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### **Child Abuse Prevention & Permanency Advisory Council Convenes Fifth Meeting**

*~ The 32-member Panel discussed child abuse prevention strategic planning~*

TALLAHASSEE — The Child Abuse Prevention & Permanency Advisory Council held their fifth meeting today at the JW Marriott, Grande Lakes in Orlando, preceding the 2008 Department of Children and Families Dependency Summit. The 32 council members discussed creative ways to get families the services they need while operating within the tight budget situation. The conversation focused on better utilizing existing resources, and engaging the community in supporting its children. Guest speakers included representatives from Healthy Families Florida and The Policy Group.

"All of Florida's children deserve safe and loving homes," said Jim Kallinger, Florida's Chief Child Advocate and Chairman of the Council. "The dedicated members of this council are looking beyond typical funding sources, and developing innovative partnerships within the community to help Florida's families."

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](http://www.flgov.com/child_abuse_prevention). The website provides information about the Council and future meetings.

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