

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND ELDER AFFAIRS

Senator Book, Chair
Senator Albritton, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, January 12, 2021

TIME: 9:00—11:30 a.m.

PLACE: *Toni Jennings Committee Room, 110 Senate Building*

MEMBERS: Senator Book, Chair; Senator Albritton, Vice Chair; Senators Brodeur, Garcia, Harrell, Rouson, Torres, and Wright

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
PUBLIC TESTIMONY WILL BE RECEIVED FROM ROOM A1 AT THE DONALD L. TUCKER CIVIC CENTER, 505 W PENSACOLA STREET, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32306			
1	Presentation by Chad Poppell, Secretary, the Department of Children and Families on the: -Agency's investigation of the issues raised in the USA Today Investigative Series and the specific response to address all identified breakdowns. -Status on the implementation of: -CS/SB 1482 (2020) and other issues related to the former Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence. -The Family First Prevention Services Act. -Agency's response for handling child welfare cases during the COVID-19 pandemic.		
2	Presentation by Barbara Palmer, Director, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities on the: -Status on the implementation of CS/SB 82 (2020). -Agency's response to: -Outbreaks in facilities and delivery of services during the COVID-19 pandemic. -Staffing issues at various APD facilities. -Status on the waitlist for iBudget.		
3	Presentation by Richard Prudom, Secretary, the Department of Elder Affairs on the: -Status on any staffing issues within the Office of Public and Professional Guardians and an update on any backlog of disciplinary cases. -Agency's response for providing services during the COVID-19 pandemic.		
4	Presentation by Jim Zingale, Exeuctive Director of the Department of Revenue on the: -Status of child support enforcement and any relevant information on trends and case law changes.		
Other Related Meeting Documents			

Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

January 12, 2021

Florida Department of Revenue

Child Support Program

Jim Zingale, Executive Director

Ann Coffin, Program Director

The Department of Revenue's mission is to be:

An agency that is accessible and
responsive to citizens,
provides fair and efficient tax
and child support
administration,
and achieves the highest levels
of voluntary compliance.





Florida Department of Revenue

- Fifth largest state agency with approximately 5,000 employees
- Three operational program areas:
 - Child Support Program
 - General Tax Administration
 - Property Tax Oversight
- Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Child Support Program
 - Economic (including CARES Act stimulus)
 - Unemployment
 - Delivery of services

Florida's Child Support Program
Working on behalf of more than a million children.

General Tax Administration
Administering state taxes fairly & efficiently.

Property Tax Oversight
Ensuring Equity and Uniformity in Florida's Property Tax System



Child Support Overview

Working with families and partners to help children receive child support

Primary Services:

- Paternity establishment
- Support order establishment and modification
- Receipt and disbursement of payments
- Enforcement actions

Parents apply for services and parents who receive public assistance are referred by Department of Children and Families

\$1.7 billion
in child support
collected in FFY 2019-20



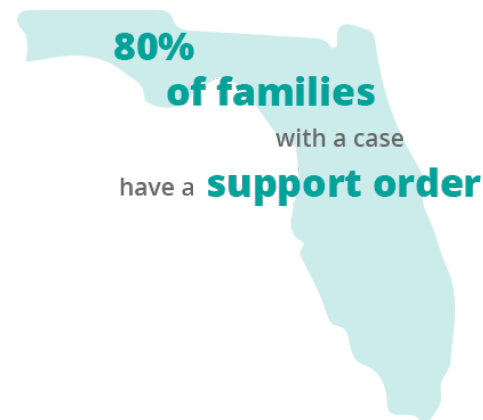
98.4%
went to families

Remaining 1.6%
reimbursed public
assistance dollars

\$1.07 billion
collected through income withholding
from the parent's paycheck



Providing services to over
1.6 million cases
involving over
1.1 million minor children



For every **\$1.00** spent...





Pandemic Impacts – Service Delivery

Services rely heavily on parents

- Completing and returning forms
- Attending office visits and court/administrative hearings
- Providing information about themselves, their children and the other parent

To protect customers and employees

- A high percent of workforce began to telework
- State office buildings were closed to the public

To ensure services continued, the Program reengineered its' service delivery options

Parents are no longer required to visit an office

- Form Return and Completion
 - Statewide fax
 - Upload photo or PDF in eServices portal
 - Complete online in eServices portal
 - Drop boxes
 - Detailed instructions sent with complex forms
 - Automatic resending of forms to resolve noncooperation
- Attending Office Visits
 - Private labs for genetic sample collections
 - Telephonic written agreement negotiations
- Providing Information
 - Email online contact form
 - eService portal fast links
 - Fax, upload and drop boxes
 - Increased resources for phone and chat

Contact the Child Support Program

Contact the Child Support Program

eServices
Access your case online 24/7

Visit eServices

Chat with us
Mon - Fri 8 AM to 5 PM EST

Chat live now!

Email us
Use our online contact form 24/7

Email us

Fax
Send information by fax
850-921-0792

Get payment information by phone



Florida State Disbursement Unit
1-877-769-0251
8 AM to 6 PM EST, Monday-Friday

- Automated payment information
- Direct deposit or smiONE Visa Prepaid Card information
- Report lost/stolen check(s)
- Change your address

Case number & Social Security Number required



Make payments and access your account online 24/7
fl.smartchildsupport.com

Get case information by phone



850-488-KIDS (5437)
7:30 AM to 6 PM EST, Monday-Friday
All counties except Miami-Dade



Florida Relay Service
1-800-955-8771 (TTY)
[Learn more](#)



Miami-Dade County
1-305-530-2600
8 AM to 5 PM EST, Monday-Friday



EASY WAYS TO HANDLE YOUR CHILD SUPPORT CASE

- Get Case Status
- Update Information
- Return Forms
- Resolve an Enforcement Action

eSERVICES

ChildSupport.FloridaRevenue.com

EMAIL

FloridaRevenue.com/AskChildSupport

WEB CHAT

FloridaRevenue.com/ChildSupport

PHONE

850-488-KIDS (5437) Mon-Fri: 7:30 AM to 6 PM ET

FAX

850-921-0792

ONLINE

Learn more on our Contact page



Scan this code to visit
FloridaRevenue.com/ChildSupport/Contact






Pandemic Impacts – Performance

Caseload and Order Establishment

Collections

- \$100 million increase in disbursed collections
 - Increase driven by federal pandemic stimulus and reemployment assistance
 - Reemployment Assistance \$26 million
 - \$1200 stimulus \$218 million
 - \$600 stimulus is exempt from offset for past-due child support
- 
- Wage withholding decreased \$56 million
 - Over 27,500 fewer cases with wage withholding payments
 - Payments made by parents decreased \$18 million

Future Initiatives



- Enhance new service options
- Align resources to high demand customer service
- Deploy video tutorials on web
- Law changes
- Expand cash payment locations

Questions

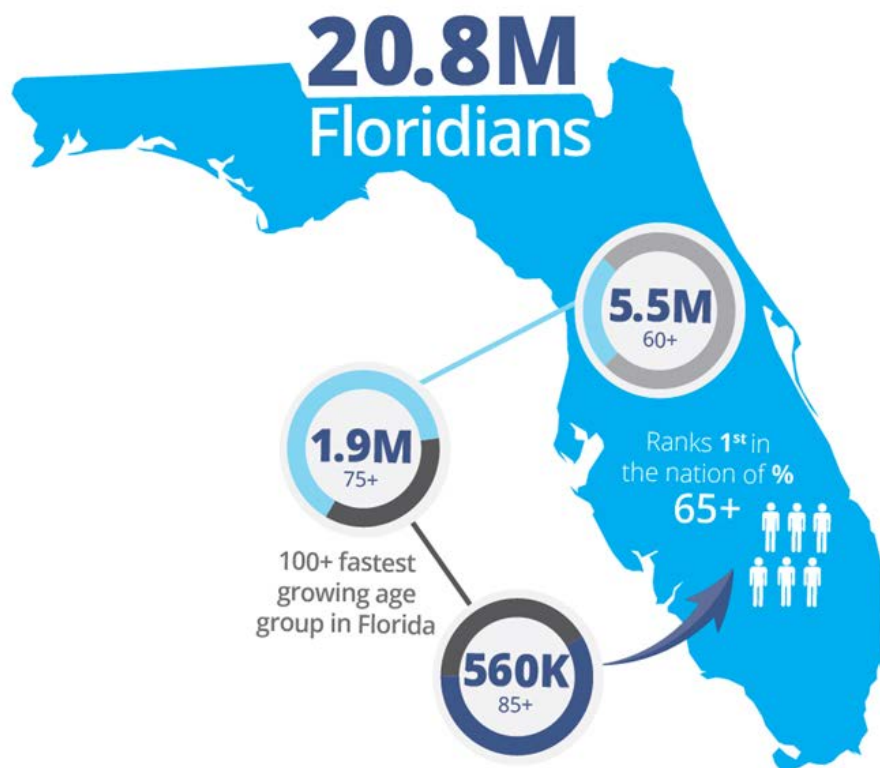




Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

Richard Prudom, Secretary

About Florida's Elders



- 5.5 million Floridians are over 60 years old. The state ranks first in the nation for 65+ population.
- By 2030, this will increase to 7.6 million – a 38% increase.
- Before the pandemic, more than 800 people were coming to Florida every day. Many were over 60 years old.

Mission

To promote the well-being, safety, and independence of Florida's seniors, their families, and caregivers.

