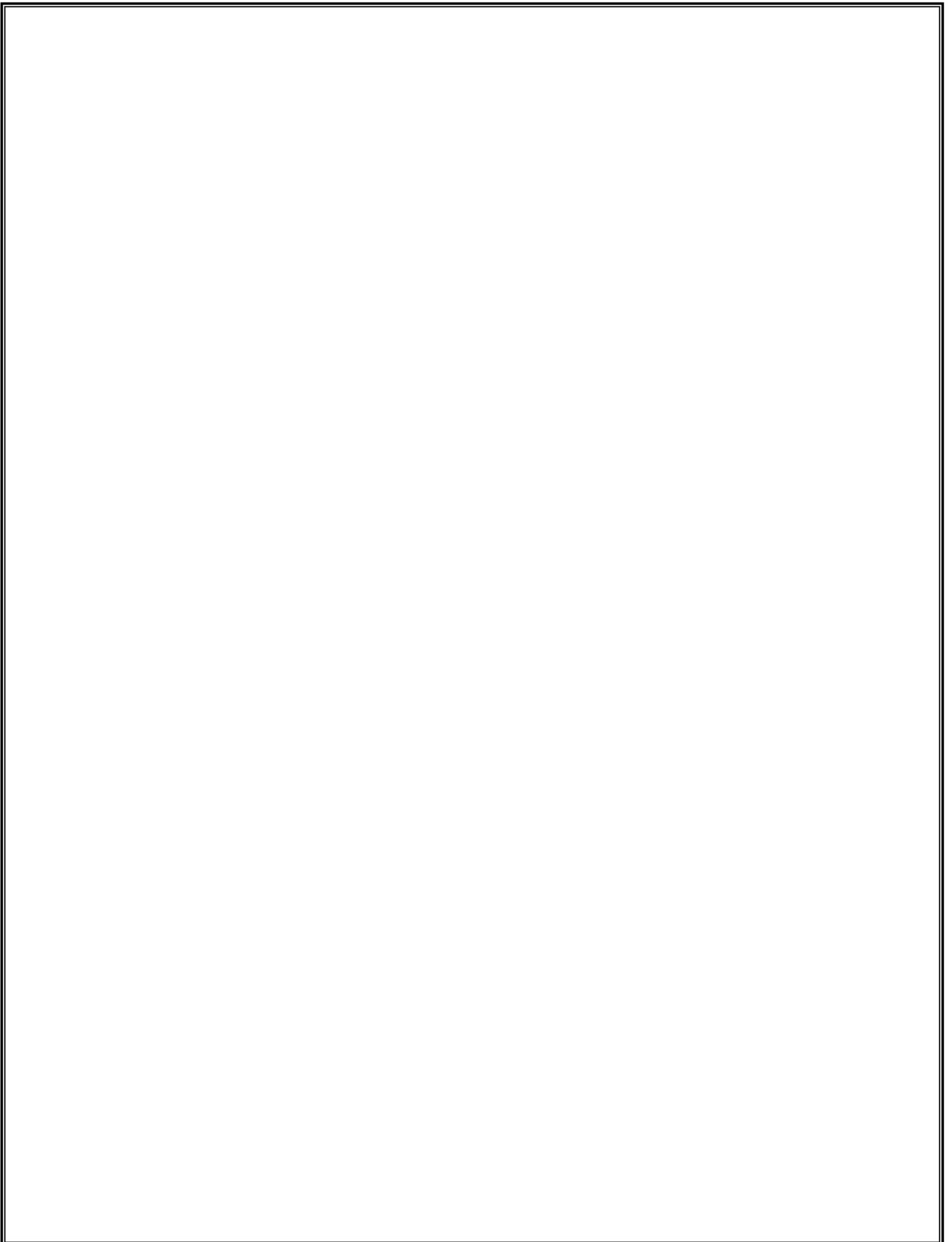




**FLORIDA
FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY-BASED
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

SUBMITTED: FEBRUARY 1, 2011



2010 COUNCIL ACTIONS

We, members of the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council, submit the following report detailing our scope of work for the coming year and accomplishments of the past year.

In this changing economic climate, the Council, composed of members from grassroots and faith-based organizations statewide, works to encourage partnerships, highlight best practices and collaborate with state government.

