

FCCconnect



SEPTEMBER
2011

MEASURING WHAT MATTERS CONFERENCE

October 13 & 14
Hilton Orlando



Registration starts Monday, Sept. 26 on the
FCC website: www.FLChildren.org

2011 FCC ANNUAL CONFERENCE November 15 & 16, Hyatt Regency Tampa

EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS OCTOBER 1

Register Now at www.FLChildren.org

Conference Fee: \$225 for FCC members

SPECIAL ROOM RATES CLOSE OCTOBER 16

Room Cost: \$129 / Night Block Name: FCC Annual Conference



Heart & Soul
of Child Welfare



Two new session topics at conference – coming soon!



Brush up on your FCC knowledge on weekly FCC trivia questions on the FCC website! The more you know, the better your chances at winning at the Conference! Just visit www.FLChildren.org

LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR: REP. SCOTT PLAKON

On August 29, the FCC Board presented State Representative Scott Plakon with the 2011 Legislator of the Year award. Rep. Plakon (District 45, Longwood) sponsored HB 1019 relating to child welfare liability and insurance. During the 2011 Legislative Session, he took on this very complex issue with a great understanding of the positive impact privatization has had in Florida and how that system of care is being threatened. He demonstrated his full support of the community-based care system in Florida and showed incredible commitment to children in foster care. Congratulations and thank you!



Suzie Plakon, Rep. Scott Plakon and Nadereh Salim (FCC Legislative Committee Chair)

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LEGISLATIVE DATES

WEEKS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

OCTOBER 3, 2011

OCTOBER 17, 2011

OCTOBER 31, 2011

NOVEMBER 14, 2011

DECEMBER 5, 2011

2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

JANUARY 10 TO MARCH 9



LEGISLATIVE
CORNER

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE FOR SEPT. 19

(For the meeting agendas, please visit the FCC website @ www.FLChildren.org)

Monday, September 19

1:00 to 2:15 pm - 37 SOB - Senate Select Committee on Protecting Florida's Children

Tuesday, September 20

10:45 am to 12:45 pm - 401 SOB - Senate Children, Families & Elder Affairs

10:45 am to 12:45 pm - 401 SOB - Senate Health Regulation

11:00 am to 1:00 pm - 404 HOB - House Health Care Appropriations

1:30 to 3:30 pm - 12 HOB - House Health & Human Services Access

Wednesday, September 21

8:30 to 10:30 am - 412 KOB - Senate Banking and Insurance

11:00 am to 1:00 pm - 212 KOB - House Appropriations

1:30 to 3:30 pm - 110 SOB - Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health & Human Services

1:30 to 5:30 pm - 17 HOB - House Health & Human Services

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PROTECTING FLORIDA'S CHILDREN

In the wake of the controversial acquittal of Casey Anthony, Florida Senate President Mike Haridopolos created a select committee to look into ways to improve child protection. The purpose of the Select Committee on Protecting Florida's Children will be to examine the safety protection laws for Florida's children and recommend possible improvements. In a statement announcing the panel's creation, Haridopolos noted that "in the wake of the verdict in the Casey Anthony trial, members of the Florida Senate, as well as concerned Floridians" requested a closer look at child protection measures. One bill has already been filed for the 2012 legislative session to make it a felony to fail to report a missing or dead child within 48 hours. Casey Anthony waited a month to report that her daughter Caylee was missing. The select committee will be chaired by Sen. Joe Negron of Stuart and includes Sen. Arthenia Joyner (Vice-Chair), Sen. Greg Evers, Sen. Anitere Flores and Sen. Chris Smith. Their first meeting is September 22 in Tallahassee.

KIDSBRIEFS

CHILDREN GET A SUMMER EXPERIENCE THEY WILL SOON NOT FORGET

Our Kids of Miami-Dade and Monroe, Inc. ("Our Kids") along with the Florida Department of Children and Families ("DCF") wanted to ensure that the children we serve had the opportunity to have a great summer experience by attending sleep-away or day camps. As part of these effort Our Kids sent 63 youth to one of three week-long overnight camps this summer including, CHARLEE's Buffalo Cove in North Carolina; DCF's Myron Rolle Camp in North Florida or a Camp in the Everglades facilitated by the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches. In addition, 51 children participated in DCF's James Jones Camp for Champions run by the agency at Florida International University.

This year Our Kids also offered scholarships to families that allowed children to attend the summer camp. These programs were well attended by the children and families we serve, with a total of 736 children attending the camp of their choice. Our Kids' summer camp scholarship program provided funding for all or part of the summer camp costs and were available to all types of families served by Our Kids, including adoptive families, foster families and intact biological families, as well as those served in prevention/diversion.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CABINET

Florida's Children and Youth Cabinet, which underwent a significant transition with the recent change of governors, has returned to a visible role complete with a new

website and renewed sense of mission. The panel is charged with promoting and implementing collaboration, creativity, increased efficiency, information sharing and improved service delivery between and within state agencies and organizations. Earlier this year the Governor's Office announced that First Lady Ann Scott would serve as the state's official chief child advocate. The new website, at <https://flcyc.cyciss.org/flcyc/content/floridas-children-and-youth-cabinet>, includes a calendar of upcoming meetings as well as links to the materials prepare for each meeting for members of the Children and Youth Cabinet. Department of Children & Families Secretary David Wilkins, who serves as chair, announced the establishment of four workgroups for the cabinet, to address human trafficking, background screenings, community services and death reviews.

EARLY LEARNING ANNUAL REPORT

The state Office of Early Learning has issued its annual report for the 2009-10 state fiscal year. The office, which oversees the state's voluntary pre-kindergarten (VPK) program, says in the report that since its inception in 2005, more than 660,000 children have participated and benefited from the educational standards of the program. The annual report is available online at www.floridajobs.org/earlylearning/Documents/All-Annual/OEL_09-10_Annual_Report.pdf.

