

Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council



2015 Annual Report



Florida
Faith-Based and Community-Based
Advisory Council

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January 30, 2016

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

We are pleased to present to you this Annual Report of the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council. In 2006, the Florida Legislature created Florida Statute 14.31, establishing the Advisory Council which exists to facilitate connections to strengthen communities and families in the state of Florida.

As directed in statute, this annual report provides an update of the activities and recommended policies, priorities, and objectives for the state's comprehensive effort to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and other community-based organizations to the full extent permitted by law.

The Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council has worked diligently to encourage opportunities for faith-based and community-based organizations to work cooperatively with government entities. With few state resources, the Advisory Council has utilized various approaches to fulfill statutory requirements and support state initiatives and activities. The Advisory Council members are to be commended for their selfless efforts to improve outcomes for children, youth and families in our state. Our gratitude goes out to Governor Rick Scott, Lieutenant Governor Carlos Lopez-Cantera, Senate President Andy Gardiner, and Speaker of the House Steve Crisafulli for their leadership, support and dedication to the vision that Florida is a place where children and families can thrive.

We appreciate your willingness to review the information in this report. We hope you will use it to make decisions that will safeguard and improve the lives of children and families across the state.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gretchen Kerr
Chair
Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based
Advisory Council

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FLORIDA FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY-BASED ADVISORY COUNCIL



The Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council (Advisory Council) was created in 2006 in Florida Statute 14.31. State leadership felt that increased involvement of faith-based and community organizations was not a sufficient substitute for necessary public funding of services to individuals, families and communities in need. Likewise, they believed that without the involvement of these groups, public expenditures alone would limit the effectiveness of these government investments. The cost effectiveness of public expenditures can be greatly improved when government is focused on results and public-private partnerships are sought as a complement in order to leverage the talent, commitment and resources of faith-based and community organizations.

During the 2010 Legislative Session, the Sunset requirement for the Advisory Council was repealed through legislation sponsored by Senator Mike Bennett and Representative Clay Ford. In addition, the Advisory Council was assigned to the Executive Office of the Governor, where it is administratively housed.

The Advisory Council shall consist of 25 members and may include, but need not be limited to, representatives from various faiths, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, foundations, corporations, and municipalities. Members serve four year terms, except that the initial terms shall be staggered as determined by Florida Statute 14.31, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor, Senate President, and Speaker of the House.

The Advisory Council shall meet at least once per quarter per calendar year whether in-person, via teleconference, or through other electronic means. Annually, the Advisory Council shall elect from its membership one member to serve as Chairman of the Advisory Council and one member to serve as Vice Chairman. The mission statement was created and approved by the Advisory Council members at the Second Quarterly Meeting on June 11, 2013. The vision statement was approved by the members at the Second Quarterly Meeting on April 8, 2014.

Mission Statement

The Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council exists to facilitate connections to strengthen communities and families in the state of Florida.

Statutory Charge

To advise the Governor and the Legislature on policies, priorities and objectives for the state's comprehensive efforts to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and other community organizations to the full extent permitted by law.

Vision

To maximize the collaboration between faith-based and community organizations and State agencies to help strengthen individuals and families.

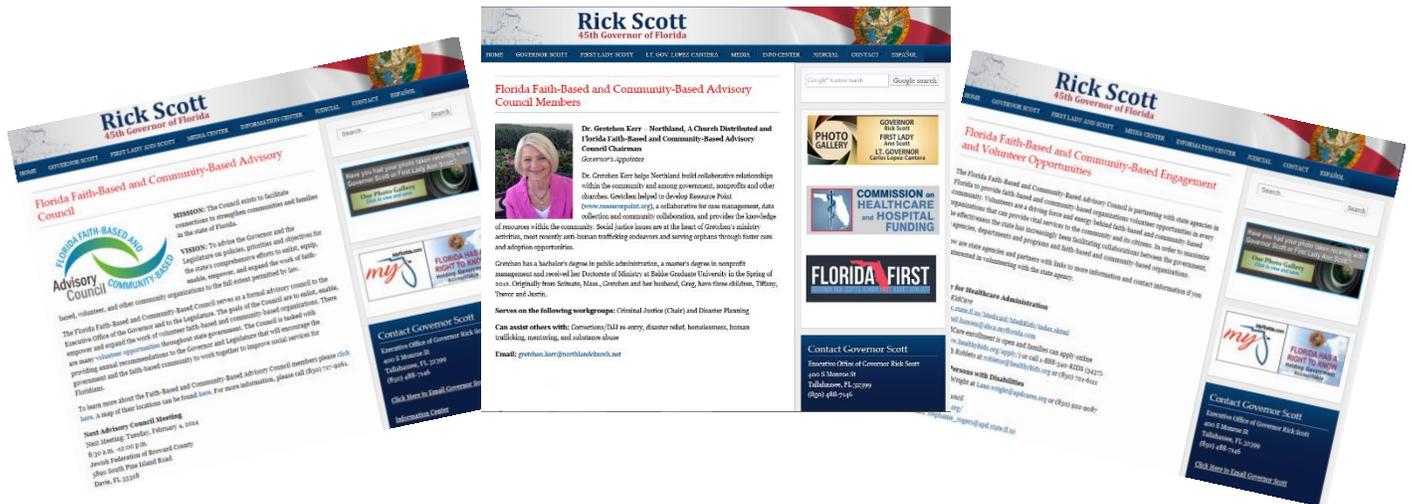
Administrative Support

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, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment and neglect across the state. In October 2011, the Executive Office of the Governor allocated responsibility for administrative functions and support for the Advisory Council to the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection.

The Office worked diligently throughout 2015 to advance the efforts of the Advisory Council. As of April 2015, the Office personnel, including one full-time employee, Zackary Gibson (Chief Child Advocate and Director) and one part-time employee, Frenchie Yon (Program Support), have provided support through a servant leadership approach. In addition, the Office utilized a student intern to assist with many tasks supporting the Advisory Council throughout the 2015 spring semester. The Office facilitated and coordinated meetings, travel logistics, meals, overnight accommodations, ground transportation, and site visits to local community organizations. Additionally, the Office developed correspondence, drafted meeting agendas, invited presenters to speak, worked with the Governor's, Senate President's and Speaker of the House's Appointments Office; and assisted in the creation of this annual report.

Website

The Advisory Council website can be found at: www.flgov.com/fbcb, and can also be found by visiting the Office's main page at www.flgov.com/child_advocacy. All Advisory Council meetings, as well as Advisory Council Workgroup meetings, are listed on the Office's Meeting Advisory webpage: www.flgov.com/child_advocacy_meetings.



Advisory Council Membership

As of December 2015, there were 21 members appointed to the Advisory Council. The following list identifies each member, their position on the Advisory Council, the organization they represent, the appointment authority, the workgroups they serve on, and topics they can assist others with.



Dr. Gretchen Kerr
Chairman, FL Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council
Northland, A Church Distributed
Governor's Appointee

Serves on the following workgroups: Criminal Justice (Chair) and Disaster Planning

Can assist others with: Corrections/DJJ re-entry, Disaster relief, homelessness, human trafficking, mentoring, and substance abuse

Patricia "Pat" Smith
Vice Chairman, FL Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council
Department of Children and Families
Governor's Appointee

Serves on the following workgroups: Annual Conference (Chair) and Child Welfare

Can assist others with: Adoption, mentoring, and single mothers



Richard Albertson
Live the Life Ministries
Governor's Appointee

Serves on the following workgroups: Family Initiatives (Chair) and Annual Conference

Can assist others with: Corrections/DJJ reentry, fatherhood, mentoring, youth in DJJ, marriage education, relationship education, and sexual risk avoidance for youth

Pastor Kirt Anderson
Naples Community Church
Governor's Appointee



Serves on the following workgroups: Family Initiatives and Legislative

Can assist others with: Educational tutoring, food services, homelessness, human trafficking, Legislative/policy, mentoring, and substance abuse



Rabbi Sholom Ciment
Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Boynton Beach
Governor's Appointee

Serves on the following workgroup: Disaster Planning

Can assist others with: Adoption, child abuse prevention, Disaster relief, domestic violence, educational tutoring, elderly populations, grant writing, independent living, legislative/policy, mental health, mentoring, military/veterans, single mothers, and workforce/employment

Reverend James "Perry" Davis
Christ to Inmates, Inc.
Speaker of the House Appointee



Serves on the following workgroup: Criminal Justice

Can assist others with: Corrections, fatherhood, jail ministry, and substance abuse



