

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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*This annual report from the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council  
is submitted to:*

*The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor, State of Florida*

*The Honorable Jose Oliva, Speaker, Florida House of Representatives*

*The Honorable William Galvano, President, Florida Senate*

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



The Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council (Advisory Council or 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 the 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.

The Advisory Council consists of 25 members and includes, but not 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 meets at least once per quarter during the calendar year through in-person, teleconference, or other electronic means. Annually, the Advisory Council elects from its membership one member to serve as Vice Chair of the Advisory Council. The Vice Chair will ascend to the role of Chairman the next year. The mission statement was created and approved by the Advisory Council on June 11, 2013. The vision statement was approved by the members 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 2019 to advance the efforts of the Advisory Council. The Office personnel, including two full-time employees, Zackary Gibson (Chief Child Advocate and Director), Jessica Collins (Special Projects Manager), and one part-time employee, Frenchie Yon (Program Support), provided support through a servant leadership approach. The Office worked with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Council members to facilitate and coordinate all meeting and travel logistics, 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 Office maintains the Advisory Council website that can be accessed at: [www.flgov.com/fbcb](http://www.flgov.com/fbcb), and by visiting the Office's website at [www.flgov.com/child\\_advocacy](http://www.flgov.com/child_advocacy). All Advisory Council meetings and activities are listed on the Council's website.



## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

As of December 2019, there were 25 members appointed to the Advisory Council. The following identifies each member, the organization they represent, the appointment authority, and topics they can assist others with.



**Trenia Cox**  
**Chair**  
**Community Advocate**  
*Governor Appointee*

**Can assist others with:** Child Abuse Prevention, Corrections/DJJ Re-entry, Disaster Relief, Domestic Violence, Educational Tutoring, Family Preservation, Food Services, Homelessness, Human Trafficking, Jail Ministry, Kinship Care, Leadership Strategy, Legislative/Policy, Mental Health, Mentoring, Military/ Veterans, Single Mothers, Substance Abuse, Workforce/Employment, and Youth in DJJ Programs

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**Dr. Jerry Haag, CFP**  
**Vice Chair**  
**One More Child**  
*Governor Appointee*



**Can assist others with:** Adoption, Child Abuse Prevention, Domestic Violence, Foster Care/Aging Out, Human Trafficking, Independent Living, Mental Health, Mentoring, Prevention/Diversion, and Single Mothers

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**Nancy Acevedo**  
**Seminole County Sheriff's Office**  
*Governor Appointee*

**Can assist others with:** Community Outreach, legislation, policy and LEO ministry of the presence

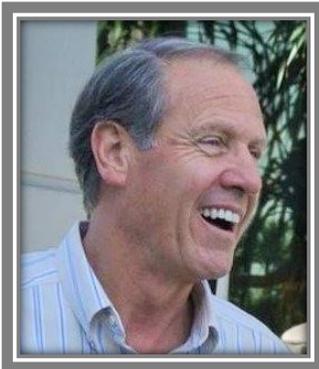
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**Richard Albertson**  
**Live the Life Ministries**  
*Governor Appointee*



**Can assist others with:** Corrections/DJJ Re-entry, Fatherhood, Leadership Strategy, Legislative/Policy, Marriage Education, Mentoring, Relationship Education, Sexual Risk Avoidance for Youth, and Youth in DJJ Program

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**Pastor Kirt Anderson**  
**Naples Community Church**  
*Governor Appointee*

**Can assist others with:** Educational Tutoring, Fatherhood, Food Services, Homelessness, Human Trafficking, Jail Ministry, Leadership Strategy, Legislative/Policy, Marriage Education, Mentoring, and Substance Abuse

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**Chaplain Wallace Brown**  
**Retired Chaplain, The Florida Senate**  
*President of the Senate Appointee*



**Can assist others with:** Mentoring

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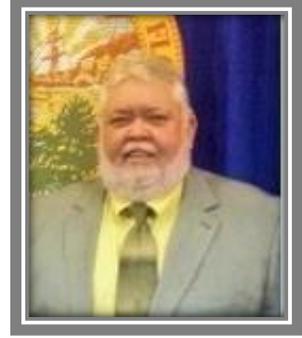


**Erik Dellenback**  
**The Faith and Community Based Liaison to the Governor**  
*Governor Appointee*

**Can assist others with:** Adoption, Foster Care, and Persons with Disabilities

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**Reverend James “Perry” Davis**  
**Christ to Inmates, Inc.**  
*Speaker of the House Appointee*



**Can assist others with:** Corrections/DJJ Re-entry, Fatherhood, Jail Ministry, and Substance Abuse

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**Pastor Gerard Duncan**  
**Prayers By Faith Ministries**  
*President of Senate Appointee*

**Can assist others with:** Fatherhood, Adult & Youth Re-Entry, School Based-Mentoring, Homelessness, Human Trafficking, Jail Ministry, Leadership Strategy, Legislative/Policy, Marriage Education, Adopt- A- school Initiative, and Substance Abuse, Financial Literacy, Faith-Based Partnerships

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**Chad Garmon**  
**YMCA of Central Florida**  
*President of Senate Appointee*



**Can assist others with:** Leadership Strategy, Strategic Partnerships, Family/Marriage, Youth, and Volunteerism

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**Pastor Scott George**  
**Orlando Hope and Pine Castle UMC**  
*Governor Appointee*

**Can assist others with:** Homelessness, Hunger, Poverty, Community Engagement, Working Poor and Leadership Development

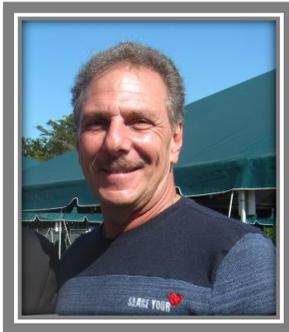
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**Dr. Rosby Glover**  
**Mt. Bethel Human Service Corp.**  
*Governor Appointee*



**Can assist others with:** Juvenile Justice, Foster Care, Homeless needs, and Community Outreach

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**Rolando "Roly" Gonzalez**  
**Victory for Youth**  
*Governor Appointee*

**Can assist others with:** Adoption, Child Abuse Prevention, Food Services, Foster Care, Disaster Preparedness and Response, Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking

