

Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council



2013 Annual Report

Table of Contents

<u>Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council</u>	1
Mission Statement	1
Vision/Statutory Charge	1
Administrative Support	1
Website	2
Advisory Council Membership	3
2013 Advisory Council Appointments	6
Advisory Council Meeting Attendance	7
Advisory Council Meetings	9
Strategic Planning Meeting	9
First Quarterly Meeting	9
Second Quarterly Meeting	11
Third Quarterly Meeting	12
Fourth Quarterly Meeting	13
Advisory Council Initiatives	14
Annual Conference Workgroup	14
<i>Champions of Hope Award</i>	14
Child Welfare Workgroup	15
Criminal Justice Workgroup	15
Disaster Planning Workgroup	16
Family Initiatives Workgroup	16
Legislative Workgroup	17
Florida’s Five-Year Prevention and Permanency Plan	18
Advisory Council Support	18
Citizens Review Panel	19
Advisory Council Member Activities	20
Advisory Council Recommendations	22

Figures

Figure 1. Advisory Council Map and Member Contact Information	8
Figure 2. Advisory Council Framework for Action	10

Charts

Chart 1. Advisory Council Seats	7
Chart 1. 2013 Advisory Council Meeting Attendance	7

Appendix

Florida Statute 14.31	<i>i</i>
Florida Statute 39.001	<i>v</i>

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FLORIDA FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY-BASED ADVISORY COUNCIL



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

During the 2010 Legislative Session, the Sunset requirement for the Advisory Council was repealed through legislation sponsored by Senator Mike Bennett and Representative Clay Ford.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, and as 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 with meetings held in-person, via teleconference or 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. Thirteen (13) members of the Advisory Council shall constitute a quorum. The mission and vision statements below were created and approved by the Advisory Council members at the Second Quarterly Meeting on June 11, 2013.

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.

Vision/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.

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 cross-agency comprehensive statewide approach for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families and prevention of child abuse, abandonment and neglect. In October 2011, the Executive Office of the Governor made a decision to move the administrative functions and support for the Advisory Council to the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection.

The Office worked diligently throughout 2013 to advance the efforts of the Advisory Council. Throughout 2013, 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 the many tasks to support the Advisory Council throughout the spring, summer, and fall semesters. The Office facilitated and coordinated travel logistics, meals, overnight accommodations, ground transportation, as well as a site visit to a local community organization. Additionally, the Office supported the Advisory Council through drafting meeting agendas, inviting presenters to speak, working with the appointments offices for the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House; and creation of this annual report.

Website

Early in 2013, the Office revamped the Advisory Council website found at: www.flgov.com/fcb to allow for improved user access and navigation. The website 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 noticed on the Office's Meeting Advisory webpage: www.flgov.com/child_advocacy_meetings.

In addition to reorganizing and streamlining the information presented on the website, the Office also created a page with the members' pictures, brief biographies, contact information, as well as areas they are willing and able to assist citizens. This page can be found at: www.flgov.com/fcb-members. If a member of the public wishes to contact an Advisory Council member, they can access a map of Florida that displays member email addresses and location based on the Department of Children and Families' regional structure and Florida Judicial Circuit structure. Please see the next page for the appointed Advisory Council Members and their roles.

Volunteer opportunities with and contact information for state agencies are identified through external links to enable citizens to become involved in supporting state efforts. This page can be found at www.flgov.com/volunteer. Additionally, the Office created web pages for each Advisory Council workgroup and had a logo created for the Advisory Council to use on the website, in reports, and on letterhead.



Advisory Council Membership

As of December 2013, there were 22 members appointed to the Advisory Council. The following identifies each member, position on the Advisory Council, organization being represented, and appointment authority.



Thomas "Tom" Lukasik
Chairman, Advisory Council
4KIDS of South Florida
Governor Appointee



Sheila Hopkins
Vice Chairman, Advisory Council
and Chair, Legislative Workgroup
Florida Council of Catholic Women
Governor Appointee



Richard Albertson
Chair, Family Initiatives Workgroup
Live the Life
Governor Appointee



Pastor Kirt Anderson
Advisory Council Member
Naples Community Church
Governor Appointee



Rabbi Sholom Ciment
Advisory Council Member
Chabad Lubavitch of Greater Boynton Beach
Governor Appointee



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

Advisory Council Membership (Continued)



Dr. Jerry Haag
Chair, Child Welfare Workgroup
Florida Baptist Children's Home
Governor Appointee

Reverend Stephen "Spike" Hogan
Advisory Council Member
Chets Creek Church
Governor Appointee



Dr. Gretchen Kerr
Chair, Criminal Justice Workgroup
Northland, A Church Distributed
Governor Appointee

Carolyn Ketchel
Advisory Council Member
Private Practitioner
Senate President Appointee



Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner
Advisory Council Member
Temple Solel
Senate President Appointee

Matthew McCluskey
Advisory Council Member
GoTo Nations
Governor Appointee



Advisory Council Membership (Continued)



Dr. Leonel "Leo" Mesa
Advisory Council Member
New Day Center
Governor Appointee

Cherron "CC" Newby
Advisory Council Member
Acts 2:44 Group, LLC
Governor Appointee



Pam Olsen
Advisory Council Member
International House of Prayer
Governor Appointee

Pastor Carl Reeves
Advisory Council Member
Greater Mount Lily Baptist Church
Governor Appointee