Alan C. Dimmitt, MPA
Liberty Youth Ranch
Governor's Appointee

Serves on the following workgroups: Child Welfare

Can assist others with: Adoption, child abuse prevention, foster care/aging out, kinship care, mentoring, homelessness, Legislative/policy

Roland “Roly” Gonzalez
Victory for Youth
Governor’s Appointee



Serves on the following workgroup: Child Welfare (Chair), Disaster Planning

Can assist others with: Elder, Food and Health Services



Dr. Jerry Haag, CFP
Florida Baptist Children’s Home
Governor’s Appointee

Serves on the following workgroups: Child Welfare, Annual Conference and Legislative

Pastor Stephen “Spike” Hogan
Chets Creek Church
Governor’s Appointee



Serves on the following workgroups: Annual Conference, Disaster Planning, and Family Initiatives

Can assist others with: Corrections/DJJ reentry, leadership strategy, military/veterans, and substance abuse



Carolyn Ketchel, LCSW, MSW
Private Practitioner
Senate President Appointee

Serves on the following workgroups: Annual Conference, and Family Initiatives

Can assist others with: Adoption, Disaster relief, food services, health initiatives, homelessness, mental health, military/veterans, and single mothers

Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner
David Posnack Jewish Community Center
Senate President Appointee



Serves on the following workgroup: Child Welfare

Can assist others with: Domestic violence, fatherhood, grant writing, mental health, and prevention/diversion



Thomas "Tom" Lukasik
4KIDS of South Florida
Governor's Appointee

Serves on the following workgroups: Child Welfare and Family Initiatives

Can assist others with: Adoption, child abuse prevention, foster care/aging out, prevention/diversion, and independent living

Dr. Leonel "Leo" Mesa, LMHC
New Day Center
Governor's Appointee



Serves on the following workgroups: Annual Conference and Child Welfare

Can assist others with: Domestic violence, elderly, fatherhood, mental health, persons with disabilities, substance abuse, family preservation, kinship care, and parenting



Pastor Pam Olsen
International House of Prayer
Governor's Appointee

Serves on the following workgroups: Legislative (Chair) and Disaster Planning

Can assist others with: Adoption, human trafficking, and Legislative/policy

Pastor Carl E. Reeves
Greater Mount Lily Baptist Church
Governor's Appointee



Serves on the following workgroups: Annual Conference and Criminal Justice

Can assist others with: Homelessness and youth in DJJ



Patricia Robbins
Farm Share
Governor's Appointee

Serves on the following workgroups: Disaster Planning and Legislative

Can assist others with: Disaster relief, food services, Legislative/policy

Marcus Smith
Department of Juvenile Justice
Governor's Appointee



Serves on the following workgroups: Annual Conference and Criminal Justice

Can assist others with: Youth in DJJ



Blaine Whitt
Xtreme Soulutions
Speaker of the House Appointee

Serves on the following workgroup: Criminal Justice

Can assist others with: Corrections/DJJ re-entry

Karim Veerjee
Florida Hospital
Governor's Appointee



Serves on the following workgroup: Disaster Planning
Can assist others with: Disaster Relief, Fatherhood, Mentoring



Pastor Reno Zunz
Idlewild Baptist Church
Speaker of the House Appointee

Serves on the following workgroup: Child Welfare
Can assist others with: Adoption, Disaster relief, and fatherhood



2015 Advisory Council Appointments

The following member was appointed or re-appointed by the Governor during 2015 with their date of appointment:

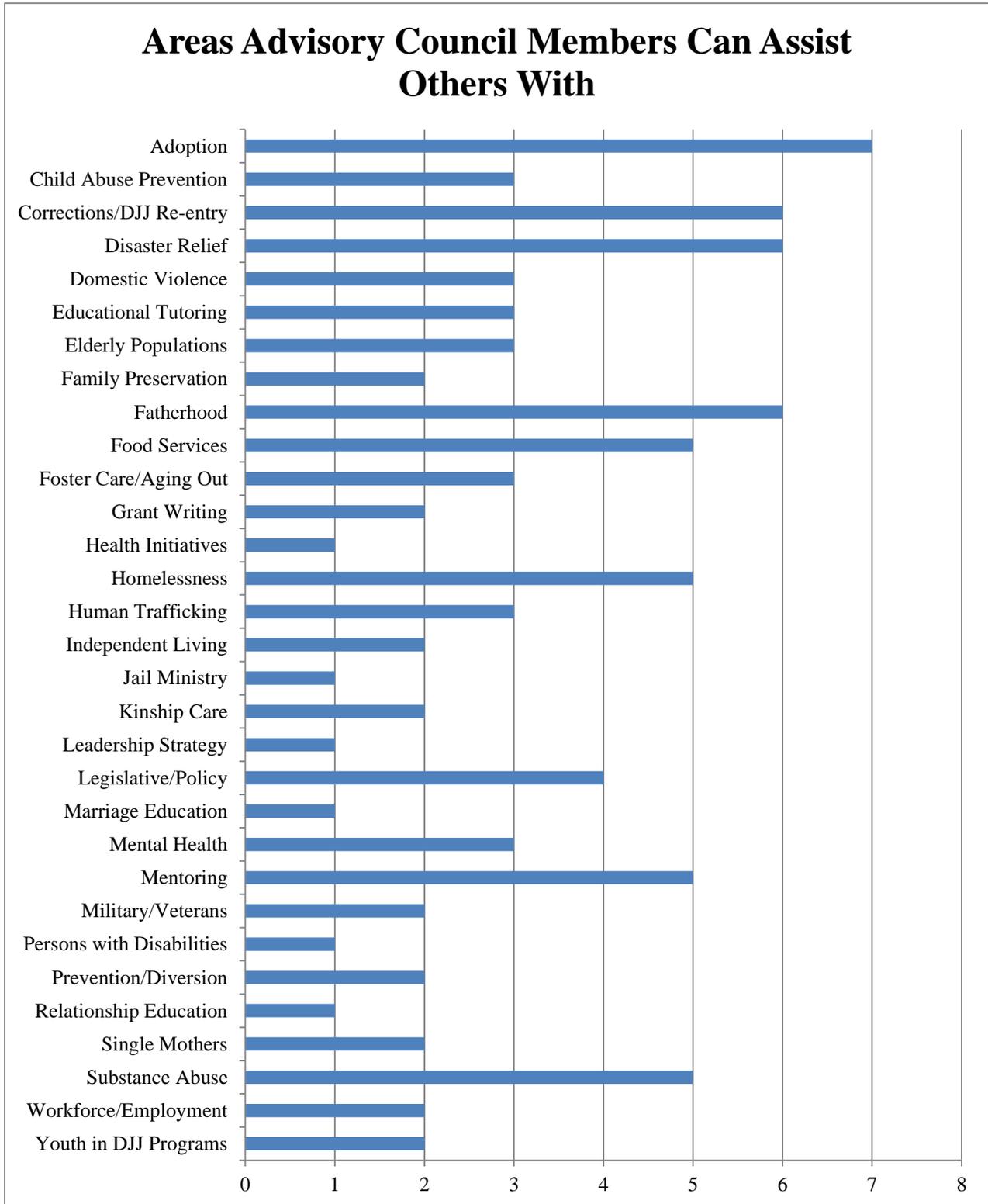
- Marcus Smith, Appointed on February 17, 2015

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the following individuals for their service on the Advisory Council and wish them the very best in their future endeavors:

- Samuel “Sam” Sipes, Lutheran Services Florida. Inc.
- Cherron “CC” Newby, Community Member

The Governor’s Office of Adoption and Child Protection continues to inform and encourage submission of appointment applications to the Offices of the Governor, Senate President, and Speaker of the House for review and consideration.

Starting in 2013, and upon appointment thereafter, Advisory Council members were asked to provide the Office with topical areas of expertise with which they could assist the public. The chart below lists the areas of expertise represented within the Advisory Council.