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**Dr. Gretchen Kerr**  
**Social Justice Consultant**  
*Governor Appointee*



**Can assist others with:** Corrections/DJJ Re-Entry, Disaster Relief, Homelessness, Human Trafficking, Mentoring, and Substance Abuse

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**Calvin Martin**  
**Florida Guardian ad Litem**  
*Governor Appointee*

**Can assist others with:** Family Initiatives, Legislative, Poverty initiatives, Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse, Mental Health, Leadership Strategy, Community Outreach, Foster Care/Adoption, Volunteerism, Cultural Diversity, and Training/Development

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**Pastor Pam Olsen**  
**Hilltop House of Prayer**  
*Governor Appointee*



**Can assist others with:** Adoption, Human Trafficking, Legislative/Policy

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

**Can assist others with:** Corrections/ DJJ Re-entry,  
Family Preservation, Homelessness, Leadership Strategy

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**Pastor Marcus Smith**  
**Department of Juvenile Justice**  
*Governor Appointee*



**Can assist others with:** Corrections/DJJ Re-entry,  
Human Trafficking, Legislative/Policy, Mentoring,  
Prevention/Diversion, Youth in DJJ Programs

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**Patricia "Pat" Smith**  
**Department of Children and Families**  
*Governor Appointee*

**Can assist others with:** Adoption, Child Abuse Prevention,  
Leadership Strategy, Mentoring Young Adults,  
Prevention/Diversion, and Single Mothers

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**Rabbi Pinchas Taylor**  
Chabad of Plantation  
*Governor Appointee*



**Can assist others with:** Bereavement

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**Gary Tester**  
Catholic Charities of Central Florida  
*President of the Senate Appointee*

**Can assist others with:** Adoption, Disaster Relief, Family Stability, Housing

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**Barry Webster**  
Community Volunteer and Management & Technology Consultant  
*Speaker of the House Appointee*



**Can assist others with:** Budgeting/Financial Management, Child Protection, Family/Marriage and Legislative/Policy, Human Trafficking, Leadership Strategy, Mentoring

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**Rabbi Yosef Weinstock**  
Young Israel of Hollywood-Fort Lauderdale  
*Governor Appointee*

**Can assist others with:** Grief Counseling and Referrals for Services

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**Pastor Blaine Whitt**  
**Xtreme Soulutions**  
*Speaker of the House Appointee*



**Can assist others with:** Corrections/DJJ Re-Entry and Prison Ministry

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**Pastor Reno Zunz**  
**Idlewild Baptist Church**  
*Speaker of the House Appointee*

**Can assist others with:** Adoption, Fatherhood, Leadership Strategy, and Marriage Education

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### **2019 Advisory Council Appointments**

The following members were appointed during 2019 with their date of appointment:

- Gerard Duncan – Appointed – January 4, 2019
- Wallace Brown – Appointed – January 7, 2019
- Gary Tester – Appointed – January 7, 2019
- Chad Garmon – Appointed – October 8, 2019
- Erik Dellenback – Appointed – November 7, 2019