The Council chose to support the Governor's Adoption Initiative by collaborating with the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection through the Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Council (CAPPC). The effective partnering of faith-based and community-based organizations may be one of the most important defenses in creating safe and healthy environments for children. The Council will continue to focus on identifying faith communities who will engage, according to their interest and abilities, in the Adoption Initiative through the Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Council's 5-year plan (Jan. 2010 – June 2015).

The past two years have seen the highest number of adoptions in Florida due to the involvement of the Council and with the exposure of children from the Heart Galleries in places of worship. With appointments from the House Speaker, President of the Senate and Governor, the Council will continue to enlist, enable, empower and expand the work of volunteer faith-based and community-based organizations to improve social services for Floridians.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ADOPTION AND CHILD PROTECTION

The Council is part of the Promotion of Adoption Strategy 2: Strengthen Florida Recruitment Systems to Better Recruit Families to Meet the Needs of Children and Youth Awaiting Adoption. By 30 June 2015, the State of Florida will have implemented systems and efforts to better target recruitment of families to meet the needs of children and youth awaiting public adoption.

PROMOTION OF ADOPTION STRATEGY 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY-BASED EFFORTS. By 30 June 2015, the State of Florida will have provided information and resources to promote and build efforts by faith-based and community-based systems to promote public adoption and identify families best suited to meet the needs of children and youth waiting for public adoption including assessment of the presence of the *Five Protective Factors*.

2.2 TARGETED AND CHILD SPECIFIC RECRUITMENT. By 30 June 2015, the State of Florida will have increased targeted and child specific recruitment strategies through the use and support of Explore Adoption tools and materials and the Heart Galleries.

2.3 INFORMATION AND SUPPORT FOR PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS. By 30 June 2015, the State of Florida will have implemented fully the state adopted Customer Service Protocol for working with and responding to parents from the moment of expressing interest in adopting through the point of finalization of child adoption.

TACTICS

- Tool-Kit Enhancements
- Best Practices
- Leadership Summits

For more information, refer to the "Explore Adoption Toolkit," and the "Governor's Faith-based and Community-based Advisory Council Meeting" PowerPoint located in Addendum 1.

2011 WORK RECOMMENDATIONS

SHOWCASING FLORIDA'S OUTSTANDING INNOVATIVE GRASSROOTS NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND CIVIC INITIATIVES

The Council proposes to identify and recognize those faith-based and community-based organizations presently engaged in effective practices in cooperation with government entities and look at models to replicate their efforts of success in this arena.

Overview

Quarterly Awards (3 awards per quarter; first 3 quarters only)

- **Bronze Award:** For accomplishments despite adversity to be presented by the Speaker of the House
- **Silver Award:** For leadership in organization's individual sector to be presented by the President of the Senate
- **Gold Award:** For overall excellence and achievement to be presented by the Governor

Annual Award

During the last quarter of the year, the organization that had the most overall impact out of the nine that received awards during the year will be presented with a **Platinum Award**.

FAITH-BASED PRISONS

The Council will seek to partner with the State of Florida by enlisting the assistance of faith-based and community-based organizations to volunteer in the correctional system. Use of volunteers to provide educational opportunities and mentoring for inmates will increase their ability to function in society upon release and reduce recidivism in the state corrections system.

DISASTER RECOVERY

The Council will assist as needed with communication, planning and support of the state's disaster response.

SUNSET REQUEST

The Council will request a repeal of the expiration of the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council through legislation sponsored by Senator Mike Bennett and Representative Clay Ford.

HISTORY OF THE FLORIDA FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY-BASED ADVISORY COUNCIL

On May 4, 2006, National Day of Prayer, Governor Jeb Bush signed HB 0599, placing the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council into law.

State leadership felt increased involvement of faith-based and community organizations were not a substitute for necessary public funding of services to individuals, families and communities in need. They believe that public expenditures without the involvement of these groups limit the effectiveness of government investments. The cost effectiveness of public expenditures can be improved when government is focused on results and public-private partnerships are used to leverage the talent, commitment and resources of faith-based and community organizations.