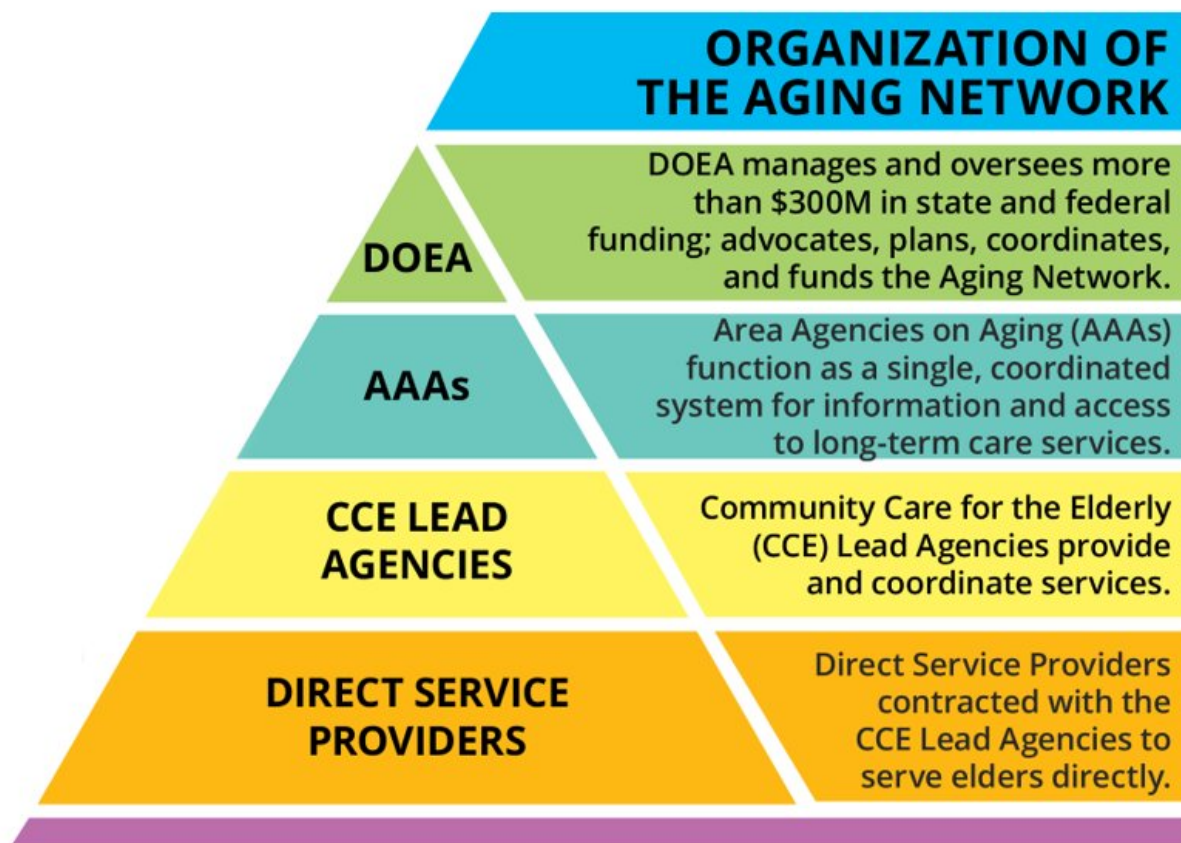
Vision

For all Floridians to live well and age well.

Major Focus

Provide home and community-based services to seniors who are at risk of being placed into a long-term care facility because of their degree of frailty.





DOEA During COVID-19

DOEA met COVID-19 with hallmark innovations, ingenuity, and new programs to help older adults stay independent, reduce social isolation, and bring new attention to behavioral health for the aging population.



At-A-Glance Initiatives

- Restaurant Meal Initiative
- Project: VITAL
- Therapeutic Robotic Pets
- Scent Evidence Kits
- Mental Health Campaigns
- Telephone Reassurance Calls
- Florida SAFE Survey

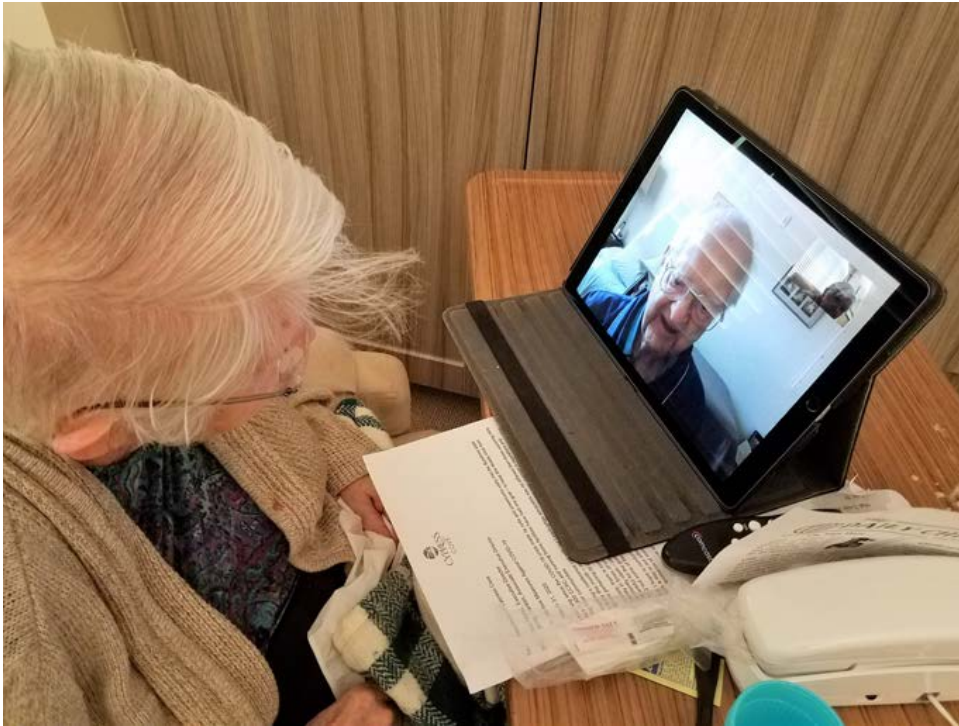


Restaurant Meal Initiative



- 3.4 million home-delivered meals
- Increased overall meal delivery by 200% for over 16 weeks
- Total meals over 15.4 million

Project: VITAL



- Tablets in 300 facilities
- 15,000+ video chats
- 25,000+ interactions
- Pre-loaded software designed for older adults by It's Never Too Late (iN2L)

Therapeutic Robotic Pets



- Over 5,000 animatronic pets delivered
- From Pensacola and Jacksonville to Orlando and Miami
- Benefits dementia recipients, caregivers, and older adults

Scent Preservation Kits®

- Distributing 5,000 Scent Preservation Kits® to caregivers of those living with ADRD.
- The kits are distributed through 17 Memory Disorder Clinics throughout the state.



Florida Safe Survey

SAFE Survey
Department of ELDER AFFAIRS
STATE OF FLORIDA

You are 40% complete.

Your Living Situation

The type of place you live in and how many people you live with contribute to your risk of COVID-19. Please answer the following questions about your current living situation so we can better understand your needs.

Which of the following best describes your current living situation?

- ☒ I live in a house, apartment, condo, trailer, or multi-resident complex
- ☐ I live in an apartment, condo, or multi-resident complex with shared common areas
- ☐ I live in a residential facility where meals and household help are provided
- ☐ I live in a skilled nursing facility
- ☐ I live in a hotel, motel, or extended-stay
- ☐ I am staying in a shelter or am experiencing homelessness
- ☐ Other

SAFE Survey
Department of ELDER AFFAIRS
STATE OF FLORIDA

Do you have any of the following chronic health problems? (check all that apply)

Please select even if your health problem is managed. If your specific health problem is not listed, select "Other serious health problems." This will help us estimate the severity of your illness should you become ill with COVID-19.

<input type="checkbox"/> Lung disease or asthma	<input type="checkbox"/> Liver disease
<input type="checkbox"/> Heart conditions	<input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension/high blood pressure
<input type="checkbox"/> Weakened immune system or cancer	<input type="checkbox"/> Current or former smoker
<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/> Other serious health problems
<input type="checkbox"/> Kidney disease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None of the above
<input type="checkbox"/> Obesity	

Which of the following best describe(s) your current situation related to COVID-19? (check all that apply)

- ☒ I feel OK, and I have NOT been diagnosed with COVID-19
- ☐ I am NOT feeling well, but I have NOT been diagnosed with COVID-19
- ☐ I am NOT feeling well, and I have been diagnosed with COVID-19
- ☐ I have recovered from COVID-19
- ☐ I have recovered from COVID-19 but has NOT been diagnosed with COVID-19
- ☐ Someone else in my household is currently sick with COVID-19
- ☐ Someone else in my household is currently sick with COVID-19

START your survey,
ASSESS your risk,
FORM a plan, and
EXAMINE your options.


What's your
behavior pattern
with COVID-19 and how
does it affect your health?

RON DESANTIS Governor | RICHARD PRUDOM Secretary

www.FloridaSAFESurvey.com



Talk It Out Mental Health Campaign



DEPRESSION
*Is Not a Normal
Part of*
**Growing
Older**

Call
**1-800-
662-4357**

talk it out

If you are concerned about a loved one, offer to assist him or her to see a health care provider or a telehealth provider to be diagnosed and treated.

Call
1-800- 662-4357

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Department of
ELDER AFFAIRS
STATE OF FLORIDA

#talkitoutFL

Talk It Out Mental Health Campaign



- 11,000 print flyers delivered with meals
- 32 statewide billboards
- Averaged 50,000 telephone reassurance calls a month

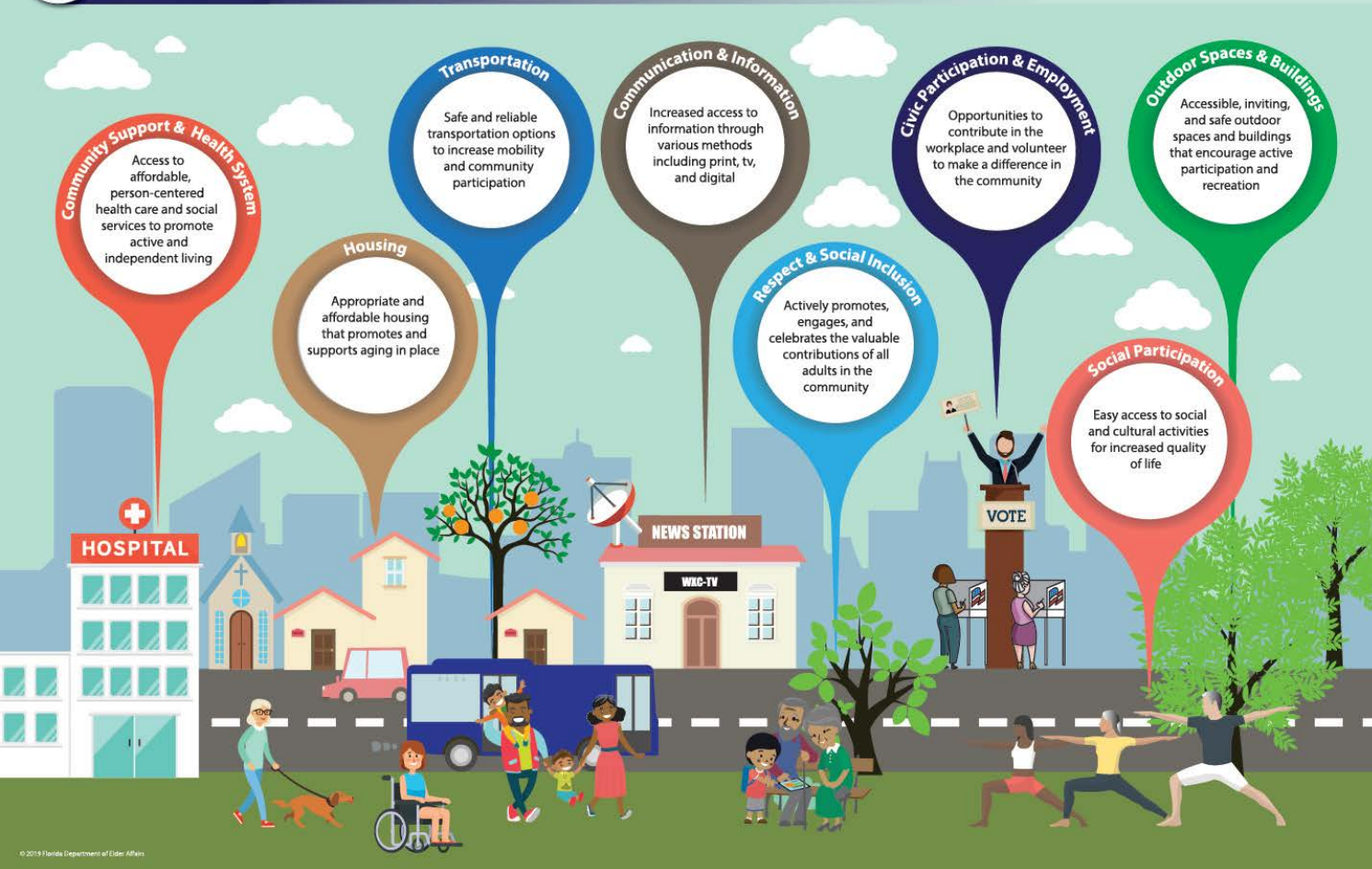
Aging and Ageism



8 DOMAINS OF A LIVABLE COMMUNITY

AARP Real Possibilities
Florida

Department of
ELDER AFFAIRS
STATE OF FLORIDA



Creating A Livable Florida

Department of
ELDER AFFAIRS
STATE OF FLORIDA

Income Physical
Well-Being
Social
ANE Housing
Affordable Play
Work Learn
Socioeconomic
Personal Access Food Transportation Mental Health
Health
Support
Environment
Disaster Preparedness
Employment
Networks
Neglect
Housing
Care
Worship

What is Guardianship?

