

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet

*2016
Annual
Report*





The Florida Children and Youth Cabinet

THE CAPITOL
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February 1, 2017

To the People, Governor, and Members of the Legislature:

On behalf of the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet, I am pleased to present this Annual Report. As directed by Florida Statute 402.56, this report provides an update of the Cabinet's activities including its meetings, workgroups, and initiatives. Throughout 2016, Cabinet members have committed to work diligently together as a team to seek tangible solutions to the challenges facing Florida's children and their families today. As directed in statute, the Cabinet is committed to ensuring that Florida is the first place families consider when asked, "Where would be the best place to raise our children?" As set forth in its mission statement, this Cabinet was established:

To ensure that the public policy of Florida relating to children and youth promotes interdepartmental collaboration and program implementation in order for services designed for children and youth to be planned, managed, and delivered in a holistic and integrated manner to improve the self-sufficiency, safety, economic stability, health, and quality of life of all children and youth in Florida.

A snapshot of information contained within this Annual Report includes:

- An updated list of Cabinet Members.
- A status of each of the Cabinet's current workgroups.
- Implementation of an interagency agreement to coordinate services for children served by more than one agency.
- The Approved Framework and Next Steps for the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet.

The Cabinet members' staff and the many stakeholders who participated in workgroup activities are to be commended for their contributions to advance the work of the Cabinet. Our gratitude goes out to Governor Rick Scott, Lieutenant Governor Carlos Lopez-Cantera, Former Senate President Andy Gardiner, and Speaker of the House Richard Corcoran for their leadership, support and dedication to the vision that all children in Florida grow up safe, healthy, educated and prepared to meet their full potential.

We are anticipating another productive year and looking forward to making great strides to benefit Florida's children and youth.

Sincerely,

Wansley Walters
Chair, Florida Children and Youth Cabinet



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FLORIDA CHILDREN AND YOUTH CABINET



The Florida Legislature found that all state agencies and programs that touch the lives of children and youth must work in a coordinated and comprehensive fashion, with an emphasis on providing a continuum of services that benefit children from prenatal care through programs supporting successful transition to self-sufficient adulthood. As such, the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet (Cabinet) was created and signed into law on July 11, 2007. The Cabinet is codified in Florida Statute 402.56. The statutory charge of the Cabinet is to ensure the public policy of the state relating to children and youth is best aligned for promoting interdepartmental collaboration in program implementation. This collaboration helps to ensure that services designed for children and youth are planned, managed, and delivered in a holistic and integrated manner to improve the self-sufficiency, safety, economic stability, health, and quality of life of children across Florida.

VISION

All children in Florida grow up safe, healthy, educated and prepared to meet their full potential.

MISSION

To ensure that the public policy of Florida relating to children and youth promotes interdepartmental collaboration and program implementation in order for services designed for children and youth to be planned, managed and delivered in a holistic and integrated manner to improve the self-sufficiency, safety, economic stability, health and quality of life of all children and youth in Florida.

The Cabinet created a strategic plan that requires creative and collaborative approaches to initiate action towards facilitating achievement of the following goals:

- Promote increased efficiency and improved service delivery by all governmental agencies that provide services for children, youth, and their families.
- Ensure that all children live in permanent, safe and nurturing environments.
- Ensure that all children in Florida have access to high-quality preventative, primary, specialty, and long-term healthcare.
- Assure high quality, seamless, research-based education and learning opportunities for all children.
- Build, allocate and align sufficient resources and functions to meet the goals set forth by the Children and Youth Cabinet.

Nationally, approximately 33 states have a council or committee dedicated to coordinating services among state agencies. Florida is one of only a few states that operate a Children's Cabinet supported by the Governor and participates in the Children's Cabinet Network managed by the Forum for Youth Investment (www.forumfyi.org/readyby21/childrens-cabinets). In addition, children cabinets and coordinating bodies have been established within communities across Florida and model their efforts after the Cabinet to achieve positive outcomes for children and youth.

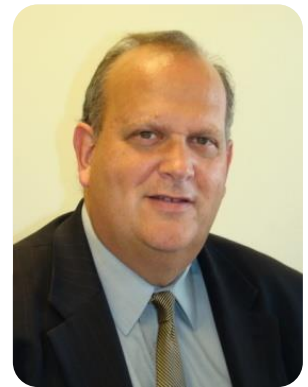
As set forth in Florida Statute 402.56, the Cabinet consists of the following members as of December 2016.

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Membership



Wansley Walters
Chairman, Florida Children and Youth Cabinet
Former Secretary, Department of Juvenile Justice
Partner, Ballard Partners

Alan Abramowitz
Director
Guardian ad Litem



Michael Carroll
Secretary
Department of Children and Families

Christina K. Daly
Secretary
Department Juvenile Justice





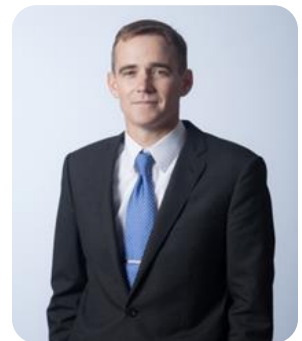
Nelson Diaz
Southern Strategy Group
Governor Appointee

Zackary Gibson
Director and Chief Child Advocate
Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection



Judge Sandy Karlan
Eleventh Judicial Circuit's Family Division
Governor Appointee

Rodney MacKinnon
Executive Director
Office of Early Learning





Barbra Palmer
Director
Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Justice Barbra Pariente
Florida Supreme Court
Designee of the Chief Justice



Celeste Philp, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary
Department of Health

Diana Ragbeer
Director of Public Policy and Community Engagement
The Children's Trust





Justin Senior
Secretary
Agency for Health Care Administration

Pam Stewart
Commissioner
Department of Education



Steven J. Uhlfelder, Esquire
Uhlfelder and Associates
Governor Appointee

Tanya Wilkins
LifeConnectors, Founder
Governor Appointee



Victoria Zepp
President and CEO
Clarity1st Consulting, Inc.
Designee of the Chief Financial Officer

Administrative Support and Service

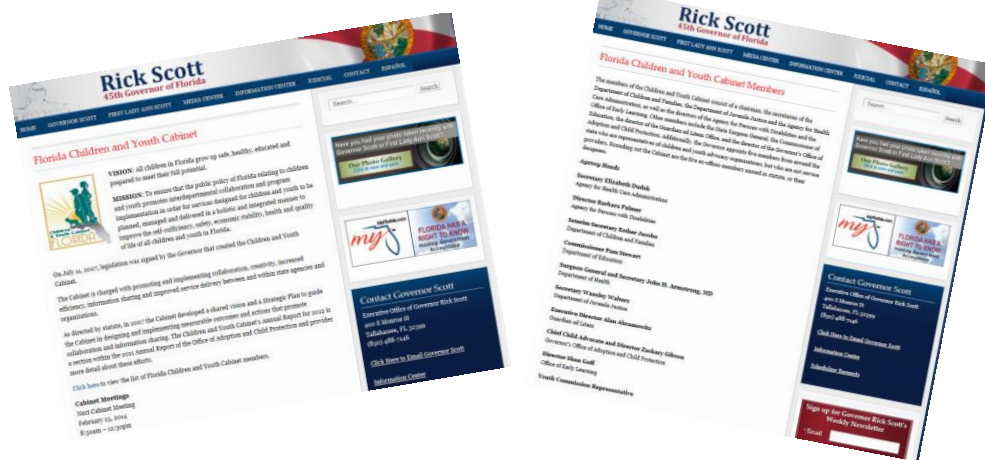
On June 12, 2007, the bill creating the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection (Office) was signed into law. The duties and responsibilities of the Office are enshrined in Florida Statute 39.001. The Office was created for the purpose of establishing, implementing, and monitoring a comprehensive, cross-agency approach for the promotion of adoption, the support of adoptive families, and the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect across the state. The Office is also tasked with providing administrative support and service to the Cabinet, as identified in Florida Statute 402.56.