Pastor Charles Scriven
Advisory Council Member
Corinth Christian Fellowship
Governor Appointee

Samuel "Sam" Sipes
Chair, Disaster Planning Workgroup
Lutheran Services Florida, Inc.
Speaker of the House Appointee



Advisory Council Membership (Continued)



Patricia "Pat" Smith
Chair, Annual Conference Workgroup
Department of Children and Families
Governor Appointee

Karim Veerjee
Advisory Council Member
Florida Hospital
Governor Appointee



Pastor Blaine Whitt
Advisory Council Member
Xtreme Soulutions
Speaker of the House Appointee

Pastor Reno Zunz
Advisory Council Member
Exciting Idlewild Baptist Church
Speaker of the House Appointee



2013 Advisory Council Appointments

The Advisory Council, through the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection, worked with the Appointments Offices for the Governor, Senate President, and Speaker of the House to identify prospective candidates and encourage submission of appointment applications to be considered for the Advisory Council. The following members were appointed or re-appointed during 2013 with their date of appointment:

January 29, 2013

- Carolyn Ketchel
- Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner

May 30, 2013

- Dr. Gretchen Kerr
- Karim Veerjee

March 22, 2013

- Richard Albertson
- Rabbi Sholom Ciment
- Dr. Jerry Haag
- Tom Lukasik (Reappointment)
- Dr. Leo Mesa (Reappointment)
- Pat Smith

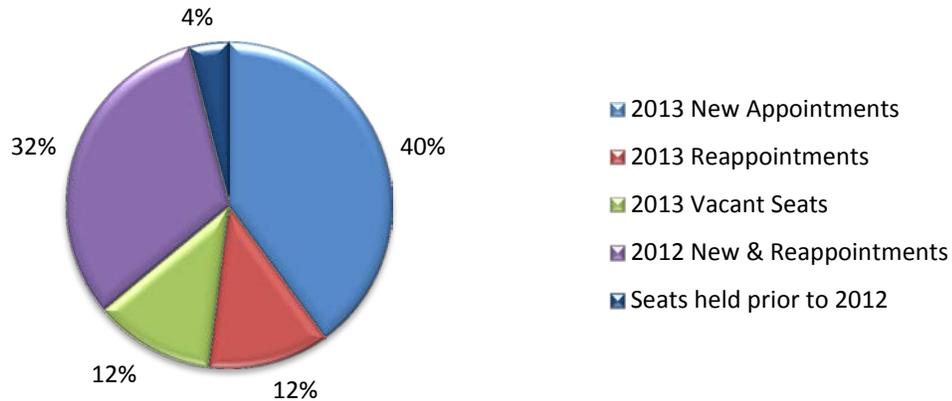
July 1, 2013

- Pastor Blaine Whitt (Reappointment)

September 5, 2013

- Reverend Perry Davis (Reappointment)

Chart 1. Advisory Council Seats



As previously mentioned, there are 25 seats on the Advisory Council, of which: 40% (four workgroup chairs and six members) were appointed in 2013; 12% (the Chair and two members) were reappointed in 2013; 32% (the Vice-Chair and seven members) had either been newly appointed or reappointed in 2012; 4% (one workgroup chair) was appointed prior to 2012; and 12% of the seats remain vacant. The Advisory Council covers a large demographic and geographic area, and all of the members represent various faith and community organizations. Under statute, members may serve until another appointment is made to fill their position. Please see map on the next page to identify Advisory Council member locations and contact information.

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 participate in scheduled meetings across the state either in-person or via teleconference call. The chart below reflects attendance at each Advisory Council meeting during 2013.