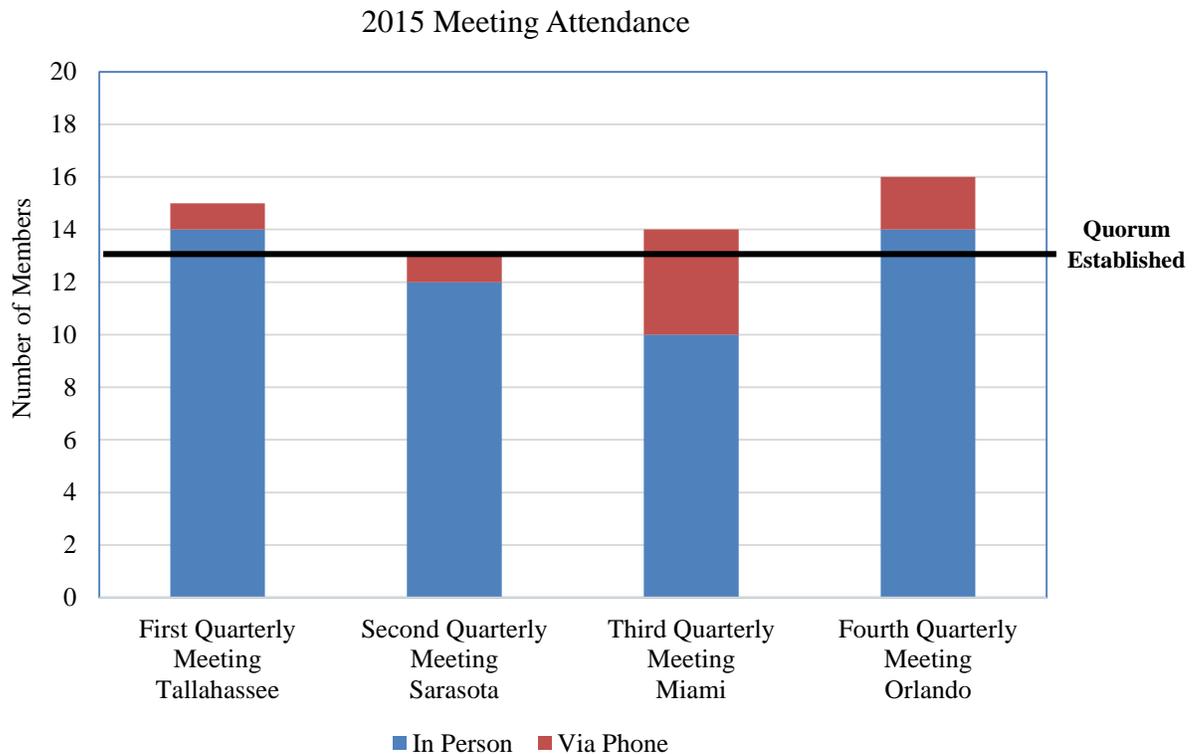


The diversity of topics where information and support can be provided offers unique opportunities to facilitate connections between state and local groups to improve outcomes. Through individual and workgroup approaches, the Advisory Council builds relationships with stakeholders to advocate and advance prevention and preparedness efforts that can result in more effective public-private partnerships and cost savings to the state.

The Advisory Council Map and Member Contact Information, located on the next page, provides a strategic layout to identify where Advisory Council members are located throughout the state. Advisory Council members serve as regional points of contact for local faith-based, volunteer and community organizations to assist in facilitating connections with state agencies and partners to improve outcomes for children and families. This map is divided into six (6) regional boundaries and identifies Florida’s 20 judicial circuits. As a quick reference, this map demonstrates the diverse geographical representation by members of the Council where they can work with and assist local faith-based and community-based groups.

Advisory Council Meeting Attendance

As identified in Florida Statute 14.31, a total of 13 members must be in attendance in order to establish a quorum for the purpose of voting on Advisory Council action and activities. Members may participate in scheduled meetings across the state either in-person or via teleconference call. The chart below reflects attendance for each Advisory Council meeting during 2015.



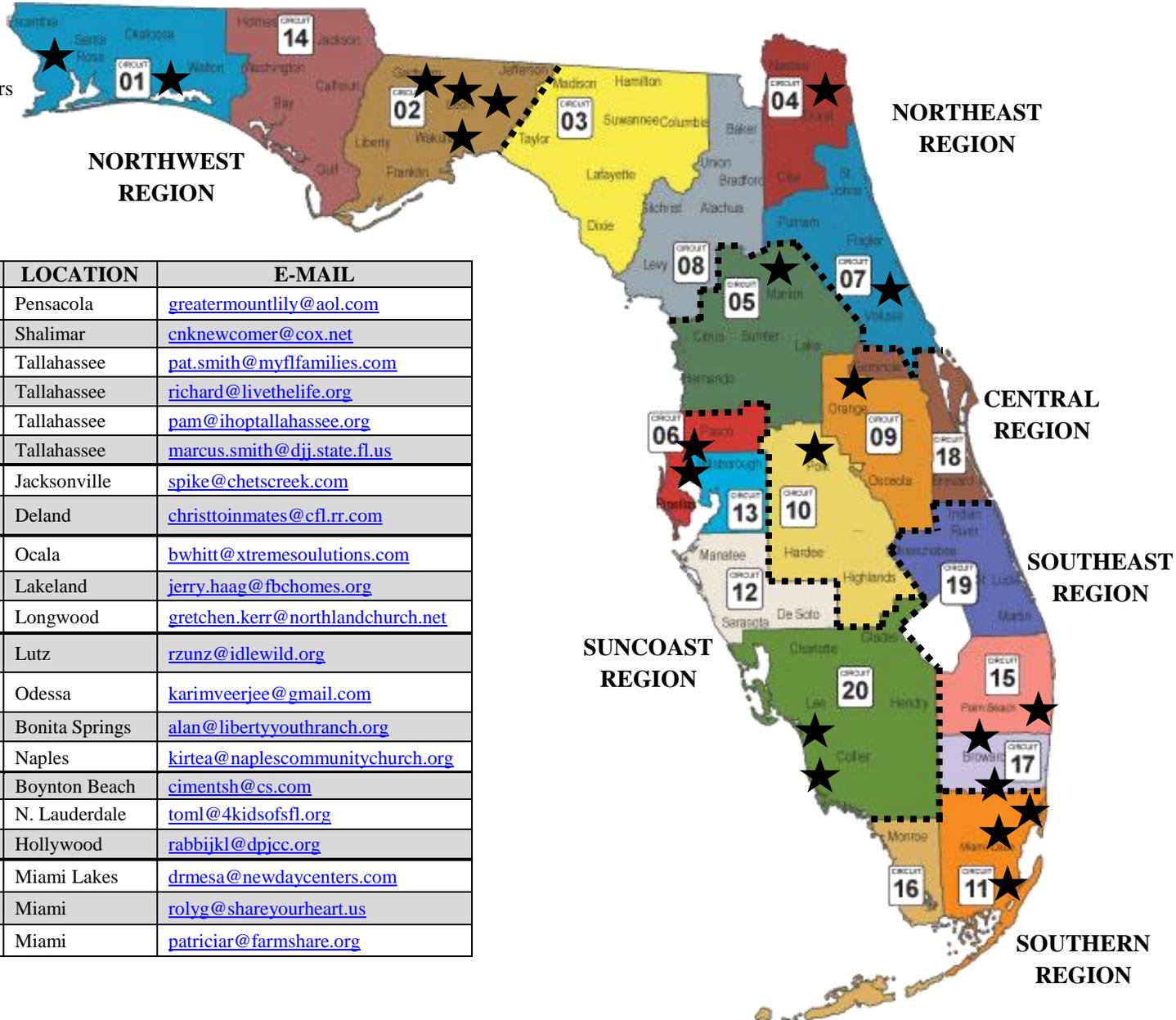
Advisory Council Map and Member Contact Information