A legal relationship created by a court between an individual whom it has determined is not capable of making decisions regarding his or her life or property and the person or organization appointed by that court to make such decisions.

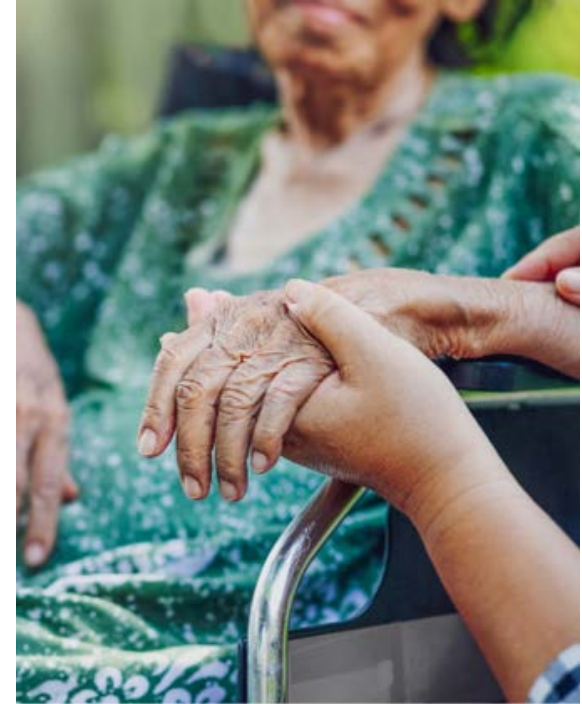


What types of Guardians are there?

- **Family Guardians**
 - serve less than 3 wards
- **Professionally Certified Guardians**
 - professional guardians are paid from the assets of the ward
 - public guardians serve indigent wards and are paid by the state

DOEA Role in Guardianship Before 2016

- Operated Statewide Public Guardian Program (SPGO)
- Maintained contracts with 17 public guardian offices statewide
- Maintained registration files and administered competency exam for all professionally certified guardians



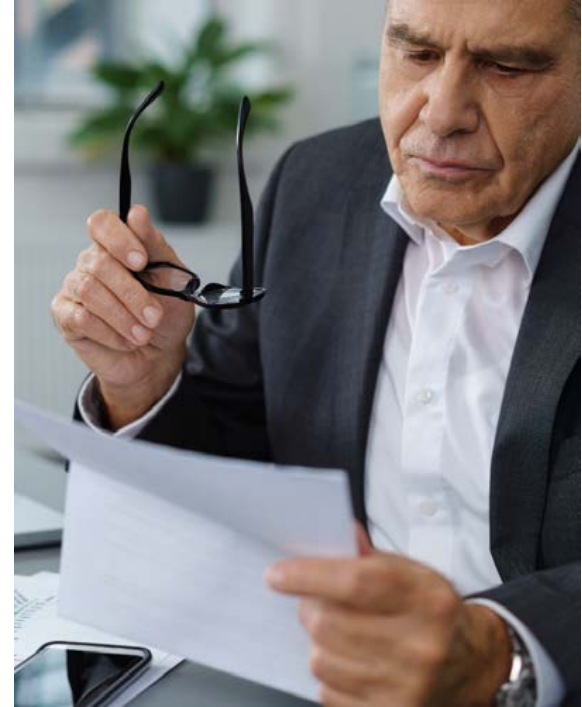
2016 Legislative Session

- SB 232 expanded authority of DOEA guardianship office and renamed it Office of Public and Professional Guardians (OPPG)
- Additional responsibilities:
 - regulating over 550 professional guardians
 - investigating complaints against professional guardians and enacting appropriate administrative discipline

Complaint Process

OPPG reviews findings and enacts administrative discipline, if appropriate, as defined in Ch. 744.20041(2), F.S.

- Issuance of reprimand or letter of concern
- Requirement to undergo remedial education
- Pay restitution as appropriate
- Suspension or permanent revocation



OPPG Operational Improvements

- Resolved the backlog of complaints
- Revised investigation referral process
- Implemented new processes to improve transparency and responsiveness
- Focused on improving complaint intake and referral procedures.

OPPG Accomplishments/Focus for 2021

- Building relationships with various stakeholders across the state:
 - Sounding board for guardianship advocates, interested parties, citizens
 - Partnering with guardians to ensure compliance with statutes and rules
 - Open line of communication with judiciary
- Re-write Professional Guardian Training and enhance Continuing Education Courses

OPPG Accomplishments/Focus for 2021

- Continue improvements in complaint intake and investigations
- Implementing efficiencies in guardian registration compliance, oversight of public guardian programs
- Ensuring public guardian offices efficiently provide services to indigent citizens in need of guardianship services, especially in current pandemic environment.

Questions?





DCF Update:

COVID-19 Impact, Media Articles, Domestic Violence Update, and FFPSA Update

Senate Committee on
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
01/12/2021

Presented by:
Secretary Chad Poppell

COVID-19 Impact: Highlights

- Office of Adult Protective Services (APS)
 - APS maintained victims seen within 24 -hour rates significantly above target, averaging 97% across as the pandemic surged.
- Office of Economic Self-Sufficiency (ESS)
 - 1.3 million new public benefit recipients
 - 400% increase in applications.
 - 284,100 utilizing the online grocery purchasing pilot.
 - 2.2 million Florida children received P-EBT benefits, totaling over \$687 million.
- Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH)
 - Over 30% of services transitioned to telehealth by April 2020.
 - Expanded capacity at 2-1-1 community helplines and established a crisis counseling program through a nearly \$5 million grant from FEMA and SAMHSA.
- Office of Child Welfare (OCW)
 - Shifted 200+ Hotline and IT staff members to teleworking.
 - Helped provide foster youth with over 300 laptops to aid with virtual learning.
 - Provided more than 3.7 million units of PPE to CPIs, CBCs, and providers.



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COVID-19 Impact: APS

- Investigators integrated technologies and saw victims using virtual means as hospitals and licensed facilities denied access as the pandemic surged.
- Service delivery never lapsed, with in-home programs maintaining continuity across the span of the pandemic.
- With an absence of institutional placement options, APS staff successfully leveraged relative placements to ensure victim safety.
- Maintained its successful re-abuse reduction strategy during the pandemic. Holding at 6.5% through present.



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COVID-19 Impact: ESS

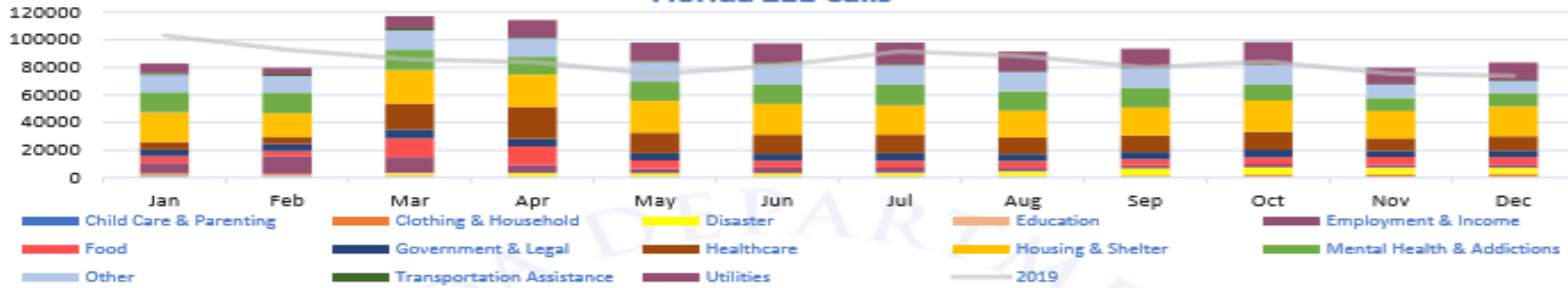
- Temporarily repurposed staff to assist with call volumes and application processing.
- Suspended work requirements and increased benefit amounts, to allow families to focus on what is important—health and safety.



