



## Florida Coalition for Children (FCC)

### POSITIONS ON ISSUES OF CONTINUING CONCERN

FCC will update this list with emerging issues as they arise through to the end of session.

#### PATH FORWARD

##### FINANCIAL GUARDIAN SUPPORT TO CHILDREN

###### Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) Eligibility Proposed Changes

###### Support in DCF Proposed Policy Package

FCC Supports proposed **technical changes** to the "Guardianship Assistance Program" that passed into law last year is a program that provides benefits to a child's guardian on behalf of the child. Benefits may be in the form of a guardianship assistance payment, a guardianship nonrecurring payment, and/or Medicaid coverage.

- The program will go operational in July 2019, the proposed policy changes will enhance Florida's capacity to implement the program in the best interest of guardians
- GAP will operate concurrently with the existing Relative Caregiver Program to include Non-Relative Caregiver Financial Assistance.
- This option will provide increased assistance to support relative and nonrelative caregivers who become licensed.

##### FORECASTING RESOURCES FOR SAFETY OF EVERY CHILD

###### Child Welfare Estimating Conference

###### Support in Budget Conference

Florida must ensure every child in the system has the same amount of resources necessary to achieve **safety and permanency**.

FCC Supports **conducting** a child welfare estimating conference by the authority as outlined in Florida Statute 216.136 to provide **economic understanding of capacity demands**.

- Economic forecasting is key to determining growth and emerging drivers that affect child welfare service delivery and capacity success.
- **Existing Florida Statute Authority – 216.136** Consensus estimating conferences; duties and principals.

(6) SOCIAL SERVICES ESTIMATING CONFERENCE. – (a) The Social Services Estimating Conference shall develop such official information relating to the social services system of the state, including forecasts of social services caseloads, utilization, and expenditures, as the conference determines is needed for the state planning and budgeting system. Such official information shall include, but not be limited to, cash assistance and Medicaid caseloads.

#### FCC Policy Team

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## CASE MANAGEMENT

### EXPAND OPTIONS OF CRITICALLY NEEDED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

#### Targeted Case Management

##### **Support in Jordan's Law: HB315 Rep Latvala and SB634 Sen Rouson**

Child welfare targeted case management services have existed in Florida for over 15 years through a state plan amendment that granted four counties the option to use Medicaid funds to provide enhanced services to children in their child welfare system. A blended model, it significantly expanded the menu of service options using Medicaid and traditional funds. It allows case managers to screen for developmental, mental health, and medical issues in children and creates a referral system for critical services which improve outcomes for children and their families. "As a result, in Sarasota County the CBC project realized great success of a very low turnover of case managers, the lowest caseloads (10 to 12 children), shortest lengths of stay, and one of the lowest recidivism rates in Florida. Dramatic success." *Chris Card, Chief of Community-based Care, Eckerd*

FCC supports the following proposed language related to targeted case management

- Beginning October 1, 2019, the Agency for Health Care Administration, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families, shall establish a targeted case-management pilot project in the Sixth and Thirteenth Judicial Circuits.

### ARM LAW ENFORCEMENT WITH INVESTIGATIVE DATA & STOP ABUSE

#### Wants and Warrants

##### **Support in Jordan's Law: HB315 Rep Latvala and SB634 Sen Rouson**

FCC supports arming law enforcement with knowledge before they enter a home noting any active CPI investigation information in their systems' wants and warrants records to protect our children against a possible abuser.

"When law enforcement is dispatched to a home for a domestic disturbance and nothing on their screen or dispatch alerts them that an active child protection investigation case exists for that family, the child is left in the home to be a victim of abuse which can turn deadly." - *April Lott, Directions for Living*

- 39.0142 Notifying law enforcement of parent or caregiver names.—
  - (1) The department shall enter the name of a parent or caregiver who is the subject of a child protective investigation into the Florida Crime Information Center for the purpose of notifying local law enforcement agencies that there is an active investigation. If a law enforcement officer has contact with the named parent or caregiver, the officer may notify the department by calling the central abuse hotline and providing a synopsis of the interaction. The central abuse hotline shall determine the next appropriate action, if any.
  - (2) The department shall remove the name of the parent or caregiver from the Florida Crime Information Center when there is no longer an active investigation or when judicial supervision has ended.

