



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 2, 2015

TO: Regional Managing Directors (Central, Northeast, Southern, and SunCoast)
SAMH Regional Directors
SAMH Managing Entities

FROM:  John Bryant, Assistant Secretary for SAMH
 Janice Thomas, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare

SUBJECT: Family Intensive Treatment (FIT) Service Areas

PURPOSE: To allow for the expansion of FIT service areas at the discretion of the Regional Managing Directors.

Specific appropriation 372 of the 2014 – 2015 General Appropriations Act (GAA) requires that FIT funds be used to target select communities with high rates of child abuse cases located in the Department's Central, Northeast, Southern, and SunCoast regions.

At the time of FIT implementation, it was unknown how many families would be referred for FIT services; therefore, some regions were provided with specific zip codes for service eligibility to target high risk areas and manage referrals. The restriction to specific zip codes has limited referrals in some areas and is unnecessary to manage the flow of referrals. Additionally, providers have reported that they have not been able to serve families appropriate for FIT because they do not reside within their specified zip codes.

In order to meet the local need for FIT services, the Regional Managing Directors may expand FIT service areas beyond the original zip codes provided at the time of FIT implementation. However, the original zip codes identified should remain part of the FIT service area to ensure communities with high rates of child abuse cases are targeted, as required by the GAA. This flexibility in determining FIT service areas will allow for more families who are eligible for and in need of FIT services to receive them.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Laurie Blades at (850) 717-4283.

cc: Ute Gaziach, Director, SAMH
Laurie Blades, Deputy Director, SAMH
Emily Tupps, Director, Child Welfare Integration, SAMH

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Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency