

### Policy Arenas~

#### **SERVING A RURAL POPULATION**

*The needs, perspectives and culture of our rural and frontier population shall be reflected in decisions and policies that shape services to children and families at all levels.*

#### **MENTAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SERVICES**

*All children in the child welfare system will have access to quality, and timely mental health and behavioral health services designed to sustain and reunite families.*

#### **MANAGING POSITIVE SYSTEMS CHANGE**

*System changes that impact children and families must be adequately funded, accompanied by plans to build system capacity, and have a process for monitoring and evaluating performance against outcomes.*

For more information contact  
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Saint Francis has a rich history of serving troubled youth and their families over the past 60 years. As the major service provider under contract with the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services for foster care and family preservation in Region IV, we provide a range of services to youth and their families from family preservation, foster care, drug and alcohol services, restorative justice programs, and residential services and supports.

In addition to our direct service obligation, Saint Francis Academy has a strong commitment to advocacy on behalf of the children and families we serve. Specifically we believe that it is our obligation to ensure public policy makers have the information they need to make decisions that positively impact the people served by the child welfare system.

Saint Francis Academy can be relied upon as a trusted source of information in developing policies and making budget decisions that impact our policy arenas.

During the 2008 Legislative session, Saint Francis will promote, and support legislative initiatives that:

- **Advance a rural perspective in public policy and child welfare**
- **Build human resources for the child welfare system**
- **Ensures service providers can access mental health and health services that are available and acceptable.**