

Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council



2014 Annual Report



Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Thomas Lukasik
Chair
Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based
Advisory Council

Table of Contents

Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council	
Mission Statement	1
Statutory Charge	1
Vision.....	1
Administrative Support	2
Website	2
Advisory Council Membership	3
2014 Advisory Council Appointments.....	8
Advisory Council Meeting Attendance.....	10
Advisory Council Meetings	12
First Quarterly Meeting	12
Second Quarterly Meeting.....	13
Third Quarterly Meeting.....	14
Fourth Quarterly Meeting.....	15
Advisory Council Initiatives	16
Annual Conference Workgroup.....	16
Child Welfare Workgroup	18
Criminal Justice Workgroup.....	19
Disaster Planning Workgroup	19
Family Initiatives Workgroup	20
Legislative Workgroup	20
Florida's Five-Year Prevention and Permanency Plan.....	21
Citizens Review Panel	22
Advisory Council Recommendations.....	23
 Appendix	
Florida Statute 14.31	i
Florida Statute 39.001, Sections 8 – 12	v

FLORIDA FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY-BASED ADVISORY COUNCIL



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

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

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

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

Mission Statement

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

Statutory Charge

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

Vision

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

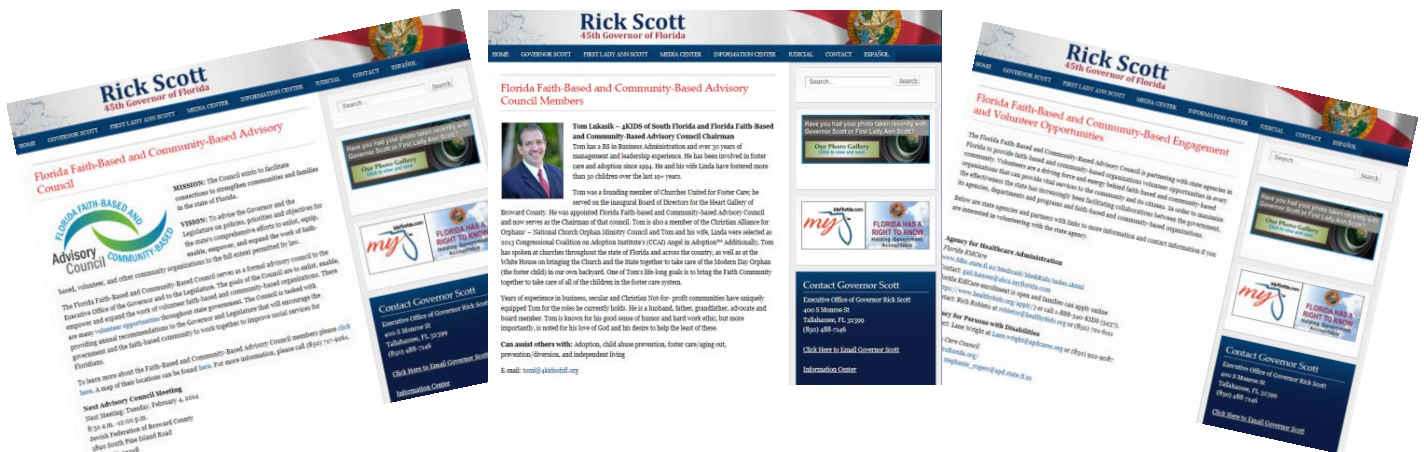
Administrative Support

On June 12, 2007, the bill creating the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection (Office) was signed into law. The duties and responsibilities of the Office are enshrined in Florida Statute 39.001. The Office was created for the purpose of establishing, implementing, and monitoring a comprehensive, cross-agency approach for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment and neglect across the state. In October 2011, the Executive Office of the Governor allocated responsibility for administrative functions and support for the Advisory Council to the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection.

The Office worked diligently throughout 2014 to advance the efforts of the Advisory Council. Office personnel, including two full-time employees: Zackary Gibson (Chief Child Advocate and Director) and Christina Pacelle, MSW (Special Projects Manager), and one part-time employee, Frenchie Yon (Program Support), have provided support through a servant leadership approach. In addition, the Office utilized student interns to assist with many tasks supporting the Advisory Council throughout the spring, summer, and fall semesters. The Office facilitated and coordinated meetings, travel logistics, meals, overnight accommodations, ground transportation, and site visits to local community organizations. Additionally, the Office developed correspondence, drafted meeting agendas, invited presenters to speak, worked with the Governor's, Senate President's and Speaker of the House's Appointments Office; and assisted in the creation of this annual report.

Website

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



Advisory Council Membership

As of December 2014, there were 22 members appointed to the Advisory Council. The following list identifies each member, their position on the Advisory Council, the organization they represent, the appointment authority, the workgroups they serve on, and topics they can assist others with.



Thomas “Tom” Lukasik
Chairman, Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council
4KIDS of South Florida
Governor’s Appointee

Serves on the following workgroups: Child Welfare and Family Initiatives

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

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



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

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



Richard Albertson
Live the Life Ministries
Governor’s Appointee

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

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

Pastor Kirt Anderson
Naples Community Church
Governor's Appointee



Serves on the following workgroups: Family Initiatives and Legislative

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



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

Serves on the following workgroup: Disaster Planning

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

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



Serves on the following workgroup: Criminal Justice

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



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

Serves on the following workgroups: Child Welfare

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

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

Serves on the following workgroup: Child Welfare, Disaster Planning

Can assist others with: Elder, Food and Health Services



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

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

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

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

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



Carolyn Ketchel, LCSW, MSW
Private Practitioner
Senate President Appointee

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

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

Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner
Temple Solel
Senate President Appointee

Serves on the following workgroup: Child Welfare

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



Dr. Leonel “Leo” Mesa, LMHC
New Day Center
Governor’s Appointee

Serves on the following workgroups: Annual Conference and Child Welfare

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

Cherron “CC” Newby
Community Member
Governor’s Appointee

Serves on the following workgroups: Criminal Justice and Legislative

Can assist others with: Corrections/DJJ reentry, Disaster relief, educational tutoring, elderly populations, family preservation, fatherhood, food services, foster care/aging out, homelessness, independent living, kinship care, single mothers, workforce/employment, and parenting



Pastor Pam Olsen
International House of Prayer
Governor’s Appointee

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

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

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



Serves on the following workgroups: Annual Conference and Criminal Justice

Can assist others with: Homelessness and youth in DJJ



Patricia Robbins
Farm Share
Governor's Appointee

Serves on the following workgroups: Disaster Planning and Legislative

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

Samuel "Sam" Sipes, LCSW, BCD
Lutheran Services Florida, Inc.
Speaker of the House Appointee