Although Federal officials are creating a more supportive environment for public/private partnerships, challenges remain on both sides. Many faith-based and community organizations lack access to information about availability of public funding. Since local agencies are responsible for most of the outlay of resources, there is a need to facilitate better communication to organizations at a local level. Many faith-based and community organizations lack the administrative capacity to effectively partner with public agencies. Many state agencies are not aware of the resources that faith-based and community groups can bring to improve the effectiveness of local service delivery. Complex accounting, financial and program reporting overwhelm the administrative capacity of these smaller organizations. Uncertainty of the "uncharted territory" has led some faith-

based organizations to fear collaboration with public agencies. State leadership continues to be necessary to facilitate better collaborations between government and these organizations.

In October 2006, after the Council's review of the State's process for notifying community organizations of funding resources, MyFlorida Marketplace unveiled a web portal of their Vendor Bid System specifically designed to house grant and contract opportunities for Florida non-profits.

The Council held face-to-face meetings with key mayoral leaders from across the state in order to better learn about effective partnerships. Meetings were held with the cities of Orlando, Tampa, Jacksonville, Miami, Bradenton, Eatonville, St. Petersburg, Ormond Beach, Palm Coast, Ft. Lauderdale and Hialeah. These meetings allowed the opportunity to gather specific information on positive collaboration in many service areas directly affecting the local community. This information was bound into an informative resource guide utilized by local community leaders so more effective partnerships can be made and more Floridians can be served. The Council had the opportunity to present this information to twenty-six representatives from Governor's offices nationwide at a meeting led by the White House. As a result, many other states realized the opportunity to highlight local best practices to drive enthusiasm in serving citizens in need. This toolkit was released in 2007.

The Council built a strong network of faith-based organizations, community groups, foundations, civic, grassroots and state leaders. We provided outreach support to state agencies and their specific programs by notifying grassroots organizations of these programs and encouraging their participation. The representative state agencies and their programs were as follows:

- Department of Children and Families
 - Access to Recovery
 - Strengthening Families Initiative
 - Healthy Adoption Initiative
- Department of Corrections
 - Faith and Character Institutions
- Department of Education
 - Family and Community Outreach
 - Faith Based and Community Council
- Department of Health Great to Wait Campaign
 - HIV/AIDS Outreach
 - Abstinence Education
- Department of Juvenile Justice
 - Juvenile Mentoring Initiative
- Office of Drug Control
 - Florida Anti-Drug Coalitions
 - Suicide Prevention

Regional trainings were conducted and attended by approximately 100 leaders for each of the following events. Participating state agencies included the Agency for Workforce

Innovation, Department of Children and Families, Department of Education, Department of Health, and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

- Dade County
 - City of Hialeah
- Duval County
 - Beaver Street Enterprise Center
 - Hyatt Regency Jacksonville (Neighbors to the Rescue, training for volunteer management in disaster recovery)
- Hillsborough County
 - Hillsborough Community College
- Marion County
 - Central Florida Community College
- Orange County
 - University of Central Florida

DISASTER RESPONSE

Neighbors to the Rescue was recognized by the Council as an innovative program and it also received national accolades from the Sagamore Institute's FASTEN awards. Neighbors to the Rescue emphasizes greater local involvement in disaster recovery by identification and use of hitherto untapped community material donations. Neighbors to the Rescue workshops took place in these counties: Lee, Hendry, Collier, Lake, Martin, Palm Beach, Orange, St. Lucie, Escambia Broward and Dade. These workshops resulted in the creation of seven virtual warehouses that are used by communities to locate and transfer needed services and household goods during disaster recovery periods. Neighbors to the Rescue affiliates are located in both faith-based and community-based organizations.

The Council also supported the creation and maintenance of long-term recovery organizations in every Florida county, to be made up of faith- and community-based groups working in communication and cooperation with government and nongovernmental response agencies, so communities will more quickly recover from disasters such as hurricanes and tornadoes. Florida now has a strong network of over 40 LTROs throughout the state.

The Council supported the launch of the Compassion Florida program, a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Compassion Capital Fund. In just two years the Compassion Florida program has trained and provided technical assistance to over 500 organizations, accumulated over 520 hours of technical assistance to faith and community-based organizations and provided 36 grants for capacity building activities.

STATUTE 14.31 FLORIDA FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY-BASED ADVISORY COUNCIL

(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.