Chart 2. 2013 Advisory Council Attendance

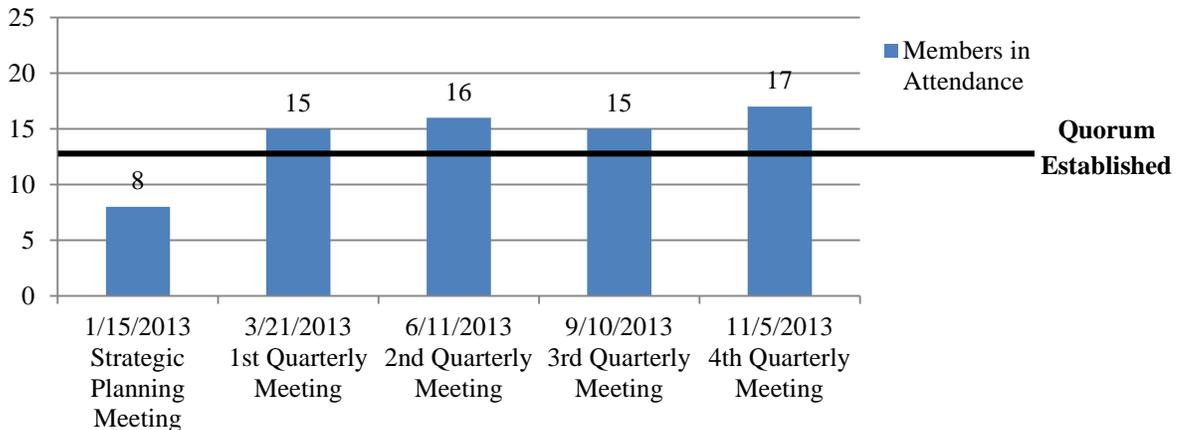
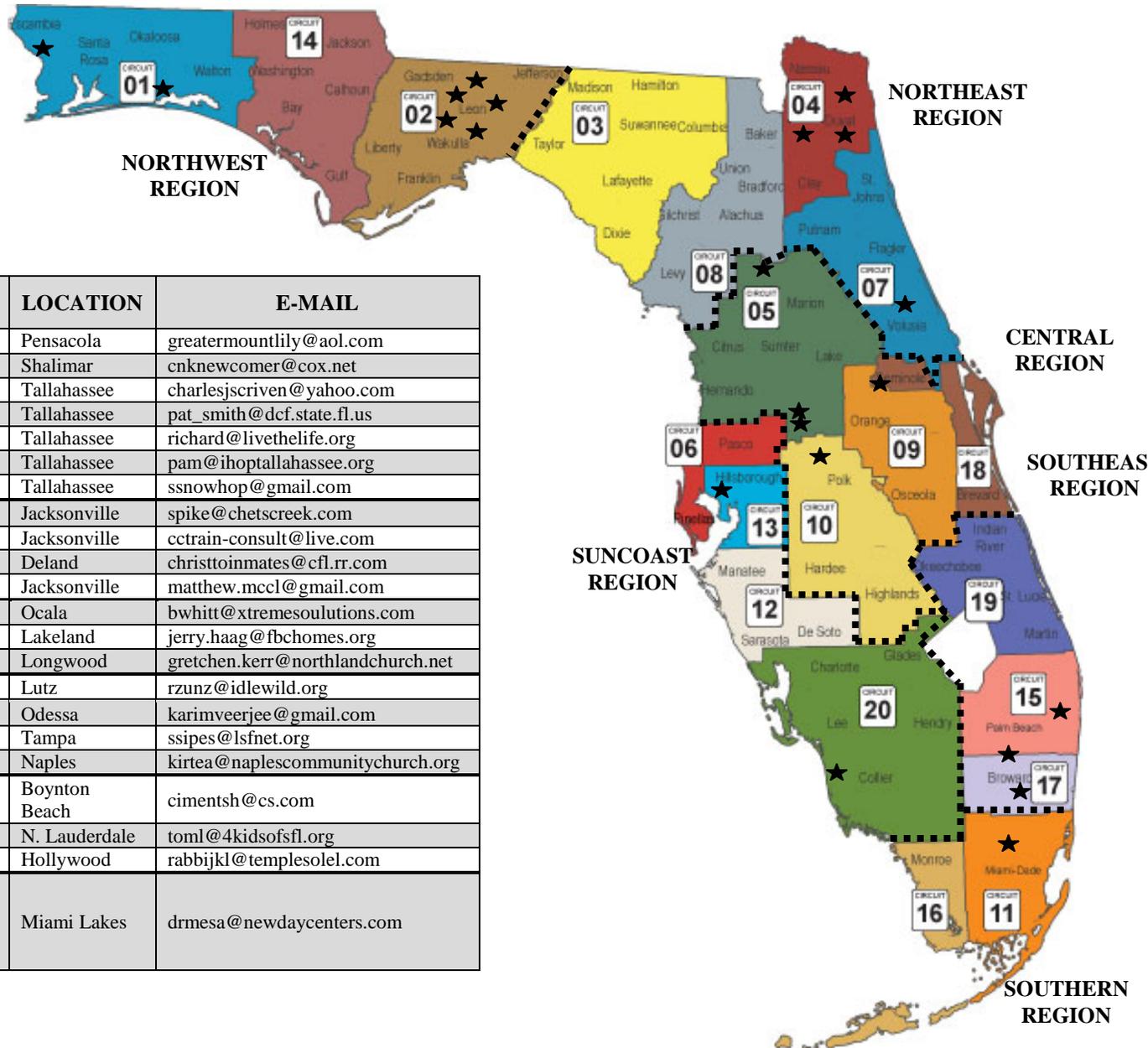


Figure 1. Advisory Council Map and Member Contact Information

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



REGION	ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER	LOCATION	E-MAIL
NORTHWEST <i>Circuits</i> 01, 02, 14	Pastor Carl Reeves	Pensacola	greatermountlily@aol.com
	Carolyn Ketchel	Shalimar	cnknewcomer@cox.net
	Pastor Charles Scriven	Tallahassee	charlesjscriven@yahoo.com
	Pat Smith	Tallahassee	pat_smith@dcf.state.fl.us
	Richard Albertson	Tallahassee	richard@livethelife.org
	Pam Olsen	Tallahassee	pam@ihoptallahassee.org
NORTHEAST <i>Circuits</i> 03, 04, 07, 08	Reverend Spike Hogan	Jacksonville	spike@chetscreek.com
	CC Newby	Jacksonville	cctrain-consult@live.com
	Reverend Perry Davis	Deland	christtoinmates@cfl.rr.com
	Matthew McCluskey	Jacksonville	matthew.mccl@gmail.com
CENTRAL <i>Circuits</i> 05, 09, 10, 18	Pastor Blaine Whitt	Ocala	bwhitt@xtremesoulutions.com
	Dr. Jerry Haag	Lakeland	jerry.haag@fbhomes.org
	Dr. Gretchen Kerr	Longwood	gretchen.kerr@northlandchurch.net
SUNCOAST <i>Circuits</i> 06, 12, 13, 20	Pastor Reno Zunz	Lutz	rzunz@idlewild.org
	Karim Veerjee	Odessa	karimveerjee@gmail.com
	Sam Sipes	Tampa	ssipes@lsfnet.org
	Pastor Kirt Anderson	Naples	kirtea@naplescommunitychurch.org
SOUTHEAST <i>Circuits</i> 15, 17, 19	Rabbi Sholom Ciment	Boynton Beach	cimentsh@cs.com
	Tom Lukasik	N. Lauderdale	toml@4kidsofsfl.org
	Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner	Hollywood	rabbijkl@templesolel.com
SOUTHERN <i>Circuits</i> 11, 16	Dr. Leo Mesa	Miami Lakes	drmesa@newdaycenters.com