KEY

★ - Estimated location of Council Members

----- - Regional Boundary Lines

CIRCUIT
01 - Judicial Circuits in Florida



REGION	COUNCIL MEMBER	LOCATION	E-MAIL
NORTHWEST <i>Circuits</i> 01, 02, 14	Pastor Carl Reeves	Pensacola	greatermountlily@aol.com
	Ms. Carolyn Ketchel	Shalimar	cnknewcomer@cox.net
	Ms. Patricia "Pat" Smith	Tallahassee	pat.smith@myflfamilies.com
	Mr. Richard Albertson	Tallahassee	richard@livethelife.org
	Pastor Pam Olsen	Tallahassee	pam@ihoptallahassee.org
	Pastor Marcus Smith	Tallahassee	marcus.smith@djj.state.fl.us
NORTHEAST <i>Circuits</i> 03, 04, 07, 08	Pastor Spike Hogan	Jacksonville	spike@chetscreek.com
	Reverend Perry Davis	Deland	christoinmates@cfl.rr.com
CENTRAL <i>Circuits</i> 05, 09, 10, 18	Pastor Blaine Whitt	Ocala	bwhitt@xtremesolutions.com
	Dr. Jerry Haag	Lakeland	jerry.haag@fbchomes.org
	Dr. Gretchen Kerr	Longwood	gretchen.kerr@northlandchurch.net
SUNCOAST <i>Circuits</i> 06, 12, 13, 20	Pastor Reno Zunz	Lutz	rzunz@idlewild.org
	Mr. Karim Veerjee	Odessa	karimveerjee@gmail.com
	Mr. Alan Dimmitt	Bonita Springs	alan@libertyyouthranch.org
	Pastor Kirt Anderson	Naples	kirtea@naplescommunitychurch.org
SOUTHEAST <i>Circuits</i> 15, 17, 19	Rabbi Sholom Ciment	Boynton Beach	cimentsh@cs.com
	Mr. Tom Lukasik	N. Lauderdale	toml@4kidsofsfl.org
	Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner	Hollywood	rabbijkl@dpjcc.org
SOUTHERN <i>Circuits</i> 11, 16	Dr. Leo Mesa	Miami Lakes	drmesa@newdaycenters.com
	Mr. Rolando Gonzalez	Miami	rolyg@shareyourheart.us
	Ms. Patricia Robbins	Miami	patriciar@farmshare.org

Advisory Council Meetings

First Quarterly Meeting

The first quarterly meeting of 2015 took place on March 24th and was hosted by Christian Heritage Church in Tallahassee, FL. City of Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum provided the opening welcome to the members and participants of the meeting and provided an overview of his focus on early childhood education and engagement of local faith organizations. He also invited participants to attend the Mayor's Summit on Children. The honorable Dennis Baxley with the Florida House of Representatives took time out of his schedule to provide the opening prayer for the Council meeting.



Summary of the First Quarterly Meeting

- Recognition of the 2015 Council leadership: Dr. Gretchen Kerr as Chair and Ms. Pat Smith as Vice-Chair
- Updates were provided on the following initiatives:
 - Florida Youth Commission- application submission process and minimum performance expectations were shared
 - National Child Abuse Prevention Month – April- provided overview of the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign, Wear Blue Day and Children's Week at the Capitol
 - National Foster Care Month – May- encouraged recognition of all agencies and organizations who work in foster care and of the commitment and support foster parents provide.
 - Our Community Salutes Event- recognition program for high school students who have enlisted in a branch of military upon graduation. Information on community supports and services were provided.
 - 2015 Hurricane Season- information was provided on disaster preparedness and on the Governor's Hurricane Conference.
- Updates were provided on the following Council workgroups:
 - Child Welfare- Dr. Jerry Haag stated the focus has been on human trafficking, particularly child and domestic sex trafficking.
 - Criminal Justice- Chair Kerr stated the focus has been on juvenile and adult re-entry programs and services.
 - Disaster Planning- Director Gibson, on behalf of Mr. Sam Sipes, provided an overview of the purpose of the workgroup by coordinating with relief agencies to maximize disaster planning and relief efforts.
 - Family Initiatives- Mr. Richard Albertson stated he has been working with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide meals to children and has worked on a number of family issues and solutions.
 - Legislative- Pastor Pam Olsen provided an overview of various bills that could affect the faith community and information on where individuals could track the progress of each bill.
 - Annual Conference- Vice-Chair Smith provided an overview on the National Faith Symposium to be held in Orlando in the Fall of 2015.
- Public Comments
 - A total of eight (8) public comments were provided on a variety of topics ranging from transitional housing to services in and out of prison and juvenile justice facilities.





Exhibitor Displays at the 1st Quarterly Meeting of the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council

Summary of the First Quarterly Meeting continued

- Meeting Exhibitors
 - Invitations were disseminated to state and local organizations to serve as exhibitors during the Advisory Council Meeting and to provide a brief overview of their organization and what services they provide. This was done to facilitate connections between the faith and community leaders in attendance to know who they could contact in the event someone is in need of supports. Time was allocated before the start of the meeting and after to engage exhibitors.
 - A total of 21 state and local organizations participated by displaying information on the programs and services they offer. These organizations were encouraged to establish new collaborative partnerships with meeting attendees to increase awareness of the availability of services and opportunities to improve the effectiveness of service delivery.



Special thanks to Pastor Steve Dow (left) and Christian Heritage Church for hosting the Advisory Council meeting and to 1) Pastor Lamar Simmons, 2) Pastor Darrick McGhee, 3) Pastor Clay Courson, 4) Pastor Judy Mandrell, and 5) Pastor Rudolph Ferguson for their leadership and assistance in promoting the meeting and coordinating logistics for exhibitors.

1)



2)



3)



5)



4)



Second Quarterly Meeting

The second quarterly meeting took place on June 16th in Sarasota, Florida at Keiser University Sarasota. Minister Rod Myer with Central Church of Christ provided the opening prayer and Ms. Violet Huesman, Director of Student Services with Keiser University Sarasota, provided the welcome to Advisory Council members and attendees.



Summary of the Second Quarterly Meeting

- A presentation on *How Faith Organizations and Government can Work Together* was provided by Mr. Kurt Stringfellow, President and CEO of the Sarasota YMCA.
- Community Highlights
 - An overview of the Circuit 12 Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Plan was provided by Mr. Dave Luebcke, Director of Programs for the Safe Children Coalition. Information was also provided on Protective Factors that can strengthen a parent's ability to ensure the health and well-being of their children.
 - Major Marjorie Durham with the Salvation Army provided an overview of the Circuit 12 Human Trafficking Plan.
 - Captain Todd Shear with the Manatee County Sheriff's Office provided an overview of the importance of Law Enforcement Collaboration with the Community and examples of stories provided by children who have been involved with domestic violence and substance abuse cases.
- Recognition of the following organizations took place for their efforts to improve outcomes and strengthen communities and families:
 - Manatee Children Services Advisory Board for their commitment to children and families and for recommending funding of prevention based programs and services totaling approximately nine (9) million dollars.
 - Ms. Lynette Edwards, Board Chair
 - Catholic Charities – Diocese of Venice for their Casa San Juan Bosco housing project that provides affordable homes, enrichment services and programs for farm workers and their families to enable them to become more productive and self-sufficient.
 - Mr. Peter Routsis-Arroyo, Executive Director, with Bishop Frank Dewane
 - Manatee Children Services Child Protection Team for employing a multi-disciplinary response to reduce re-victimization of a child and a community response to achieve better outcomes for victims and their families through collaboration and teamwork.
 - Ms. Melinda Thompson, Chief Executive Officer
- Advisory Council Updates
 - Pastor Pam Olsen provided updates on two bills: HB 7111, the Conscience Protection Act and HB 7013, on fiscal components of foster care and adoption.
 - Ms. Patricia Robbins provided an update on Farm Share as it had recently passed the milestone of distributing 30 million pounds of food and has been in existence for 15 years.





Advisory Council members with Ms. Lynette Edwards with the Manatee Children's Services Advisory Board



Advisory Council members with Mr. Peter Routsis-Arroyo and Bishop Frank Dewane with Catholic Charities



Advisory Council members with Ms. Melinda Thompson with the Manatee Children Services Child Protection Team

Summary of the Second Quarterly Meeting continued

- Share Your Heart Presentation
 - Mr. Roland Gonzalez provided an overview of the program that engages all religions in Miami-Dade. Through partnerships with the Department of Children and Families and other organizations, referrals are received to assist an individual or family in crisis and has needs to include food, clothing and hygiene items. Volunteer chaplains obtain necessary supplies to address the needs identified on the referral form, and work to connect the individual or family to the local faith organization in their zip code.
- National Faith Symposium Update
 - Director Gibson provided an update on the symposium and referenced the Save the Date flyer in the meeting folder. Council members stated their support of the symposium and shared how they were able to make connections with other organizations while attending.
- Public Comment
 - Two (2) comments were provided on mutual respect for the three domains of home, government and faith, and how these have eroded over time. The Advisory Council was encouraged to advocate for items that will build up respect for the three domains. Additional information was provided on the Circuit 12 Juvenile Justice Council and the faith component they've included in their work.
- Meeting Exhibitors
 - Invitations were disseminated to state and local organizations to serve as exhibitors during the 2nd Quarterly Advisory Council Meeting. Time was allocated before the start of the meeting and after to engage exhibitors.
 - A total of 26 state and local organizations participated by displaying information on the programs and services they offer. These organizations were encouraged to establish new collaborative partnerships with meeting attendees to increase awareness of the availability of services and opportunities to improve the effectiveness of service delivery.