(8) EXPIRATION. This section is repealed and the council is abolished June 30, 2011, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

2010 FLORIDA FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY-BASED ADVISORY BOARD

Juda Attkisson
Florida4Marriage.org

Gloria Baker
Statewide Advocate

Rabbi Sholom Ciment
*Chabad-Lubavitch of Greater
Boynton*

Chaplain James Perry Davis
Christ to Inmates

Dr. Andre Estevez
Christian Medical Concepts

John Fogg
City of Pensacola

Robert Gustafson
Grace Community Church

Dr. Jerry Haag
Florida Baptist Children's Homes

Jo Anne (Jody) Hill
*Florida Interfaith Networking in
Disaster*

Sheila Hopkins
Florida Catholic Conference

Dr. Joel Hunter
Senior Pastor, Northland

Thomas Lukasik
4Kids of So Florida

Dr. Leonal Mesa
CEO, Reflections Wellness Center

Elizabeth Barbella
*Children's Services Council, Martin
County*

Imam Muhammad Musri
Islamic Society of Central Florida

Rabbi Schneur Oirechman
Chabad of the Panhandle

Jay Polachek

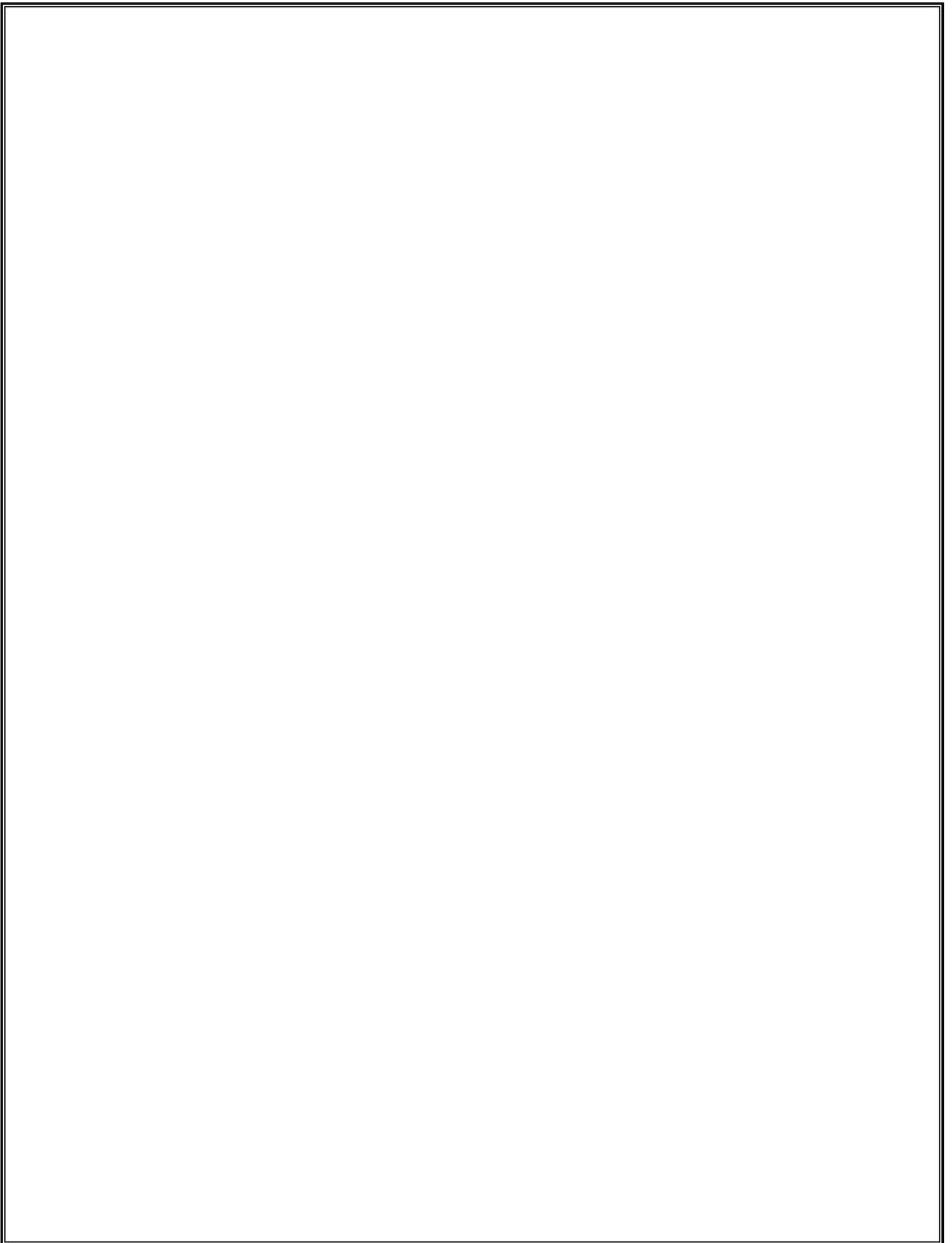
Carl Reeves
Greater Mount Lily Baptist Church