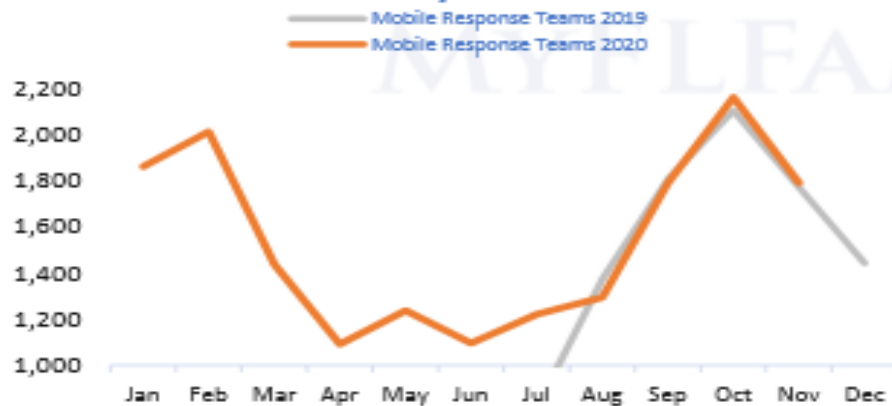
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COVID-19 Impact: SAMH

Florida 211 Calls



Community Care Team



Source: Provider Monthly and Quarterly Reports
Note: Calls for MRTs primarily originate from schools

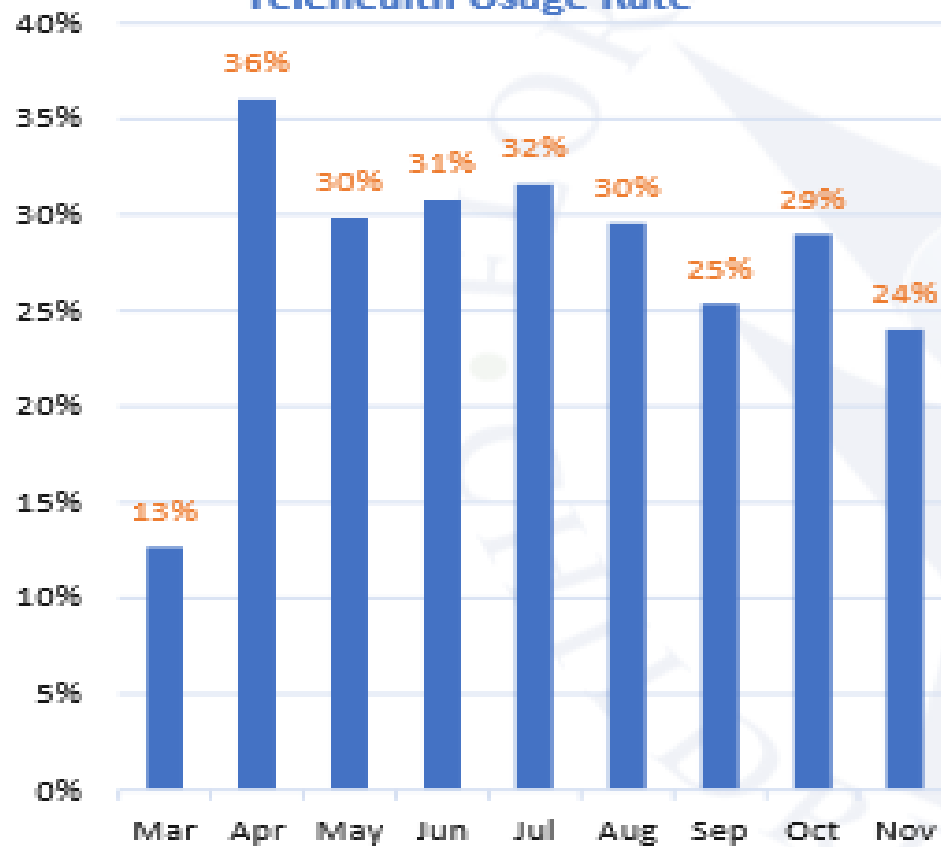
Overdose Trends



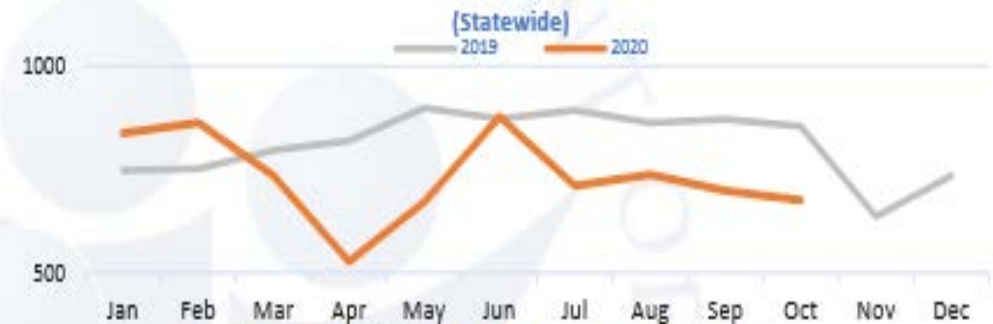
Source: FDOH. Data is provisional and subject to change. Should not be used for public comment.

COVID-19 Impact: SAMH

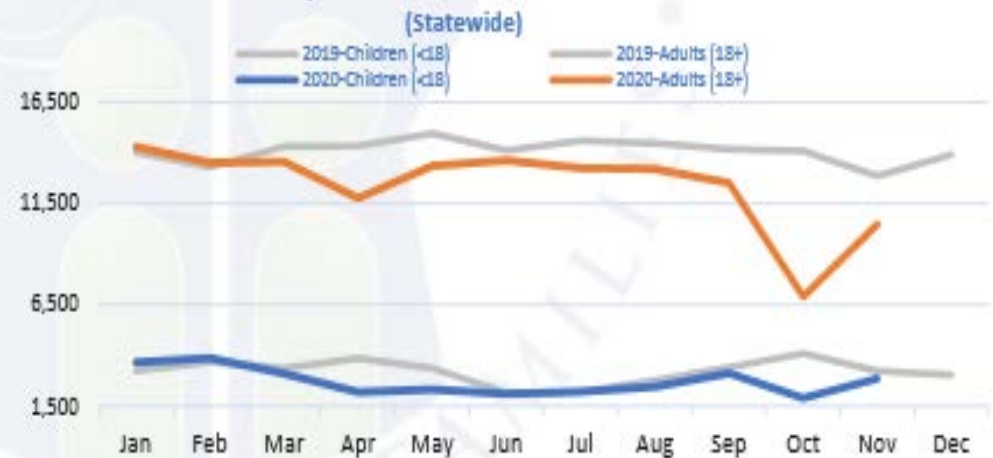
Telehealth Usage Rate



Court-Involved Involuntary Marchman Act Initiations



Involuntary Examinations Baker Act Initiations



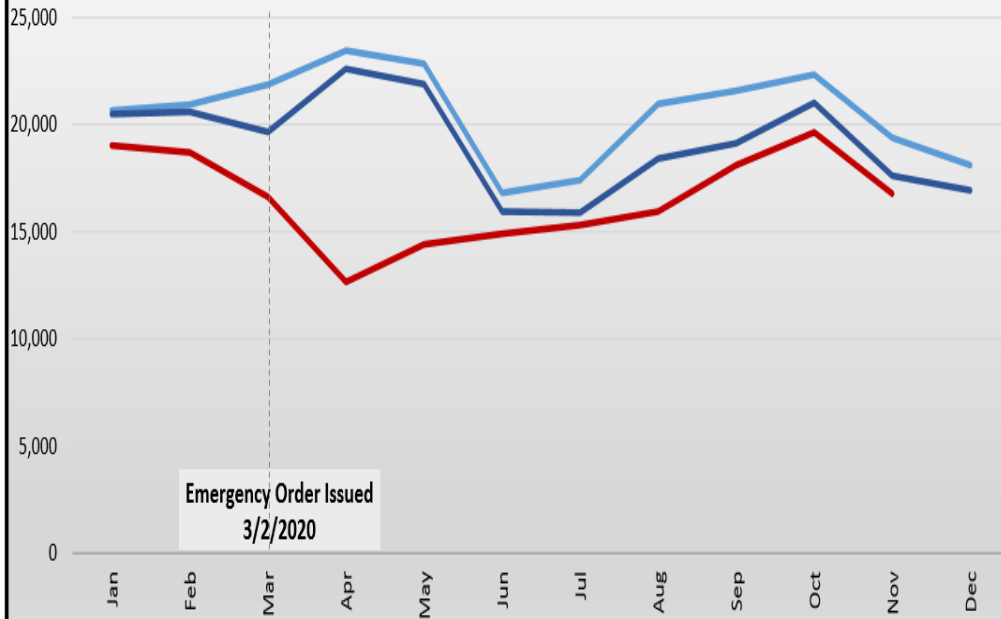
Source: Florida Association of Managing Entities

Source: University of South Florida, Baker Act Reporting Center

COVID-19 Impact: Child Welfare

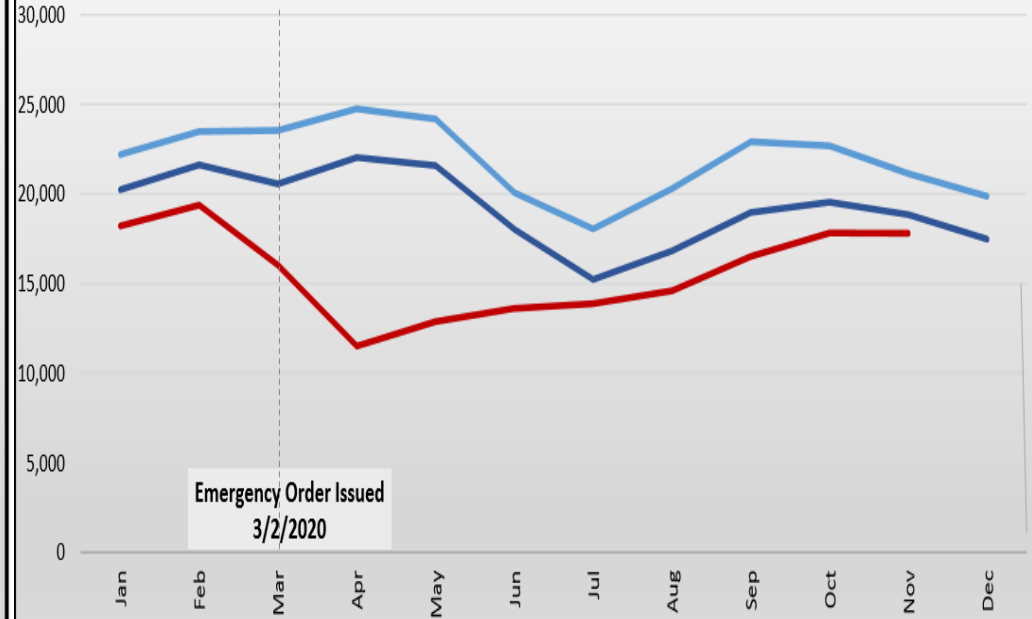
Accepted Child Abuse Investigations
and Special Condition Referrals

— 2018 — 2019 — 2020



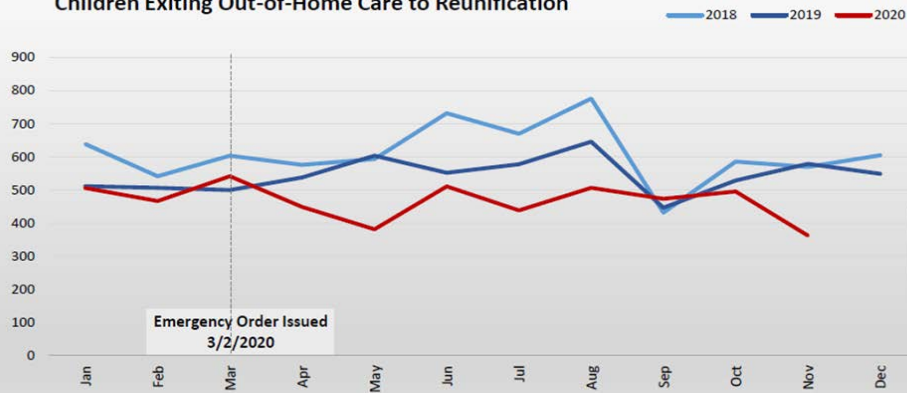
Active Investigations as of Last Day of the Month