Exhibitor Displays at the 2nd Quarterly Meeting of the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council



Special thanks to Ms. Violet Huesman (left) and Keiser University Sarasota for hosting the Advisory Council meeting, to Ms. Kim Kutch (below left), Circuit 12 Community Development Administrator with the Department of Children and Families for assisting with the coordination of logistics and exhibitors for the meeting, and to Anna Marie Oyster Bar (below right) for donating lunch after the Advisory Council meeting.



Third Quarterly Meeting

The third quarterly meeting took place on August 11th in Miami, Florida and was hosted by La Catedral del Pueblo. Prior to the meeting, Advisory Council members participated on a field trip to Farm Share to learn and observe the operation to receive and distribute fresh fruits and vegetables. Advisory Council members also visited the Department of Children and Families' Child Protective Investigation office to observe the child-friendly space (HUB) created by the Share Your Heart program.



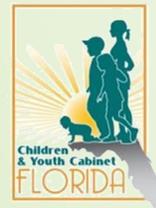
Advisory Council members and Farm Share staff at the Farm Share Packinghouse in Homestead, FL

Advisory Council members at the DCF Child Protective Investigation office to see the child-friendly space (HUB) and learn about the partnership between DCF and the Share Your Heart program.



Summary of the Third Quarterly Meeting

- The opening prayer was provided by Pastor Alberto Delgado, Senior Pastor of Alpha and Omega Church and President of the Greater Miami Ministers Association.
- Chair Updates
 - Information was provided on the next Florida Children and Youth Cabinet meeting in Tampa, FL.
 - Public awareness topics were communicated to include:
 - National Preparedness Month- September
 - Suicide Prevention/Awareness Month- September
 - Domestic Violence Prevention Month- October
 - Crime Prevention Awareness Month- October
 - Bullying Prevention Month- October
 - Disability Awareness Month- October
 - National Adoption Month- November
 - Trauma Informed Care Day- November 1
 - Conferences and Summits were communicated to include:
 - 2015 DCF Child Protection Summit
 - 2015 National Faith Symposium
 - First 1,000 Days Florida Summit
 - 2015 Human Trafficking Summit



Summary of the Third Quarterly Meeting continued

- A special invitation was provided by Pastor Mario Bramnick, Senior Pastor of New Wine Ministries Church and President of the Broward Pastors Network to all participants to consider attending the International Summit for Israel.

- **Community Highlights**



CIRCUIT 11

- Information was presented on the Circuit 11 Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Plan that focuses on the prevention of child abuse, promotion of adoption and support for adoptive families.
- A presentation on the Miami Children’s Initiative was made that emphasized the importance of a comprehensive Cradle to College to Career strategy for children living in Liberty City, FL.
- Information was provided on the Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department (JSD) Chaplaincy Program which is designed to provide comfort, emotional and/or spiritual support to this in need, and to support JSD employees and their clients during times of stress, grief and hardship.



- The following individuals and organizations were recognized for their contributions to improve outcomes for children and families:



- Ms. Betty Muller with the Share Your Heart program
- Ms. Patricia Robbins and staff with Farm Share
- Mr. Ruben Gimenez with Comunidades en Accion
- Reverend Dale Young with Baptist Health South Florida



- **National Preparedness Month**

- Mr. Sam Sipes reminded the Advisory Council of the role of faith communities responding to disasters and how faith and community organizations can work together. The Advisory Council proposed a call to action for faith communities during the month of September to become points of organization for congregations and members of the community to respond to any potential disaster.



Advisory Council members with Farm Share



Advisory Council members with Comunidades en Accion



Advisory Council members with Baptist Health



Scenes and Exhibitor Displays at the 3rd Quarterly Meeting of the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council



Summary of the Third Quarterly Meeting continued

- Fostering Hope for Families



- Due to an increase of children coming into the foster care system, a request to the community was made on behalf of the Department of Children and Families and Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe to seek their support to consider becoming foster parents.



- Human Trafficking

- An overview was provided on the Miami Cares Project, a multi-year grant initiative involving multiple state and local agencies, to address the issue of trafficking within the child welfare population. Outcomes include increased collaborative capacity among partners, reduction in youth being recruited, earlier identification of youth who have been trafficked, and increase awareness.
- The Citrus Helping Adolescents Negatively impacted by Commercial Exploitation (CHANCE) Program is a pilot program where children receive individualized clinical treatment primarily centered around Trauma-Focused Care, Cognitive Behavioral Treatment and motivational interviewing. Citrus Health Network provides specialized training for prospective foster parents.



Summary of the Third Quarterly Meeting continued

- National Faith Symposium
 - Vice-Chair Pat Smith provided a preview of the upcoming activities and opportunities to participate in the symposium. All participants were invited to register to attend the symposium and to consider becoming an exhibitor to showcase the programs and services they may offer.
- Public Comment
 - Three (3) comments were provided that included information on the resources available through the Miami-Dade re-entry guide, information on what the Hindu faith offers to support children and families, and a question about services for foster care children.
- Meeting Exhibitors
 - Invitations were disseminated to state and local organizations to serve as exhibitors during the 2nd Quarterly Advisory Council Meeting. Time was allocated before the start of the meeting and after to engage exhibitors.
 - A total of 45 state and local organizations participated by displaying information on the programs and services they offer. These organizations were encouraged to establish new collaborative partnerships with meeting attendees to increase awareness of the availability of services and opportunities to improve the effectiveness of service delivery.



Special thanks to Pastor Yolonda Eden (left) and La Catedral del Pueblo for hosting the Advisory Council meeting, to Ms. Gilda Ferradaz (below left), Circuit 11 Deputy Regional Managing Director with the Department of Children and Families for assisting with identifying and coordinating exhibitors for the meeting, and to Advisory Council member Mr. Roland Gonzalez (below right) for his dedication to oversee all logistical planning and operations to ensure the meeting went smoothly.



Fourth Quarterly Meeting

The final meeting of the year took place on October 12th in Orlando, Florida. The Advisory Council meeting was held in conjunction with the 2015 National Faith Symposium, and located at the Rosen Centre Hotel to better accommodate participants, exhibitors, and breakout sessions.