The Office has worked diligently to advance the efforts of the Cabinet. Throughout 2016, Office personnel included Zackary Gibson, Director and Chief Child Advocate of the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection. The Office facilitated and coordinated travel logistics, meals, overnight accommodations, ground transportation, as well as site visits to local community organizations. The Office also coordinated with the Department of Child and Families' Legislative Affairs Senior Management, Lindsey Zander, to organize meeting materials and agendas.

The Office provided fiscal administrative support to the Cabinet by noticing Cabinet and workgroup meetings and coordinating travel requests and approvals. Additionally, the Office provided historical perspective and logistical and operational suggestions to support the Executive Director in their administrative functions.

As a member of the Cabinet, the Director attended each meeting and joined colleagues to support the Cabinet's positions on removing the five year waiting period for lawfully residing immigrant children to enroll in KidCare (approved during the 2016 Legislative Session) and the importance of early childhood development for the first 1,000 days in a child's life.

Throughout 2014, the Office maintained the Cabinet website found at: www.flgov.com/childrens-cabinet to allow for ease of user access and navigation. The website can also be found by visiting the Office's main page at www.flgov.com/child_advocacy. All Cabinet meetings, as well as Cabinet Workgroup meetings, are noticed on the Office's Meeting Advisory webpage: http://www.flgov.com/child_advocacy_meetings.



2016 Meetings

In compliance with state law, Cabinet meetings were held in different regions of the state including: Tallahassee, Hollywood, and Bradenton. All meetings were published in the Florida Administrative Register, and the public was provided opportunities to address the Cabinet at every meeting. When feasible, Cabinet meetings were also co-located with other related conferences and workshops around the state to encourage public attendance and participation. When available, meetings were documented by the Florida Channel and news organizations including Florida Public Radio. In order to ensure the public has complete access and up-to-date information, materials were uploaded on the Cabinet's website, which contains information about the Cabinet, its members, activities, work products, workgroups, and meeting information.

First Quarterly Meeting

The first meeting of the Children and Youth Cabinet was held on January 11, 2016 at The Florida Capitol Cabinet Room. Highlights of the meeting are provided below.

- Chair Walters announced that David Lawrence was appointed to the Board of Trustees for FAMU but would therefore be unable to continue to serve on the Cabinet. As a result, this would be his last meeting as a Cabinet member. Chair Walters mentioned several of his accomplishments and noted that he was one of the original members of the Children and Youth Cabinet. Chair Walters presented Mr. Lawrence with an award honoring him for his accomplishments and contributions. The award also made him an honorary advocate and member of the Children and Youth Cabinet.
- *Presentation on Direct File*
 - Tania Galloni of the Southern Poverty Law Center and Sal Nuzzo of the James Madison Institute provided a presentation on direct file reform legislation being considered by the Florida Legislature. The presenters discussed how Florida was number one in the country for charging children in the adult system and also leads the nation in the number of children in adult prison. They pointed out that due process varies across judicial circuits and is dependent upon where in the state you are being prosecuted, as there is a “justice by geography” that can determine if a child is incarcerated as a youth or as an adult. Additionally, non-violent offences account for half of the children involved with direct file and reform would essentially stop the 34 percent of children who recidivate.
 - The Cabinet agreed to circulate a general letter of support for direct file reform, and this if it has a 2/3 support from members, would be sent to the Legislature.
- *Caring for Florida's Children with Serious and Chronic Medical Conditions*



- Dr. Armstrong provided a presentation on how the Department of Health is looking for ideas for improvement in delivery of medical services in the treatment of children. He highlighted some of the statistics of the program:
 - That enrollment is 4.5 million of half of Medicaid
 - 200,000 in CHIP
 - 63,000 are in CMS-MMA enrollment managed care plans.
- The Cabinet Agreed to post the hotline number provided by Dr. Armstrong for parents who have questions or are having problems with the program on the Children and Youth Cabinet Website.
- *Policy Impact Committee Update- Early Steps Legislation*
 - The Committee presented on adding language in the Early Steps Legislative Bill that would build a provider network and streamline the application process with ACHA and DOH to provide services faster.



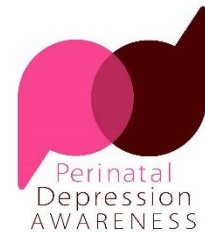
Second Quarterly Meeting

The second meeting of the Cabinet in 2016 was held on May 4, 2016 at State College of Florida Lakewood Ranch. Below are highlights of the meeting.

- Chair Walters recognized the three new members to the Cabinet, Tanya Wilkins, Diana Ragbeer and Nelson Diaz, and gave a brief history of their background and advocacy in working with children.
- Chair Walters also congratulated Judge Karlan on her reappointment and welcomed Interim Surgeon General Dr. Celeste Philip to the Cabinet.
- *Creation of the Suicide Prevention Task Force*
 - Dr. Heather Flynn from the Florida State University College of Medicine Presented on behalf of the Suicide Prevention Grant. Below are some of the highlights from the presentation.
 - The number of suicides has increased by 24 percent over the past ten years in Florida.
 - Suicide is the third leading cause of deaths in youth ages 10-24.
 - Suicide is the second leading cause of deaths in young adults ages 25-34.
 - One child or youth dies by suicide every 32 hours.
 - Dr. Flynn requested that the Cabinet created a task force to study suicide data and create an awareness campaign to combat this growing health problem. The Cabinet agreed to create a task force and Chair Walters nominated Tanya Wilkins to serve as the Chair of the task force and for Victoria Zepp to serve on the task force as well.
- *Discussion on the Renewal of the MOU Interagency Agreement*
 - In 2012 this Cabinet facilitated an Interagency Agreement for coordination of services and data collection with the current agreement in place until July 1, 2017. The Interagency Agreement was given out to the respective agencies for their reviews and updates, and these updates were scheduled to be revised at the next cabinet meeting.