Advisory Council Meetings

Strategic Planning Meeting

On January 15, 2013, the Advisory Council held its first Strategic Planning Meeting at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home in Deltona, Florida. The purpose of the planning meeting was to review responses from information disseminated in 2012, review statute and expectations of the Advisory Council, and to develop a framework to guide the activities for the year. The summary of information discussed during the meeting is provided below.



Summary of the Strategic Planning Meeting

- Introduced a newly appointed member.
- Reviewed the 2012 Annual Reports for the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council and Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection.
- Reviewed and discussed responses from the Faith-Based and Community-Based Planning Survey.
- Reviewed existing initiatives, and discussed how the Advisory Council could advance and measure initiatives.
- Reviewed the proposed *Framework for Action*.
- Disseminated the 2013 Advisory Council Meeting Schedule.

First Quarterly Meeting

On March 21, 2013, the Advisory Council convened in Tallahassee, Florida in the Governor's Cabinet Meeting Room to build off of the Strategic Planning Meeting. In addition, agency representatives were invited to present to the Advisory Council on the programs and services offered and to identify how the Advisory Council could support their efforts. A summary of information presented and discussed during the meeting is below.

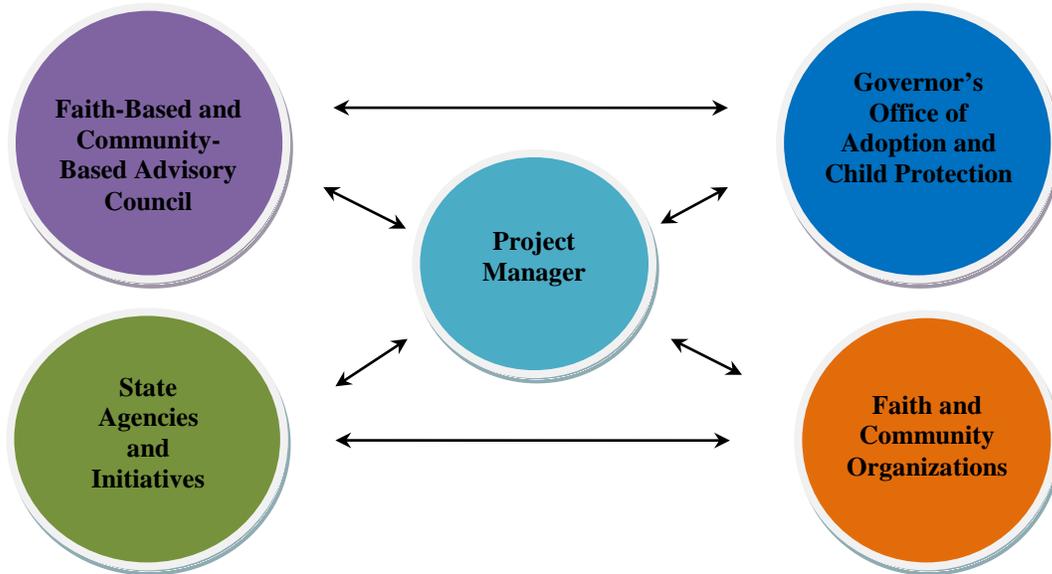
Summary of the First Quarterly Meeting

- Introduction of newly appointed members.
- Presentations provided by state agencies included:
 - Agency for Persons with Disabilities
 - Department of Children and Families
 - Department of Education
 - Department of Elder Affairs
 - Department of Health
 - Department of Juvenile Justice
 - Guardian ad Litem
- Reviewed the Advisory Council Overview, Objectives and *Framework for Action* (see Figure 1) and Advisory Council Crosswalk.
- A presentation of services was provided by Meet the Need, a faith-based organization that provides web-based solutions to assist churches and community-based organizations in communicating needs to its members and the community. Through an application that allows needs to be displayed on the church's or organization's website, the system obtains commitments from individuals or groups to fulfill needs while preventing duplication of efforts (e.g., A family is in need of clothes – once an individual or group commits to providing clothes to the family through the web-based portal, the need is taken off the website to prevent additional individuals or groups from providing more than what is needed.).



Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council – First Quarterly Meeting, Tallahassee, Florida
Front Row: Pastor Carl Reeves, Pam Olsen, Carolyn Ketchel, Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner, and Reverend Spike Hogan
Back Row: CC Newby, Jay Polachek, Dr. Leo Mesa, Pastor Kirt Anderson, Sheila Hopkins, Tom Lukasik, Sam Sipes, and Reverend Perry Davis

Figure 2. Advisory Council Framework for Action



With this framework:

- Advisory Council members will serve as Project Managers for stakeholders located in the Department of Children and Families’ regional structure and the Florida Judicial Circuit structure (*Note- It may be necessary for some members to serve as a Project Manager for a circuit that is beyond where they are located and/or partner with another member due to Advisory Council member locations throughout the state and size of the circuit*).