Yvonne Sawyer
Family & Children Faith Coalition

Dr. Carolyn Stewart
*Assistant Vice President Council,
FAU*

Blaine Whitt
President, Xtreme Solutions

Arto Woodley, Jr.
Frontline Outreach



Addendum 1

*“Explore Adoption Toolkit” and
“Governor’s Faith-based and Community-based Advisory Council Meeting” PowerPoint*

EXPLORE ADOPTION

FINDING FAMILIES FOR FLORIDA'S KIDS

faith-based partnership

Churches and other faith-based organizations are ideal places to spread awareness about the wonderful children in Florida looking for families to love and nurture them.

Communities of faith embrace beliefs and values that call on their members to provide for "the fatherless" and to "look after orphans." It is through love that the faithful are motivated to take responsibility for one another and care about their neighbors.

You can become a vital and active partner in Florida's statewide adoption initiative by encouraging your congregation to **Explore Adoption** and experience the joy of building a new family and improving the well-being of Florida's children.

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN BECOME AN EXPLORE ADOPTION PARTNER:

ADVOCATE ADOPTION Make your congregation aware of the many children in Florida who need permanent homes. Speak about public adoption as an important ministry.

SUPPORT ADOPTIVE FAMILIES Provide a post-adoption support system for your members who adopt one of Florida's children. Consider a welcome home reception and organize an extended spiritual family for encouragement and support.

PROMOTE ADOPTION in your communications with members, including bulletins and newsletters and by providing a link on your Web site to www.adoptflorida.org

FEATURE A SPECIFIC CHILD who is seeking a home. Your local adoption provider can identify a child and provide child-specific materials to present to your congregation members. Consider displaying a Heart Gallery at your place of worship.

HOST ADOPTION AWARENESS EVENTS in conjunction with your local adoption provider, community-based care organization or Heart Gallery. For more information, please visit www.adoptflorida.org and click on the Heart Gallery link.

PRAY FOR FLORIDA'S CHILDREN IN CARE that the right families may find them.

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP INCLUDE:

IDENTIFY CONGREGATION members who have adopted one or more of Florida's children; ask them to provide testimonials to your congregation.

HONOR MEMBERS of your congregation who have adopted or who themselves are adopted and support them through prayer.

IDENTIFY SOMEONE in your organization to serve as a spokesperson and contact for members seeking adoption information.

BUILD A RELATIONSHIP with a local community-based care organization and display **Explore Adoption** materials in common areas. Regularly feature children waiting for homes.

CONSIDER CONGREGATION events as avenues for families to gather adoption information through orientations, picnics with available children and group viewings of the **Explore Adoption** video program.

With the support of our faith-based organizations around the state, we can begin a healing mission for Florida's children. Finding and supporting safe and loving families for these adoptive children will create a beautiful sense of belonging, not only for the adoptive families, but also for the entire spiritual community that takes part in the journey to bring a special child home.



meet the weaver family:

Bradley and Tammy Weaver became foster parents after being inspired by some fellow members of First Christian Church in Cape Coral who were foster and adoptive parents.

When they received 10-month-old Katie in 2003, she instantly became a part of the family. Their older daughter, Miranda, loved having a younger sister and later that year, the Weavers decided they wanted to adopt Katie. The Weavers found support and strength in the families of their church congregation, who were able to mentor and guide them. Three years later, the Weavers became Katie's forever family. Today, Katie is a typical 7-year-old who enjoys gymnastics, attends church with her parents, and participates in youth group and Bible camp.