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



Patricia "Pat" Smith
Department of Children and Families
Governor's Appointee

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

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

Pastor Blaine Whitt
Xtreme Soulutions
Speaker of the House Appointee

Serves on the following workgroup: Criminal Justice

Can assist others with: Corrections/DJJ re-entry



Karim Veerjee
Florida Hospital
Governor's Appointee

Serves on the following workgroup: Disaster Planning

Pastor Reno Zunz
Idlewild Baptist Church
Speaker of the House Appointee

Serves on the following workgroup: Child Welfare

Can assist others with: Adoption, Disaster relief, and fatherhood



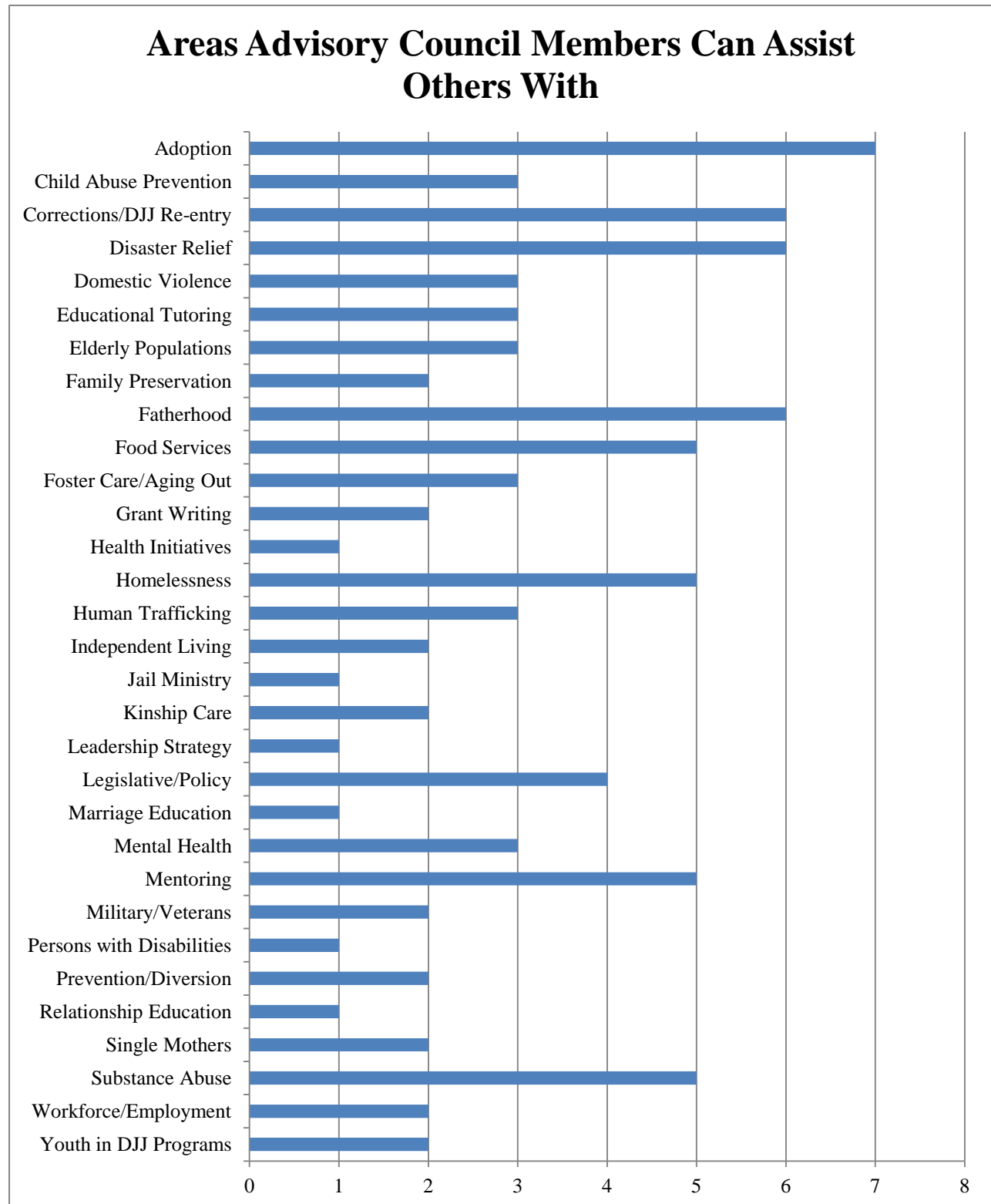
2014 Advisory Council Appointments

The following members were appointed or re-appointed by the Governor during 2014 with their date of appointment:

- Alan Dimmitt, Appointed on February 17, 2014
- Cherron "CC" Newby, Reappointed on February 17, 2014
- Pastor Pam Olsen, Reappointed on February 17, 2014
- Patricia Robbins, Appointed on June 2, 2014
- Roland Gonzalez, Appointed on June 2, 2014

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

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

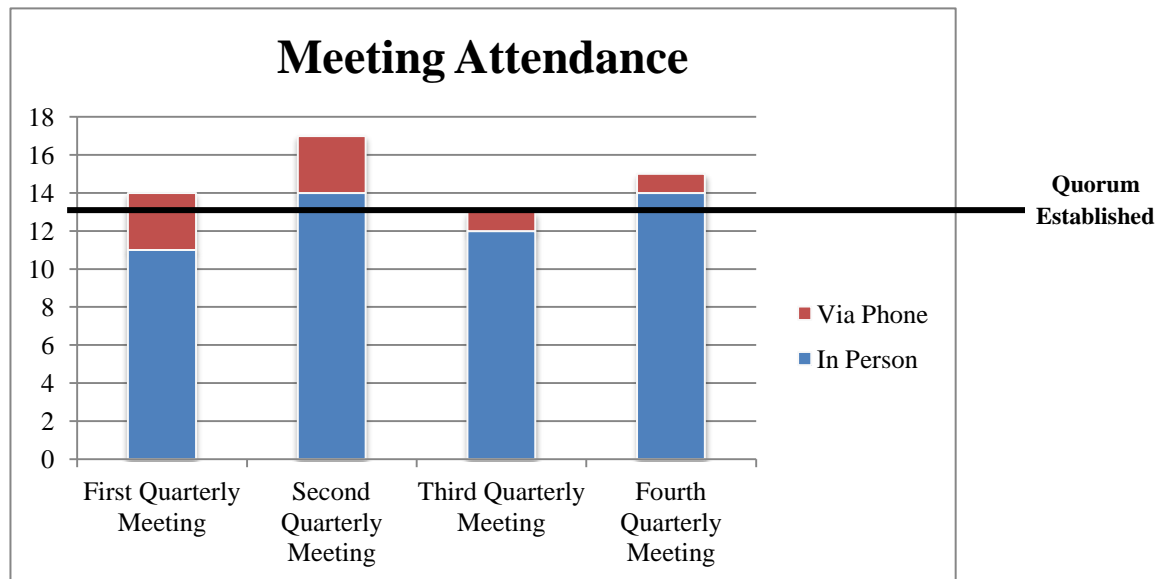


The diversity of topics where information and support can be provided offers unique opportunities to facilitate connections between state and local groups to improve outcomes. Through individual and workgroup approaches, the Advisory Council builds relationships with stakeholders to advocate and advance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

