPT include:

- Injuries to head, neck burns or fractures in a child of any age
- Alleged sexual abuse of a child
- Sexually transmitted disease of a child
- Reported malnutrition or failure of child to thrive
- Reported medical neglect
- Symptoms of serious emotional problems when emotional or other abuse is suspected
- A sibling or other child in a home where one or more children have been pronounced dead, or injured and later died as a result of suspected abuse

### Proposed funding reduction:

- The Senate has proposed a 4% reduction to CPT Services for a total of \$474,930 for FY 2008-2009.
- The House does not include these reductions in their proposed budget.

## CHS position: Oppose

Children's Home Society of Florida doesn't support reductions to CPT services. CHS operates CPT services in three locations including Tallahassee, Bartow and Stuart and their surrounding areas. ***Please call or e-mail your legislators and let them know these services are critical for children and families in crisis. Request they support the HOUSE budget proposal.***