- *Presentation on Perinatal Care Mental Health— Lauren DePaola, CEO/ Founder of Postpartum Wellness and Family Counseling*
 - Lauren informed the Cabinet that Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD) can occur any time during pregnancy and any time in postpartum; including postpartum depression and anxiety panic disorder and posttraumatic stress disorder. Additionally, she recommended that women should be screened for depression during pregnancy and after giving birth.
 - Lauren requested that the Cabinet create an annual proclamation in May recognizing perinatal mental health awareness and dedicate space on the DCF website for education, resources and a provider clearinghouse (USF) on Perinatal Mental Health. The Proclamation passed and May 2016 was designated as Perinatal Mental Health Awareness Month. The Proclamation can be found in the appendix of this report.
- *Overview of Agency Legislative Session Review*
 - Secretary Daly spoke on behalf of the Department of Juvenile Justice and highlighted the passage of HB 7061 that change how the Department of Motor Vehicles will now not charge youth that are transitioning out of detention or on probation for an identification card. She also spoke about HB 293, which clarifies that a juvenile’s criminal history record is exempt from public inspection and SB 386, which requires that certain juvenile criminal records to be automatically expunged at the age of 21.
 - Tanya Cooper, with the Department of Education, informed the Cabinet that Governor Scott and legislators prioritized funding for students this year with \$20.2 million for all public schools, which includes \$11.3 million in day funding which is the highest amount ever. There was an increase in \$71/student for a total of \$7,178/student. Additionally, \$80 million was also invested in digital learning.
 - Director McKinnon discussed HB 7053 and how it requires the Department of Children and Families to do an annual safety inspection on all child care centers. Additionally, HB 7029 provided an additional \$5 million for scholarships for early education teachers.
 - Dr. Philip spoke on HB 7053 and how it expanded the list of entities that have access to child abuse reports for purposes of approving providers of school readiness services. HB 941 focuses on racial and ethnic disparity by making connections with other programs within the Department.
 - Secretary Carroll discussed HB 673 on adoption and how it revises circumstances under which adoption consent is valid and requires the court to determine under certain circumstances whether change of placement of child is in child’s best interest, rather than whether change of placement is appropriate. He spoke on Child Welfare receiving \$14.8 million for case management services that will go directly to the Community Based Care and an additional \$8 million for safety management services to provide in-home services to keep children safe.
 - Alan Abramowitz highlighted how foster parents can now testify at every hearing and how transition for foster children’s living arrangements were once immediate now have a transition plan requirement.
 - Zack Gibson reminded the Cabinet that a bill was passed to add a school Superintendent to the Florida Children’s Youth Cabinet.



- *Special Recognition of Senator Nancy*
 - The cabinet presented the Children’s Champion Award to Senator Nancy Detert for devoting her career in life for positive change and success for the most vulnerable children in Florida.



Third Quarterly Meeting

The third meeting of the Cabinet was held on August 25, 2016 at Memorial Regional Hospital South in Hollywood, Florida.

- *Special Recognition of Senator Eleanor*
 - The Chair gave special recognition to Senator Eleanor Sobel as this was her last Children and Youth Cabinet meeting.
- *Community Highlights*
 - **Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer, President/CEO, Children’s Services Council**
 - Thanked Senator Sobel for contributions to the Council.
 - **Joshua Plantz, Manager of Community Services, Memorial Healthcare System**
 - Promoting unity between Memorial Healthcare System and the community
 - Adolescent Behavioral Health Programs/Family Strengthening Programs
 - **Ismeal Martinez, Director of Family Success Administration, Broward County Human Services**
 - Services for adult and youth community members dealing with substance abuse and behavior issues.
 - Provides case management, affordable housing guidance, juvenile civil citation programs and overall administrative support.
 - **Charlotte Mather-Taylor, CEO, Ann Storck Center**
 - Serves 300 disabled children and adults daily with a staff of 333.
 - Serves children with parents who cannot care for their disabled children, victims of shaken baby syndrome, receive occupational therapy, created anti-bullying programs. Anticipating increase in infants affected by Zika.
 - **Charlotte Mather-Taylor (on behalf of Pauline Grant), Broward Health**
 - Goal is to recognize and address growing childhood obesity which can lead to diabetes and other issues later in life.



- Operates a level 3 Neonatal Intensive Care Clinic.
- **Evan Goldman, CEO, HANDY**
 - HANDY Mission is to embrace education and empower young adults. Serves between ages of 9-25 who are in social welfare care.
 - 95 percent of children served by program graduated high school.
- **Ellie Schrot, Director, Early Steps**
 - Provide medical services to over 47,000 children in Florida Goals include prenatal diagnoses, improving early identification of disabilities, creating relationships with partners such as Early Learning Coalition.
 - Thanks those who helped to pass early childhood legislation last spring.
 - Want to go back to eligibility criteria previous to 2010.
- **Dr. Barbara Weinstein, President/CEO, Family Central**
 - Many children in Broward have never owned a book, now elected officials will read to these children on Saturday's.
 - Believes that there needs to be more attention on feeding children on weekends and sheltering homeless families.
 - Worried about new law that limits employees to 40 hour workweeks.
- **Renee Jaffe, CEO, Early Learning Coalition**
 - Serve 26,000 children by providing families access to financially assisted child care programs and goal is to ensure that all children are receiving quality care.
 - Also provide voluntary Pre-K, no income test. 85 percent of Broward 4 year olds take advantage of this program.
 - Initiative program that provides teachers with professional development/ coaching/ best practices to ensure that they are providing best services to their children.
- **Newton Sanon, President/ CEO, OIC of South Florida**
 - Opportunity and Industrialization Centers, goal is to make sure that people are economically self-sufficient.
 - Work with young people aging out of the foster system, certification programs, vocational training and pregnancy prevention initiatives.
 - Goal is to give access to the classroom to promote job opportunities.
 - Oct. 18- Middle Class Summit will take place.
- **Shawn Preston, Director of Children's Services, ARC of Broward County**
 - Serves babies to seniors who have mental and physical disabilities.
 - Three program divisions- rehabilitation division, work force division, and child and youth services.
- **Courtnee Biscardi, VP of Program Operations, Urban League**
 - Provide services to disenfranchised groups to give them economic equality. Serve about 7,000 annually.
 - Theory of change- working with an individual is entry into that family household and address needs of that family.
- **Emilo Benitez, CEO of Child Net Community Based Care**
 - Thanks partners who have worked with him and his organization to better the lives of children, including Senator Sobel.



**Urban League of
Broward County**

- *Workgroup updates*

- Technology Workgroup Update, Victoria Zepp
 - To align policy for children and youth for data sharing, data resource, knowledge, collaboration and put on by the Forum for youth investment. DJJ was present and was able to facetime with the White House, the Board of Governors, and members of DCF. Discussion of new P3 grants and a shift away from manual data input.
- Statewide Suicide Prevention Taskforce Update, Tanya Wilkins
 - Dr. Heather Flynn from Florida State data surveillance
 - Florida suicide rate is higher than the national average and one of the leading causes of death in Florida and has increased recently by 24 percent.
 - Suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth. Many times not clarified as suicide.
- Performance Partnership Pilot (P3) Grant, Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer
 - First cohort to be selected for this Pilot, goal is to waive statues and regulations that get in the way of helping citizens. Children and Youth Cabinet is the statewide oversight body.
 - 21st century learning dollars- technology updates and upgrades to schools and child care centers.
 - Way to help connect communities in need to the technologies and resources that will help them be successful.
 - Due date for the third round of the Grant is Oct. 31, 2016.
- Policy Impact Committee, Judge Sandy Karlan
 - Chairwoman suggests identifying what programs the cabinet will support before the next meeting.
 - Issue of the Children and Youth Committee not having any full time staff brought up.



Fourth Quarterly Meeting

The final meeting of 2016 for the Cabinet was held on December 12, 2016 in the Cabinet Meeting Room at the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee, Florida. The meeting also served as an opportunity for the Cabinet to discuss the headline indicators to be used in the 2017 Legislative Session.

- Chair Walters began the meeting by welcoming Justin Senior to the Cabinet. Justin had been the AHCA interim director since January.
- *Policy Impact Committee presents recommendations regarding headline indicators, legislative priorities and a Proposed Action Plan.*
 - The committee wanted to identify what issues would be used to see if the policies implemented were truly affecting children and youth through the measureable headline indicators. The Multi-Agency Committee came up with the most measureable headline indicators, as well as reduce the number from 13 so that the indicators are more concrete. The Agency suggested that the Cabinet use the annual Annie E. Casey Kids Count headline indicator data as a baseline to create headline indicators for the cabinet. The committee also suggests a day long workshop on the Kid's Count Report.