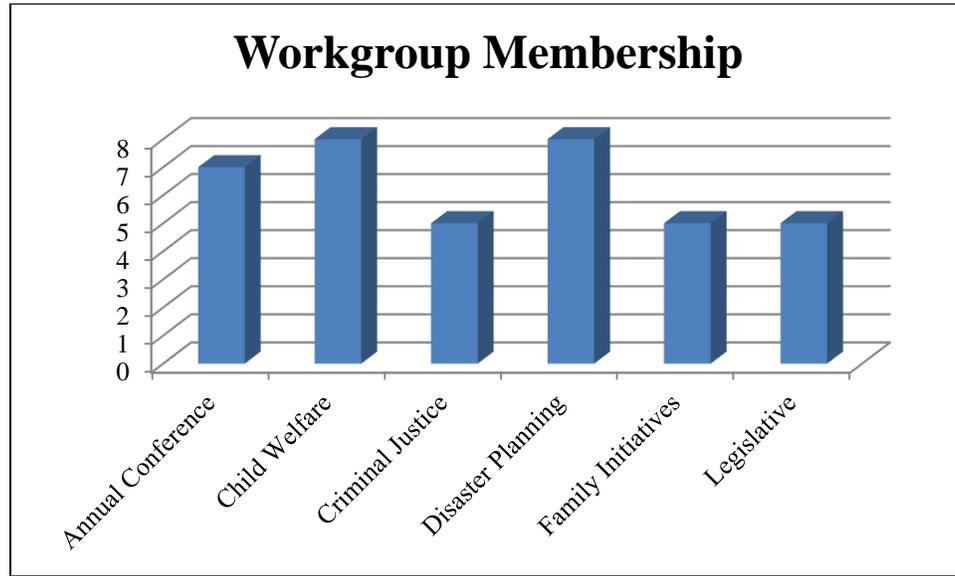


Summary of the Fourth Quarterly Meeting

- Pastor Blaine Whitt provided the opening prayer for the Advisory Council Meeting.
- Membership Update
 - Three member's terms have expired and are continuing to serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
 - Two resignations were announced for Mr. Sam Sipes and Ms. Cheron "CC" Newby.
- Upcoming Events
 - Pastor Pam Olsen shared the following events:
 - The Response Florida Prayer Gathering at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL.
 - Evangelist Franklin Graham Prayer Rally on the opening day of the 2016 Legislative Session in Tallahassee, FL on the steps of the Old Capitol.
 - Director Zackary Gibson provided the following events:
 - First 1,000 Days Florida Summit at the Palm Beach Convention Center in Palm Beach, FL.
 - Florida Respect Life Conference at Florida State University in the Alumni Center.
 - Human Trafficking Summit at the University of South Florida in the Marshall Student Center in Tampa, FL.
 - Trauma Informed Care Day, November 1st
 - Bullying and Suicide Prevention Presentations with Nick Vujicic in Orlando and South Florida, and a faith-based presentation on *Live Without Limits Florida* at Florida Atlantic University Stadium.
 - National Adoption Month with the Florida celebration occurring on November 20th at the Miami Children's Museum in Miami, FL.
- Members reviewed their calendars to identify meeting dates and locations for 2016. This was done in an effort to improve Advisory Council meeting attendance and participation.
- A recap of what the Advisory Council has accomplished for 2015 was discussed, as well as how information should be presented in the 2015 annual report. As we move forward, Director Zackary Gibson asked members to identify and share potential names to be considered for appointment to the Advisory Council. Emphasis was made on obtaining representation of various faiths and within each judicial circuit of the state.
- Vice-Chair Pat Smith provided an overview of National Faith Symposium agenda, activities and logistics for Council member involvement.

Advisory Council Initiatives

Building on discussions from the Advisory Council Strategic Planning Meeting in 2013 and the Advisory Council Overview, Objectives and *Framework for Action*, members solidified initiatives to guide the advocacy and work of the Advisory Council to support state agencies and initiatives. Below are the descriptions and information of the Advisory Council workgroups, Florida's Five-Year Prevention and Permanency Plan, and the Citizen's Review Panel. Each Advisory Council member serves on at least one workgroup.



2015 National Faith Symposium

"Our Children, Our Future: Strengthening Families and Communities through Faith"

Annual Conference Workgroup

The Advisory Council was represented at one of the largest gathering of faith-based and faith guided organizations in the state of Florida at the 2015 National Faith Symposium in Orlando. In collaboration with the Florida Departments of Children and Families and Juvenile Justice, this year's Symposium built upon the previous year's accomplishments and featured Diamond Sponsorships from the Department of Health and Project Launch, Platinum Sponsors to include the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Westgate Resorts, Gold Sponsor from Florida Hospital, and Silver Sponsors from the Florida Department of Corrections, the Florida Network and Lutheran Services Florida. We were also honored to have the GEO Group as the symposium's bag sponsor. A pre-conference meeting occurred with the Advisory Council holding its 4th Quarterly Meeting on-site.

With over 500 attendees, participants were moved and inspired by the opening speaker Mr. James Towey, President of Ave Maria University, and keynote speakers Dr. Steve Perry and Pastor James Haizlip. Mr. Mike Williams shared his personal story during the Youth Success Story session and participants were moved by the amazing voices of Ms. Anita Franklin and Mr. Anthony Williams. Participants were also treated with the motivating sounds of the Heart Band, consisting of foster and adopted youth. The exhibit hall featured various displays from organizations throughout the state with information on programs and services to assist children, youth and families. Break-out sessions highlighted promising and best practices, initiatives, and opportunities to further bridge the connection between faith-based organizations, the state and its partners.



Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council members with Governor Rick Scott (center), Secretary Christina Daly (far left) and Secretary Mike Carroll (far right)

Champion of Hope Awards

Realizing the value of faith communities and organizations in providing support to the state and state agencies, the Champions of Hope award was created to recognize organizations that go above and beyond the ordinary to improve the lives of at-risk youth and children in care. The Annual Conference Workgroup provided nomination forms to the Department of Children and Families, Juvenile Justice, Health and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for dissemination to regional offices to identify and nominate faith-based organizations for consideration. There were a total of 17 nominees to include:

- Bethel A.M.E. Church, Tallahassee, FL
- Bethel Community Foundation, St. Petersburg, FL
- Camp Anderson, Old Town, FL
- Carolyn Coleman, Pastor, New Life Christian Ministries, Niceville, FL
- Ferris Hill Baptist Church, Milton, FL
- Grace Community Food Pantry, Bunnell, FL
- John and Barbara Schector, Mercy Week/SafePlace, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Liberty Church North Campus, Pensacola, FL
- Mt. Tabor First Baptist Church, Palatka, FL
- Northland Church, Longwood, FL
- Pastor Gerald Duncan, Alachua, FL
- People Helping People, Bunnell, FL
- Reverend Wayne Thompson, First Baptist Institutional Church, St. Petersburg, FL
- Tony Jones, Chief of Police, Gainesville Police Department, Gainesville, FL
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County, BYILD, Panama City, FL
- United Global Outreach, Orlando, FL

The 2015 winners are listed below by the presenting state agency:



Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Bethel A.M.E. Church

Department of Children and Families – Camp Anderson



Department of Children and Families – United Global Outreach

Department of Health – Ferris Hill Baptist Church



Department of Juvenile Justice – Pastor Carolyn Coleman, New Life Ministries

Child Welfare Workgroup

Led by Mr. Roland Gonzalez, the Child Welfare Workgroup continued to focus on advancing efforts to enhance and improve the welfare of children through the identification of best practices and innovative programs and services. Topics include prevention of child maltreatment, adoption, human trafficking, health and well-being, youth with disabilities, and education.

Throughout 2015, the Child Welfare Workgroup has supported various activities to advance initiatives related to children. The workgroup disseminated information and supported awareness activities during National Human Trafficking



Awareness Month. During National Child Abuse Prevention month, workgroup and Council members provided outreach to raise awareness of activities and events to promote the *Pinwheels for Prevention* campaign which emphasizes healthy child development. During Advisory Council meetings, information on Protective Factors was included in meeting materials and available on the Advisory Council's website to increase awareness of strategies to improve parent's ability to ensure the health and well-being of their children. The workgroup also assisted in promoting National Adoption Month and forwarded information to network contacts to encourage their attendance at local events and to host Heart Gallery photos.



crisis or distress

as identified by partners to include the Department of Children and Families, Broward Sheriff's Office, Miami-Dade Firefighters, and the City of North Miami. Upon receiving a referral from one of the partner agencies, a volunteer chaplain from the client's zip code is deployed to provide basic needs of food, clothing, hygiene items, etc. and provides emotional and spiritual support upon the confirmation of the client. In the fall of 2015, the workgroup met with its respective partners to develop a process map to visualize how collaboration was to occur, deliverables required from each entity, and performance outcomes as a result of providing the chaplaincy services. The workgroup will continue to work and improve this process to develop information to be included in the 2016 annual report.

The workgroup has been refining its approach with the Share Your Heart Program, a volunteer based chaplaincy program to assist individuals and families in

Criminal Justice Workgroup

Led by Dr. Gretchen Kerr, the Criminal Justice Workgroup continues its efforts to identify best practices and innovation on topics to include prevention, early intervention, diversion, reentry or reintegration of adults and juveniles from jail and juvenile facilities; substance abuse, mental health, and persons with disabilities. The workgroup continued its dialogue with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to identify how best to support their efforts. With

new leadership at the DOC, discussions have focused on how the Department can better utilize their existing volunteer base to provide more specific services to strengthen inmate skills and abilities to support their ultimate transition back into society. Through this approach, the DOC would be willing to provide training to committed volunteers who will, in turn, provide direct services to inmates. Pastor Blaine Whitt is assessing this approach with his volunteers in order to provide a litmus test to determine how this may be replicated in other areas.



Disaster Planning Workgroup



Over the past year, the Disaster Planning Workgroup, led by Sam Sipes, initiated action by partnering with the Division of Emergency Management, Volunteer Florida and the Department of Health to disseminate disaster preparedness information and resources to faith and community organizations throughout the state. In addition to promoting the Governor's Hurricane Conference, the workgroup focused on disseminating information for National Preparedness Month and worked with the Division of Emergency Management to provide order forms so organizations could request educational and free give-a-way materials that were in stock. The workgroup also support the Share Your Heart Disaster Response Network by training faith organizations on CERT and having them become ACCESS centers to enable citizens to acquire their benefits within their zip code in the event of a disaster.