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

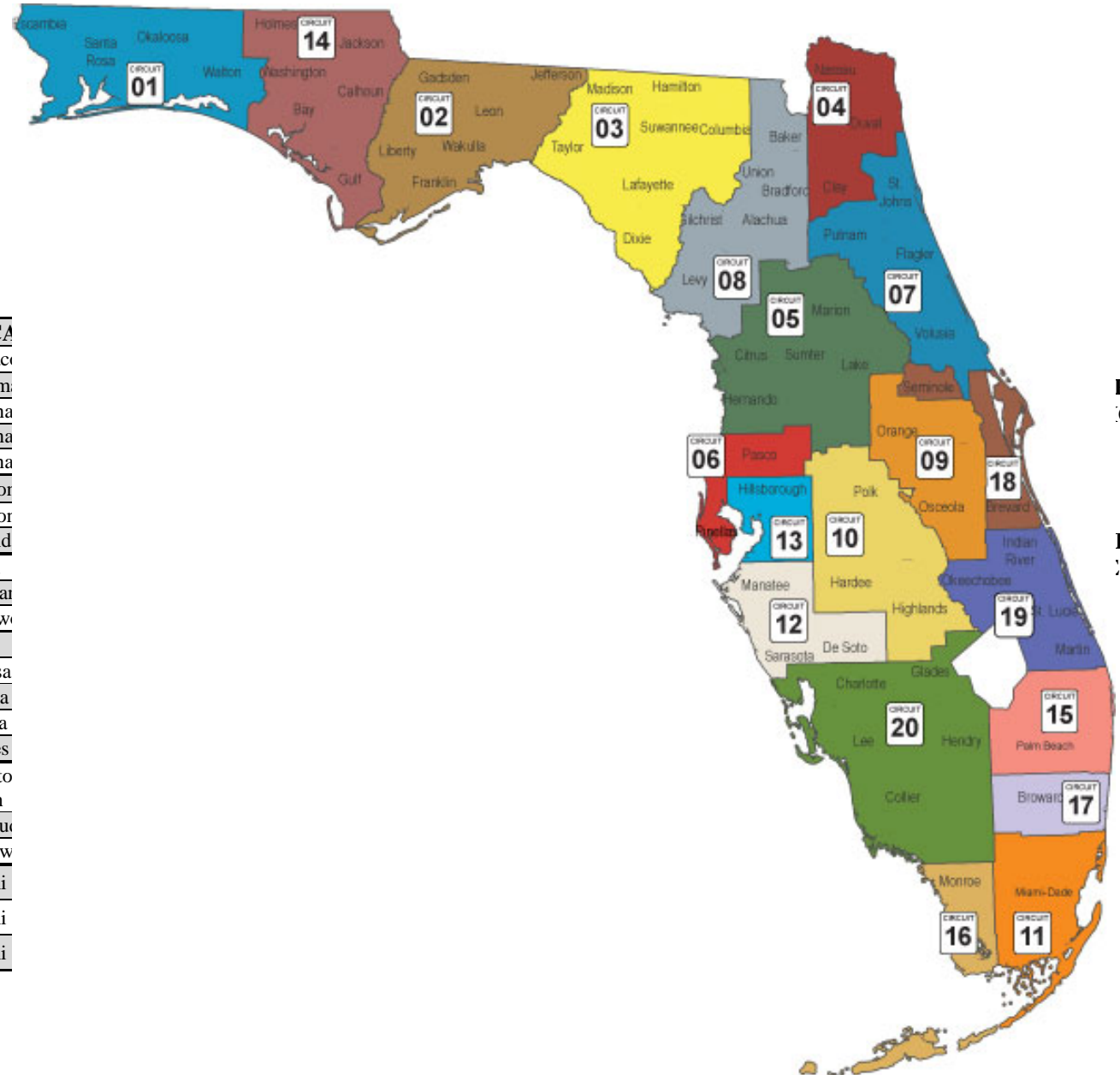
Advisory Council Meeting Attendance

As identified in Florida Statute 14.31, a total of 13 members must be in attendance in order to establish a quorum for the purpose of voting on Advisory Council action and activities. Members may participate in scheduled meetings across the state either in-person or via teleconference call. The chart below reflects attendance for each Advisory Council meeting during 2014.



Advisory Council Map and Member Contact Information

KEY		
★	Estimated location of Council members	
-----	Regional boundary lines (based on DCF's regional structure)	
CIRCUIT 01	Based on Judicial Circuit structure	



REGION	FBCB Council Member	LOCATION
NORTHWEST <i>Circuits 01, 02, 14</i>	Pastor Carl Reeves	Pensacola
	Ms. Carolyn Ketchel	Shalimar
	Ms. Patricia "Pat" Smith	Tallahassee
	Mr. Richard Albertson	Tallahassee
	Pastor Pam Olsen	Tallahassee
NORTHEAST <i>Circuits 03, 04, 07, 08</i>	Pastor Stephen "Spike" Hogan	Jacksonville
	Ms. Cherron "CC" Newby	Jacksonville
	Reverend Perry Davis	Deland
CENTRAL <i>Circuits 05, 09, 10, 18</i>	Pastor Blaine Whitt	Ocala
	Dr. Jerry Haag	Lakeland
	Dr. Gretchen Kerr	Longwood
SUNCOAST <i>Circuits 06, 12, 13, 20</i>	Pastor Reno Zunz	Lutz
	Mr. Karim Veerjee	Odessa
	Mr. Sam Sipes	Tampa
	Mr. Alan Dimmitt	Bonita
SOUTHEAST <i>Circuits 15, 17, 19</i>	Pastor Kirt Anderson	Naples
	Rabbi Sholom Ciment	Boynton Beach
	Mr. Tom Lukasik	N. Lauderdale
	Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner	Hollywood
SOUTHERN <i>Circuits 11, 16</i>	Dr. Leo Mesa	Miami
	Mr. Roland Gonzalez	Miami
	Ms. Patricia Robbins	Miami

Advisory Council Meetings

First Quarterly Meeting

The first quarterly meeting of the 2014 took place on February 4 and was hosted by the Jewish Federation of Broward County at the Katz Building. A tour of the David Posnack Jewish Community Center occurred after the meeting.