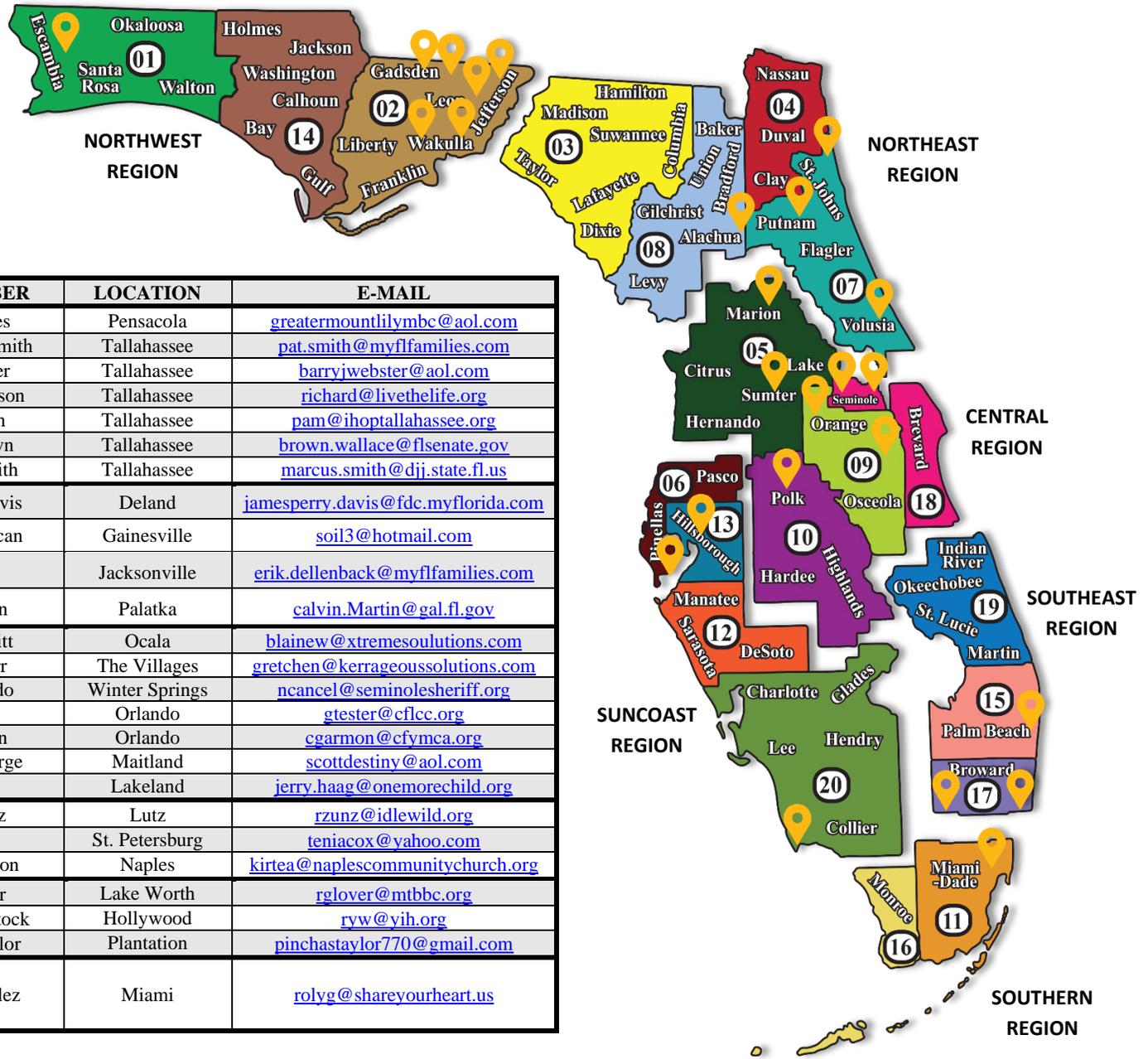
### **2019 Advisory Council Map**

The Advisory Council Map, located on the next page, identifies 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 services for children and families. This map is divided into six (6) regional boundaries and identifies Florida's 20 judicial circuits. This map reflects the diverse geographical representation by members of the Advisory Council where they can work with and assist local faith, volunteer, and community-based groups.



 Estimated location of Council Members

 Judicial Circuits in Florida

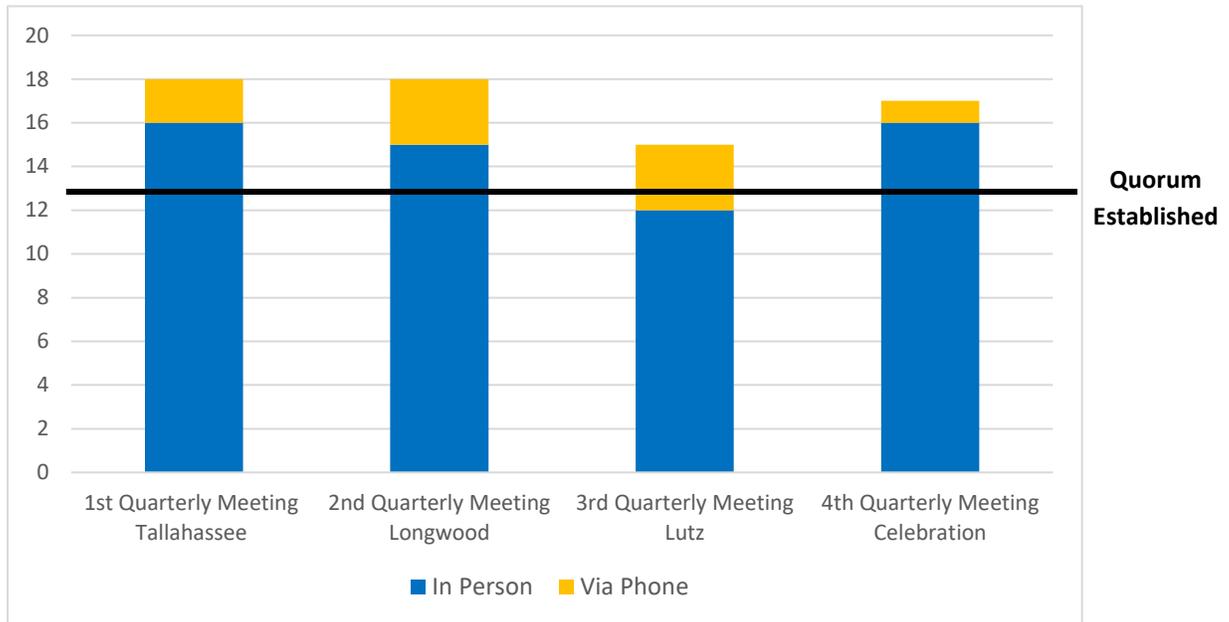


REGION	COUNCIL MEMBER	LOCATION	E-MAIL
NORTHWEST <i>Circuits</i> 01, 02, 14	Pastor Carl Reeves	Pensacola	<a href="mailto:greatermountlilymbc@aol.com">greatermountlilymbc@aol.com</a>
	Ms. Patricia "Pat" Smith	Tallahassee	<a href="mailto:pat.smith@myflfamilies.com">pat.smith@myflfamilies.com</a>
	Mr. Barry Webster	Tallahassee	<a href="mailto:barryjwebster@aol.com">barryjwebster@aol.com</a>
	Mr. Richard Albertson	Tallahassee	<a href="mailto:richard@livetohelife.org">richard@livetohelife.org</a>
	Pastor Pam Olsen	Tallahassee	<a href="mailto:pam@ihoptallahassee.org">pam@ihoptallahassee.org</a>
	Mr. Wallace Brown	Tallahassee	<a href="mailto:brown.wallace@flsenate.gov">brown.wallace@flsenate.gov</a>
	Pastor Marcus Smith	Tallahassee	<a href="mailto:marcus.smith@dij.state.fl.us">marcus.smith@dij.state.fl.us</a>
NORTHEAST <i>Circuits</i> 03, 04, 07, 08	Reverend Perry Davis	Deland	<a href="mailto:jamesperry.davis@fdc.myflorida.com">jamesperry.davis@fdc.myflorida.com</a>
	Pastor Gerard Duncan	Gainesville	<a href="mailto:soil3@hotmail.com">soil3@hotmail.com</a>
	Erik Dellenback	Jacksonville	<a href="mailto:erik.dellenback@myflfamilies.com">erik.dellenback@myflfamilies.com</a>
	Mr. Calvin Martin	Palatka	<a href="mailto:calvin.Martin@gal.fl.gov">calvin.Martin@gal.fl.gov</a>
CENTRAL <i>Circuits</i> 05, 09, 10, 18	Pastor Blaine Whitt	Ocala	<a href="mailto:blainew@xtremesolutions.com">blainew@xtremesolutions.com</a>
	Dr. Gretchen Kerr	The Villages	<a href="mailto:gretchen@kerrageoussolutions.com">gretchen@kerrageoussolutions.com</a>
	Dr. Nancy Acevedo	Winter Springs	<a href="mailto:ncancel@seminolesheriff.org">ncancel@seminolesheriff.org</a>
	Mr. Gary Tester	Orlando	<a href="mailto:gtester@cflec.org">gtester@cflec.org</a>
	Mr. Chad Garmon	Orlando	<a href="mailto:cgarmon@cfymca.org">cgarmon@cfymca.org</a>
	Pastor J. Scott George	Maitland	<a href="mailto:scottdestiny@aol.com">scottdestiny@aol.com</a>
	Dr. Jerry Haag	Lakeland	<a href="mailto:jerry.haag@onemorechild.org">jerry.haag@onemorechild.org</a>
SUNCOAST <i>Circuits</i> 06, 12, 13, 20	Pastor Reno Zunz	Lutz	<a href="mailto:rzunz@idlewild.org">rzunz@idlewild.org</a>
	Ms. Trenia Cox	St. Petersburg	<a href="mailto:teniaco@yaho.com">teniaco@yaho.com</a>
	Pastor Kirt Anderson	Naples	<a href="mailto:kirtea@naplescommunitychurch.org">kirtea@naplescommunitychurch.org</a>
	Dr. Rosby Glover	Lake Worth	<a href="mailto:rglover@mtbbc.org">rglover@mtbbc.org</a>
SOUTHEAST <i>Circuits</i> 15, 17, 19	Rabbi Yosef Weinstock	Hollywood	<a href="mailto:ryw@yih.org">ryw@yih.org</a>
	Rabbi Pinchas Taylor	Plantation	<a href="mailto:pinchastaylor770@gmail.com">pinchastaylor770@gmail.com</a>
	Mr. Roland Gonzalez	Miami	<a href="mailto:rolyg@shareyourheart.us">rolyg@shareyourheart.us</a>

## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

### 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 2019.



### Meeting Outreach

The Advisory Council utilized various methods to increase awareness and participation in quarterly meetings. Utilizing the support of Advisory Council members and partners, meeting invitations were disseminated and featured state and local initiatives to increase awareness and involvement from the community. Meeting materials and summaries of each meeting were developed and are posted on the Advisory Council's website at: <https://www.flgov.com/fbcb-meetings-2019/>.

With the support from The Florida Channel and City of Tallahassee, the Council was able to live stream/record the first and second quarterly meetings. The Council's Facebook page assisted in reaching organizations and individuals across the state to increase awareness of the Council's purpose and mission, upcoming events, and various initiatives to improve services for Floridians. At all meetings, a conference line was available to enable the public to participate.



The Advisory Council allocated time before, during and after each Council meeting for networking and connecting with local and state organizations. This resulted in the development of partnerships to expand services and work to improve outcomes for targeted populations. Information on Council site visits are included in the meeting highlights on the following pages.

### First Quarterly Meeting Highlights

**Date:** April 9, 2019

**Location:** City Hall, Tallahassee, Florida

**Meeting activities:**

- Recognized the 2019 Council Leadership: Ms. Trenia Cox as Chair and Dr. Jerry Haag as Vice-Chair.
- Recognized Ms. Nancy Acevedo, Mr. Wallace Brown, Pastor Gerard Duncan, Mr. Calvin Martin, and Mr. Gary Tester on their recent appointments to the Advisory Council.
- Highlighted public awareness topics on Child Abuse Prevention Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Month of the Military Child, and Autism Awareness Month.
- Presentations were provided by:
  - Council Member Scott George on his collaboration with CareerSource Central Florida and local pastors. CareerSource conducted several meetings to make connections with the faith-based community to assist individuals develop skills and obtain employment.
  - Council Member Rolando Gonzalez on the progress of the Share Your Heart program to provide goods and services to the community through volunteer chaplains.
  - Council Member Dr. Jerry Haag on the Single Mom program and how they work with single mothers to help them transition to self-sufficiency.
  - Ms. Ivonne Fernandez, Associate State Director for Advocacy with AARP, on the services and training available to support family caregiving, to include education on finances, essential caregiving tips, and self-care.
  - Ms. Rachel Mohler, Summer Food Service Program Director for the Florida Department of Agriculture, on information and initiatives for the Summer BreakSpot program. Summer BreakSpot provides meals to children 18 and under during the summer when school is out and seeks to enlist providers who can provide summer meals in targeted areas across the state that are not currently providing meals.
- Council members provide updates on their activities to support state initiatives and vulnerable populations.
- The Council heard various public comments focusing on advocacy and treatment options before concluding the meeting.
- Following the meeting, available Council members participated in the Pinwheels at the Capitol event by planting pinwheels in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month.



*Members participating in the Pinwheels at the Capitol event*



*Special thanks to the City of Tallahassee for their accommodations, and to the Heart Gallery of the Big Bend for displaying photos of children in need of permanent families.*

## Second Quarterly Meeting Highlights

**Date:** June 18, 2019

**Location:** AdventHealth, Altamonte Spring, Florida

**Site Visit:** Prior to the meeting, available Council members participated in a tour of Feeding Children Everywhere as well as packed 2,500 meals to distribute to people in need.

**Meeting activities:**



*Site visit to Feeding Children Everywhere*

- Highlighted public awareness topics on Water Safety and Look Before You Lock to support efforts to eliminate preventable child deaths.
- Presentations were provided by:
  - Ms. Rachel Allen, Director of the Peace and Justice Institute at Valencia College, on how Central Florida is working to Creating a Resilient Community: From Trauma to Healing. Ms. Allen shared future action steps that include educational workshops on adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed care, and implementation of a Community Resilience Project.
  - Captain Sammy Gibson, Seminole County Sheriff's Office, on the impacts of the Opioid Epidemic. Captain Gibson shared a video on the agency's response to an opioid overdose to provide perspective on the challenges associated with the epidemic.
  - Ms. Anna Lowe, Central Florida Cares Health System, on the organization's response to the opioid epidemic and information about Medication Assisted Treatment.
  - Mr. Andrae Bailey, CEO of Change Everything, on Project Opioid Abuse, a business and faith initiative to assist in responding to the opioid crisis in Central Florida. Mr. Bailey shared background information and the link between heroin and opioids.
  - Ms. Pam Nabors, President, and CEO of CareerSource Florida, on building economic supports and connecting Central Floridians to careers. She shared efforts to work closely with the business community and analyzing opportunities to develop skilled workers. She also spoke on the program's development of faith-based targeted strategies.
- Council members provide updates on their activities to support state initiatives and vulnerable populations.
- The Council heard various public comments focusing on the topics presented before concluding the meeting.