THE ANNIE E. CASEY
FOUNDATION

- The Policy Impact Committee also selected six priorities for the 2017 Legislative Session. Four are from the First 1000 days Initiative and include:
 1. Percentage of low birthweight babies born in Florida
 2. Percentage of Eligible children, under four years of age, not in school readiness or Early Head Start
 3. Percentage of Children, under four years of age, living at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level
 4. Children who are under 12 at first arrest
 5. Percent of victims of verified maltreatment who were not subjects of subsequent reports with verified maltreatment within 6 months
 6. Percentage of infants and toddlers without health insurance. (There is data for under six years of age)
- The headline indicators would be used in the following ways:
 - Put on Cabinet website for interested groups to view
 - Distribute data on social media so the public can give information back
 - Start each cabinet meeting with updates on adopted priorities
 - Limit Cabinet agenda to adopted priority indicators
 - Use adopted priority indicators as a lens to view legislation to support
 - Agencies must keep abreast of data developments concerning the priority indicators
- Chair Karlan discusses a reorganization of the workgroups. She suggests that most workgroups have completed their tasks or become a standing committee. The workgroups that would be kept include:
 - Policy Impact Committee- This committee will assess legislative proposals for the priorities identified by the cabinet.
 - The Budget and Resource Committee- This committee will identify funding streams and resources to support children's services throughout the state.
 - Communication- This committee will articulate the actions the committees, agencies and cabinet are working together on as well as sharing updates on new program, public awareness initiatives, areas of concern and how each agency handles various barriers.
 - Best Practices and Delivery of Service- This committee will seek out and identify the best practices provided by all state agencies and community care organizations, both for profit and non-profit. The Suicide taskforce would be included in this workgroup.
 - Technology Committee- This committee serves as a venue for finding better way to share information across agencies.
- Committee Chair Karlan's fifth recommendation from the Policy Impact Committee was to use these workgroups, specifically the Communications workgroup, to be reaching out to children's groups and the public to facilitate engagement.
- Chair Karlan brings up the creation of an Executive Director for the workgroups. Options to consider include:
 - For each cabinet agency and entity, to pool their resources to fund a full time executive director position.
 - For one agency to fund a full time executive director position.
 - To propose a budget request to the Governor to fund a full time executive director position.
- Director Barbra Palmer motioned to adopt using the Policy Impact Committee's six recommendations. Secretary Daly seconded the motion, but asked the Cabinet members to



review the data and send Executive Director Lindsey Zander their recommendations to be circulated before the next meeting. The Policy Impact committee's six recommendations were passed and will be further reviewed at an ad-hoc cabinet meeting on January 30, 2017 to be finalized.

- *First 1000 Days Legislative Proposals*

- The Proposal concerned Concerns children ages 0-3. The group is comprised of early childhood coalitions and groups who bring their expertise. The group offers their resources to the Cabinet. The alignments between Annie E. Casey and the Cabinet's priorities included:

- Safety
 - Expanded Access to trauma informed care and courts
 - Trauma-informed competency among those who deal with children and their families
- Nurture/Education
 - Quality for child care and expanded access
 - Money for home visitation and community-based support
 - Expanded parental support through Help Me Grow
 - Collection of relevant data to measure child/family wellbeing
- Health Care
 - Restoration of KidCare outreach money
 - Training mental health counselors on early childhood mental health issues
 - Expanded access to dental care for children 0-3.
 - Rewriting mental health bill to include parental and caregiver anxiety and depression, pregnancy mental health issues and early childhood mental health
 - Maintain or expand prenatal Medicaid to 185 percent of poverty
 - Remove five-year ban for immigrant women to receive prenatal care
- Security
 - Increase funding for Earned Income Tax Credit EITC assistance



- *Children Service Council of Broward County Presentation on Integrated Data System*

- The data system will be between the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Education and the Department of children and Families. The data will be collected in a warehouse that will help with research and evaluation of policy and well as how agencies can improve their services.
- Currently, the council is working on a data system update and identified and drafted an initial data sharing agreement. Currently there are some questions from the Department of Children and Families about the Florida Safety Family Network and legalities. The Department of Education will only be able to share aggregate data because of educational privacy laws. This data will not be K-12, but post-graduation data on the future endeavors of these students.
- The Department of Juvenile Justice has an agreement to provide individual level data for the children who the Children Service Council serves who are also involved in DJJ. The Council has about \$300,000 in funding from state and federal grants to build this data system. The Integrated Data warehouse will be used for the service providers make referrals to activate services for youth clients that would not otherwise be available to these service providers.



- *State Agency Process Mapping*
 - Director Palmer presented on the results of mapping youth who enter a state agency system. The purpose of this mapping process is to identify gaps in child entry into a state agency process.
- *MOU Interagency Agreement Update*
 - Zackary Gibson presented on agencies that convened about issues that these agencies faced, including distress calls directly to agencies. The workgroup of MOU was created to assist and oversee local review teams who look into the children who are served by multiple agencies in the state of Florida. The state review team produced a visual to show what they do. The chain follows as:
 - Case involving child → Case involving child served by more than one agency → Case Referred to the Local Review Team → Case referred to the Regional Review Team → Case Referred to the State Review Team.
 - The review of these cases helps the review team to make recommendations about the intake and processes that children served by multiple agencies go through.
 - Next steps for MOU include continuing to raise awareness of the Interagency Agreement and involvement of key stakeholders, continuing to work with local and regional review teams to ensure points of contact, provide detailed information on cases, and develop guidance on general and specific processes that may occur when cases are referred.

Workgroups of the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet

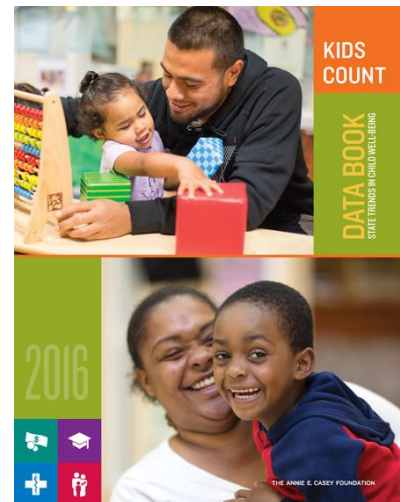
Policy Impact Committee

The Policy Impact Committee was chaired by Judge Sandy Karlan and was instrumental in the development of the cabinet's priorities, structuring and significant legislative commitments.

- *Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Impact Statement on Early Steps Legislation*
 - The Cabinet developed a general statement concerning the Early Steps legislation in 2016 with the capability to approve bills and check if language met the committee's goals. The Cabinet then agreed to endorse the principles imbedded in the bill and it's legislative intent through this policy impact statement.
- *Florida's First 1000 Days Priorities for the 2016 Legislative Session*
 - The committee identified 5 priorities for the 2016 legislative session, including:
 - Child Care - Expand affordable and accessible high-quality infant/toddler care.
 - Baby Courts - Improve outcomes for infants and toddlers in child welfare through Baby Court and links to early childhood systems.
 - Early Steps - Expand eligibility for EARLY intervention and maximize the impact of early intervention.
 - Children's Health - Promote a medical home and health care for all children, and the utilization of mental health services especially for maternal/paternal depression and infant mental health.
 - Economic Policies - Support economic policies that promote stable, nurturing and self-sufficient parents through access to job training and education, Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other tax credits.