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## EQUAL JUSTICE FOR CHILD WELFARE CAREGIVERS

### Assault Upon A Case Manager Higher Degree

#### In Bill Drafting

Today when a person from child welfare is **assaulted** different rules apply and the crime is a lesser misdemeanor. **FCC supports equal protections and higher degree charges** for an assault as it is for the general public.

## ENABLING EQUAL ACCESS TO MEDICINE FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

### Psychiatric Nurses prescribing psychotropic medication (ARNP)

#### Support in DCF Proposed Policy Package

**FCC supports** proposed technical correction as part of **normalcy in the treatment of children** in foster care to align with that of children in the general public.

- Current Florida statutes 394.455 and 464.012, as defined, allow psychiatric nurses to prescribe meds to children in dependency cases; however, Chapter 39 does not.
- FCC recommends updating Chapter 39 to allow ARNPs to prescribe meds, given they are permitted in statute to prescribe meds for children in the general public.

## SERVICE DELIVERY / IN THE BEST INTEREST

### SECURITY OF FOSTER FAMILY AND STAFF FROM IDENTITY TRACKERS

#### Foster Parent, Case Manager/Supervisor Info Public Records Exemption

#### Support in DCF Proposed Policy Package

FCC supports security names by removing a conflict in statute creating uncertainty in exempting the “names” for this group being released in public records requests. Chapter 39 language protects names and information of foster parents and their foster children. Yet chapter 119, related to exemptions does not specifically include this population. In addition to foster parents, FCC proposes to amend statute to include personnel of lead and provider agencies within the CBC Model.

- **119.071 General exemptions from inspection or copying of public records.** –  
2.a. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of active or former sworn or civilian law enforcement personnel, including correctional and correctional probation officers, active or former licensed foster parents, community based care lead and provider agency personnel and personnel of the Department of Children and Families whose duties include the investigation of or case management related to abuse, neglect, exploitation, fraud, theft, or other criminal activities, personnel of the Department of Health whose duties are to support the investigation of child abuse or neglect, and personnel of the Department of Revenue or local governments whose responsibilities include revenue collection and enforcement or child support enforcement; **the names**, home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

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## ENABLE STABILITY & ACCESS OF COMMUNITY CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

### Lead Agency and Provider Agency Role Clarity

#### In Bill Drafting

**FCC supports** role clarity in determining and ensuring the percent of lead and provider agency direct services are delivered reflecting community demand and according to statute.

- Establish role clarity for CBC lead agencies and providers with respect to providing direct services in a manner consistent with community needs and preferences and Florida statute
- Known as the 35% Provision, creates Statutory Changes to Lead Agency Provision of Direct Services with recommendations created in unison by the FCC Provider Council and FCC Lead Agency Council, then approved by the FCC Board.

## AGING-OUT SUPPORT TO LIFELONG SUCCESS –VERSUS SET-UP FOR HOMELESSNESS\*

### Financial Assistance for Post Education SS Youth

#### Support in Children, Families and Elder Affairs Proposed Committee Bill

**FCC supports** creating parity in financial and resource assistance for foster youth aging-out of the system that considers the cost of living for the areas of the state where the youth resides.

## CONTINUITY OF CARE FOR FLORIDA'S MEDICALLY FRAGILE FOSTER CHILDREN\*

#### Emerging Issue –Support Continuity CBC Model Agencies Advocacy

**FCC supports** efforts by the Agency for Health Care Administration to create and demand continuity of medical care during the transition of Children's Medical Service coverage to medical managed care providers across the state on February 1, 2019. **Onerous filing and processes** were developed that FCC has successfully advocated to streamline. Payment and billing coding practice was interrupted and burdensome, which FCC advocated and received an **additional 30-day extension of continued of coverage** to ensure continuity of medical service to this fragile population.

## CONDITIONS OF RETURN – ENSURING SAFETY FOR REUNIFICATION\*

#### Emerging Issue –Support Continuity CBC Model Agencies Advocacy

**FCC** is working on additional clarity around statute related to conditions of returning a child to their home safely with conditions to ensure monitoring and continued success.

*The mission of the Florida Coalition for Children (FCC) is to advocate on behalf of abused, abandoned, neglected and at-risk children. FCC's community-based care (CBC) membership comprises every child welfare lead agency and over 60 provider agencies serving Florida. Located in Tallahassee, FCC works with elected officials, child advocates and the public to influence policy and practice in the best interest of children and families.*

*(Asterisked\* items indicate relevant issues that are 'in addition' to FCC 2019 Legislative Priorities)*

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