— 2018 — 2019 — 2020

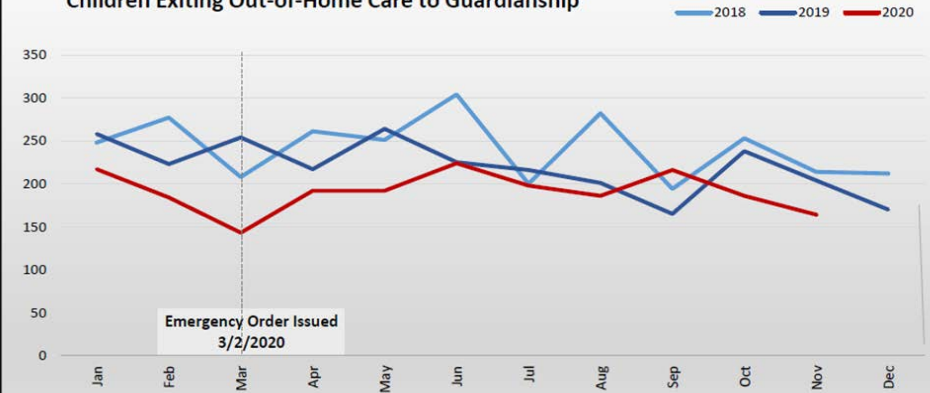


COVID-19 Impact: Child Welfare

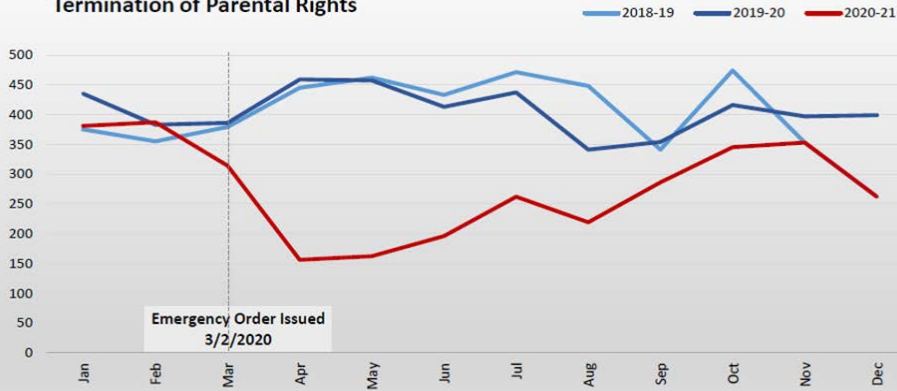
Children Exiting Out-of-Home Care to Reunification



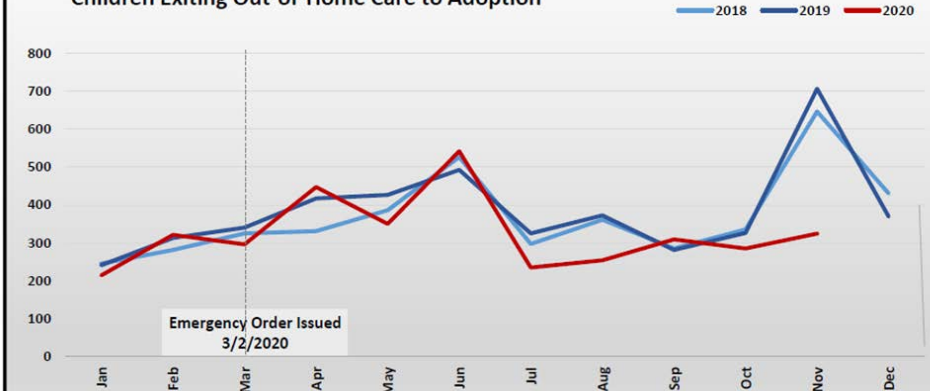
Children Exiting Out-of-Home Care to Guardianship



Termination of Parental Rights



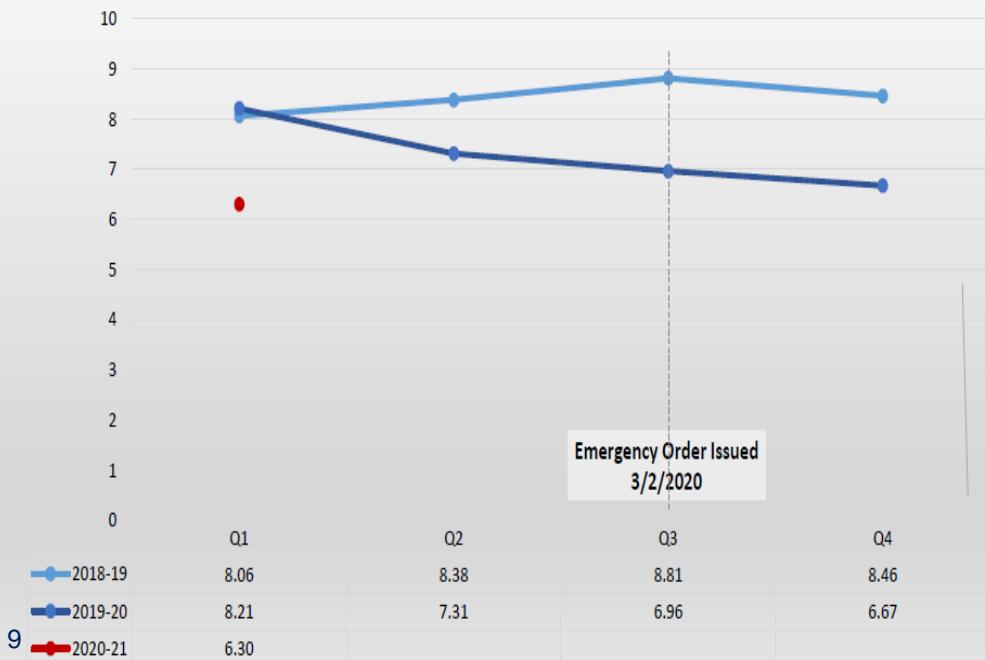
Children Exiting Out-of-Home Care to Adoption



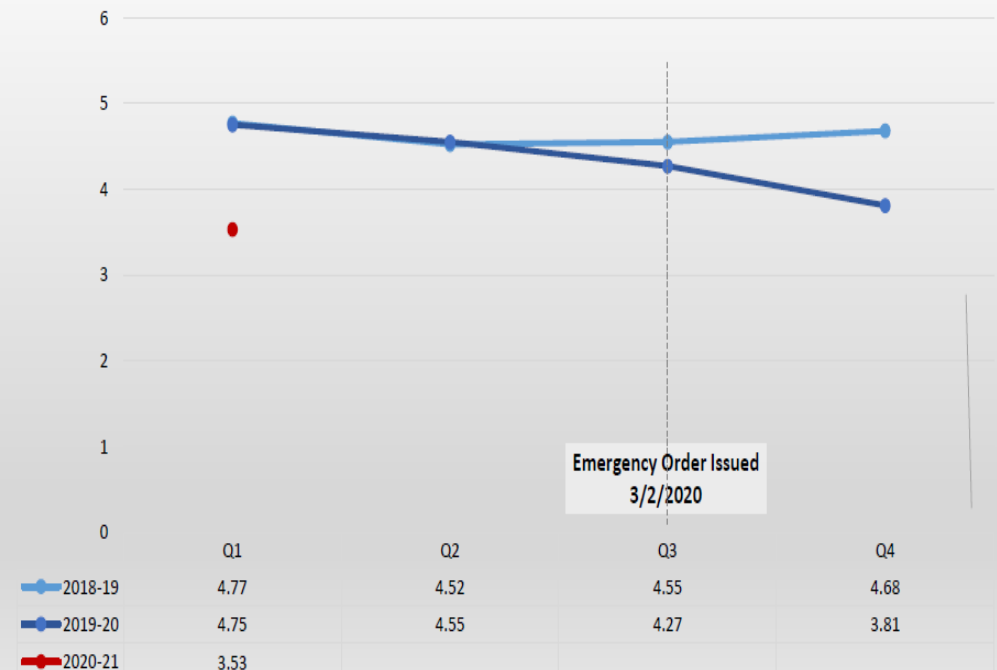
COVID-19 Impact: Child Welfare

- Re-abuse numbers decreased, and placement moves decreased.

Rate of Abuse while in Out-of-Home Care



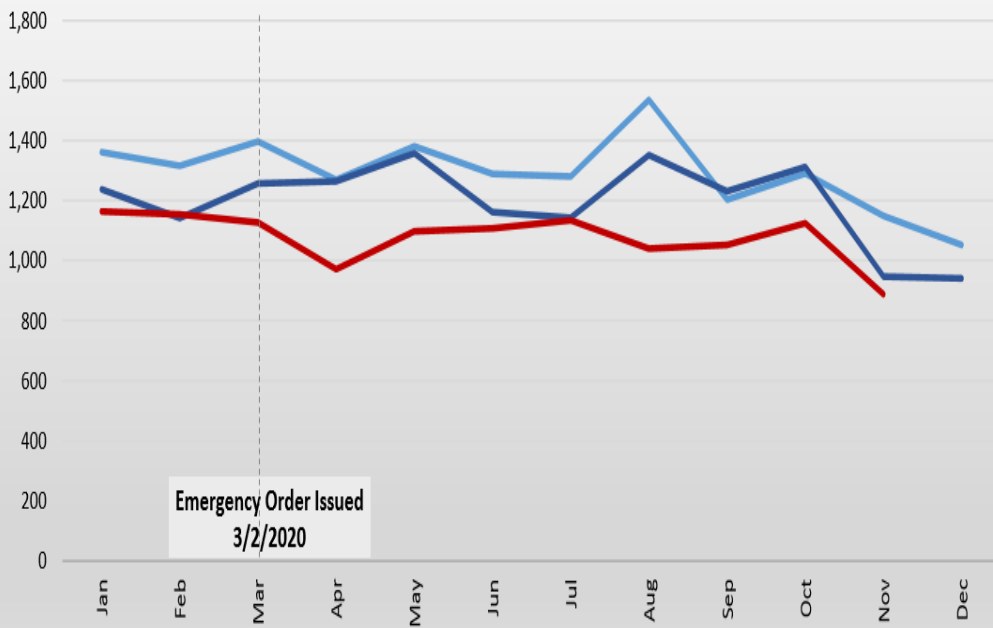
Rate of Child Placement Moves while in Out-of-Home Care



