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Child Abuse Prevention & Permanency Advisory Council Convenes Third Meeting

~ The 32-member Panel discussed adoption promotion and post-adoptive support for families~

TALLAHASSEE — The Child Abuse Prevention & Permanency Advisory Council held their third meeting today at the Supreme Court building. The 32 council members discussed adoption of children and youth from Florida's foster care system. The conversation focused on a better method of recruiting adoptive families, and support for those families following the adoption.

"All of Florida's children deserve safe and loving homes," said Jim Kallinger, Florida's Chief Child Advocate and Chairman of the Council. "We want to ensure that families who consider adopting one of these special children are given all the support they need to succeed."

There are currently around 1,000 children seeking adoptive parents in Florida. Visit the Department of Children and Families' website at <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/adoption/search/indexnew.asp> to view children who are available for adoption.

The council brings together a variety of key leaders involved in children's issues; including senior management from nine state agencies, leaders from 22 statewide and local organizations, and an adoptive parent. As a council, the members will review, monitor and develop state and local planning efforts to empower communities to address the promotion of adoption and the prevention of child abuse, abandonment and neglect. These plans will focus on strengthening communities to provide for the well being of its families and their children. The state and local plans will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature. The council will draw from the work of local planning teams in developing the state plan and will assist them with their local planning and implementation efforts.

The Council encourages all Floridians to visit their website at http://www.flgov.com/child_abuse_prevention. The website provides information about the Council and future meetings.

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