Summary of the First Quarterly Meeting

- Introduced newly appointed members.
- Action items and updates were given on the following statewide initiatives:
 - 28 Days of Amazing African American Children
 - Florida Lifespan Respite Summit
 - Pinwheels for Prevention
 - Florida Safe Sleep Campaign
 - Water Safety – Drowning Prevention
 - Death by Paramour
- Reviewed the OACP Annual Report and the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council Annual Report summarizing the previous year's accomplishments.
- A presentation was given by Share Your Heart, a collaborative chaplaincy program started in Miami-Dade County and expanding into Broward County. Mr. Roland Gonzalez, founder, thanked the Council for the Champion of Hope award at the National Faith Symposium. The Council agreed to support the Share Your Heart Chaplaincy program through its expansion in Broward and in other parts of the state.
- Another presentation was given by Ms. Emily Tallman of Northland Church on Resource Point—an online resource directory to connect individuals to available resources in their area. The site's focus is on the Central Florida area, and is working to expand state-wide. Council members were encouraged to spread the word about Resource Point and encourage its use in their communities.



Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council with staff and special guests: Danielle Alvarez (second from left), Governor's Regional Team, and Roland Gonzalez (second row, far right), Executive Director, Share Your Heart

Second Quarterly Meeting

The second quarterly meeting took place on April 8 in Tallahassee in the Governor's Large Conference room within the Capitol.



Summary of the Second Quarterly Meeting

- Introduced special guests, Mr. Geoffrey Becker, Deputy Chief of Staff, Executive Office of the Governor and Mr. Darrick McGhee, Legislative Affairs Director with the Executive Office of the Governor to share perspectives on the Advisory Council's role and engagement with the faith community.
- Introduced new appointments and reappointments.
- Action items and updates were given on a number of upcoming events, including Pinwheels for Prevention, One Church One Child prayer breakfasts, and National Foster Care Month.
- Presentations were given by members of the following state agencies:
 - Department of Juvenile Justice
 - Ms. Maureen Honan and Jeanne Becker-Powell on the topic of trauma informed care.
 - Ms. Cici Battle on the topic of the Florida Youth Commission.
 - Department of Children and Families
 - Ms. Niki Pocock on the agency's prevention initiatives to include *Who's Watching Your Child?*
 - Department of Education
 - Ms. Dianne Van der Meer introduced herself as the department's faith and community-based outreach liaison and expressed a desire to work together with the Advisory Council.
- Mr. Jack Levine, founder of the 4Generations Institute, presented to the council an overview of his organization which is dedicated to a community-based conversation focusing on four generations so that families' needs are identified, solutions proposed, and advocacy can be directed in both the public and private sectors.
- Workgroup updates were shared from workgroup leads.
- The Council members adopted the following vision statement: "To maximize the collaboration between faith-based and community organizations and State agencies to help strengthen individuals and families."



Third Quarterly Meeting

The third quarterly meeting took place in on June 17 in Gainesville, Florida and was hosted by the Cone Park Library. After the meeting the Advisory Council and staff took a site visit to the SWAG Resource Center in Gainesville.



Summary of the Third Quarterly Meeting

- Introduced newly appointed members.
- Ms. Janice Kirk, Board Secretary with Tri County Community Resources, presented to the council. Her organization consists of churches, non-profits, and interested businesses that collaborate to provide services to those in Levy, Gilchrist, and Dixie counties.
- Pastor Karl Anderson, a senior pastor of the Upper Room Church of God in Gainesville, presented on his organization, Orphans' Offering, a ministry that was created to show love to the foster children of North Central Florida.
- Mr. Stephen Pennypacker, President and CEO of Partnership for Strong Families, provided an overview of the organization, which provides child welfare services designed to protect local children from abuse, neglect, and abandonment and assists in establishing safe and permanent homes with their own families, partner families or adoptive parents.
- A presentation was given by Ms. Laurallynn Segur, Director of Licensing and Recruitment with Eckerd Community Alternatives, the Community Based Care Lead Agency for child welfare services in Pasco and Pinellas counties. Her initiative, Faith-Based Champions for Children, provides the opportunity for children in care to find foster or adoptive homes by partnering with places of worship.
- The Honorable James Colaw, Circuit Judge in the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Florida, shared perspectives on how faith communities can work to engage individuals and families to prevent them from entering the court room.



Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council and staff with team members from the Partnership for Strong Families and the Honorable Judge James Colaw (first row, far right)

Fourth Quarterly Meeting

The final meeting of the year took place on October 20 in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Plaza Hotel. This meeting was held in conjunction with the 2014 National Faith Symposium.



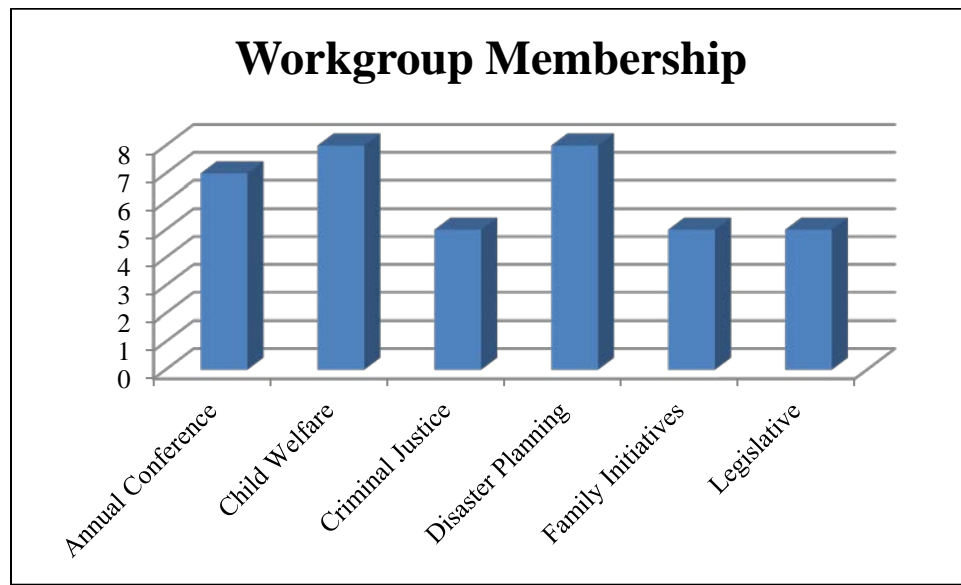
Summary of the Fourth Quarterly Meeting

- A number of action items and updates were provided to include:
 - National Adoption Month
 - We Believe Day, Miami, FL
 - Zero to Three Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
 - Human Trafficking Awareness Month – January
- Logistics for the National Faith Symposium were presented by Ms. Pat Smith, Annual Conference Workgroup lead, to include evening activities, seating and positioning for the *Champions of Hope Awards*.
- Ms. Pam Mullarkey, Founder of Project SOS, delivered a presentation on her organization, which aims to confront a variety of issues facing children, by teaching them valuable life skills.
- Mr. Glen Gilzean, Vice President, Family and Community Affairs for Step Up for Students, gave a presentation on his organization that helps administer the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Based upon income criteria, families can choose, on a first-come, first-served basis, scholarships for tuition or transportation to attend a school that best meets their children's learning needs.
- Presentations were also given by the following state agencies:
 - Department of Education
 - Ms. Dianne Van der Meer provided an overview of the department's faith and community-based initiatives.
 - Department of Health
 - Mr. Victor Johnson provided an overview on the Community Resilience Unit functions and responsibilities to support preparedness and recovery planning and assessment of public health, medical and mental/behavioral health needs before, during and after a disaster.
 - Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 - Mr. Pierce Withers provided a presentation on *Florida's Roadmap to Living Healthy* initiative, the department's efforts to map food related needs and indicators, and partnership opportunities for faith-based organizations to become sponsors or providers for food services during the summer.



