

April 5, 2006

It was heartening to read today's story about Kristi House and the critical role it serves for children who are sexually abused. That it was page one news signifies the tremendous upsurge we've recently seen in community awareness of this public health concern, as Jason Grotto has accurately described it.

It's important to underscore that system coordination is key for effectively helping trauma victims. The partners at Kristi House are to be commended for their work at linking services for a seamless continuum of care for Miami-Dade's most vulnerable children. These professionals know that anything less only re-traumatizes victims rather than serve them.

As one who was involved in the formation of Kristi House over a decade ago, I recall that we knew there was a great need, but sadly never imagined that there would be so many children to help. The community stepped up to the challenge to create Kristi House and continues in its support as the numbers of children finding their way to Kristi House increases each year. It's critical that government support for victim services keep pace.

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