***Special thanks to Council member Scott George for hosting the site visit at Feeding Children Everywhere; AdventHealth for their efforts to coordinate meeting logistics and for providing the refreshments, and to the Heart Gallery of Central Florida for displaying photos of children in need of permanent families***

### Third Quarterly Meeting Highlights

**Date:** August 27, 2019

**Location:** Idlewild Baptist Church, Lutz, Florida

**Site Visit:** Prior to the meeting, available Council members toured Hope Street and the Bartholomew Center to learn about an array of programs and services offered.



*Members with presenters and partners at Idlewild Baptist Church*

**Meeting activities:**

- Highlighted public awareness topics on Suicide Prevention Week, Dads Take Your Child to School Day, Safe Sleep Month, Bullying Prevention Month, Disability Employment Awareness Month, and Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Information was also provided on upcoming conferences and the Volunteer Connect portal from Volunteer Florida.
- Presentations were provided by:
  - Dr. Chris Card, Chief of Community Based Care for Eckerd Connects, on the agency's faith-based initiatives in circuits 6 & 13 to support foster care and adoption.
  - Mr. Kirt Browning, Superintendent of Pasco County Schools, on the district's effort to collaborate with faith and community partners to support schools and students.
  - Mr. Keith Babb, Director of Programs, and Mr. Phillip Whitten, Director of Engagement from One More Child-Hope Street, on efforts to engage the Sulpher Springs community by partnering with the Sulpher Springs K-8 school to support the needs of the children and families, and offering juvenile diversion services.
  - Ms. Linda Alexionok, President of Voices for Florida, on the Champions 4 Change initiative to utilize sports/athletics as a vehicle to raise awareness/educate the public on human trafficking. A key focus is to partner with faith and community organizations to advance this effort.
  - Executive Director Ken Lawson, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, on opportunities to assist Floridians through CareerSource and Rebuild Florida.
  - Ms. Jessica Geib, Chair of the Florida Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster, on the organization's role throughout the disaster cycle of preparation, response, recovery in communities throughout Florida.
- Council members provided updates on their activities to support state initiative and vulnerable populations.
- The Council heard one public comment on how the faith community can support people with disabilities before concluding the meeting.



**Special thanks to Council member Reno Zunz and his team at Idlewild Baptist Church for coordinating the site visit, for hosting our meeting, and providing breakfast items. Thank you to the Heart Gallery of Tampa for displaying photos of children in need of permanent families.**

## Fourth Quarterly Meeting Highlights

**Date:** November 7, 2019

**Location:** AdventHealth, Celebration, Florida

**Meeting activities:**



*Members with presenters at AdventHealth*

- Recognized Mr. Chad Garmon and Mr. Erik Dellenback on their recent appointments to the Advisory Council. Mr. Dellenback also serves as the Governor's Liaison to lead the Governor's Faith and Community Based Initiatives.
- Council member Calvin Martin was the only nomination to serve as Vice-Chair in 2020. He accepted the nomination, and the Council voted to elect him as Vice-Chair to serve alongside Dr. Jerry Haag, who will ascend to the role of Chair in 2020.
- The Council identified locations and dates to host quarterly meetings in 2020. Members discussed and supported opportunities to conduct site visits/activities in advance of, or after scheduled meetings, and to align meetings with other key events. The following locations and dates were selected. Secondary locations and dates were identified in the event the primary date is unavailable.
  - **Tallahassee – January 13<sup>th</sup>** (to coincide with the *Traffick Stop 2020* event on 1/14)
  - **Miami – June 6<sup>th</sup>** (to coincide with Faith-Based Day at Marlin's Stadium)
  - **Panama City (Bay County) – September 15<sup>th</sup>**
  - **TBA** – Scheduled between Oct. and Nov. (to coincide with a state event)
- Council member Erik Dellenback provided an overview of the Governor's Faith and Community Based Initiative and shared how he is working to develop an inventory of faith-based organizations who are supporting state efforts to serve vulnerable populations.
- Members reviewed elements within the Council's annual report, discussed workgroups and member activities to support state initiatives, and agreed to have a presentation by DCF on the Citizen Review Panel to support efforts to improve the child welfare system. Members also agreed to provide information on their faith-based contacts to support the Governor's initiative and for activities and recommendations to be included in the Council's annual report.
- Council member Barry Webster suggested to work with state agencies to identify a baseline on the amount of state funding provided to faith-based organizations. He will work with the Governor's Office to advance this effort.
- Ms. Carol Burkett, and Mr. Thomas Hall, of the Orange County Drug-Free Office, presented information on Naloxone (also known as Narcan) and trained Council members on how to administer it.
- No public comments were heard or reported for this meeting.



*Special thanks to the Orange County Drug Free Office for the information and training on Naloxone and to AdventHealth for their accommodations and refreshments*

## ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2019, members participated and integrated activities within their local areas to align with the various state initiatives. Quarterly meetings of the Council also provided a platform to highlight topics and efforts to support state initiatives. The information below provides a summary of those activities.

### Child Welfare

- Member Calvin Martin participated in the following efforts through the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program:
  - *Trauma Informed Advocacy Workgroup*- reviewed credible and relevant information on trauma, GAL policies and procedures, and made recommendations to align the program's representation with what experts in child development and trauma have determined best serves children.
  - *Fostering Futures Training Initiative*- focused on advocacy and mentoring for older youth in the child welfare system by providing them with trained volunteers to serve as a significant adult in their lives and help them transition to adulthood. Through these efforts, more youth were promoted to the next grade level and did not have involvement with law enforcement.
  - *Race Equity Education*- implemented strategies to support volunteer recruitment efforts and offer additional training options focused on situational and generational poverty, cultural competencies and implicit bias, LGBTQ+ advocacy, and targeted community outreach. Mr. Martin was invited and served as a panelist for the Center for Child Welfare at FSU's symposium on Race Equity.
  - *FAWL in Love with GAL*- utilized pro bono attorneys to mentor teenage girls, aging out of the foster care system by offering guidance, sharing of concerns, and receiving legal and perspectives in a non-threatening environment.
  - *Transition to post-secondary education*- worked to provide experienced volunteer mentors for foster youth who are/will be enrolled in a state college or university to assist with campus resource identification, college, and workforce readiness towards future professions/life aspirations. He also worked with academic institutional partners to provide campus liaisons as a resource to volunteer mentors, and to create a "culture of college" for younger youth.
- Member Gerard Duncan coordinated a focus group through the *Innovative Dads* fatherhood group, where participants learned about adverse childhood experiences (ACE), took the ACE survey, and identified ways to address and prevent trauma within themselves and their families.
- Member Rolando Gonzalez continued implementation of the *Share Your Heart* program that utilizes volunteer chaplains to provide food, clothing, emotional, and spiritual support to individuals or families identified in crisis or distress. Responded to referrals from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to serve and support families that are, or at-risk of, involved in the child welfare system. Worked with DCF- Suncoast Region to bring the program to Circuit 20.
- Member Rosby Glover participated in the following efforts through Mt. Bethel Human Services Corporation:
  - Facilitated ten adoption finalizations through the foster care program in Circuits 15, 17, and 19.
  - Conducted four community workshops on ACEs and Trauma Informed Care.