- The committee also identified 13 indicators the cabinet would use to decide to endorse and promote legislation in 2016, including:
 1. Birth to women with fewer than 12 years of education
 2. Teen births
 3. Domestic violence
 4. Mothers beginning prenatal care in the first trimester
 5. Early childhood staff with bachelor's degrees
 6. Children in poverty
 7. Children who are homeless
 8. Children in supportive neighborhoods
 9. Children whose kindergarten entry assessment scores show they are ready for school
 10. Children who are read to by their parents or relative caregivers
 11. Children who are maltreated
 12. Children with a medical home
 13. Children with health insurance
- *Recommendations for 2017 Headline Indicators*
 - At the last cabinet meeting of the year, the committee proposed six priorities for the cabinet to focus on during the 2017 legislative session that align back to the key indicators identified through the Casey Kids Count 2016 Report. The Annie E. Casey Kids Count Report is an annual report that collects information on various indicators pertaining to the health and wellbeing of children. This report is captured for each state and offers the ability for Florida's performance to be measured compared to the nation.
 - Members were to review these indicators and the indicators would be voted on before session began in 2017. The recommended Headline Indicators for 2017 included:
 1. Percentage of low birthweight babies born in Florida.
 2. Percentage of eligible children, under four years of age, not in school readiness or Early Head Start.
 3. Percentage of children, under four years of age, living at or below 20% of the federal poverty level.
 4. Children who are under 12 at first arrest.
 5. Percent of victims of verified maltreatment who were not subjects of subsequent reports with verified maltreatment within 6 months.
 6. Percentage of infants and toddlers without health insurance.
 - The committee also recommended that the cabinet convene at a meeting devoted to assessing the state's performance among the Casey indicators where the cabinet looks at where they are and where they need to go in adjusting the priorities and in defining what the top three things that they want to accomplish by the end of the fiscal year.
 - The Policy Impact Committee's recommendations can be found in the Appendix.



Technology Workgroup

The Technology Workgroup was chaired by Victoria Zepp and served as a venue for finding better way to share information across agencies.

- Performance Partnership Pilot (P3) Grant
 - The technology workgroups goals included finding better data sharing systems to use to share information between agencies about clients, as well as monitoring the P3 Grant's process.
 - The Children and Youth Cabinet is the statewide oversight body for the grant, and the goal of the grant is to waive statutes and regulations that prohibit data sharing between agencies, hurting these agencies' abilities to help their clients as best they can.
 - The grant would also fund technology updates for schools and child-care centers, and would be a way to help connect communities in need to the technological resources they need to be successful.



Statewide Suicide Prevention Taskforce

The Suicide Prevention Taskforce is chaired by Tanya Wilkins and was created to identify effective ways to identify at-risk children and youth.

- *Presentation on Suicide Prevention Grant*
 - The Taskforce brought Dr. Heather Flynn from Florida State University College of Medicine to the May Cabinet Meeting to discuss the creation of a taskforce to study suicide data.
 - The number of suicides has increased 24 percent over the past ten years.
 - Suicide is the third leading cause of deaths in youth ages 10-24 years old.
 - Suicide is the second leading cause of deaths in young adults 25-34.
 - 280 children and youth died by suicide in Florida in 2014.
 - One child or youth dies by suicide every 32 hours.
 - Almost 5,000 emergency room visit for suicide attempts.
 - Almost 2,000 hospitalizations for suicide attempts.
 - Un-treated or under-treated mental health is the major risk factor for suicide.
 - Those that died from suicide 90 percent had a diagnosable mental disorder.
 - Most who attempted suicide had seen a health care or social service professional in the past 3 months of the suicide attempt.
 - The taskforce will use this data to recommend legislation to endorse during the 2017 Legislative Session.
- *Three-phased goal of taskforce*
 - The first phase is to discover existing data as well as pursue national linkages. This existing data discovery process will provide information on key data gaps in the state in order to inform recommendations for developing a surveillance system that is systematic, accurate, reliable, and ideally standardized.

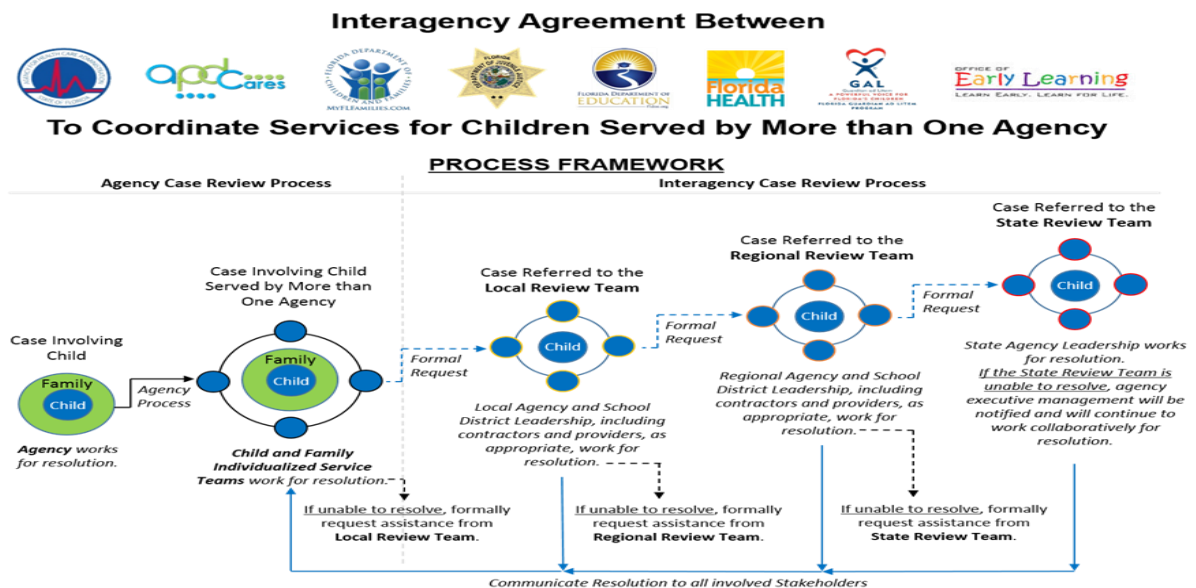
- The second phase is to develop a strategy to improve systematic and reliable data surveillance, reporting and use. The development of a statewide surveillance system will be informed by phase one, by other state models, and by the suicide research field. Florida is one of the 18 states that do not participate in the CDC’s National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). Participation in the NVDRS will be explored.
- The third phase is to develop and implement data-driven recommendations and prevention strategies.



- Phase three must be driven by best known practices and evidence-based interventions. The steps for this phase would include determining populations, settings, regions, and other contexts that are at higher risk for suicide. Risk for suicidal ideation, attempts and completions must all be considered. Both rates and numbers within regions and settings must also be considered. This phase would include planning and integrating evidence-based interventions in risk areas and settings.

