



**Benefits Connection Update**

3/11/2010

* Six County coverage with 9 Outreach Specialists, Manager and Admin. Assistant
* Federal Demonstration Project (conducting the final client interview)
	+ Six-Month Evaluation just completed with positive results:
		- Clients are receiving benefits in half the time as compared to State average
		- Application approval rate for SHFB: 80% vs. 66% for the State
		- 100% accuracy rate for SHFB
		- 96.4% timeliness rate for SHFB vs. 78% for the State
		- 98% of applicants very satisfied with SHFB service
		- DCF is recommending to the federal government to expedite demo approval for remainder of State.
* Food Stamp value generation: Year 1 = $4.1 million / Year 2 on track for $11 million
* Average monthly dollar value for SHFB: $223 vs. $87 for the State
* Dr. Phillips challenge match to be completed by March 31
* Federal government 50% match continues – over $200,000 to date
* EITC collaboration: Offering outreach services at tax prep sites and distributing EITC information to all applicants
* KidCare collaboration: Handling referrals and encouraging families to apply for KidCare
* Brevard County:
	+ Additional Specialist added through Brevard United Way funding and Alzheimer’s Foundation and Community Services Council
	+ Two additional Specialists to be added through Brevard United Way collaboration with the use of surplus TANF ARRA funding
* Florida Philanthropic Network Annual Summit: Presented with DCF and Winter Park Health Foundation on “Effective Cross-Sector Partnerships”.
* Hosted a visit for USDA Food and Nutrition Services, National office. Lisa Pino, USDA Deputy Administrator and Don Arnett, Southeast Regional Director for USDA and local DCF execs.
* Continue to Co-Chair a State-wide group for DCF Secretary Sheldon regarding public benefits

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