

**From:** Laurie Flynn [FlynnL@childpsych.columbia.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2004 11:02 AM  
**To:** Jim Mcdonough (E-mail); Jim McDonough (E-mail)  
**Subject:** making progress in Florida--CONFIDENTIAL

**Importance:** High

Hi Jim,

I'm glad we are able to talk this afternoon. I wanted to express some concerns and get your advice. We've been working with David Shern and USF for 18 months or so and still haven't got a program going. I know David has worked hard and I well understand the difficulties. We've had staff turnover----and frankly Justin is a concern. He's young, full of himself and not very politically savvy. He was only trained on our program in February and has never screened a kid or run a project. When he goes into meetings with local school officials he gets into deep water.

At this point I'm inclined to re-think the use of our resources. We're sending about \$120k to USF annually. I know that's inexpensive for the cost of David's time, but ultimately we're not achieving our goals in the community. Perhaps we should consider moving some of the funds to the Suicide Task Force----we've gotten a lot moving with Terry Smith. IS he strong in your opinion? He appears to be seeking a way to fund himself and his group---I don't know if he would focus on moving TeenScreen statewide. What's your take on this? I'm looking for a horse to ride here! And I don't want to pull out entirely of USF---esp given all the high level effort that's gone in already.

I need to get some kids screened---if the schools are a road block we are interested in community organizations. Next week we ar talking with the Boys and Girls Club in Pinellas. We're also exploring Clearwater Central Catholic. One of my staff is and alumna. I also think we should see if local agencies or businesses could be engaged in "community screenings". Issue here is assuring the link to follow up---but many businesses have on-site health staff who might help do the initial assessment and refer on to mental health those who need more.

Thanks.

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