DRUG-RELATED DEATHS AMONG YOUTHS

After a one-year decline, the number of Floridians under age 18 who died

as a direct result of at least one drug in their system increased last year last year, according to the latest report by the Florida Medical Examiners Commission. The report compiles autopsy information to provide statistics on the number of fatalities in which death was caused by the illegal drugs or an illegal drug was present but was not the primary cause of death. According to the report, in 2010 a total of 41 Floridians younger than 18 died as a direct result of illegal drugs, up from 37 deaths the year before. Another 27 youths had illegal drugs in their systems when they died, down from 36 the previous year and almost half the number of just two years ago. A complete copy of the medical examiners' report for the entire calendar year 2010 is online at www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/getdoc/59a8c497-5d9e-4954-b4d7-5dff6bb06e46/2010-Drug-Report.aspx.

ADOPTION EXCELLENCE AWARD

Partnership for Strong Families' Adoption Program Manager, Kim Johnson, will receive a 2011 Adoption Excellence Award from the Children's Bureau/United States Department of Health and Human Services. This award recognizes Kim for what PSF staff already know to be true, her "outstanding accomplishments in achieving permanency for America's children waiting in foster care." She demonstrates both a personal and professional commitment to ensuring our kids find forever families. Kim and 17 other recipients from around the nation will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on October 12th. Congratulations!



PERFORMANCE MEASURES CONFERENCE

Over the past five years consensus has emerged among leading child welfare scholars and policy makers that current efforts at measuring child welfare system performance do not adequately address the quality of service issue. Recently FCC and DCF approached Casey Family Programs to discuss the feasibility of building on our prior work by bringing together national experts in performance measurement with state and private agency leaders to develop a work plan that will culminate in the development of specific performance measures that will be implemented for testing and refinement throughout Florida's Community Based Care child welfare model. The kick-off event for this project, scheduled for **October 13 & 14 in Orlando**, will be a two-day planning meeting that will focus on two main strategies. First, four specific program quality issues (educational progress, family engagement, adoption supports, workforce) will be addressed and second, a project steering committee consisting of FCC and DCF leaders will be formed to develop a work plan for implementation of the new measures throughout the state. National expert consultants along with Casey Family Program experts will be utilized to provide guidance based on their experiences in moving from measuring processes to measuring quality and using data to improve system performance.

FCC MEMBERS SHINE AND CELEBRATE SUCCESSES AT DCF'S PATHWAY TO INDEPENDENCE SUMMIT

Some 350 child welfare case managers, supervisors and administrators attending the DCF Pathway to Independence Summit were presented with data showing that Florida ranks at the top in outcomes even though we are one of the lowest funded systems in the nation. It was standing room only when FCC members made the data presentations to two separate groups during the professional breakouts at the Summit.

Many thanks to FCC members Shelley Katz (Children's Home Society), Ray Gadd (Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services), Teri Saunders (Heartland for Children), Lorita Shirley (Eckerd) and John Haines (FCC) for their presentations and continued efforts.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mud Olympics
(Community Partnership for Children)
September 24, 8 am - 4 pm
Omega Ranch
New Smyrna Beach
More Info: 407-324-1178 or visit
www.OmegaRanch.com

6th Annual Walk to Prevent Child Abuse
(Children's Network of Southwest Fla.)
October 15, 8:30 am
Pelican Preserve
Ft. Myers
More info: info@childnetswfl.org

5th Annual Kinship Care Conference
(Kids Central, Inc.)
September 30, 8 am - 4:30 pm
The Klein Center @ College of Central Florida
3001 SW College Rd, Ocala
More Info: 352-387-3549 or
www.KidsCentralInc.org

16th Annual Sunset Silent Auction
(Lutheran Services of Florida)
October 15, 6 - 11 pm
The Chelsea Center
2506 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota
More info: aridings@lsfnet.org



Florida Coalition for Children Members

Big Bend CBC
Boys Town - Central FL
Boys Town - North FL
Boys Town - South FL
Brevard Family Partnership
Camelot Community Care
Carlton Manor
CBC of Central Florida
Child & Family Connections
ChildNet
Children's Home Society of FL
Children's Network of Southwest FL

Community Partnership for Children
Daniel
Devereux
Eckerd Youth Alternatives
Eckerd Community Alternatives
Families First Network
Family Preservation of FL
Family Support Services of North Florida
Florida MENTOR
Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches
Florida United Methodist Children's Home

Friends of Children and Families
Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services
Heartland for Children
Hibiscus Children's Center
Hillsborough Kids Inc.
Human Services Associates
Intervention Services
Kids Central, Inc.
Kids First of Florida
Kids in Distress
Lifestream Behavioral
Lutheran Services Florida
Mental Health Care, Inc.
Neighbor to Family

One Church One Child FL
One Hope United
Partnership for Strong Families
Providence Management
Real Life Children's Ranch
Sarasota Family YMCA
SOS Children's Village
St. Augustine Youth Services
Sunrise Community
The Children's Home
The Haven
United for Families
Villages of Hope
Youth Haven
Youth Villages

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Research Director

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CWPMHP Coordinator

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CWPMHP Coordinator

Milton Burns
Office Manager

Ben Fink
IT & Performance Consultant

Bolivar Aguirre
Intern



FCC's FEATURED MEMBERS

These members have just been or will soon be featured on FCC's facebook group page.

- Camelot Community Care
- Family Support Services of North Florida
- Friends of Children and Families

WWW.FLCHILDREN.ORG

FCC

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