- Provided insight and perspectives at six child welfare Racial Equity meetings in Broward County.
- Member Reno Zunz participated in the following efforts through Idlewild Baptist Church:
  - Worked closely with Christian adoption agencies, pregnancy care centers, and utilized the church’s adoption fund to help families with the expenses of adoption.
  - Offered Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) on a quarterly basis for families and hosted an “Empowered to Connect” simulcast to support families considering adoption.
  - Provided licensing classes, TBRI, and other training to support foster families and utilized Care Communities to wrap around and support foster families.
- Member Jerry Haag participated in the following activities:
  - Partnered with child welfare leaders in a national movement to increase the number of children adopted through the child welfare system.
    - Partnered with local community based care agencies throughout the state of Florida to recruit, license, and support foster homes, for a total of 572 families caring for 1,439 children.
  - Served on the board of directors of Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) that united 190+ respected organizations and more than 650 church members with joint initiatives to inspire and equip the faith community to care for vulnerable children.
  - Expanded One More Child’s Single Moms Program throughout Florida, which served 151 moms and children in the residential program. They also launched a Single Moms Community Program, providing resources and support to partner churches who then work with single moms in their own community where the goal is to multiply efforts to reach single moms needing extra support by providing the tools for churches to use in their own backyard.
  - Provided rent-free homes to foster parents so they can accommodate larger sibling groups and focus on the needs of the children.
  - 
  - Provided on-going trauma informed care and adverse childhood experiences training in a variety of settings, particularly as it pertains to anti-trafficking.
- Council members disseminated information and encouraged support from local faith and community organizations to support public awareness topics throughout the year to include Child Abuse Prevention Month in April and Adoption Month in November.

### Criminal Justice

- Member Gerard Duncan participated in the following efforts:
  - Worked with Project Youthbuild to provide mentoring services, develop pre-apprentice skills and job readiness in the areas of carpentry, electrical, plumbing, flooring and painting; community impact projects, and leadership skills for youth and young adults who are at risk of, or have been involved with, the criminal justice system.
  - Facilitated weekly transition classes in partnership with the Santa Fe Bridges of America and Compass 100 for 30 males utilizing a Department of Correction’s curriculum.
- Member Marcus Smith, through the Department of Juvenile Justice, hosted the *2019 Restoring Hope Training Summit* to bring together faith and community partners to work towards reducing juvenile delinquency and supporting youth.
- Member Gretchen Kerr created *ReNEW*, an empowerment program to serve substance involved incarcerated women. It is an intensive eight-ten week in cell program with a structured schedule that provides residents an opportunity to learn more about themselves, their identity beyond their addiction, receive substance abuse curriculum, enrichment classes such as art therapy, trauma-based work, and movies that enhance the core *ReNEW* curriculum. It is a rigorous program - residents attend classes five days per week beginning at 7am with some days

not ending until 8:30pm. *ReNEW* staff is based in the dorm to increase opportunities to build trust, hold one-on-one sessions, and observe the women as they work their program. Most classes have homework and receive assignments to complete over the weekend. The program is facilitated by two staff and 10-12 volunteers per 16 residents.

- Member Scott George worked with community partners to coordinate the Central Florida Collective Impact on Opioid Abuse; Project Opioid was created as our community's response to the rise of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and resulting deaths within Central Florida. Project Opioid has brought together business and faith leaders from around Central Florida, including leaders from Florida Blue, Red Lobster, the Orlando Sentinel, and the University of Central Florida (UCF).
- Member Reno Zunz participated in the following efforts through Idlewild Baptist Church:
  - Partnered with the United States Institute Against Human Trafficking to raise awareness and promoted "Traffick-Free Workplaces" through the community.
  - Through collaboration with One More Child – Hope Street to provide diversion and civil citation services for youth.
- Member Barry Webster coordinated a Human Trafficking event at Celebration Baptist Church that was open to the community for parents, grandparents, guardians, teachers, coaches, and student workers. The event included partners from Children's Home Society (Open Doors Outreach Network), Voices for Florida (Open Doors Outreach Network), and the Department of Children and Families and focused on Training Against Predators. The training included:
  - How predators use Social Media and Online Gaming to identify and exploit children.
  - How to protect and train our children.
  - Showing of the short film "Chosen".
- Member Blaine Whitt participated in the following activities through Xtreme SOULutions (XS):
  - Partnered with local businesses and faith communities to prepare individuals for successful reentry to the community.
  - Provided job skill development and training in areas to include:
    - Commercial Drivers License- Part A
    - Food Handler
    - Food Safety Manager
    - Logistics
  - Provided life skills development to include:
    - Program participants are assigned to "families," housed in XS allocated dorms, where they learn appropriate interactive skills, responsibility, respect for others, and leadership skills.
    - Personal development plans are created to include classes such as Life Mapping, Personal Finances, Communication, and Family Relationships.
    - Responsibilities are incrementally added, from peer counseling, family coach, to OLAC (leadership council).
    - A leadership summit was held with 170+ men in attendance. Over two days, community speakers, several of whom are John Maxwell certified life coaches, brought inspiration and encouragement.
    - Every Thursday evening is Community Night – guest speakers from the local business community offered inspiration to focus on future possibilities.
    - The volunteer team included several local pastors who counsel one on one with men in crisis or as needed on an ongoing basis.
    - Provided transition services to determine needs and identify housing, work, transportation, etc. in the communities where they are returning to.
- Member Jerry Haag, through One More Child, provided direct services, counseling, survivor-mentorship, and case management to 292 sex trafficking victims/those at high risk of being trafficked (ages 10-24) and impacted 18,638 people on the topic of Anti-Trafficking through our advocacy, awareness, and training.