- Project Managers are responsible for facilitating communication and connections between the various entities that results in advancing the Advisory Council’s Vision/Statutory Charge “...to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and other community organizations to the full extent permitted by law.”
- Further efforts will occur to refine, improve and strengthen this approach that allows for more effective dissemination of information and initiatives from the state level, and to enable information from the local level to reach state leaders to inform decisions and policies.

Second Quarterly Meeting

On June 11, 2013, the Advisory Council convened in Temple Terrace, Florida at Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church to refine, improve and strengthen the Advisory Council Overview, Objectives and *Framework for Action* outline presented during a previous meeting. The information below provides a summary of what was presented and discussed during the meeting.



CHRIST OUR REDEEMER

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Summary of the Second Quarterly Meeting

- Introduced newly appointed and reappointed members.
- Presentation from Advisory Council member Sam Sipes on his participation at the Department of Juvenile Justice Faith Forum meeting in Sarasota, Florida.
- Presentation by Matthew Straeb, President of the Florida Association of Heart Galleries. Mr. Straeb provided an overview of the association and sought the support of the Advisory Council to partner with him in identifying locations where heart gallery photos could be displayed in order to raise awareness and opportunities for individuals and families to consider adoption.
- The Advisory Council discussed and voted to:
 - Create a mission statement and adopt the Advisory Council’s statutory charge as the vision statement to ensure action or activities initiated by the Advisory Council aligns to its purposes.
 - Establish the following workgroups to advance the work of the Advisory Council:
 - Annual Conference
 - Child Welfare
 - Criminal Justice
 - Disaster Planning
 - Family Initiatives
 - Legislative

Third Quarterly Meeting

On September 10, 2013, the Advisory Council convened at Naples Community Church in Naples, Florida. Below is a summary of information discussed during the meeting.

Summary of the Third Quarterly Meeting

- Introduced newly appointed and re-appointed members.
- Reviewed topics and presentations at the 2013 Department of Children and Families Child Protection Summit in Orlando.
- Reviewed website updates for the Advisory Council, the *Champions of Hope* nomination and scoring forms, and information from the Share Your Heart organization in Miami-Dade County. Share Your Hope effectively partnered with the Department of Children and Families and churches throughout the county to establish local support systems within zip codes to address needs within the community as they arise.
- Identified upcoming events to include the 2013 Human Trafficking Summit in Tampa, Department of Juvenile Justice Faith Forum in Tallahassee, the 2013 National Faith Symposium in Orlando, and the Christian Alliance for Orphans event at Northland Church in Orlando. Advisory Council members were encouraged to attend and disseminate information to increase awareness and participation at these events.
- Individual members shared activities and/or contacts initiated since the last Advisory Council meeting that advanced its efforts.
- Chairs for each established Advisory Council workgroup provided updates on activities, areas of focus, and proposed meetings.
- Reviewed expectations of the Citizens Review Panel, voted and approved to be a Citizens Review Panel. The Advisory Council was approached by the Department of Children and Families to serve in this capacity.



Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council and Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection Staff – Third Quarterly Meeting, Naples, Florida

Front Row: Reverend Perry Davis, Pam Olsen, Dr. Gretchen Kerr, Karim Veerjee, and Pastor Kirt Anderson

Middle Row: Dr. Jerry Haag, Pat Smith, Dr. Leo Mesa, and Tom Lukasik

Back Row: Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner, Richard Albertson, Pastor Blaine Whitt, and Zackary Gibson

At the conclusion of the Third Quarterly Meeting, the Advisory Council embarked on a site visit to St. Matthew's House, a non-profit, community-based program. St. Matthew's House mission is to change lives in a spiritual environment that is both compassionate and disciplined, and offer preventative and structured recovery programs, housing for the homeless and food for those in need.



Fourth Quarterly Meeting

On November 5, 2013, the Advisory Council convened for its Fourth Quarterly Meeting at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, Florida. For the second year in a row, the meeting was conducted in conjunction with the National Faith Symposium, sponsored by the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Juvenile Justice. A summary of meeting discussions is provided below.

Summary of the Fourth Quarterly Meeting

- Reviewed the official letter from the Department of Children and Families for the Advisory Council to serve as a Citizens Review Panel.
- Identified activities for National Adoption Month and encouraged all members to participate in their local events.
- Encouraged members to reach out to churches and faith-based organizations to collaborate with their local Heart Galleries to raise awareness of children available for adoption without an identified family.
- Received an update from Chairman Tom Lukasik as he and his wife were selected for and received the national *Angels in Adoption* award in Washington, DC.
- Individual members shared activities and/or contacts initiated since the last Advisory Council meeting that advanced its efforts.
- Chairs for each Advisory Council workgroup provided updates on activities, areas of focus, and proposed meetings.
- Reviewed plans for the development of the Advisory Council's Annual Report and selection of the Chairman and Vice Chairman for the 2014 calendar year. Members agreed to have Tom Lukasik and Sheila Hopkins continue serving in their current roles.