Family Initiatives Workgroup

Led by Richard Albertson, the Family Initiatives Workgroup continues to explore different approaches to engage state agency liaisons and various faith-based and community-based organizations to identify needs,

gaps in services, and proposed solutions in order to facilitate a more collaborative and coordinated approach to strengthening families.

In addition to continuing to support food distributions provided by Farm Share, the workgroup has supported the efforts of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) to identify faith organizations to serve as sponsors or providers of meals for children during the summer. During the first three quarterly meetings of the Advisory Council, DACS has been an exhibitor and has connected with many faith and community organizations who have become either a sponsor or provider of summer food services. The workgroup will continue to assist in this efforts and will look to address other needs through the Department's *Roadmap to Living Healthy* state maps.

Legislative Workgroup

Over the past year, the Legislative Workgroup, led by Pastor Pam Olsen, collaborated with other Advisory Council workgroups to identify policy recommendations that refine, improve, and strengthen policies and legislation affecting both the Advisory Council areas of focus and faith-based and community-based organizations.

The workgroup will look to the efforts of the Policy Impact Workgroup through the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet to identify proposed legislation from agencies in order to have the Advisory Council consider how they might support efforts that improve and strengthen communities and families.

Florida's Five-Year Prevention and Permanency Plan

The central focus of *Florida Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Plan: July 2010 – June 2015* is to build resilience in all of Florida's families and communities to equip them to better care for and nurture their children. In accordance with state law (Florida Statute 39.001), the five-year prevention and permanency plan provides for the prevention of child abuse, abandonment and neglect; promotion of adoption; and for the support of adoptive families.



Vision

Florida's highest priority is that children are raised in healthy, safe, stable, and nurturing families.

Mission

To serve as a blueprint that will be implemented to provide for the care, safety, and protection of **all** of Florida's children in an environment that fosters healthy social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development.

Overarching Goal

All families and communities ensure that children are safe and nurtured and live in stable environments that promote well-being.

Advisory Council Support

The Advisory Council leads three State Objectives in the following sections of the five-year plan: Prevention of Child Maltreatment, Promotion of Adoption, and Support of Adoptive Families. For each of the three objectives, the Advisory Council's charge reads:

By June 30, 2015, the State of Florida will have provided information and resources to promote and build efforts by faith-based and community-based systems to provide family and community supports that would build the Protective Factors.

The Advisory Council has worked to ensure information on Protective Factors has been included as part of the quarterly meeting materials and has taken time to review information on the Protective Factors to help participants understand and embrace these factors. The Advisory Council continues to look for ways to continue to build Protective Factors and to evidence what they have done. This objective is on-going.

By June 30, 2015, the State of Florida will have held annual statewide Faith-Based and Community-Based Educational Conferences, Regional Summits, and Webinars to engage faith and community leaders.

The Advisory Council established an Annual Conference Workgroup to directly address this objective and has successfully partnered with the Departments of Children and Families, Juvenile Justice, Health, and Corrections to effectively plan, develop and implement the National Faith Symposium – an annual conference that brings faith and community leaders and organizations together to network and share best practices and strategies for providing family and community supports that align to the Protective Factors.

By June 30, 2015, the State of Florida will have created and implemented a review team to continue to research and report on best and promising practices state and nationwide to help circuits with their initiatives.

The Advisory Council has established workgroups in the areas of Child Welfare, Criminal Justice, and Family Initiatives to identify best and promising practices occurring in the state and nationally that can be shared with state agencies and service providers to refine, improve and strengthen processes for providing family and community supports. The Advisory Council is continuing to assess mechanisms to effectively share practices that can be easily replicated by providers to enhance their work.

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Citizens Review Panel

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) provides federal funding to states for child abuse and neglect prevention, treatment and training for staff who work in the child protection system. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) serves as the lead agency for the federal funding and asked the Advisory Council to consider serving as a Citizens Review Panel because of its work in and knowledge of faith and community involvement to achieve positive outcomes for child well-being.

Citizen Review Panels were included in the 1996 CAPTA reauthorization and must:

- Be composed of volunteers who are representative of the community in which they operate.
- Meet at least quarterly.
- Prepare an annual report that describes the panel's activities and includes recommendations to improve the child protection system.
- Have at least one member with expertise in child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment.

Each panel is responsible to review:

- Compliance of state and local child protection service agencies and state CAPTA plan
- Coordination with foster care and adoption programs
- Review of child fatalities and near fatalities (performed by the Child Abuse Death Review Team)

The Advisory Council agreed to serve in this capacity and was formally designated as a Citizens Review Panel for the Federal Fiscal Year 2015. Below are recommendations provided to the DCF:

- To share information and outcome expectations from the state's *Pinwheel for Prevention* campaign with all Community Development Administrators so they can effectively plan ahead for their pinwheel events in their areas. This is to assist efforts in having Florida qualify for a designation of best or evidence-based practice for its pinwheel campaign.
- To establish a mechanism to provide treatment services to parents of children who have incidents of substance abuse or mental health. These efforts are designed to strengthen the parent's protective capacities so they can ensure the health and well-being of their children.
- To continue development of and providing information for the Child Fatality Website.
- To have staff participate on the Trauma Informed Care Workgroup to assist in the development of language, training and awareness activities.
- To provide training/information sessions to faith and community organizations who support the work of DCF on the Safety Methodology.
- To update the online training course offered to Florida teachers on the signs and responsibilities associated with child abuse reporting.

Advisory Council Recommendations

The following recommendations are provided to address the scope of activities outlined in Florida Statute 14.31.

- 1. How faith-based and community-based organizations can best compete with other organizations for the delivery of state services, regardless of an organization's orientation, whether faith-based or secular.**

Faith-based and community-based organizations are uniquely positioned in communities, ready to move forward in providing services to those who may be in need. In order to best compete for the delivery of state services, these organizations must first be aware of opportunities available through the state and attend necessary training(s) to ensure they understand state expectations and have the capacity to meet financial, operational, and compliance requirements. These organizations should consider accessing available opportunities through the My Florida Marketplace – Vendor Bid System website and register and/or sign-up to receive electronic notifications about bid advertisements. When applying to perform services for the state, it is encouraged for these organizations to articulate how they may be able to leverage funding streams and potential volunteers to maximize funds from the state to achieve desired outcomes. The Advisory Council will information available to interested parties and is available to assist organizations connect with the My Florida Marketplace website and provide insight and support on working with the state of Florida.

Additionally, state agencies should consider competitive procurement of services in all parts of the state to limit single source approaches. This would provide opportunities for organizations to demonstrate how they can best deliver services for the state. This is particularly focused on multi-year contracts to enable equal opportunities for all organizations to demonstrate how they can deliver such services for the state. The Advisory Council will work to better locate and identify available funding opportunities for interested parties.

- 2. How best to develop and coordinate activities of faith-based and community-based programs and initiatives, enhance such efforts in communities, and seek such resources, legislation, and regulatory relief as may be necessary to accomplish these objectives.**

As stated previously, the best way to develop and coordinate activities and initiatives is to capitalize on the relationships that exist. A faith-based organization that has a partnership with the State will also have other partnerships within the local community. By facilitating connections with the new partners and ensuring the question of, *“What’s in it for me”*, is answered for everyone involved, opportunities to build momentum around programs and initiatives can occur. Throughout 2015, the Advisory Council has worked to establish resource fairs that can bring together faith and community leaders with program and service providers. By recognizing that many things can get done if you know the right person to speak with, the Advisory Council has made it a point to facilitate connections at our meetings so rapport and relationships can be developed.

To further assist in developing and coordinating activities of faith-based and community-based programs, the Advisory Council recommends for the Office of Adoption and Child Protection to have an additional staff member to assist the Director with the functions of providing administrative support to the Advisory Council and outreach to stakeholders from throughout the state.

- 3. How best to ensure that state policy decisions take into account the capacity of faith-based and other community-based initiatives to assist in the achievement of state priorities.**

To encourage leaders of the state and state agencies to establish review criteria that includes assessment of faith-based and community-based initiatives when determining state policy. As

stated previously, faith-based and community-based organizations can provide assistance and support on a multitude of areas that can align to state priorities. The Legislative Workgroup of the Advisory Council is working to improve its ability to identify proposed legislation that may impact faith-based and community-based organizations in order to share and receive information to assess how it may impact the effectiveness of service delivery among state agencies and partners.

4. How best to identify and promote best practices across state government relating to the delivery of services by faith-based and other community-based organizations.