Advisory Council Initiatives

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



Annual Conference Workgroup

Through the leadership of Ms. Pat Smith, the Advisory Council was represented at one of the largest gathering of faith-based and faith guided organizations in the state of Florida at the 2014 National Faith Symposium in Orlando. In collaboration with the Departments of Children and Families and Juvenile Justice, this year's Symposium built upon the previous year's accomplishments and featured new partnerships with the Department of Corrections and sponsorships to include the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Bridges of America. A pre-conference meeting occurred with the Advisory Council holding its 4th Quarterly Meeting on-site.



With over 600 attendees, participants were moved and inspired by the opening speakers Dr. Rosalind Y. Tompkins and Christian Moore, and keynote speakers Antwone Fisher and the Honorable Judge Glenda Hatchett. The exhibit hall featured various displays from organizations throughout the state with information on programs and services to assist children, youth and families. Break-out sessions highlighted promising and best practices, initiatives, and opportunities to further bridge the connection between faith-based organizations, the state and its partners.



Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council members and staff with keynote speaker Antwone Fisher (front row, fourth from left)

Champion of Hope Awards

Realizing the value of faith communities and organizations in providing support to the state and state agencies, the Champions of Hope award was created to recognize organizations that go above and beyond the ordinary to improve the lives of at-risk youth and children in care. The Annual Conference Workgroup provided nomination forms to the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Juvenile Justice for dissemination to regional offices to identify and nominate faith-based organizations for consideration. There were a total of 14 nominees to include:

- 4KIDS of South Florida, North Lauderdale, FL
- Community Food and Outreach Center, Orlando, FL
- Family Christian Association of America, Miami, FL
- First United Methodist Church of Chiefland, Chiefland, FL
- Greenhouse Church, Gainesville, FL
- Harvest Time Juvenile Ministries, Summerfield, FL
- Idlewild Baptist Church, Lutz, FL
- Marcus Point Baptist Church – P.U.R.E. Friendship Ministries, Pensacola, FL
- Miami's River of Life, Miami, FL
- Miracle Deliverance Center #2, Crawfordville, FL
- Mustard Seed Ministries, Fort Pierce, FL
- Northland, A Church Distributed, Longwood, FL
- Oxford Outreach, Oxford, FL
- Upper Room Church of God in Christ, Gainesville, FL

The 2014 winners were Northland, A Church Distributed for the Department of Children and Families (left) and Miami's River of Life for the Department of Juvenile Justice (right).





2014 Champion of Hope Nominees and Awardees with Representative Dennis Baxley, Secretary Christy Daly, Secretary Mike Carroll and members and staff of the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council

Child Welfare Workgroup



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

Throughout 2014, the Child Welfare Workgroup has supported various activities to advance initiatives related to children. The workgroup disseminated information and supported awareness activities during National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. During National Child Abuse Prevention month, workgroup and Council members provided outreach to raise awareness of activities and events to promote the *Pinwheels for Prevention* campaign which emphasizes healthy child development. To support efforts in recruiting foster parents, the workgroup participated in a joint venture between the Share Your Heart program, the Department of Children and Families, and Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe to host the *We Believe Day* event at Zoo Miami. This event brought together the general public and the faith community to have a fun day at the Zoo with a meaningful purpose. A pastor's breakfast was held to share messages focused on how individuals and families can become Foster Family Friends, foster and adoptive parents, and involved with the volunteer chaplaincy program. Additional information was provided on the Summer Break Spot program and health related services. State agencies and community partners had booths to provide additional information on local programs and services to attendees. The event generated nearly 40 inquiries with eight families enrolling in foster parent training, two families enrolling to become adoptive parents, and others becoming Foster Family Friends.

The workgroup continues to build upon its directory of organizations and contacts that support state agency efforts and will continue to explore the development of its draft document to identify the value, benefit and projected cost savings to the state through programs and services provided by faith-based organizations. Additional work will commence to better target outreach efforts, programs and initiatives to highlight, and realistic action items to facilitate connections between local groups, state agencies and partners.

Criminal Justice Workgroup

Led by Dr. Gretchen Kerr, the Criminal Justice Workgroup continues its efforts to identify best practices and innovation on topics to include prevention, early intervention, diversion, reentry or reintegration of adults and juveniles from jail and juvenile facilities; substance abuse, mental health, and persons with disabilities. The workgroup met throughout 2014 to explore different approaches to initiate action on re-entry issues, visitation between children and incarcerated family members, human trafficking, and to support ongoing efforts of both the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Additional workgroup members from these two agencies were added to further identify opportunities of how the Council's workgroup can support and add value to their work. Discussions took place with DOC staff and faith-based providers who serve families of inmates to consider activities that had previously occurred at re-entry facilities to engage inmates with their children. This engagement would serve as a way to strengthen relationships between parent and child through fun activities and the creation of tangible mementos to serve as motivation and inspiration. Ongoing discussions and planning have occurred with the goal of implementing such activities in 2015.



On the topic of human trafficking, the workgroup leadership partnered with the Department of Children and Families and DJJ to invite human trafficking task forces from across the state to come together. The purpose of the meeting was to develop strategies to create a continuum of care through a S.W.O.T. analysis of existing services. Additionally, information was provided on Resource Point (www.resourcepoint.org), an online resource directory where information about human trafficking task forces and other available resources can be listed and accessed. The meeting concluded with discussion and identification of task force best practices that could potentially be replicated or duplicated in other areas. During the month of October, the workgroup assisted the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet in disseminating information and resources to community contacts to raise awareness of bullying and cyber bullying issues during National Bullying Month.

Further reassessment of workgroup initiatives will occur between workgroup members and state agency liaisons to spur ideas that can result in improved outcomes for the populations served.

Disaster Planning Workgroup



Over the past year, the Disaster Planning Workgroup, led by Sam Sipes, participated in various strategic planning meetings to increase awareness of the Advisory Council's workgroup and highlight opportunities to engage faith and community-based organizations in preparedness, response and recovery efforts. These meetings have included staff from the Florida Division of Emergency Management, the Florida Department of Health, and Volunteer Florida to identify and explore opportunities to work in a collaborative and coordinated approach. While Florida has not experienced a major disaster in several years, the Advisory Council, along with other state agency partners and stakeholders, continue to advocate for ongoing preparedness. The workgroup has been supporting efforts

to have additional places of faith serve as ACCESS centers where individuals and families can apply for food stamp benefits, and in times of disaster or emergency, be positioned to disseminate cash assistance and other benefits. During storms that hit the Pensacola area, the workgroup facilitated connections between Volunteer Florida and Farm Share to provide food, water and relief supplies to the communities in need. Discussion among the workgroup and state agency liaisons were initiated towards the end of 2014 to propose activities and messaging to engage faith organizations and communities around preparedness activities for 2015. These discussions will continue to further define action for engagement and consideration to include messages that may coincide with the National Day of Prayer.