Tom and Linda Lukasik received the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's Angels in Adoption award from US Senator Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana, in Washington, DC.

Left to Right: Tom Lukasik, US Senator Mary L. Landrieu, Linda Lukasik

Advisory Council Initiatives

Building on discussions from the Advisory Council Strategic Planning Meeting 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

Led by Pat Smith, the Annual Conference Workgroup engaged Advisory Council members to provide suggestions and recommendations for speakers, presenters, break-out sessions, and activities to enhance the work of the state agency team responsible for the annual faith symposium. The Annual Conference Workgroup identified opportunities and strategies to recognize high performing/contributing faith-based and community-based organizations at the Faith Symposium and other venues.

Members of the Advisory Council participated on the planning committee to identify topics, speakers and activities for the 2013 National Faith Symposium: "Our Children, Our Future: Restoring Hope". In addition, Advisory Council members worked to secure a welcome video from Governor Scott and disseminated information to raise awareness of and encourage registration for the faith symposium, which resulted in nearly 400 individuals participating. Members also played key roles during the Faith Symposium: Pat Smith served as Mistress of Ceremonies; Pam Olsen, Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner, and Dr. Jerry Haag led invocations; Chairman Tom Lukasik provided a brief presentation about the Advisory Council and introduced the *Champions of Hope* awards; and Dr. Jerry Haag, Dr. Gretchen Kerr, Tom Lukasik, and Richard Albertson led breakout sessions.



Legendary Coach Bobby Bowden with Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council members and Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection staff

Champions of Hope Awards

Realizing the value of faith communities and organizations in providing support to the state and state agencies, the Annual Conference Workgroup convened to create this award 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. Workgroup members reviewed and scored submissions, and worked with each agency to identify the organizations selected as the winners. The 2013 winners included Share Your Heart for the Department of Children and Families and Living Stones International for the Department of Juvenile Justice.



Representative Dennis Baxley, Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council members, Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection staff, award nominees, and winners of the first annual Champions of Hope award.

Child Welfare Workgroup

Led by Dr. Jerry Haag, the Child Welfare Workgroup focused on advancing efforts to enhance and improve the welfare of children through the identification of best practices and innovative programs and services on topics to include prevention of child maltreatment, foster care, adoption, independent living, human trafficking, health and well-being, youth with disabilities, and education. The Child Welfare Workgroup will bring together 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 working with state government agencies.

Since the creation of the Child Welfare Workgroup, a draft document identifying projected cost savings to the state through programs and services provided by faith-based organizations was initiated. Additional work will continue in hopes of presenting information that can demonstrate the value and benefits provided to the state. In addition, discussions have occurred to identify organizations in various regions in the state to participate in workgroup meetings and serve as a link between local organizations to facilitate improved communication and dissemination of information. Standing meeting dates and times have been identified for 2014 to engage partners and stakeholders to establish measurable outcomes and initiate action to achieve results.

Criminal Justice Workgroup

Led by Dr. Gretchen Kerr, the Criminal Justice Workgroup focused on advancing efforts to enhance and improve programs and services through the identification of best practices and innovation on topics to include prevention, early intervention, diversion and reentry or reintegration of adults and juveniles from jail and juvenile facilities; substance abuse; mental health; and persons with disabilities. The Criminal Justice Workgroup brought together 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.

Discussions continued to occur to further outline the approach of the Criminal Justice Workgroup – including invitation of agency staff and organizations throughout the state to participate on the workgroup. Meetings occurred with the Department of Corrections reentry staff to inform of programs and services offered through a faith-based approach, and to solicit feedback on how best to support and add value to the work of the Department of Corrections. Discussions also occurred with state agencies to build a statewide planning team to develop faith-based involvement in reentry. This will allow the state to create best practices for faith-based organizations providing reintegration services. Additional efforts have been made to connect with the Department of Juvenile Justice’s network of faith providers to support their efforts in providing services and supports to youth in the delinquency system. Additional efforts will occur to identify standing meeting dates and times, and engage partners and stakeholders to establish measurable outcomes and initiate action to achieve results.

Moving forward, the Criminal Justice Workgroup plans to expand the team to include regional and county representatives. The Criminal Justice Workgroup also plans to research reentry taskforces throughout Florida to document community awareness. Discussions of bringing human trafficking taskforces together with common leadership will continue. This will allow members and leaders to share common interests and best practices.

Disaster Planning Workgroup

Led by Sam Sipes, the Disaster Planning Workgroup will continue to work to further engage faith-based and community-based organizations and groups in the state’s efforts to effectively prepare, respond, and recover from natural and man-made disasters. The Disaster Planning Workgroup assisted in facilitating connections of organizations and groups to existing state/regional/local teams and networks to enable communities to come together before and after disasters.

A planning meeting with members of the Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (FLVOAD) was held to identify opportunities where the Disaster Planning Workgroup could support the efforts of the FLVOAD in preparing and responding to disasters throughout the state in a coordinated manner. Outreach to Volunteer Florida occurred to seek their input on how best to facilitate connections between smaller faith communities and organizations who are not currently involved. Additional outreach has occurred with the Department of Emergency Management to seek strategies where faith and community organizations can support their efforts. Additional efforts will occur to identify standing meeting dates and times, and engage partners and stakeholders to establish measurable outcomes and initiate action to achieve results.