Multi-Systems Children and Youth Workgroup

In preparation for the expiration of the *Interagency Agreement to Coordinate Services for Children Served by More than One Agency* on June 30, 2017, a sub-group of the Multi-Systems Workgroup (later known as the Interagency Workgroup) solicited recommendations from state agencies and local and regional review teams in order to refine, improve and strengthen the next version (SFY 2017-2022) of the *Interagency Agreement*. Additionally, the team enlisted support from the *Florida Institute for Child Welfare* at Florida State University to conduct an analysis of data submitted by all review teams. To increase awareness and basic understanding of the *Interagency Agreement*, the team developed a *Process Framework* infographic to conceptualize the case resolution approach for children served by more than one agency. The workgroup continues to work with the Cabinet to finalize the *Interagency Agreement*.



The Prevention Investment Workgroup

The Prevention Investment Workgroup, headed by Director Barbra Palmer, was tasked with identifying the entry and exit points for children receiving services from each of the Cabinet agencies in an effort to identify touch points across agencies, interdependencies, gaps, duplications, and service delays.

- *Identification of service outcomes for improvement*
 - The workgroup spent one year collecting data from the Agency for Health Care Administration, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Office of State Courts, Department of Children and Families, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Education, Department of Health and the Office of Early Learning to identify services offered to clients and their impact. A full listing of the services by each department, service eligibility, and funding details can be found in the appendix.
- *Process Maps*
 - The Prevention Investment Workgroup was tasked with identifying the entry and exit points for children receiving services from each of the Cabinet agencies in an effort to identify touch points across agencies, interdependencies, gaps, duplications, and service delays. The initial intent was to then identify which service(s) could benefit from a detailed gap analysis of the funding and service outcomes for which recommendations to improve such services could be made to the Cabinet.
 - The Process Maps for the Agency for Health Care Administration, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Office of State Courts, Department of Children and Families, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Education, Department of Health and the Office of Early Learning can be found in the Appendix.

Communications Workgroup

The Director chaired the Communications Workgroup to assist the Cabinet in fulfilling its statutory duty and responsibility to foster public awareness of children and youth issues and develop new partners in the effort to serve children and youth (§402.56(5)(e), F.S.). The purpose of the workgroup is to bring together all of the Cabinet agency's Communications Directors to create consistent messaging and awareness about the Cabinet and public awareness topics that align with each agency's efforts. A survey was developed to identify awareness month topics and have members identify: 1) which agencies should be involved with a particular topic, and 2) which agency should lead the efforts (e.g., develop and request proclamations, press releases, etc.) Results of the survey were shared with the members to encourage their support to have their Communications Directors collaborate in this effort.

Bullying Prevention Workgroup

The Director supported the efforts of the Cabinet's Bullying Prevention Workgroup to raise awareness during National Bullying Prevention Month. A planning committee was convened and produced the following products:

- Developed a press release from the Chair of the Cabinet and Co-Chairs of the Bullying Prevention Workgroup in support of National Bullying Prevention Month to encourage dissemination through Cabinet agency networks.
 - Within the press release:
 - Identified support of the efforts of Stand Strong USA who brought in international speaker, Nick Vujicic, to speak at Florida middle and high schools to share his story that promotes bullying and suicide prevention.



- Identified support for the *Child Safety Matters* curriculum from the Monique Burr Foundation for Children. This curriculum is free for all public elementary schools and focuses on child safety and bullying prevention.
 - Promoted information and resources on bullying and cyberbullying available through the Department of Education’s website.
- Developed a graphic to encourage dissemination via social media through Cabinet agency networks.
 - Disseminate posters with bullying prevention messages to schools and community centers through the Monique Burr Foundation for Children.



Define:
BULLY
 bul • ly
 /ˈbʊli/
 verb
 transitive
 1 : to treat abusively
 2 : one habitually cruel to other
 3 : a person who teases, hurts, or threatens another or weaker person.
 Synonyms:
 harass, abuse, harass, harm, hurt.

If you can't recognize it, you can't stop it.

#LetsFaceBullyingFL 

The Director attended the Orlando event with Stand Strong USA and Nick Vujicic to hear his story and experiences with bullying and suicide. The Office also coordinated a live stream viewing of his presentation for state employees held in the auditorium of the Department of State. From these and other events, Stand Strong USA reported they reached 1.2 million students across Florida, 33 other states, and 22 other countries; and at least one school in 65 of the 67 districts participated.



From left to right: Stan Smith- Marketing Director SSUSA, Nick Vujicic (center), Tina Morgan- C9 DCF CDA, and Roy Moore- Executive Director SSUSA

Events Attended by the Children and Youth Cabinet Members

"Teens Only" Town Hall Meeting

On January 26, 2016, members of the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet participated at the town hall meeting hosted by the Florida YMCA Youth in Government. Youth from across the state were encouraged to attend and participate in the Q & A session to address important issues relating to Florida's children and services.



Children's Week

The Florida Department of Health and Cabinet members distributed health related books, water bottles, items related to dental care and information to children, parents/caregivers at two additional booths at this event. Educational outreach by multiple programs within the department such as Injury Prevention, Community Health, DOH-Leon, Molar Express, Healthiest Weight and others participated.

Appendix



Florida Children and Youth Cabinet
Florida Statute 402.56

- (1) **SHORT TITLE.**—This act may be cited as the “Children and Youth Cabinet Act.”
- (2) **LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.**—
- (a) The Legislature finds that all state agencies and programs that touch the lives of children and youth must work in a coordinated and comprehensive fashion, with an emphasis on providing a continuum of services that benefit children from prenatal care through programs supporting successful transition to self-sufficient adulthood. The Legislature further finds that creating a Children and Youth Cabinet is the best method by which the state might achieve the visions and plans necessary to ensure that this state is the first place families think of when asked, “Where do you want to raise a child?”
 - (b) The Legislature, in collaboration with the Governor, intends to develop and implement a shared vision among the branches of government in order to improve child and family outcomes in this state. By working collaboratively, the Legislature intends to invest in the education and skills of our children and youth, develop a cohesive vision and plan that ensures a long-term commitment to children and youth issues, align public resources serving children and youth to support their healthy growth and development, and promote increased efficiency and improved service delivery by all governmental agencies that provide services for children, youth, and their families.
- (3) **ORGANIZATION.**—There is created the Children and Youth Cabinet, which is a coordinating council as defined in s. 20.03.
- (a) The cabinet shall ensure that the public policy of this state relating to children and youth is developed to promote interdepartmental collaboration and program implementation in order that services designed for children and youth are planned, managed, and delivered in a holistic and integrated manner to improve the children’s self-sufficiency, safety, economic stability, health, and quality of life.
 - (b) The cabinet is created in the Executive Office of the Governor, which shall provide administrative support and service to the cabinet.
 - (c) The cabinet shall meet at least four times each year, but no more than six times each year, in different regions of the state in order to solicit input from the public and any other individual offering testimony relevant to the issues considered. Each meeting must include a public comment session.
- (4) **MEMBERS.**—The cabinet shall consist of 14 members including the Governor and the following persons:
- (a)
 - 1. The Secretary of Children and Family Services;
 - 2. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice;
 - 3. The director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities;
 - 4. The director of the Office of Early Learning;
 - 5. The State Surgeon General;
 - 6. The Secretary of Health Care Administration;
 - 7. The Commissioner of Education;

8. The director of the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office;
9. The director of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention;
10. A superintendent of schools, appointed by the Governor, and
11. Five members representing children and youth advocacy organizations, who are not service providers and who are appointed by the Governor.

(b) The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General, and the Chief Financial Officer, or their appointed designees, shall serve as ex officio members of the cabinet.

(c) The Governor or the Governor's designee shall serve as the chair of the cabinet.