COVID-19 Impact: Child Welfare

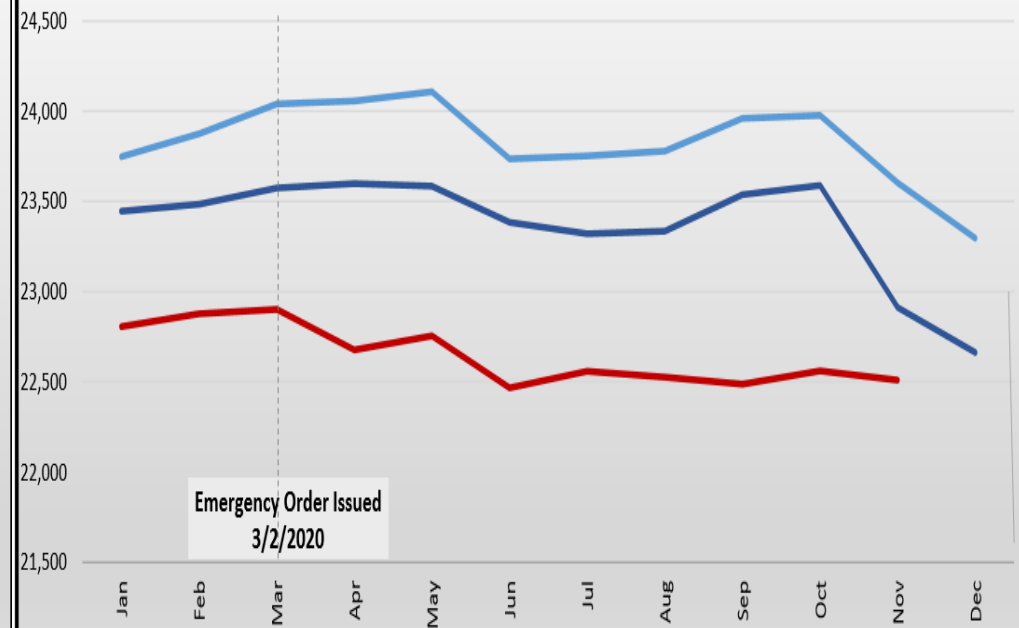
Children Entering Out-of-Home Care

— 2018 — 2019 — 2020



Children in Out-of-Home Care as of Last Day of the Month

— 2018 — 2019 — 2020



Addressing Recent Media Articles

Media Articles: Overview

- A series of articles centered around Florida's Child Welfare System and the abuse of children in out-of-home care.
- DCF's Office of Child Welfare and Quality Office conducted reviews of:
 - Current policy and practice regarding foster parent/group home licensing.
 - 26 recommendations from the joint FDLE-DCF task force that launched earlier in 2019 (in response to the Rios case) .

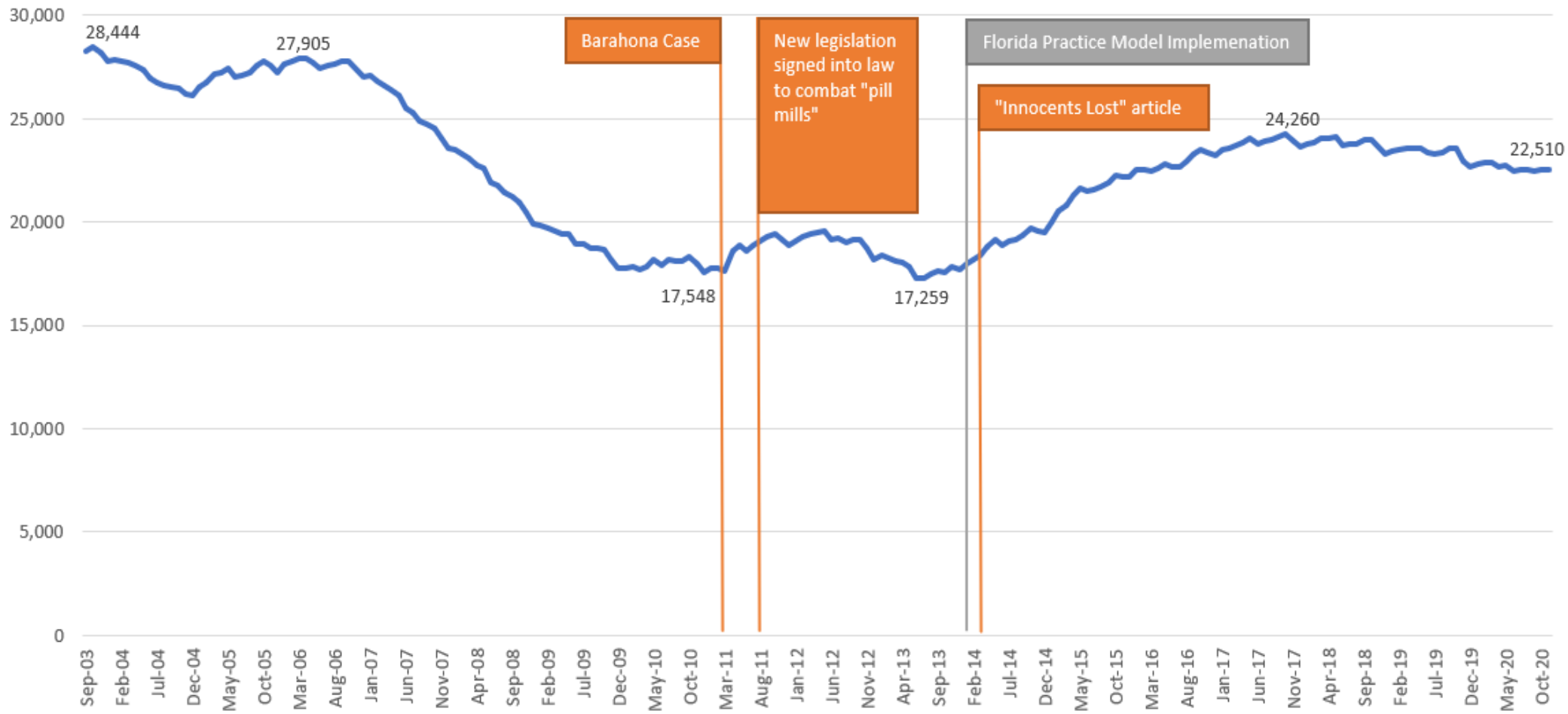
Background on the Child Welfare System

- There was a change in the practice model FY 14-15.
- Increase in out-of-home care reflected national trends.
 - While the practice model did have impact on removals and how DCF serves families, it was not the only driving force behind the increase.
- Removals of children from their homes have generally declined since 2016.
- Children are safer:
 - Verified serious maltreatments have steadily dropped.
 - Rate of child deaths per 100,000 children has steadily dropped.