- At the start of the 2019 Legislative Session, members participated in *Traffick Stop 2019* to support efforts to raise awareness and end human trafficking in Florida. This effort is lead by Member Jerry Haag and his team at One More Child.

### Disaster Planning

- Member Rolando Gonzalez provided Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) training to build capacity to support the Miami-Dade Emergency Management Department.
- Member Rosby Glover through Mt. Bethel Human Services Corporation prepared and disseminated food baskets to families impacted by hurricanes.
- Since the start of hurricane season in Florida, Council members disseminated information on disaster preparedness and recovery from the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

### **Education**

- Member Rolando Gonzalez continued implementation of the *Share Your Heart* program with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to respond to school-based referrals for children, families, and school staff who are identified as in crisis or distress. All referrals are vetted through the District's School Police Department before delivering services.
- Member Reno Zunz participated in the following efforts through Idlewild Baptist Church:
  - Offered tutoring services at six schools in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties to improve readiness and achievement.
  - Provided meal distribution at the Sulpher Springs Elementary/Middle School and coordinated a Hope 5K event to raise funds for partner schools.
- Member Rosby Glover through Mt. Bethel Human Services Corporation provided after school care at Lauderdale Lakes Middle School, mentoring/tutoring to students at Parkway Middle School and allocated staff to serve as an Innovation Zones representative at North Fork Elementary.
- Member Jerry Haag provided the following through One More Child:
  - An after-school program and a summer program for children in Lakeland focused on character building, homework assistance, and engaging activities.
  - Identified and trained mentors, primarily through local churches, who are matched with a single mom in the residential program. Mentors attend classes with the moms, provide support, and form relationships to help them sustain self-sufficiency.
    - More than 5,367 volunteer hours have been donated to support single moms through mentorship, babysitting, workshops, home maintenance, and more.
  - Expanded backpack programs to provide meals for children in 62 schools across Florida. Engaged churches and volunteers to assemble the food and learn how to help hungry children in Florida. 1,634,685 backpack meals were provided to children so they would not be hungry on the weekends.
- During the month of September, Council members assisted in promoting *Dads Take Your Child to School Day* through the Department of Education.

### Family/Community Initiatives

- Chair Trenia Cox participated in the following events through the Florida Dream Center:
  - Expanded the Adopt-A-Block initiative that utilizes community volunteers to provide community beautification, home appliances, and other resources to families in the areas of Lealman, South St. Petersburg and Tarpon Springs.

- Provided food through the Mobile Pantry throughout Pinellas County.
- Provided case management services to victims of human trafficking and work readiness skills.
- Continued collaboration with the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County and Eckerd Kids Community Alternatives to host the F.O.C.U.S. (Family Oriented Concepts Unified to Serve) Symposium. This symposium brings together faith and community organizations to increase awareness and access to needed services in order to build the resilience of individuals and families, resulting in stronger and healthier communities.
- Member Richard Albertson continued to advance efforts to promote healthy marriages and relationships throughout Florida. Through the <http://usmarriage.org> website, encouraged faith and community organizations to utilize the platform to promote their free training/meetings to strengthen relationships and support families.
- Members Gerard Duncan and Rolando Gonzalez partnered with Farm Share to coordinate/assist with community food distributions to support families in need.
- Member Scott George organized and led a faith conference for faith-based and nonprofit leaders for Florida Prosperity Partnership where he worked closely with CareerSource Central Florida to provide educational opportunities for faith organizations to learn more about services available, organized a meeting at First Baptist Orlando to connect faith organizations to CareerSource, and collaborated with Pastor George Cope with Vision Orlando to promote services and resources available through CareerSource.
- Member Pam Olsen led prayer activities at the state capitol with legislators, pastors, and citizens throughout the year and coordinated the 25<sup>th</sup> annual National Day of Prayer that featured Governor DeSantis and other state leaders to pray for our state and nation.
- Member Rosby Glover through Mt. Bethel Human Services Corporation operated a community resource center to provide referrals for housing, furniture, clothing, employment, and food to over 5,000 clients.
- Member Jerry Haag participated in the following activities through One More Child:
  - Expanded Compassion Centers throughout parts of Florida that provide diversion services, meeting space, and resources to meet the needs of the community.
  - Coordinated community food distributions throughout Florida to support families in need.
- Members continued to support the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' efforts to enlist organizations to serve as summer meal sponsors and sites to reduce the number of children who do not have access to healthy foods during the summer.

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## **Florida's Five-Year Prevention and Permanency Plan**

The Advisory Council continues to support and promote efforts of the *Florida Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Plan*. The central focus of the plan 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 continues to participate in the following sections of the five-year plan: Prevention of Child Maltreatment, Promotion of Adoption, and Support of Adoptive Families. The following activities occurred through 2019 in support of the plan:

- Disseminated information to create awareness of Protective Factors during quarterly meetings.
- Supported and participated in the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign and disseminated information on resources provided by Prevent Child Abuse Florida during Child Abuse Prevention month.
- Promoted adoption of children from foster care and had leaders from Community Based Care Lead Agencies present information on initiatives to recruit foster and adoptive parents during quarterly meetings.
- Members worked to facilitate connection to support adoptive families.

## 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. The Advisory Council serves as a Citizens Review Panel to support DCF's efforts to refine, improve and strengthen the child welfare system.