(d) Nongovernmental members of the cabinet shall serve without compensation, but are entitled to receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061 while in performance of their duties.

(5) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Children and Youth Cabinet shall:

(a) Develop and implement a shared and cohesive vision using integrated services to improve child, youth, and family outcomes in this state.

(b) Develop, no later than December 31, 2007, a strategic plan to achieve the goals of the shared and cohesive vision. The plan shall be centered upon a long-term commitment to children and youth issues and align all public resources to serve children and youth and their families in a manner that supports the healthy growth and development of children. The plan shall prepare the children and youth to be responsible citizens and productive members of the workforce. The plan shall include a continuum of services that will benefit children from prenatal care through services for youth in transition to adulthood.

(c) Develop and implement measurable outcomes for each state department, agency, and program that are consistent with the strategic plan. The cabinet shall establish a baseline measurement for each outcome and regularly report on the progress made toward achieving the desired outcome.

(d) Design and implement actions that will promote collaboration, creativity, increased efficiency, information sharing, and improved service delivery between and within state governmental organizations that provide services for children and youth and their families. In particular, the efforts shall include the long-range planning process mandated by s. 216.013.

(e) Foster public awareness of children and youth issues and develop new partners in the effort to serve children and youth.

(f) Create a children and youth impact statement for evaluating proposed legislation, requested appropriations, and programs. The impact statement shall be shared with the Legislature in their deliberative process.

(g) Identify existing and potential funding streams and resources for children's services, including, but not limited to, public funding, foundation and organization grants, and other forms of private funding opportunities, including public-private partnerships.

- (h) Develop a children-and-youth-based budget structure and nomenclature that includes all relevant departments, funding streams, and programs. The budget shall facilitate improved coordination and efficiency, explore options for and allow maximization of federal financial participation, and implement the state’s vision and strategic plan.
 - (i) Engage in other activities that will implement improved collaboration of agencies in order to create, manage, and promote coordinated policies, programs, and service delivery systems that support children and youth.
- (6) **ADVISORY BOARD.**—The Governor may appoint an advisory board to assist the cabinet in its tasks. The board shall include persons who can provide to the cabinet the best available technical and professional research and assistance. If an advisory board is created, it shall include representatives of children and youth advocacy organizations and youth, wherever practicable, who have been recipients of services and programs operated or funded by state agencies.
- (7) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Children and Youth Cabinet shall, by February 1 of each year, provide an annual report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the public concerning its activities and progress towards making this state the first place families think of when asked, “Where do they want to raise their children?” The annual report may include recommendations for needed legislation or rulemaking authority.

History.—s. 1, ch. 2007-151; s. 53, ch. 2008-6; s. 284, ch. 2011-142; s. 61, ch. 2012-96; s. 16, ch. 2012-178; s. 152, ch. 2014-19; s. 1, ch. 2016-19.

Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection
Florida Statute 39.001, Sections 8 – 12

- (8) **LEGISLATIVE INTENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF ABUSE, ABANDONMENT, AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN.**—The incidence of known child abuse, abandonment, and neglect has increased rapidly over the past 5 years. The impact that abuse, abandonment, or neglect has on the victimized child, siblings, family structure, and inevitably on all citizens of the state has caused the Legislature to determine that the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect shall be a priority of this state. To further this end, it is the intent of the Legislature that an Office of Adoption and Child Protection be established.
- (9) **OFFICE OF ADOPTION AND CHILD PROTECTION.**—
- (a) For purposes of establishing a comprehensive statewide approach for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect, the Office of Adoption and Child Protection is created within the Executive Office of the Governor. The Governor shall appoint a Chief Child Advocate for the office.
- (b) The Chief Child Advocate shall:
1. Assist in developing rules pertaining to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and implementation of child abuse prevention efforts.
 2. Act as the Governor's liaison with state agencies, other state governments, and the public and private sectors on matters that relate to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention.
 3. Work to secure funding and other support for the state's promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention efforts, including, but not limited to, establishing cooperative relationships among state and private agencies.
 4. Develop a strategic program and funding initiative that links the separate jurisdictional activities of state agencies with respect to promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention. The office may designate lead and contributing agencies to develop such initiatives.
 5. Advise the Governor and the Legislature on statistics related to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention trends in this state; the status of current adoption programs and services, current child abuse prevention programs and services, the funding of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention programs and services; and the status of the office with regard to the development and implementation of the state strategy for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention.
 6. Develop public awareness campaigns to be implemented throughout the state for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention.
- (c) The office is authorized and directed to:
1. Oversee the preparation and implementation of the state plan established under subsection (10) and revise and update the state plan as necessary.

2. Provide for or make available continuing professional education and training in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
3. Work to secure funding in the form of appropriations, gifts, and grants from the state, the Federal Government, and other public and private sources in order to ensure that sufficient funds are available for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention efforts.
4. Make recommendations pertaining to agreements or contracts for the establishment and development of:
 - a. Programs and services for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.
 - b. Training programs for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
 - c. Multidisciplinary and discipline-specific training programs for professionals with responsibilities affecting children, young adults, and families.
 - d. Efforts to promote adoption.
 - e. Postadoptive services to support adoptive families.
5. Monitor, evaluate, and review the development and quality of local and statewide services and programs for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse and neglect and shall publish and distribute an annual report of its findings on or before January 1 of each year to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the head of each state agency affected by the report, and the appropriate substantive committees of the Legislature. The report shall include:
 - a. A summary of the activities of the office.
 - b. A summary of the adoption data collected and reported to the federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the federal Administration for Children and Families.
 - c. A summary of the child abuse prevention data collected and reported to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the federal Administration for Children and Families.
 - d. A summary detailing the timeliness of the adoption process for children adopted from within the child welfare system.
 - e. Recommendations, by state agency, for the further development and improvement of services and programs for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.
 - f. Budget requests, adoption promotion and support needs, and child abuse prevention program needs by state agency.

6. Work with the direct-support organization established under s. 39.0011 to receive financial assistance.

(10) PLAN FOR COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH.—

- (a) The office shall develop a state plan for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of abuse, abandonment, and neglect of children and shall submit the state plan to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Governor no later than December 31, 2008. The Department of Children and Families, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Law Enforcement, and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities shall participate and fully cooperate in the development of the state plan at both the state and local levels. Furthermore, appropriate local agencies and organizations shall be provided an opportunity to participate in the development of the state plan at the local level. Appropriate local groups and organizations shall include, but not be limited to, community mental health centers; guardian ad litem programs for children under the circuit court; the school boards of the local school districts; the Florida local advocacy councils; community-based care lead agencies; private or public organizations or programs with recognized expertise in working with child abuse prevention programs for children and families; private or public organizations or programs with recognized expertise in working with children who are sexually abused, physically abused, emotionally abused, abandoned, or neglected and with expertise in working with the families of such children; private or public programs or organizations with expertise in maternal and infant health care; multidisciplinary child protection teams; child day care centers; law enforcement agencies; and the circuit courts, when guardian ad litem programs are not available in the local area. The state plan to be provided to the Legislature and the Governor shall include, as a minimum, the information required of the various groups in paragraph (b).
- (b) The development of the state plan shall be accomplished in the following manner:
 1. The office shall establish a Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council composed of an adoptive parent who has adopted a child from within the child welfare system and representatives from each state agency and appropriate local agencies and organizations specified in paragraph (a). The advisory council shall serve as the research arm of the office and shall be responsible for:
 - a. Assisting in developing a plan of action for better coordination and integration of the goals, activities, and funding pertaining to the promotion and support of adoption and the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect conducted by the office in order to maximize staff and resources at the state level. The plan of action shall be included in the state plan.
 - b. Assisting in providing a basic format to be utilized by the districts in the preparation of local plans of action in order to provide for uniformity in the district plans and to provide for greater ease in compiling information for the state plan.
 - c. Providing the districts with technical assistance in the development of local plans of action, if requested.