Office of Adoption and Child Protection
Executive Office of the Governor

**Governor's
Faith-Based & Community-Based
Advisory Council Meeting**

Jim Kallinger
The Capitol, Suite 1902
Tallahassee, Florida



Office of Adoption and Child Protection
Executive Office of the Governor

- **Chapter 39.001(7)(a), Florida Statutes**
- **Florida's Chief Child Advocate**
- **Purpose of the Office:**
 - **Prevent child abuse, abandonment and neglect.**
 - **Promote adoption.**
 - **Support adoptive families.**

"Safe and Nurtured for a Brighter Future"



**Major Initiatives of the Governor's
Office of Adoption and Child Protection**

- **Developing and launching an adoption public awareness campaign.**
- **Developing and monitoring a state plan for child abuse prevention and permanency.**
- **Launching and supporting the Children and Youth Cabinet.**

"Safe and Nurtured for a Brighter Future"



**12-Month + 18-Month Statewide
Planning Effort**

- **Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council – 33 members**
- **17 Statewide Workgroups**
 - Prevention – 12 workgroups
 - Permanency – 5 workgroups
 - 166 planning partners
 - 107 organizations and agencies
- **Circuit-level Local Planning Teams**
 - 20 teams with approximately 600 members

"Safe and Nurtured for a Brighter Future"



**Child Abuse Prevention and
Permanency Plan: July 2010 – June
2015**

- **Vision**
Florida's highest priority – children are raised in healthy, safe, stable and nurturing families.
- **Mission**
To serve as a blueprint that will be implemented 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.

"Safe and Nurtured for a Brighter Future"

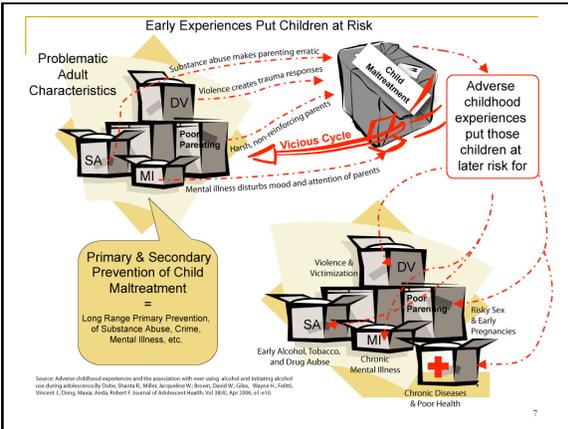


**Four Desired Results of Plan
Implementation**

- 1 – Prevention – Reduce child maltreatment rate**
- 2 – Adoption Promotion – Decrease wait time and increase timeliness**
- 1 – Adoption Support – Decrease number of dissolutions**

Turn the Curve

"Safe and Nurtured for a Brighter Future"



Office of Adoption & Child Protection

Although most problems have complex, interlinked underlying

The presence of **Positive Deviants** demonstrates that it is possible to find successful solutions TODAY before all the underlying causes are addressed!

"Safe and Nurtured for a Brighter Future"

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Office of Adoption & Child Protection

Five Protective Factors

- ❑ **Nurturing and Attachment**
- ❑ **Knowledge of Parenting and of Child and Youth Development**
- ❑ **Parental Resilience**
- ❑ **Social Connections**
- ❑ **Concrete Support for Parents**

"Safe and Nurtured for a Brighter Future"

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Office of Adoption & Child Protection

Faith-Based and Community-Based Objectives

- **Prevention Objective 1.6**
- **Promotion of Adoption Objective 2.1**
- **Support of Adoptive Families Objective 2.3**

"Safe and Nurtured for a Brighter Future"

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Office of Adoption & Child Protection

Faith-Based and Community-Based Tactics

- **Tool Kit Enhancements**
- **Best Practices**
- **Leadership Summits**

"Safe and Nurtured for a Brighter Future"

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Office of Adoption & Child Protection

Links to Resources

Florida Prevention and Permanency Plan

- www.flgov.com/adoption_abuse_prevention

Prevent Child Abuse and Parenting Information & the 2010 Parent Resource Booklet

- ❑ www.ounce.org

Explore Adoption Initiative

- ❑ www.adoptflorida.org

More about the Five Protective Factors

- ❑ www.strengtheningfamilies.net

More information along with the 2010 Resource Guide

- ❑ www.childwelfare.gov/preventing

"Safe and Nurtured for a Brighter Future"

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Produced in partnership with the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service.
www.volunteerflorida.org