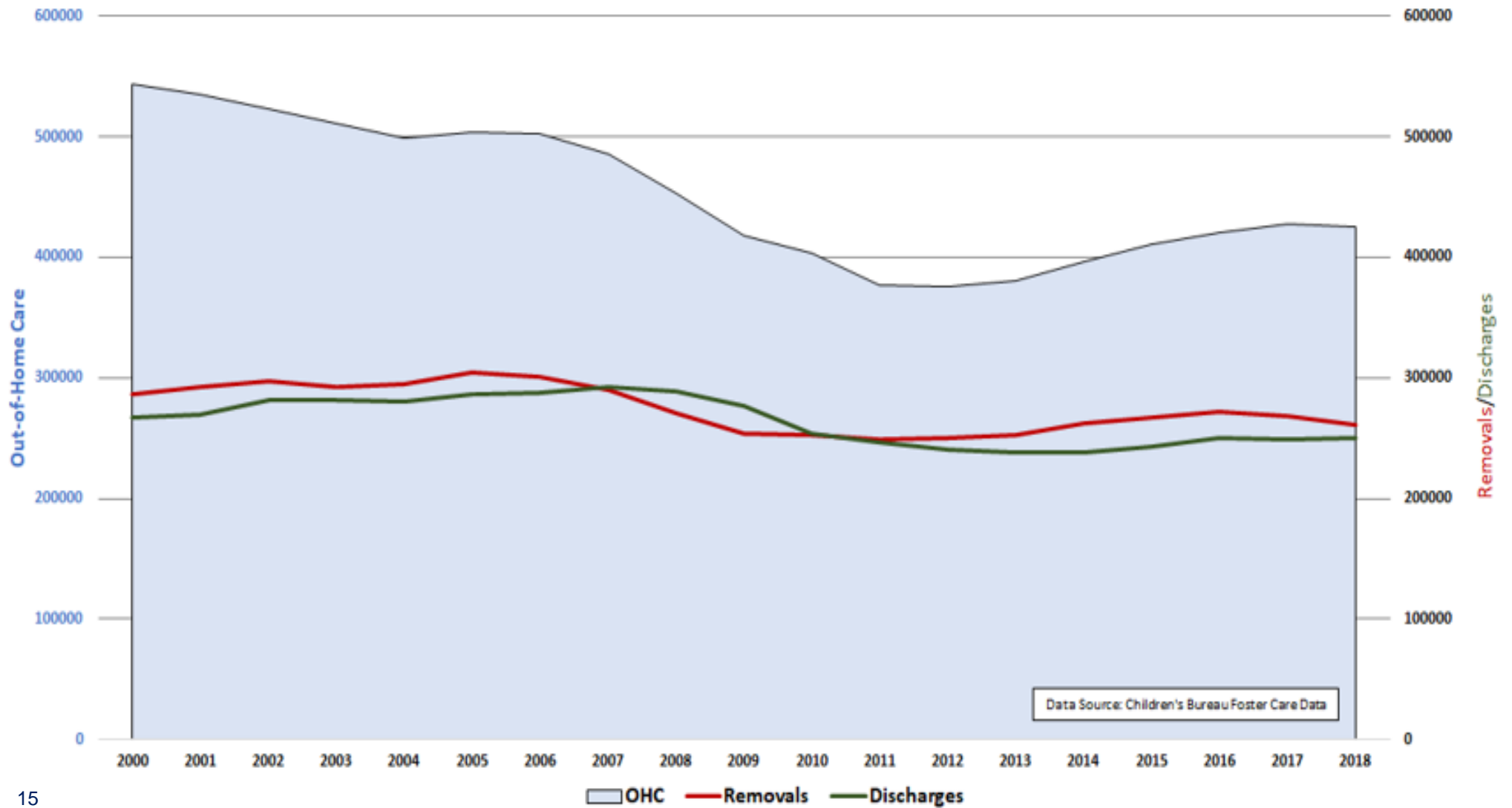


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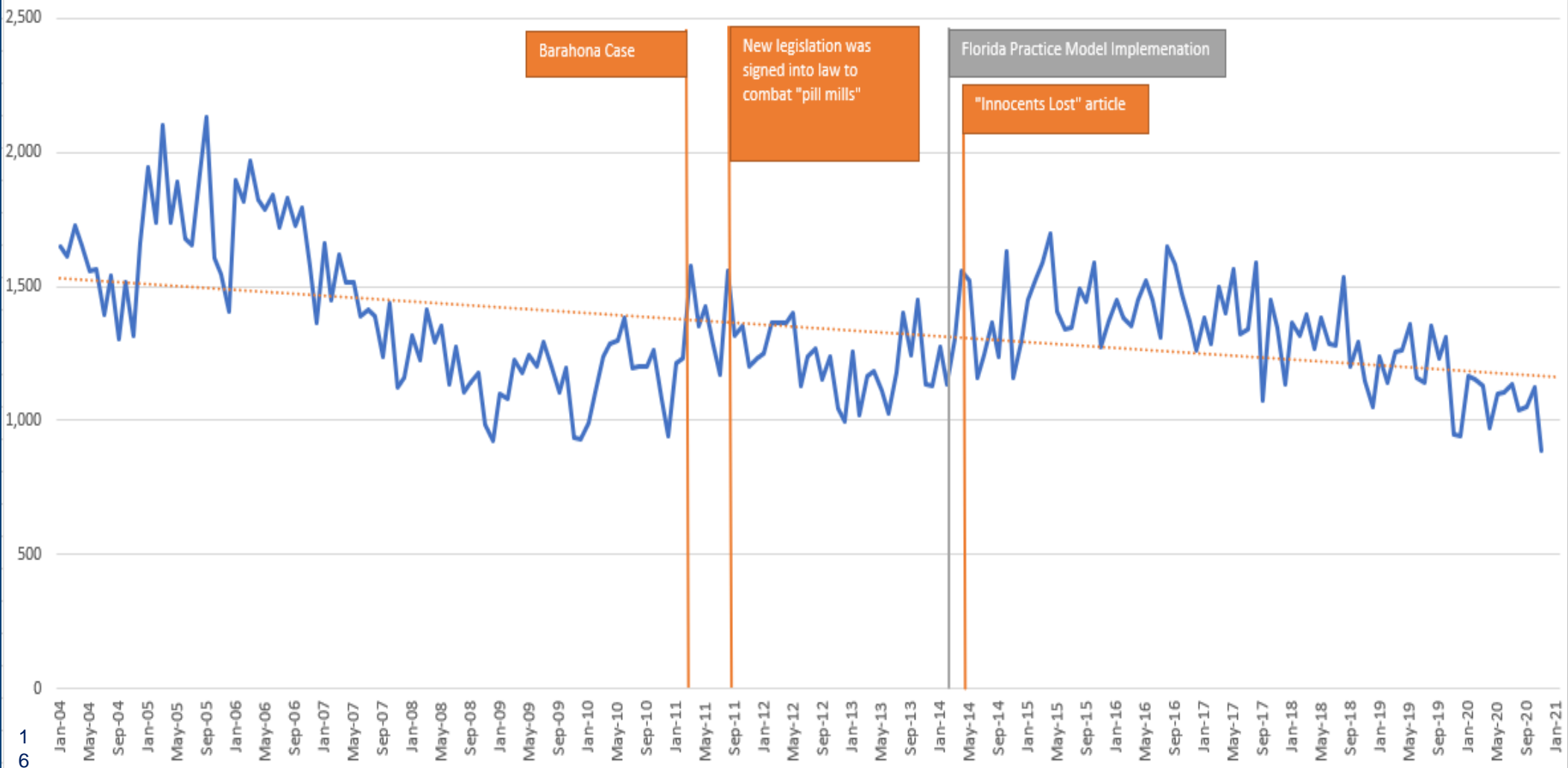
Children in Out-of-Home Care as of the Last Day of the Month



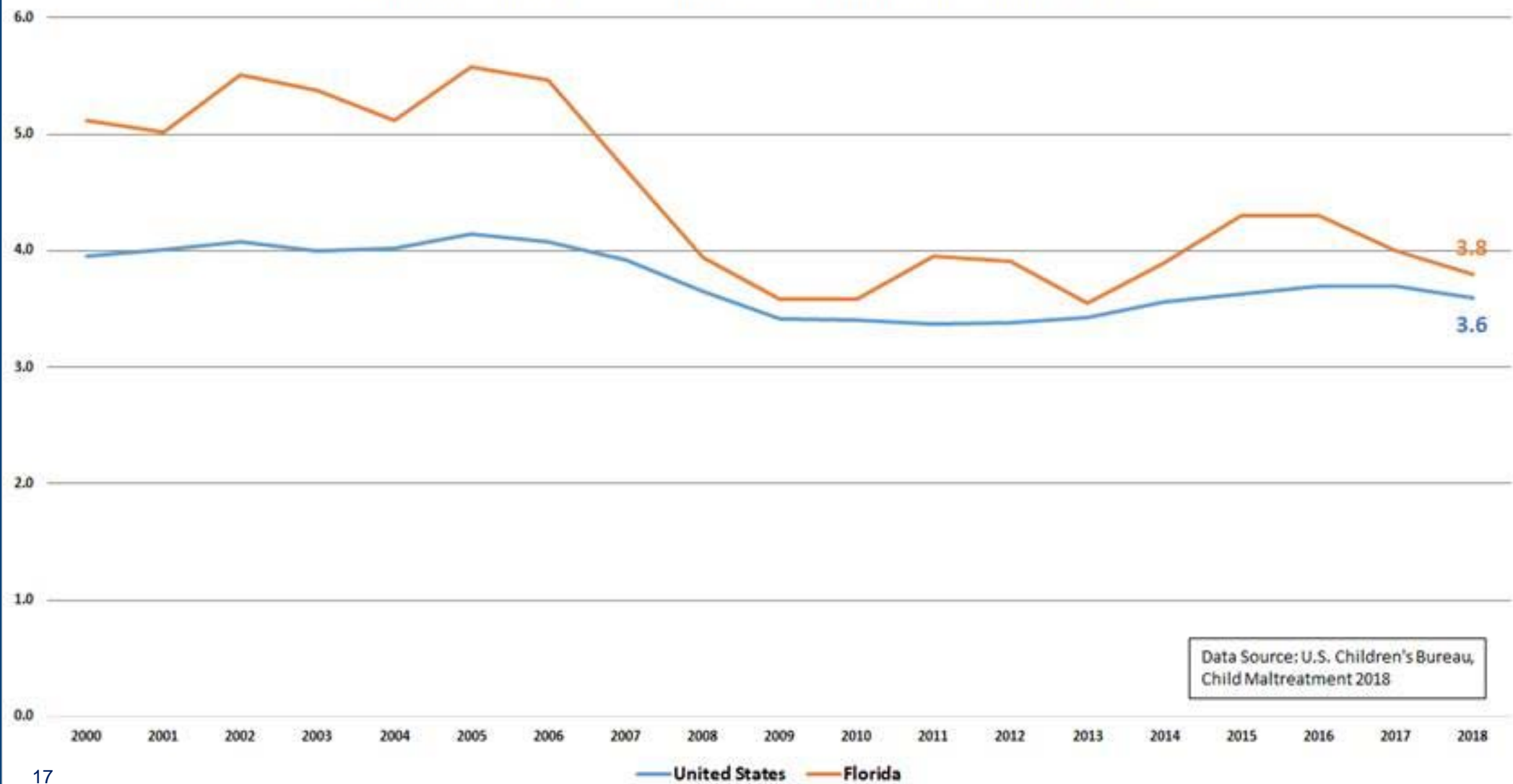
Out-of-Home Care, Removals and Discharges Nationally



of Removals by Month

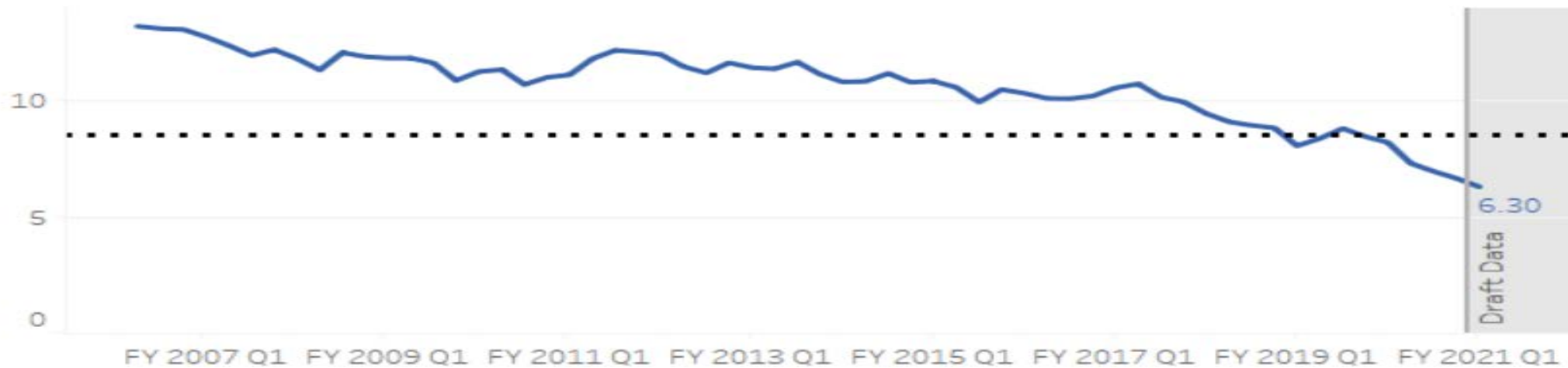


Children Entering Foster Care per 1,000 Children in General Population



Rate of Abuse per 100,000 Bed Days in Out-of-Home Care

Lower is better performance.



Rate of Abuse per 100,000 Bed Days During In-Home Services

Lower is better performance.



Percent NOT Re-Entering Care within Twelve Months

(Age(s): All | Month(s) to Re-Entry: n/a)

Dashed line indicates statewide target of 91.7% (higher is better performance).



Percent of Children NOT Abused w/in Twelve Months of Closure of Services

(Service Type(s): All | Months to Abuse: n/a)

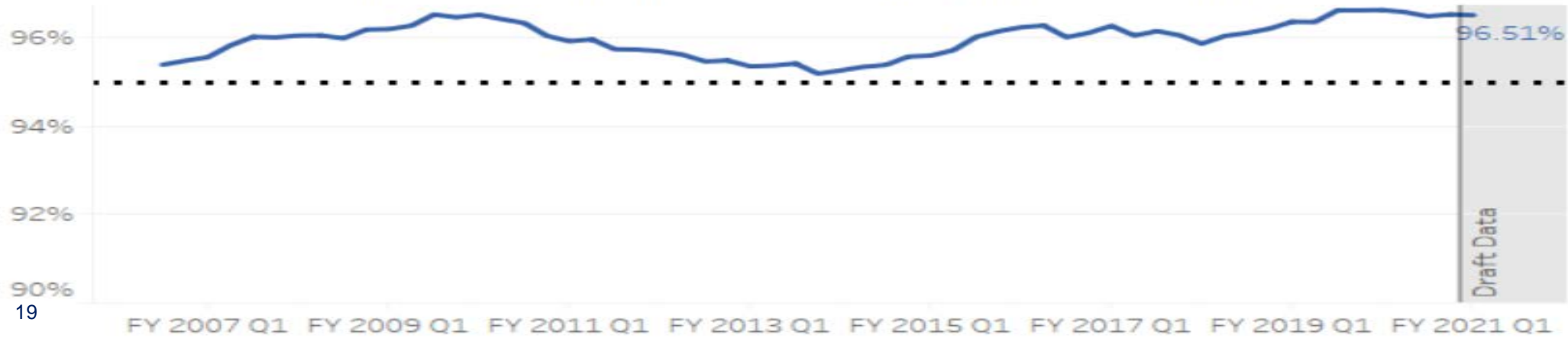
Higher is better performance.