- d. Assisting in examining the local plans to determine if all the requirements of the local plans have been met and, if they have not, informing the districts of the deficiencies and requesting the additional information needed.
 - e. Assisting in preparing the state plan for submission to the Legislature and the Governor. Such preparation shall include the incorporation into the state plan of information obtained from the local plans, the cooperative plans with the members of the advisory council, and the plan of action for coordination and integration of state departmental activities. The state plan shall include a section reflecting general conditions and needs, an analysis of variations based on population or geographic areas, identified problems, and recommendations for change. In essence, the state plan shall provide an analysis and summary of each element of the local plans to provide a statewide perspective. The state plan shall also include each separate local plan of action.
 - f. Conducting a feasibility study on the establishment of a Children's Cabinet.
 - g. Working with the specified state agency in fulfilling the requirements of subparagraphs 2., 3., 4., and 5.
2. The office, the department, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health shall work together in developing ways to inform and instruct parents of school children and appropriate district school personnel in all school districts in the detection of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect and in the proper action that should be taken in a suspected case of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect, and in caring for a child's needs after a report is made. The plan for accomplishing this end shall be included in the state plan.
 3. The office, the department, the Department of Law Enforcement, and the Department of Health shall work together in developing ways to inform and instruct appropriate local law enforcement personnel in the detection of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect and in the proper action that should be taken in a suspected case of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.
 4. Within existing appropriations, the office shall work with other appropriate public and private agencies to emphasize efforts to educate the general public about the problem of and ways to detect child abuse, abandonment, and neglect and in the proper action that should be taken in a suspected case of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect. The plan for accomplishing this end shall be included in the state plan.
 5. The office, the department, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health shall work together on the enhancement or adaptation of curriculum materials to assist instructional personnel in providing instruction through a multidisciplinary approach on the identification, intervention, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. The curriculum materials shall be geared toward a sequential program of instruction at the four progressional levels, K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Strategies for encouraging all school districts to utilize the curriculum are to be included in the state plan for the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect.
 6. Each district of the department shall develop a plan for its specific geographical area. The plan developed at the district level shall be submitted to the advisory council for utilization

in preparing the state plan. The district local plan of action shall be prepared with the involvement and assistance of the local agencies and organizations listed in this paragraph, as well as representatives from those departmental district offices participating in the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and treatment and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. In order to accomplish this, the office shall establish a task force on the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. The office shall appoint the members of the task force in accordance with the membership requirements of this section. The office shall ensure that individuals from both urban and rural areas and an adoptive parent who has adopted a child from within the child welfare system are represented on the task force. The task force shall develop a written statement clearly identifying its operating procedures, purpose, overall responsibilities, and method of meeting responsibilities. The district plan of action to be prepared by the task force shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- a. Documentation of the magnitude of the problems of child abuse, including sexual abuse, physical abuse, and emotional abuse, and child abandonment and neglect in its geographical area.
- b. A description of programs currently serving abused, abandoned, and neglected children and their families and a description of programs for the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect, including information on the impact, cost-effectiveness, and sources of funding of such programs.
- c. Information concerning the number of children within the child welfare system available for adoption who need child-specific adoption promotion efforts.
- d. A description of programs currently promoting and supporting adoptive families, including information on the impact, cost-effectiveness, and sources of funding of such programs.
- e. A description of a comprehensive approach for providing postadoption services. The continuum of services shall include, but not be limited to, sufficient and accessible parent and teen support groups; case management, information, and referral services; and educational advocacy.
- f. A continuum of programs and services necessary for a comprehensive approach to the promotion of adoption and the prevention of all types of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect as well as a brief description of such programs and services.
- g. A description, documentation, and priority ranking of local needs related to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect based upon the continuum of programs and services.
- h. A plan for steps to be taken in meeting identified needs, including the coordination and integration of services to avoid unnecessary duplication and cost, and for alternative funding strategies for meeting needs through the reallocation of existing resources, utilization of volunteers, contracting with local universities for services, and local government or private agency funding.

- i. A description of barriers to the accomplishment of a comprehensive approach to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect.
- j. Recommendations for changes that can be accomplished only at the state program level or by legislative action.

(11) FUNDING AND SUBSEQUENT PLANS.—

- (a) All budget requests submitted by the office, the department, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Corrections, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, or any other agency to the Legislature for funding of efforts for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect shall be based on the state plan developed pursuant to this section.
- (b) The office and the other agencies and organizations listed in paragraph (10)(a) shall readdress the state plan and make necessary revisions every 5 years, at a minimum. Such revisions shall be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate no later than June 30 of each year divisible by 5. At least biennially, the office shall review the state plan and make any necessary revisions based on changing needs and program evaluation results. An annual progress report shall be submitted to update the state plan in the years between the 5-year intervals. In order to avoid duplication of effort, these required plans may be made a part of or merged with other plans required by either the state or Federal Government, so long as the portions of the other state or Federal Government plan that constitute the state plan for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect are clearly identified as such and are provided to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate as required under this section.

(12) LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION.—It is the intent of the Legislature that this chapter be liberally interpreted and construed in conformity with its declared purposes.

History.—s. 1, ch. 26880, 1951; s. 1, ch. 73-231; s. 1, ch. 78-414; s. 1, ch. 82-62; s. 62, ch. 85-81; s. 1, ch. 85-206; s. 10, ch. 85-248; s. 19, ch. 86-220; s. 1, ch. 90-53; ss. 1, 2, ch. 90-208; s. 2, ch. 90-306; s. 2, ch. 91-33; s. 68, ch. 91-45; s. 13, ch. 91-57; s. 5, ch. 93-156; s. 23, ch. 93-200; s. 19, ch. 93-230; s. 14, ch. 94-134; s. 14, ch. 94-135; ss. 9, 10, ch. 94-209; s. 1332, ch. 95-147; s. 7, ch. 95-152; s. 8, ch. 95-158; ss. 15, 30, ch. 95-228; s. 116, ch. 95-418; s. 1, ch. 96-268; ss. 128, 156, ch. 97-101; s. 69, ch. 97-103; s. 3, ch. 97-237; s. 119, ch. 97-238; s. 8, ch. 98-137; s. 18, ch. 98-403; s. 1, ch. 99-193; s. 13, ch. 2000-139; s. 5, ch. 2000-151; s. 5, ch. 2000-263; s. 34, ch. 2004-267; s. 2, ch. 2006-97; s. 1, ch. 2006-194; s. 2, ch. 2006-227; s. 1, ch. 2007-124; s. 3, ch. 2008-6; s. 1, ch. 2010-114; s. 42, ch. 2011-142; s. 2, ch. 2012-105; s. 19, ch. 2012-116; s. 4, ch. 2013-15; s. 9, ch. 2014-19; s. 2, ch. 2014-224.

Note.—Former s. 39.20; subsections (3), (5), and (6) former s. 39.002, s. 409.70, subsections (7)-(9) former s. 415.501.



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