



## CREST Statement

(Culture of Respect, Empowerment, Support and Trust)

TO: CBC of Central Florida Partners  
FROM: Glen Casel  
DATE: January 20, 2016  
RE: Normalcy and prudent parenting

CBC of Central Florida has long been an advocate for improving the lives of the children we care for. Years ago we authored a series of policy statements (attached) to support higher standards in our system of care. No child should have their belongings put in trash bags, normal childhood activities should be allowed for our kids at the discretion of their caregiver and our teens should have the opportunity to get a job or drive a car. These are all examples of this effort for normalcy.

We are fortunate now that both State and Federal Law support these "reasonable standards". The "*Let Kids be Kids*" law passed in Florida in 2013 and the "*Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act*"<sup>1</sup> passed at the Federal level in 2014. With these legal backings, we are now positioned to, again, thrust the Foster Care system forward and lead the efforts to help our kids; and through our leadership kids across the nation.

I want to emphasize that what is good for the child is good for us. Our job is to improve their lives and enrich their childhood, as much as it is to protect them and find them permanency. Those three elements work together to provide our kids with a foundation for success. We must work as hard at providing normal opportunities and activities for our kids as we do at other goals.

CBC continues to support the empowerment of caregivers and the 'co-parenting' with Case Management to allow our children to experience all they can, to develop to their fullest potential and enrich their lives while they are with us. We expect everyone to support caregiver decision making. If you have any questions or if you experience decisions that are inconsistent with this expectation, you are encouraged to say so, and advocate for our kids. It is everyone's job to advocate for our kids. Our kids are why we came into this line of work and why continue to work so tirelessly on their behalf.

We will be reinforcing this priority throughout the year with town hall meetings, QPI/DCM sessions and in additional training materials that support CREST and these principles. Thank you for all you do for our kids to protect and inspire them every day.

<sup>1</sup>HR 4980 – 113<sup>th</sup> Congress (2013-14) Public Law No: 113-183 (09/29/2014)



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