Throughout 2015, a copy of the Advisory Council's statute was included as part of the meeting packet and posted on the Advisory Council's website in order to illicit input and feedback on the recommendations to be provided to the Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the House. Beyond this approach, a survey mechanism will be developed to obtain perspectives from faith-based and community-based organizations on promising and best practices. Additionally, through conferences hosted by state agencies and through the National Faith Symposium, the Advisory Council will continue to encourage submission of workshop proposals that are inclusive of promising and best practices and work to post this information on the Advisory Council's website.

5. How best to coordinate public awareness of faith-based and community nonprofit initiatives, such as demonstration pilot programs or projects, public-private partnerships, volunteerism, and special projects.

The Advisory Council will continue to utilize its quarterly meetings as a platform to highlight and bring attention to initiatives that are making a positive impact in communities and on families. The Advisory Council will also engage the Circuit Task Forces from throughout the state to provide feedback on initiatives that can raise awareness and inform where individuals and families can go for services and supports.

6. How best to encourage private charitable giving to support faith-based and community-based initiatives.

As stated previously, private charitable giving is best achieved through direct solicitation and when initiatives are supported and communicated by multiple partners and organizations, broader networks can be reached that can encourage additional private charitable giving. The Advisory Council will continue to work to become informed of initiatives and seek opportunities to facilitate connections to businesses and organizations who can consider supporting such initiatives. The Advisory Council also supports the use of development professionals and consultants who can strategize to achieve financial/in-kind goals.

7. How best to bring concerns, ideas, and policy options to the Governor and Legislature for assisting, strengthening, and replicating successful faith-based and other community-based programs.

The Advisory Council will continue to communicate with state agency liaisons and staff, legislative leaders and staff, and through the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection to bring concerns, ideas, and policy options to the Governor and Legislature. Key to communication is the need to first assess each concern, idea and policy option being proposed to determine if they are realistic and viable, and if identified barriers are real or perceived. Advisory Council members serve as regional points of contact for local faith-based and community-based organizations to share concerns, ideas and policy options.

8. How best to develop and implement strategic initiatives to strengthen the institutions of families and communities in this state.

The workgroups established by the Advisory Council are designed to coordinate and facilitate connections that can strengthen communities and families. Additionally, the Advisory Council works with state agency liaisons to identify opportunities to develop and implement initiatives that can strengthen the institutions of families and communities. The Advisory Council will work to support the efforts of and public awareness activities of the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet to ensure information being presented is accurate and consistent.

9. How best to showcase and herald innovative grassroots nonprofit organizations and civic initiatives.

Continue to highlight innovation and civic initiatives at quarterly meetings, at local events, state conferences, through the Champion of Hope Award provided by the Advisory Council, to encourage submission of nominations for the Champions of Service Award provided by Volunteer Florida, and through public meetings of the Advisory Council and other coordinating councils within the state.

10. How best to eliminate unnecessary legislative, regulatory, and other bureaucratic barriers that impede effective faith-based and other community-based efforts to address social problems.

The Advisory Council will continue to engage faith and community-based leaders and members on topics regarding legislative, regulatory and other bureaucratic barriers that may impede effective efforts to address social problems. The public comment portion of the Advisory Council meeting is specifically designed for feedback and perspectives to be shared in order to provide information to make necessary recommendations to eliminate such barriers. The Advisory Council will continue to seek input and feedback from the public on information contained within its statute.

11. How best to monitor implementation of state policy affecting faith-based and other community-based organizations.

Through the collaboration and engagement of state agency liaisons, the Advisory Council will continue working to identify state policies that may affect the efforts of faith-based and other community-based organizations. The Advisory Council's Legislative Workgroup will also seek to monitor implementation of such policies in order to make recommendations that can result in increased collaboration and coordination between faith-based, volunteer and community-based organizations and the state.

12. How best to ensure that the efforts of faith-based and other community-based organizations meet objective criteria for performance and accountability.

The Advisory Council will continue to make itself available to assist faith-based and community-based organizations and work with state agency liaisons and staff to provide technical assistance and training to meet objective criteria for performance and accountability.



Appendix

Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council
Florida Statute 14.31

- (1) **LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.**—The Legislature finds that:
- (a) Compassionate groups of individuals have selflessly aided this state in serving our most vulnerable residents and our most debilitated neighborhoods.
 - (b) Inspired by faith and civic commitment, these organizations have accomplished much in changing the lives of thousands and resurrecting neighborhoods torn by the strife of crime and poverty.
 - (c) It is essential that this state cooperate with these organizations in order to provide an opportunity to participate on an equal basis, regardless of each organization’s orientation, whether faith-based or secular.
- (2) **LEGISLATIVE INTENT.**—It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to recognize the contributions of these organizations and to encourage opportunities for faith-based and community-based organizations to work cooperatively with government entities in order to deliver services more effectively. The Legislature further intends that the purpose of the council is to advise the Governor and the Legislature on policies, priorities, and objectives for the state’s comprehensive effort to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and other community organizations to the full extent permitted by law.
- (3) **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL.**—
- (a) The Florida Faith-based and Community-based Advisory Council, an advisory council as defined in s. 20.03, is established and assigned to the Executive Office of the Governor. The council shall be administratively housed within the Executive Office of the Governor.
 - (b) The council shall consist of 25 members. Council members may include, but need not be limited to, representatives from various faiths, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, foundations, corporations, and municipalities.
 - (c) The council shall be composed of the following members:
 - 1. Seventeen members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor.
 - 2. Four members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the President of the Senate.
 - 3. Four members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - (d) Council members shall serve 4-year terms, except that the initial terms shall be staggered as follows:
 - 1. The Governor shall appoint six members for a term of 3 years, six members for a term of 2 years, and five members for a term of 1 year.
 - 2. The President of the Senate shall appoint two members for a term of 3 years and two members for a term of 2 years.
 - 3. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members for a term of 3 years and two members for a term of 2 years.
 - (e) A vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the original appointing authority for the unexpired portion of the term.
- (4) **MEETINGS; ORGANIZATION.**—

- (a) The first meeting of the council shall be held no later than August 1, 2006. Thereafter, the council shall meet at least once per quarter per calendar year. Meetings may be held via teleconference or other electronic means.
 - (b) The council shall annually elect from its membership one member to serve as chair of the council and one member to serve as vice chair.
 - (c) Thirteen members of the council shall constitute a quorum.
 - (d) Members of the council shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061.
- (5) SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES.—The council shall review and recommend in a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives:
- (a) How faith-based and community-based organizations can best compete with other organizations for the delivery of state services, regardless of an organization’s orientation, whether faith-based or secular.
 - (b) How best to develop and coordinate activities of faith-based and community-based programs and initiatives, enhance such efforts in communities, and seek such resources, legislation, and regulatory relief as may be necessary to accomplish these objectives.
 - (c) How best to ensure that state policy decisions take into account the capacity of faith-based and other community-based initiatives to assist in the achievement of state priorities.
 - (d) How best to identify and promote best practices across state government relating to the delivery of services by faith-based and other community-based organizations.
 - (e) How best to coordinate public awareness of faith-based and community nonprofit initiatives, such as demonstration pilot programs or projects, public-private partnerships, volunteerism, and special projects.
 - (f) How best to encourage private charitable giving to support faith-based and community-based initiatives.
 - (g) How best to bring concerns, ideas, and policy options to the Governor and Legislature for assisting, strengthening, and replicating successful faith-based and other community-based programs.
 - (h) How best to develop and implement strategic initiatives to strengthen the institutions of families and communities in this state.
 - (i) How best to showcase and herald innovative grassroots nonprofit organizations and civic initiatives.
 - (j) How best to eliminate unnecessary legislative, regulatory, and other bureaucratic barriers that impede effective faith-based and other community-based efforts to address social problems.
 - (k) How best to monitor implementation of state policy affecting faith-based and other community-based organizations.
 - (l) How best to ensure that the efforts of faith-based and other community-based organizations meet objective criteria for performance and accountability.

- (6) **RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES.**—The council may not make any recommendation that conflicts with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or the public funding provision of s. 3, Art. I of the State Constitution.
- (7) **REPORT.**—By February 1 of each year, the council shall prepare a written report for the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives containing an accounting of its activities and recommended policies, priorities, and objectives for the state’s comprehensive effort to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and other community-based organizations to the full extent permitted by law.

History.—s. 1, ch. 2006-9; s. 1, ch. 2011-155.

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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