Family Initiatives Workgroup

Led by Richard Albertson, the Family Initiatives Workgroup is focused on advancing efforts to enhance and improve programs and services through the identification of best practices and innovation on topics including family preservation, healthy marriage, fatherhood, single parent families, and other family related issues such as employment and homelessness. The Family Initiatives Workgroup will bring together 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.

Preliminary discussions have occurred to consider opportunities to initiate action towards the focus of the Family Initiatives Workgroup. The Family Initiatives Workgroup suggested that the Advisory Council consider recommending statute revisions to the Florida Marriage Handbook. The current version of the

Florida Marriage Handbook focuses more on providing information on ending marital relationships rather than promoting strategies and concepts for successful marriages and relationships. Discussion amongst Advisory Council members occurred to seek the support of appropriate Senate and House of Representatives sub-committees to consider supporting revisions that fit within the existing state laws. Additional exploration will occur in 2014 to determine future action. The current version of the Florida Marriage Handbook is available online and can be found at http://www.flclerks.com/PDF/2000_2001_pdfs/7-99_VERSION_Family_Law_Handbook.pdf.

Another topic the Family Initiatives Workgroup presented to the Advisory Council for consideration is to seek support for the utilization of approximately 1% of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds received by the state to be utilized for programs and services that further align to the goals of this funding to include the formation and maintenance of two parent families.

Legislative Workgroup

Led by Sheila Hopkins, the Legislative Workgroup worked with all Advisory Council workgroups to research and identify recommendations to refine, improve, and strengthen policies and legislation affecting Advisory Council areas of focus and faith-based and community-based organizations. A summary of all policy and legislative recommendations will be provided to the Governor and Legislature for consideration as part of the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council's Annual Report.

A meeting was held with the Governor's Legislative Affairs Director to inform him of the work of the Advisory Council and resulted in his sharing of legislative proposals from state agencies with the Advisory Council for review and input. Additional discussion occurred around the consideration to support revisions to the Florida Marriage Handbook and utilization of approximately 1% of TANF funds for programs and services that further align to the goals of the funding to include the formation and maintenance of two parent families.

Another outcome from this meeting was an invitation for Director of the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection to present information on the Advisory Council and associated initiatives to state agency legislative directors to increase their awareness and to encourage sharing of opportunities to connect faith and community organizations to support their efforts. Moving forward, the Legislative Workgroup will continue to solicit ideas from members to present recommendations and will look to meet with the Governor's Legislative Director in early 2014 to discuss legislative initiatives for 2015 that promote the work of faith-based and community-based organizations, and of the Advisory Council.

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 in order to equip them to better care for and nurture their children. In accordance with the 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 five-year plan: one in the Prevention of Child Maltreatment Section, one in the Promotion of Adoption Section, and one in the Support of Adoptive Families Section. 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 tactics to accomplish the objectives. These are identified below with a description of progress that has been made.

- 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 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.

- 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 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 to provide family and community supports. The Advisory Council will work to communicate and highlight best and promising practices at annual conferences, regional summits and webinars.

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 (Department) 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 Department of Children and Families.

- To identify a dedicated staff member(s) who are content experts to serve as a liaison to the Advisory Council who is knowledgeable of child welfare initiatives and opportunities, and can:
 - Participate/communicate with the Advisory Council Child Welfare Workgroup to inform the workgroup members of:
 - Current and proposed activities and initiatives by the Department and/or partners to refine, improve and strengthen the child protection system that can be communicated with faith and community organizations.
 - Training opportunities provided by the Department and/or partners where personnel from faith and community organizations can attend.
 - Funding opportunities provided by the Department to allow organizations, regardless of their orientation, to compete for the delivery of state services.
- To ensure staff, community partners and other stakeholders, are trained in the Safety Decision Making Methodology, Trauma Informed Care, the Protective Factors Framework and the possibility of integration within the child protection policies and practices.

Advisory Council Member Activities

In addition to the initiatives established by the Advisory Council, members have worked to initiate action within their respective communities to progress towards the Vision/Statutory Charge “...to enlist, equip, enable, empower, and expand the work of faith-based, volunteer, and other community organizations...” The information below captures highlights of the efforts made by Advisory Council members.

- Supported the Department of Children and Families’ partnership with the Bethel Empowerment Zone to have it recognized by the Casey Family Program as a Community of Hope.
- Worked to support efforts in creating safe homes for children identified as victims of human trafficking.
- Engaged Northland Church to offer services for adult victims of human trafficking and reentry services to individuals released from the Department of Corrections.
- Established the Faith Alliance To End Slavery and Trafficking (FATEST), a sub-committee of the Greater Orlando Human Trafficking Taskforce, to coordinate efforts of faith based organizations to end human trafficking, and to serve as a model to other taskforces throughout the state in engaging faith based organizations in their areas.
- Worked with Northland Church to vet and add reentry and human trafficking providers to ResourcePoint, an online resource directory that enables individuals and families to search for services based on their needs in the Central Florida and surrounding areas.
- Participated in the Department of Juvenile Justice’s Faith Forums to connect with other faith-based and community leaders to identify strategies to support prevention and reentry services.
- Worked with faith leaders throughout the state during National Adoption Month in November to display Heart Gallery photos of children available for adoption without an identified family, and include messages about the availability of children in care who are seeking families.
 - At the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Tallahassee, Vice Chairman Sheila Hopkins presented information at three services and invited the congregation to obtain additional information from a representative with Children’s Home Society.