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 was formally designated as a Citizens Review Panel for the Federal Fiscal Year 2019. Below are recommendations provided to the DCF:

- Work with agency partners to increase community-based services for mental health and substance abuse to provide greater accessibility for individuals and families involvement with, or at-risk of being involved with, the child welfare system.
- Expand home visiting services that target older children. These services should complement existing home visiting services that work to build protective factors and improve family functioning to prevent involvement with the child welfare system.
- Increase collaboration with the Department of Economic Opportunity, CareerSource Florida and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to offer job skill training and employment opportunities for children and families to achieve economic self-sufficiency.
- Increase support of local initiatives to provide community education on topics to include Adverse Childhood Experiences, Social Determinants of Health, Trauma Informed Care and Protective Factors. This education can promote action on behalf of individuals and families to reduce incidents of crisis or distress.
- Increase the promotion of success stories and personal growth achieved through services and supports provided by DCF and its contractors. These services and supports change and save lives every day and can help improve the public perception of the agency.
- Increase collaboration with agency partners to have consistent messaging on safe sleep and water safety topics to reduce and eliminate preventable child deaths.

## ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are provided to address requirements 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 and community-based organizations who desire to compete for the delivery of state services must have the organizational capacity to meet and/or exceed operational and administrative expectations set by the state. Faith and community-based organizations are encouraged to register with the MyFlorida Marketplace to submit information/proposals for opportunities to deliver state services, and to sign up for agency notifications to know when opportunities become available. Beyond current mechanisms of state agencies to provide public notice of such opportunities, agencies are encouraged to communicate opportunities with the Advisory Council to assist in disseminating information to create broader awareness of opportunities for faith and community-based organizations to compete for the delivery of state services.

- 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.**

Dedicated staffing and agency collaboration are needed to support the development and inventory of programs and initiatives in order to have greater coordination of efforts. Agencies are encouraged to communicate with the Advisory Council on key initiatives to enable the Council to disseminate information and identify faith and community-based organizations who are providing services and supports within communities. It is important for each appointment authority to fill open seats with individuals who have multiple talents, networks and are strategically positioned throughout the state, so there is representation in at least each judicial circuit of Florida who can share what programs and initiatives are taking place.

- 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.**

It is important for faith-based and other community-based organizations to engage their local and state elected officials to express their desire to support or oppose policies that may, or may not, limit their ability to be included. Strategies include holding in-person listening sessions or by using a public facing survey to request feedback from citizens. This approach would provide a framework for improved understanding of the differences in service activities that highlight the unique capacities of faith and community-based organizations. The state should consider expressing its support of faith and other community organizations' involvement to achieve state priorities- this messaging can encourage these organizations to be more involved in state policy decisions.

- 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.**

State agencies and entities, along with their contractors and providers, should consider inviting faith and community-based organizations to showcase their programs and services during functions (e.g., conferences, regional gatherings, etc.) that have demonstrated effectiveness and

have advanced state efforts. Encouraging decision makers at the local, regional and state levels to visit/tour programs and observe services being delivered can increase awareness and support for initiatives. Recognition of faith and community-based organizations during public awareness events and functions furthers opportunities to increase awareness of and promote best practice approaches for replication/duplication in other parts of the state.

**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.**

Faith-based and other community organizations should utilize all traditional media sources (i.e., TV, radio, newspaper, billboards, etc.) and expand their use of social media to create interest and awareness of their initiatives. State agencies and entities are encouraged to highlight faith-based and community non-profit initiatives during functions ((e.g., conferences, regional gatherings, etc.) that have demonstrated effectiveness and have advanced state efforts. Agencies and entities should also establish criteria to enable these organizations to submit information in order to be recognized for their efforts and utilize their communications offices to share this throughout the state.

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

The state should consider offering additional tax incentives/benefits to individuals and organizations who contribute towards initiatives that have demonstrated their ability to achieve performance-based outcomes. Similar to #5, organizations should utilize all traditional media and social media, and for state agencies/entities to recognize such efforts, to create awareness of the positive impact on the target populations being served to build community support and charitable giving.

**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 Governor's Office and Legislature are encouraged to promote existing/established mechanisms and procedures to submit concerns, ideas and policy options and identify staff/program offices to follow up on each respective submission. State agencies are also encouraged to establish similar mechanisms/procedures that can enable direct response and recommendations to be shared with the Governor and Legislature. These entities are encouraged to invite the Advisory Council to participate in discussions to offer insight and perspectives that can assist, strengthen and replicate successful faith-based and other community-based programs.

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

The state should increase its collaboration with city and county governments to assess community norms and resources to support the strengthening of such institutions. This is a key component of state agency efforts to prevent involvement in state systems and promote the health, safety, and well-being for all Floridians. Through this collaboration of government entities, a coordinated marketing strategy should be implemented to define positive community norms that encourage changes in thinking to change behavior. The state should also increase the availability of community education to improve understanding of healthy child and family development to empower action and limit the need for state/government involvement.

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

State agencies and entities, along with their contractors and providers, should consider inviting innovative grassroots non-profit organizations and civic initiatives to showcase their efforts during functions (e.g., conferences, regional gatherings, etc.) that have demonstrated effectiveness and have advanced state efforts. Recognition of such efforts during public awareness events and functions furthers opportunities to increase awareness of and promote best practice approaches for replication/duplication in other parts of 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.**

Legislative and regulatory intent should be clearly stated, and efforts to offer technical assistance and monitoring should occur to eliminate barriers (real and perceived) that may impede efforts to address social problems. It is important for faith-based and other community-based organizations to engage their local and state elected officials to express their voice on legislative, regulatory and other bureaucratic barriers that may impede their efforts. State agencies should consider how they may capture perspectives from faith-based and community-based organizations during functions (e.g., conferences, regional gatherings, etc.) that bring these groups to the table. Also, state agencies are encouraged to take additional steps to make the public aware of rule and program changes to enable organizations to share their concerns and feedback.

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

State agencies are encouraged to provide self-assessment tools to be completed by organizations before any monitoring visit. This can allow agencies to see how implementation is occurring and identify additional assets and resources not known. Conduct site visits and client/customer reviews to get real perspectives and have other organizations share their experiences and strategies to implement/embed the requirements into their daily practice.

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

The state should develop criteria that encourage clear and concise and have organizations define their accountability methods as part of plans or proposals submitted. Identify reliable and trusted data sources to minimize manipulation of data and results. Provide ongoing training and technical assistance to organizations to establish objectives and use data to improve efforts. Encourage organizations to record training, certifications and licenses that can assist in meeting objective criteria.

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# 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.

- (1) 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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