**Department of Children & Families**

Using the template below, click on the highlighted boxes to identify current communications, operations, and legislative initiatives the agency is providing, or undertaking, that address the three Children and Youth Cabinet priorities. Use one-two sentences to describe each goal/description.

Repeat headings for each additional service or initiative (Title).

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| **Cabinet Priorities****& Agency Alignment** | **POVERTY**Addressing children living in poverty | **EARLY CHILDHOOD**Addressing prenatal, infants, toddlers and school readiness | **SUBSTANCE ABUSE** **& MENTAL HEALTH**Addressing children and youth with substance abuse or mental health needs |
| **Communications & Campaigns** | ***Title:*****SNAP Education (SNAP-Ed)*****Goal/Description:*** SNAP-Ed uses instruction and activities to educate participants to make healthy, cost effective food choices within a limited budget to improve the quality of diets, change behavior, and reduce chronic disease and obesity so that Florida residents become healthier and, as a return, healthcare costs are reduced. Instruction is provided in some schools statewide as well as demonstrations and cooking classes. SNAP-Ed is currently provided in 37 counties.***Agencies Involved:*** Department of Children & FamiliesUniversity of Florida***Title:*****SNAP Outreach*****Goal/Description:*** DCF works with local agencies to reach out to eligible low-income individuals who are not currently participating in SNAP and share information about the nutrition benefits of the program. These agencies provide application assistance at a variety of convenient locations, provide guidance in understanding food assistance benefits, and acts as a future liaison for client follow up and communication. DCF currently has two SNAP Outreach providers – Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice and Second Harvest Food Bank of Florida.***Agencies Involved:*** Department of Children and FamiliesCommunity Partners | ***Title:*** Quarterly Mailings/Email Blast to Child Care Providers***Goal/Description:*** Share information, related to health and safety, rule changes, campaign information; such as water safety, and Look Before you Lock with child care providers. Information for the communication is obtained from multiple state agencies that work with child care providers/programs and other community partners.***Agencies Involved:***Department of Children and FamiliesFlorida’ s Office of Early LearningDepartment of HealthOther community partners | ***Title:*****Florida Suicide Prevention Plan*****Goal Description:*** Integrate and coordinate suicide prevention activities across multiple sectors and settings.***Agencies Involved:*** State, tribal, and local Governments; businesses and employers; non-profit, community, and faith-based organizations; health system, insurers, clinicians; and individuals and families. |
| **Operations & Programming** | ***Title:*****School Lunch Program*****Goal/Description:*** The school lunch program is a federally assisted meal program for public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day.***Agencies Involved:*** Department of Children and FamiliesDepartment of Agriculture and Consumer Services | ***Title:*** School Readiness (SR) Inspections for Licensed and License Exempt Providers (religious exempt, registered family day care homes, public and non-public schools)***Goal/Description:*** Monitoring SR providers for health and safety for participation in the SR program. DCF began providing technical assistance to SR providers in November 2016 on upcoming changes based on state and federal law changes. DCF began monitoring for compliance on July 1, 2017 upon adoption of the Office of Early Learning’s School Readiness health and safety standards, with the exception of credentialing requirements that go into effect in October 2018. ***Agencies Involved:***Department of Children and Families Florida’s Office of Early Learning- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -***Title:*** Professional Development Registry***Goal/Description:*** Florida’s Office of Early Learning and DCF are partnering to build a professional development registry for child care. Building upon the Department’s existing Child Care Training System, Phase 1 is complete and work on Phase 2 has begun. The registry allows early learning professionals to track training they have completed and record certificates they receive. Florida's statewide registry helps attract, retain and develop a well-qualified early care and education workforce. The system assists practitioners in assessing current qualifications, identifying education resources and supports, and planning their career pathway. The registry will allow policymakers to analyze barriers to access, and support the need for continued career advancement and program-wide improvements for early learning programs.***Agencies Involved:***Florida’s Office of Early LearningDepartment of Children and Families- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -***Title:*** Release of a new five-hour online training course: Trauma Informed Care for Child Care ProfessionalsThe course was presented at the Children’s Summit along with Hillsborough County’s work with child care professionals.***Goal/Description:*** The course provides child care professionals with an overview of the impact of trauma on children and their families, and how to incorporate learning strategies to decrease stress in the classroom.***Agencies Involved:***Department of Children and FamiliesFlorida State University Center for Interactive MediaDr. Mimi Graham, Florida State University, Center for Prevention & Early Intervention PolicyKristen Lang, L. David Shear Children’s Law Center of Bay Area Legal Services, Inc.- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -***Title:*** Rule Revisions to Chapter 65C-20 and Chapter 65C-22, Florida Administrative Code***Goal/Description:*** The Department is proposing rule changes as the result of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2014 (CCDBG) and state law changes during the 2016 legislative session. The proposed changes will align Florida’s health and safety standards including the new background screening requirements to meet the CCDBG requirements along with the national Caring for Our Children Basics Standards. The Department is anticipating the adoption of these changes in October or November 2017.***Agencies Involved:***Department of Children and FamiliesFlorida’s Office of Early Learning | ***Title:*****Task Force on Involuntary Examination of Minors*****Goal/Description:*** The Florida legislature passed HB 1121 during the 2017 legislative session that created a task force within the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to address the issue of involuntary examinations under s. 394.463, F.S., of children age 17 years and younger. Legislative requirements for this task force are summarized below:* The task force shall, at a minimum, analyze data on the initiation of involuntary examinations of children, research the root causes of any trends in such involuntary examinations, identify and evaluate options for expediting examinations for children, and identify recommendations for encouraging alternatives to and eliminating inappropriate initiations of such examinations; and
* The task force shall submit a report of its findings to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before November 15, 2017.

***Agencies Involved:*** Courts, law enforcement, public/private receiving facilities, and parents.***Title:* Child Welfare - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Integration*****Goal/Description:*** Improve access to appropriate treatment for families involved in child welfare/child protection.***Agencies Involved:*** Building expertise among providers in child welfare and behavioral health services in best and evidence-based practices. |
| **2018 Legislative Bills & Budget Requests** | ***Title:******Goal/Description:***      ***Agencies Involved:***       | ***Title:******Goal/Description:***      ***Agencies Involved:***       | ***Title:******Goal/Description:***      ***Agencies Involved:***       |