- Facilitated recruitment efforts for volunteers to deliver reentry programs and services to individuals in Marion, Lowell, and Lake correctional institutions.
- Supported a Family Services Center that offers ex-offenders the use of computers and assistance for resume building, job searching and to apply for social services to include food stamps. These individuals also receive assistance with clothing, transportation (i.e., bicycles), counseling, and referral services.

- Provided assistance in locating and securing safe housing for ex-offenders who may be experiencing homelessness.
- Presented information to a civic group and via radio broadcasts regarding adult reentry issues, community and public safety, recidivism and employability of ex-offenders.
- Supported efforts to partner with Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University (FAMU) to host “Adoption Day” during the FAMU versus Delaware State football game.
 - Children in foster care, including children available for adoption, were invited to meet with coaches and players who were previously in foster care or adopted, and to attend the football game where the children ran out on the field with players at the start of the game and were recognized at halftime. The public address announcer provided messages throughout the game highlighting National Adoption Month and encouraged individuals and families to consider adoption. Additional messages were shared during the radio broadcast.



- Attended local adoption events to celebrate families who finalized adoptions.
- Worked with churches in the Jacksonville area to adopt local schools and assist them with school activities and functions that support the educational development of students.
- Facilitated connections between churches and organizations to assist and support efforts to reduce homelessness in Jacksonville communities.
- Worked with faith organizations to raise funds and provide assistance to a military veteran and his family to overcome hardships due to losing his GI Bill benefits.
- Facilitated connections with Florida Hospital in Tampa to encourage their support to display Heart Gallery photos of children available for adoption without an identified family and state initiatives (i.e., Child Abuse Prevention, National Adoption Month, Safe Sleep Campaign, and Healthy Weight Initiative).

Advisory Council Recommendations

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

- a) The Advisory Council seeks to offer guidance and support through the leadership of members and partners that can further empower organizations to fulfill their missions, ministries, and ability to compete with other organizations for the delivery of state services. Areas where guidance and support can be provided include grant seeking/writing, capacity building, and understanding expectations and consequences. If organizations have specific questions, the Advisory Council will work to facilitate a connection to an appropriate state agency or funder. In addition, the Advisory Council will work to provide instructions to organizations who wish to become a vendor for the state by becoming an approved provider through the MyFlorida MarketPlace.
- b) Through many of the workgroups, the Advisory Council seeks to develop a grassroots network that connects organizations at the state, regional and local levels and allows for the flow of information on initiatives, training and funding opportunities from the state to reach local organizations, and back to the state to inform decisions and policies.
- c) The Advisory Council serves as a resource to the Governor, Legislature and state agencies to provide insight and perspectives regarding state policy considerations and decisions that may impact the capacity of faith-based and community-based initiatives to assist in the achievement of state priorities. Through working with state agency liaisons and meeting with legislative members and staff to increase the awareness of the Advisory Council, opportunities to achieve state priorities can be attained.
- d) The Advisory Council, through its networking with other faith-based and community-based organizations and state agency liaisons, will work to identify innovative and best practice approaches that result in achievement of targeted outcomes. During the 2013 National Faith Symposium, the Advisory Council created the *Champions of Hope* award to recognize faith-based organizations that go above and beyond the ordinary to improve the lives of at-risk youth and children in care that incorporate innovative and best practice approaches. Additional efforts will occur to identify opportunities to expand these efforts.
- e) The Advisory Council will continue to identify opportunities to coordinate public awareness and recognition of faith-based and community nonprofit initiatives at conferences, summits, and symposiums, and with state agencies and offices (i.e., Volunteer Florida).
- f) Upon identification of potential sponsors and assessing alignment of the initiatives to the sponsor's mission/focus, the Advisory Council will seek to build relationships to encourage private charitable giving that results in the advancement of all involved.
- g) The Advisory Council will communicate with state agency liaisons and staff, legislative members 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 for assisting, strengthening, and replicating successful faith-based and community-based programs. Members will first assess if concerns, ideas and policy options are realistic and viable; and if identified barriers are real or perceived prior to communicating such information.

- h) In 2013, the Advisory Council established workgroups to focus on improving efforts of the state through coordinating and facilitating connections that strengthen communities and families. Through each workgroup, development and implementation of strategies to initiate action will occur to positively impact the populations targeted.
- i) The Advisory Council will continue the *Champions of Hope* award and identify other opportunities to showcase and herald innovative grassroots nonprofit organizations and civic initiatives at conferences, summits, and symposiums, and with state agencies and offices (i.e., Volunteer Florida).
- j) The Advisory Council will first assess if identified barriers are real or perceived before communicating with state agency liaisons and staff, legislative members and staff, and through the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection that may impede effective faith-based and community-based efforts to address social problems.
- k) In 2013, the Advisory Council established the Legislative Workgroup to identify state policies affecting faith-based and community-based organizations, and works with other established workgroups of the Advisory Council and state agency liaisons and staff to assess effectiveness of such policies and make recommendations for future legislation to facilitate increased collaboration and better outcomes for residents of Florida.
- l) The Advisory Council will make itself available to assist faith-based and community-based organizations and work with state agency liaisons and staff to enable organizations 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 7 – 10

- (7) **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.
- (8) **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 (9) 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.

(9) 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 Family Services, 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.

(10) 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 (9)(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 above.



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