A special “thank you” is sent to David Yarborough with Lutheran Services of Florida who retired in January 2015. David’s leadership and support was integral to the development of the workgroup and future activities for 2015.

Family Initiatives Workgroup

Led by Richard Albertson, the Family Initiatives Workgroup has explored different approaches to engage state agency liaisons and various faith-based and community-based organizations to identify needs, gaps in services, and proposed solutions in order to facilitate a more collaborative and coordinated approach to strengthening families.

To support the food needs of families, the workgroup engaged Farm Share to support food distributions to neighborhoods and communities throughout the state. On all Farm Share publications highlighting their food distributions, the Advisory Council’s logo has been added to reflect its support of these efforts. The workgroup has also been working with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) to identify faith organizations to serve as sponsors or providers of meals for children during the summer. This identification and connection to DACS will continue throughout 2015, particularly in areas identified as in need through the Department’s *Roadmap to Living Healthy* state maps.



The workgroup has also begun researching information to identify connections between strong marriages and families and topics such as poverty prevention, child well-being, crime prevention, drug and alcohol addiction, mental and physical health, and educational achievement. Results of the research will be shared with the Advisory Council to determine next steps in the process of strengthening the institutions of families in Florida.

Legislative Workgroup

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

Meetings were held with the Governor’s Legislative Affairs Director to share the ongoing work of the Advisory Council and ideas for proposed recommendations from the Council. Following these meetings, the Director of the Governor’s Office of Adoption and Child Protection was invited to present information on the Advisory Council and associated initiatives to legislative directors from state agencies to increase awareness and encourage collaboration with faith and community organizations to support their efforts. In 2015, the Legislative Workgroup will continue to solicit ideas from members and will

look to gain additional perspectives and suggestions from faith and community leaders to present recommendations that can be shared with the Governor and Legislature.

Florida's Five-Year Prevention and Permanency Plan

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

Vision

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

Mission

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

Overarching Goal

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

Advisory Council Support

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

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

Within the objectives, the Advisory Council identified two key tactics to accomplish the objectives.

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

The Advisory Council established an Annual Conference Workgroup and has partnered with the Departments of Children and Families and Juvenile Justice to assist in the planning, development and implementation of the National Faith Symposium – an annual conference that brings faith and community leaders and organizations together to network and share best practices and strategies for providing family and community supports that align to the Protective Factors Framework. In addition, Advisory Council members have participated in the Department of Juvenile Justice regional faith forums and in community prayer breakfasts to promote support for foster care, adoption and mentoring for youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

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

The Advisory Council has established workgroups in the areas of Child Welfare, Criminal Justice, and Family Initiatives to identify best and promising practices occurring in the state and nationally that can be shared with state agencies and service providers to refine, improve and strengthen processes for providing family and community supports. The Advisory Council is assessing mechanisms to effectively share practices that can be easily accessed by providers to enhance their work. The Council will continue to communicate and highlight best and promising practices at annual conferences, regional summits, webinars, and community gatherings.

Citizens Review Panel

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

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

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

Each panel is responsible to review:

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

The Advisory Council agreed to serve in this capacity and was formally designated as a Citizens Review Panel for the Federal Fiscal Year 2014. Below are recommendations provided to the DCF:

- To conduct third party evaluation of the state's *Pinwheels for Prevention* campaign to assess impact of efforts and if efforts qualify for a designation of best or evidence-based practices.
- To identify staff from the DCF or contractors who can serve as trainers to support the integration of the *Protective Factors Framework* into various processes and practices to build resilience within families and strengthen protective capacities of parents in need.
- To continue development of and providing information for the Child Fatality Website.
- To strengthen relationships with schools and school districts to provide assistance and supports to children and their families who are experiencing challenges. Assistance and support provided are designed to keep children in school and on track towards graduation, and to prevent involvement within the child welfare system.
- To provide training/information sessions to faith and community organizations who support the work of DCF on the Safety Methodology.

Advisory Council Recommendations

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

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

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

Additionally, state agencies should consider competitive procurement of services in all parts of the state to limit single source approaches. This would provide opportunities for organizations to demonstrate how they can best deliver services for the state. This is particularly focused on multi-year contracts to enable equal opportunities for all organizations to demonstrate how they can deliver such services for the state.

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.

The best way to develop and coordinate activities and initiatives is to capitalize on the relationships that exist. A faith-based organization that has a partnership with the State will also have other partnerships within the local community. By facilitating connections with the new partners and ensuring the question of, “*What’s in it for me*”, is answered for everyone involved, opportunities to build momentum around programs and initiatives can occur. This is where the Advisory Council has been working to raise awareness of its efforts to build relationships and to serve as regional points of contact for local faith-based and community-based organizations to provide assistance and facilitate connections. It is through these communications where information regarding resources, legislation and regulatory relief can be shared to accomplish desired objectives.

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

To encourage leaders of the state and state agencies to establish review criteria that includes assessment of faith-based and community-based initiatives when determining state policy. Faith-based and community-based organizations can provide assistance and support on a multitude of areas that can align to state priorities. It is important for them to share with their respective leaders in the House and Senate the initiatives and strategies being utilized to strengthen

communities and families. Additionally, the Advisory Council should continue to highlight initiatives during scheduled Council meetings and build relationships with House and Senate leaders to advocate for and on behalf of faith-based and community-based organizations. It is through these efforts where state investments can be enhanced and maximized to achieve desired state policies and outcomes.

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.

Surveying faith-based and community-based organizations presents opportunities to identify promising and best practices. Additionally, those organizations that provide services to the state can have their promising and best practices highlighted through the respective state agency. Through conferences hosted by state agencies, continue to encourage submission of workshop proposals that are inclusive of promising and best practices. During Advisory Council meetings, continue to highlight organizations that demonstrate promising and best practices to achieve desired outcomes for children and families. Encourage submission of nominations for the Champions of Hope Award provided by the Advisory Council and to the Champions of Service Award provided by Volunteer Florida.

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.

Coordination of initiatives is critical to building continuous support and awareness of activities. In addition to including initiatives as part of the Advisory Council agendas, efforts can be made to connect such initiatives with Circuit Task Forces that have local representatives from state agencies and other key local stakeholders at the table. By doing so, members of the Circuit Task Force can disseminate information about the initiatives to their contacts and share initiatives during scheduled conference calls with other Task Forces to create additional awareness and spark ideas among stakeholders. Based on the initiatives, information may be included as part of local and state plans where performance can be measured towards achievement of outcomes.