Percent of Children NOT Abused w/in Six Months of Termination of Supervision

(Service Type(s): All | Months to Abuse: n/a)

Dashed line indicates statewide target of 95.0% (higher is better performance).



Media Articles: Case Reviews

- Quality Office Review
 - The DCF Quality Office reviewed the cases associated with the placements and collaborated with the Office of Child Welfare to review licensing histories and actions.
 - Reviews were conducted to determine policy compliance and correct decision making.



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Media Articles: Case Reviews

- Quality Office Review
 - Policies Reviewed
 - Foster Home Investigations
 - Foster Care Referrals
 - Foster Care Licensing
 - Exit Interviews
 - Case Management
 - Incident Management



Quality Office Findings

- Looked at 48 critical policy decisions for the placement outlined in the article.
 - 44% of the time DCF did not follow policy.
 - 60% of those decisions, DCF was not compliant.

DCF-FDLE Taskforce

- Direct result of the Rios case (2018)
 - Original allegations were brought forward in 2016, there were no disqualifying factors until 2018 that would have prevented additional foster placements within the home.
- Established to review sexual abuse cases within foster homes and developed recommendations for areas in need of improvement.
- First met in June 2019 and presented findings in October 2019.



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Florida Facts on Sexual Abuse Involving Foster Parents 2019-2020

Number of Foster Home Licenses

7,336 as of last day of FY19-20

Total Number of Calls Made to the Hotline = 303,759

Screened In for Investigation
186,906

Screened Out for Investigation
89,496

Number of Children Placed with Foster Parents

9,725 as of last day of FY19-20

Legend



Any Abuse Involving Foster Parents



Sexual Abuse Involving Foster Parents

1,043

Children with Allegations of Any Abuse Involving Foster Parents

92

Children with Allegations of Sexual Abuse Involving Foster Parents

Current Policy

- Requires immediate notification to law enforcement when the alleged harm is suspected to have been caused by FP.
- Requires all reports of sexual abuse to be referred to the Child Protection Team for assessment.
- Requires ongoing communication and collaboration between DCF and local FP licensing agency (CBC), and notifications to law enforcement/state attorney.
- Allows for restriction of FP's access to child pending outcome of investigation for up to 90 days without a judicial finding.

See s. 39.302, F.S.; 65C-29.004, F.A.C.; CFOP 175-12.



Investigations Lead to 3

Possible Findings



No Indicators 767 72

- When there is no credible evidence.



Not Substantiated 290 14

- When there is credible evidence, but not enough to support that the harm suffered was the result of abuse.



Verified Maltreatment 90 6

- When there is a preponderance of credible evidence that the specific harm was the result of abuse.

Data Analysis

- 65 of the 92 alleged victims of sexual abuse were reported by a professional reporter.
- 73% of alleged victims of sexual abuse were female.
- 83% of verified victims were female.

Age Group	No Indicators	Not Substantiated	Verified
0-5	35	1	0
6-12	19	5	5
13-17	18	8	1

Sexual Abuse Allegations Involving Foster Parents

Allegations

Calls to the Hotline* with Foster Parents as the Alleged Perpetrator				
Maltreatments	Intake Date			
	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Sexual Abuse - Sexual Battery	21	22	17	15
Sexual Abuse - Sexual Molestation	55	48	54	62

Verified Allegations

Verified Allegations with Foster Parents as the Alleged Perpetrator*				
Maltreatments	Intake Date			
	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Sexual Abuse - Sexual Battery	2	4	1	3
Sexual Abuse - Sexual Molestation	9	3	4	4

* Hotline intakes that included at least one allegation of sexual abuse. Multiple children could be included on a single intake. Each intake could include multiple calls to the Hotline.



Sexual Abuse Investigations

- Expansion of CIRRT (Critical Incident Rapid Response) Team and Process
 - Include a Coordinator specifically dedicated to sexual abuse in foster care, and specialists that would assist with the operational response to Regional staff during investigations.
 - Provide specific expertise in sexual abuse victimization, assessment, and trauma-informed care to improve outcomes, accuracy in decision-making, and adherence to policy and practice.
- Establishment of Special Investigation Unit (SIU)
 - Conduct all investigations involving allegations of child maltreatment in:
 - Licensed Foster Homes and Group Homes.
 - Employees of DCF, CBCs, and contracted case management agencies.
 - Unit would consist of a “core” team to be utilized for multidisciplinary staffings (CPT, FDLE, State Attorney’s offices, CBCs, licensing, child placing, behavioral health, etc.).



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Specific Concerns

- Children should not be placed in homes where abuse has been suspected or alleged.
 - Zero Tolerance Policy
 - Placement holds already occur in practice
 - DCF is drafting language for policy



Specific Concerns

- Following the finding of verified abuse in a foster home, there should be immediate follow up with children previously placed in the home.
 - Currently, CPIs and Law Enforcement coordinate to identify all potential child victims the alleged perpetrator has had access to in their role as a foster parent. Additionally, they determine who else may need to participate in a child protective assessment and/or forensic interview.
 - DCF-FDLE Task Force recommended codifying this in policy.



Specific Concerns

- Adults who have been accused of or charged with violent behavior should not be granted foster licenses.
 - Statute currently addresses violent behavior and egregious criminal behavior as disqualifiers.
 - Despite recent success with recruiting foster parents, the need for more quality foster parents is still present.

Specific Concerns

- Falsification of information on case files
 - This is unacceptable, results in termination.
 - The premise is that case loads are too high, forcing workers to cut corners.



Domestic Violence Update

- Before Passage of HB 1087 (2020)
 - DCF was statutorily required to contract with and provide federal/state funding to the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV).
 - In 2018, Florida media outlets published reports alleging exorbitant FCADV executive salaries while domestic violence shelters went understaffed and under-resourced.
 - In February 2020, Governor DeSantis directed the Chief Inspector General to conduct a review of FCADV's spending practices.



Domestic Violence Update

- After Passage of HB 1087 (2020)
 - Terminated FCADV's contract and assumed operational and oversight responsibilities.
 - Filed civil lawsuit against FCADV's officers and board of directors (currently in mediation).
 - Offered employment to all but two FCADV staff.
 - Amended contracts with all shelter providers to streamline funding and reporting requirements.
 - Established Executive Advisory Committee.
 - Transitioned 30+ employees and 140+ contracts to DCF.
 - Provided \$1.1m in non-recurring funds to shelters for COVID-related issues.
 - Began distributing regular shipments of PPE to shelters in early May.
 - Completed fiscal administration on FCADV side).
 - Preparing for re-procurement



Domestic Violence Update

- How did we get here?
 - Over time, DCF's Domestic Violence (DV) program office positions were nearly eliminated, impairing its ability to appropriately oversee the DV Program.
 - FCADV became increasingly resistant to providing detailed financial records.
 - FCADV's accounting practices were convoluted and in some instances, transactions were mischaracterized .
 - FCADV received funds for budgeted positions that remained vacant
 - Up to 40 percent at one point
 - Reports provided to DCF reflected expenditure of all budgeted funds in the salary category.



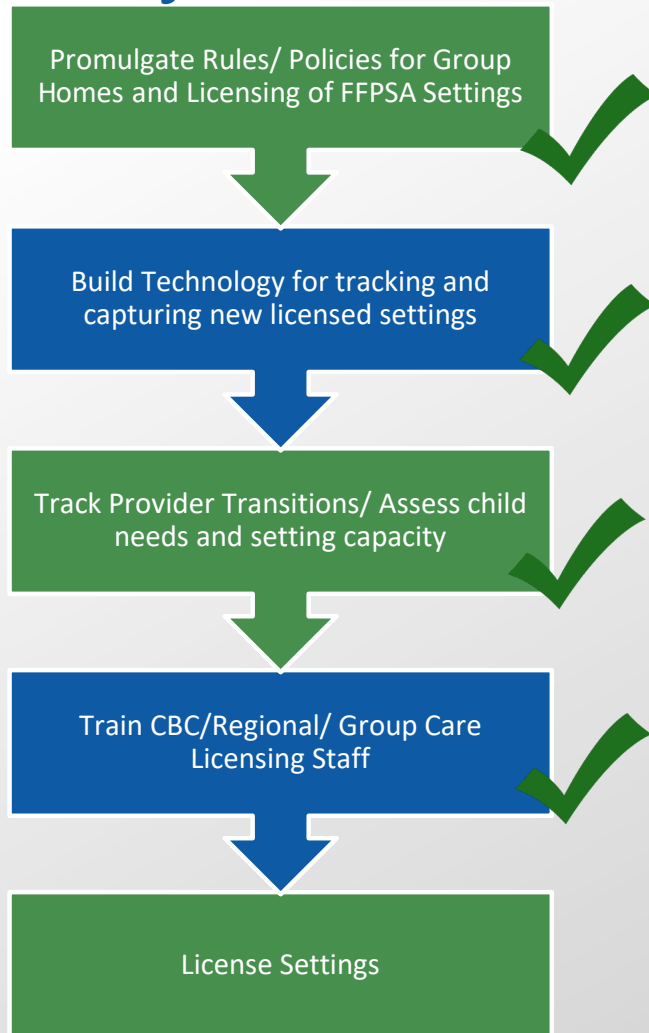
Family First Prevention Services Act Update

- Background
 - FFPSA was enacted on February 9, 2018, as part of the federal Bipartisan Budget Act.
 - It expanded use of federal Title IV-E child welfare funding to prevent entry into foster care and restrict funds for out-of-home care placements that are not a foster family home.
 - **Prevention Services**
 - Front end services provided to children at imminent risk of entering foster care; must be related to substance abuse, mental health, or parenting skills and approved by the federal government.
 - **Group Home Limitation**
 - Currently, reimbursement for group home services have no duration limit. Under new requirements, Title IV-E reimbursements will be limited to two weeks, unless the group home meets one of the specified settings:
 - » Supervised Independent Living
 - » Prenatal Postpartum or Parenting Supports
 - » Victims of or At-Risk of Sex Trafficking
 - » Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)



Family First Prevention Services Act Update

Placement Alignment
(Florida Deferred until Oct. 2021)



22,510 Children in OOHC 1752 Children in Congregate that will be impacted by FFPSA

Not Specified

Specified Settings



Licensed Residential Family-Based Treatment Facility



Supervised Independent Living (age 18+)



Prenatal Postpartum or Parenting Supports



Victims of or At Risk of Sex Trafficking



Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)

- Since the last census we have shifted over 200 kids to FFPSA specified settings or family-like settings (762 to 558).
- 21 % (373) are already in FFPSA specified setting or assessed therapeutic setting (Already Licensed).
- 22% (394) have been assessed for at-risk of sex trafficking - we have (1201 projected beds- No capacity gaps, no licensing barriers).
- 24% (427) have been assessed for QRTP (259 projected beds – We have a capacity gap and licensing barriers).
- 31% (558) have been assessed for transition, as they do not appear to align with FFPSA specified settings.



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Questions?



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