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

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

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

The Advisory Council will continue to communicate with state agency liaisons and staff, legislative leaders and staff, and through the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection to bring concerns, ideas, and policy options to the Governor and Legislature. Key to communication is the need to first assess each concern, idea and policy option being proposed to

determine if they are realistic and viable, and if identified barriers are real or perceived. Advisory Council members serve as regional points of contact for local faith-based and community-based organizations to share concerns, ideas and policy options.

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

The workgroups established by the Advisory Council are designed to coordinate and facilitate connections that can strengthen communities and families. Additionally, the Advisory Council works with state agency liaisons to identify opportunities to develop and implement initiatives that can strengthen the institutions of families and communities. Based on the initiatives identified and implemented, it is encouraged to have an evaluation component, preferably through a third party, that can measure achievement of outcomes and impact on target populations. Through this, consideration for replication or duplication of such initiatives can be determined.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Appendix

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

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

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

- (j) How best to eliminate unnecessary legislative, regulatory, and other bureaucratic barriers that impede effective faith-based and other community-based efforts to address social problems.
 - (k) How best to monitor implementation of state policy affecting faith-based and other community-based organizations.
 - (l) How best to ensure that the efforts of faith-based and other community-based organizations meet objective criteria for performance and accountability.
- (6) **RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES.**—The council may not make any recommendation that conflicts with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or the public funding provision of s. 3, Art. I of the State Constitution.
- (7) **REPORT.**—By February 1 of each year, the council shall prepare a written report for the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives containing an accounting of its activities and recommended policies, priorities, and objectives for the state’s comprehensive effort to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and other community-based organizations to the full extent permitted by law.

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

Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection
Florida Statute 39.001, Sections 8 – 12

- (8) **LEGISLATIVE INTENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF ABUSE, ABANDONMENT, AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN.**—The incidence of known child abuse, abandonment, and neglect has increased rapidly over the past 5 years. The impact that abuse, abandonment, or neglect has on the victimized child, siblings, family structure, and inevitably on all citizens of the state has caused the Legislature to determine that the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect shall be a priority of this state. To further this end, it is the intent of the Legislature that an Office of Adoption and Child Protection be established.
- (9) **OFFICE OF ADOPTION AND CHILD PROTECTION.**—
- (a) For purposes of establishing a comprehensive statewide approach for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect, the Office of Adoption and Child Protection is created within the Executive Office of the Governor. The Governor shall appoint a Chief Child Advocate for the office.
- (b) The Chief Child Advocate shall:
1. Assist in developing rules pertaining to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and implementation of child abuse prevention efforts.
 2. Act as the Governor's liaison with state agencies, other state governments, and the public and private sectors on matters that relate to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention.
 3. Work to secure funding and other support for the state's promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention efforts, including, but not limited to, establishing cooperative relationships among state and private agencies.
 4. Develop a strategic program and funding initiative that links the separate jurisdictional activities of state agencies with respect to promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention. The office may designate lead and contributing agencies to develop such initiatives.
 5. Advise the Governor and the Legislature on statistics related to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention trends in this state; the status of current adoption programs and services, current child abuse prevention programs and services, the funding of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention programs and services; and the status of the office with regard to the development and implementation of the state strategy for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention.
 6. Develop public awareness campaigns to be implemented throughout the state for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention.
- (c) The office is authorized and directed to:
1. Oversee the preparation and implementation of the state plan established under subsection (10) and revise and update the state plan as necessary.

2. Provide for or make available continuing professional education and training in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
3. Work to secure funding in the form of appropriations, gifts, and grants from the state, the Federal Government, and other public and private sources in order to ensure that sufficient funds are available for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention efforts.
4. Make recommendations pertaining to agreements or contracts for the establishment and development of:
 - a. Programs and services for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.
 - b. Training programs for the prevention of child abuse and neglect.
 - c. Multidisciplinary and discipline-specific training programs for professionals with responsibilities affecting children, young adults, and families.
 - d. Efforts to promote adoption.
 - e. Postadoptive services to support adoptive families.
5. Monitor, evaluate, and review the development and quality of local and statewide services and programs for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse and neglect and shall publish and distribute an annual report of its findings on or before January 1 of each year to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the head of each state agency affected by the report, and the appropriate substantive committees of the Legislature. The report shall include:
 - a. A summary of the activities of the office.
 - b. A summary of the adoption data collected and reported to the federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the federal Administration for Children and Families.
 - c. A summary of the child abuse prevention data collected and reported to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and the federal Administration for Children and Families.
 - d. A summary detailing the timeliness of the adoption process for children adopted from within the child welfare system.
 - e. Recommendations, by state agency, for the further development and improvement of services and programs for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.
 - f. Budget requests, adoption promotion and support needs, and child abuse prevention program needs by state agency.

6. Work with the direct-support organization established under s. 39.0011 to receive financial assistance.

(10) PLAN FOR COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH.—

- (a) The office shall develop a state plan for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of abuse, abandonment, and neglect of children and shall submit the state plan to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Governor no later than December 31, 2008. The Department of Children and Families, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Law Enforcement, and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities shall participate and fully cooperate in the development of the state plan at both the state and local levels. Furthermore, appropriate local agencies and organizations shall be provided an opportunity to participate in the development of the state plan at the local level. Appropriate local groups and organizations shall include, but not be limited to, community mental health centers; guardian ad litem programs for children under the circuit court; the school boards of the local school districts; the Florida local advocacy councils; community-based care lead agencies; private or public organizations or programs with recognized expertise in working with child abuse prevention programs for children and families; private or public organizations or programs with recognized expertise in working with children who are sexually abused, physically abused, emotionally abused, abandoned, or neglected and with expertise in working with the families of such children; private or public programs or organizations with expertise in maternal and infant health care; multidisciplinary child protection teams; child day care centers; law enforcement agencies; and the circuit courts, when guardian ad litem programs are not available in the local area. The state plan to be provided to the Legislature and the Governor shall include, as a minimum, the information required of the various groups in paragraph (b).
- (b) The development of the state plan shall be accomplished in the following manner:
 1. The office shall establish a Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council composed of an adoptive parent who has adopted a child from within the child welfare system and representatives from each state agency and appropriate local agencies and organizations specified in paragraph (a). The advisory council shall serve as the research arm of the office and shall be responsible for:
 - a. Assisting in developing a plan of action for better coordination and integration of the goals, activities, and funding pertaining to the promotion and support of adoption and the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect conducted by the office in order to maximize staff and resources at the state level. The plan of action shall be included in the state plan.
 - b. Assisting in providing a basic format to be utilized by the districts in the preparation of local plans of action in order to provide for uniformity in the district plans and to provide for greater ease in compiling information for the state plan.
 - c. Providing the districts with technical assistance in the development of local plans of action, if requested.

- d. Assisting in examining the local plans to determine if all the requirements of the local plans have been met and, if they have not, informing the districts of the deficiencies and requesting the additional information needed.
 - e. Assisting in preparing the state plan for submission to the Legislature and the Governor. Such preparation shall include the incorporation into the state plan of information obtained from the local plans, the cooperative plans with the members of the advisory council, and the plan of action for coordination and integration of state departmental activities. The state plan shall include a section reflecting general conditions and needs, an analysis of variations based on population or geographic areas, identified problems, and recommendations for change. In essence, the state plan shall provide an analysis and summary of each element of the local plans to provide a statewide perspective. The state plan shall also include each separate local plan of action.
 - f. Conducting a feasibility study on the establishment of a Children's Cabinet.
 - g. Working with the specified state agency in fulfilling the requirements of subparagraphs 2., 3., 4., and 5.
2. The office, the department, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health shall work together in developing ways to inform and instruct parents of school children and appropriate district school personnel in all school districts in the detection of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect and in the proper action that should be taken in a suspected case of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect, and in caring for a child's needs after a report is made. The plan for accomplishing this end shall be included in the state plan.
 3. The office, the department, the Department of Law Enforcement, and the Department of Health shall work together in developing ways to inform and instruct appropriate local law enforcement personnel in the detection of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect and in the proper action that should be taken in a suspected case of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.
 4. Within existing appropriations, the office shall work with other appropriate public and private agencies to emphasize efforts to educate the general public about the problem of and ways to detect child abuse, abandonment, and neglect and in the proper action that should be taken in a suspected case of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect. The plan for accomplishing this end shall be included in the state plan.
 5. The office, the department, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health shall work together on the enhancement or adaptation of curriculum materials to assist instructional personnel in providing instruction through a multidisciplinary approach on the identification, intervention, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. The curriculum materials shall be geared toward a sequential program of instruction at the four progressional levels, K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Strategies for encouraging all school districts to utilize the curriculum are to be included in the state plan for the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect.
 6. Each district of the department shall develop a plan for its specific geographical area. The plan developed at the district level shall be submitted to the advisory council for utilization

in preparing the state plan. The district local plan of action shall be prepared with the involvement and assistance of the local agencies and organizations listed in this paragraph, as well as representatives from those departmental district offices participating in the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and treatment and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. In order to accomplish this, the office shall establish a task force on the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. The office shall appoint the members of the task force in accordance with the membership requirements of this section. The office shall ensure that individuals from both urban and rural areas and an adoptive parent who has adopted a child from within the child welfare system are represented on the task force. The task force shall develop a written statement clearly identifying its operating procedures, purpose, overall responsibilities, and method of meeting responsibilities. The district plan of action to be prepared by the task force shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- a. Documentation of the magnitude of the problems of child abuse, including sexual abuse, physical abuse, and emotional abuse, and child abandonment and neglect in its geographical area.
- b. A description of programs currently serving abused, abandoned, and neglected children and their families and a description of programs for the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect, including information on the impact, cost-effectiveness, and sources of funding of such programs.
- c. Information concerning the number of children within the child welfare system available for adoption who need child-specific adoption promotion efforts.
- d. A description of programs currently promoting and supporting adoptive families, including information on the impact, cost-effectiveness, and sources of funding of such programs.
- e. A description of a comprehensive approach for providing postadoption services. The continuum of services shall include, but not be limited to, sufficient and accessible parent and teen support groups; case management, information, and referral services; and educational advocacy.
- f. A continuum of programs and services necessary for a comprehensive approach to the promotion of adoption and the prevention of all types of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect as well as a brief description of such programs and services.
- g. A description, documentation, and priority ranking of local needs related to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect based upon the continuum of programs and services.
- h. A plan for steps to be taken in meeting identified needs, including the coordination and integration of services to avoid unnecessary duplication and cost, and for alternative funding strategies for meeting needs through the reallocation of existing resources, utilization of volunteers, contracting with local universities for services, and local government or private agency funding.

- i. A description of barriers to the accomplishment of a comprehensive approach to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect.
- j. Recommendations for changes that can be accomplished only at the state program level or by legislative action.

(11) FUNDING AND SUBSEQUENT PLANS.—

- (a) All budget requests submitted by the office, the department, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Corrections, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, or any other agency to the Legislature for funding of efforts for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect shall be based on the state plan developed pursuant to this section.
- (b) The office and the other agencies and organizations listed in paragraph (10)(a) shall readdress the state plan and make necessary revisions every 5 years, at a minimum. Such revisions shall be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate no later than June 30 of each year divisible by 5. At least biennially, the office shall review the state plan and make any necessary revisions based on changing needs and program evaluation results. An annual progress report shall be submitted to update the state plan in the years between the 5-year intervals. In order to avoid duplication of effort, these required plans may be made a part of or merged with other plans required by either the state or Federal Government, so long as the portions of the other state or Federal Government plan that constitute the state plan for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect are clearly identified as such and are provided to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate as required under this section.

(12) LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION.—It is the intent of the Legislature that this chapter be liberally interpreted and construed in conformity with its declared purposes.

History.—s. 1, ch. 26880, 1951; s. 1, ch. 73-231; s. 1, ch. 78-414; s. 1, ch. 82-62; s. 62, ch. 85-81; s. 1, ch. 85-206; s. 10, ch. 85-248; s. 19, ch. 86-220; s. 1, ch. 90-53; ss. 1, 2, ch. 90-208; s. 2, ch. 90-306; s. 2, ch. 91-33; s. 68, ch. 91-45; s. 13, ch. 91-57; s. 5, ch. 93-156; s. 23, ch. 93-200; s. 19, ch. 93-230; s. 14, ch. 94-134; s. 14, ch. 94-135; ss. 9, 10, ch. 94-209; s. 1332, ch. 95-147; s. 7, ch. 95-152; s. 8, ch. 95-158; ss. 15, 30, ch. 95-228; s. 116, ch. 95-418; s. 1, ch. 96-268; ss. 128, 156, ch. 97-101; s. 69, ch. 97-103; s. 3, ch. 97-237; s. 119, ch. 97-238; s. 8, ch. 98-137; s. 18, ch. 98-403; s. 1, ch. 99-193; s. 13, ch. 2000-139; s. 5, ch. 2000-151; s. 5, ch. 2000-263; s. 34, ch. 2004-267; s. 2, ch. 2006-97; s. 1, ch. 2006-194; s. 2, ch. 2006-227; s. 1, ch. 2007-124; s. 3, ch. 2008-6; s. 1, ch. 2010-114; s. 42, ch. 2011-142; s. 2, ch. 2012-105; s. 19, ch. 2012-116; s. 4, ch. 2013-15; s. 9, ch. 2014-19; s. 2, ch. 2014-224.

Note.—Former s. 39.20; subsections (3), (5), and (6) former s. 39.002, s. 409.70, subsections (7)-(9) former s. 415.501.



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