



CHARLIE CRIST  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

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### **Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council**

*~ The 32-member council will guide the policy for the Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection ~*

TALLAHASSEE — Governor Charlie Crist's Office of Adoption and Child Protection announced today the appointment of 32 members to its Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council. The Council will serve as the research arm for the office and is critical to Florida's efforts to prevent child abuse and promote adoption. The Council will assist with the development of 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 Council brings together a variety of key leaders involved in children's issues; including senior management from nine (9) state agencies, leaders from twenty-two (22) statewide and local organizations, and an adoptive parent. As a Council, the members will review, monitor and develop state and local planning efforts to empower communities to address the promotion of adoption and the prevention of child abuse, abandonment and neglect. These plans will focus on strengthening communities to provide for the well being of its families and their children. The state and local plans will be submitted to the Legislature and Governor. The Council will draw from the work of local planning teams, and will assist them with their local planning and implementation efforts.

Jim Kallinger, Florida's Chief Child Advocate, celebrated the Council's formation, saying "Prevention is the key to ensuring that all of Florida's children are raised in safe, nurturing homes supported by healthy communities. With the leadership assembled on this Council, Florida is poised to take the next steps in helping Florida ensure strong and healthy communities and families."

The Council appointees are below:

- Chairman Jim Kallinger, Chief Child Advocate, Executive Office of the Governor, Tallahassee
- Andrea Raasch, MSW, Licensed Clinical Care Director, Camelot Community Care Center, Greenacres
- Angela Orkin, J.D., Executive Director, Guardian ad Litem Office, Tallahassee

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- Barbara Foster, Ph.D., Deputy Chief Child Advocate, Executive Office of the Governor, Tallahassee
- Barbara Griffin, Deputy Director, Agency for Workforce Innovation, Tallahassee
- Cassandra Jenkins, M.S., Assistant Secretary for Prevention & Victims Services, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Tallahassee
- Christie Ferris, Director, Prevent Child Abuse Florida, Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, Tallahassee
- Cyndee Odom, Adoptive Mother, Tallahassee
- George Hinchliffe, Executive Director, Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison, & Taylor Counties, Greenville
- George Sheldon, J.D., Assistant Secretary for Operations, Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee
- Georgia "Joy" Bowen, M.Ed., Vice President, Florida School Boards Assoc., Tallahassee
- Graci McGillicuddy, Community Philanthropist, Sarasota
- Iris Wilson, Ed.S, K-12 Chancellor, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee
- Judge Daniel Dawson, J.D., Circuit Court Judge, 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Orlando
- Julie Hurst, MPA, Executive Director, Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center, Niceville
- Ken Littlefield, Executive Director, Statewide Advocacy Council
- Leonel "Leo" Mesa, Psy.D., President, Reflections Wellness Center, Miami Lakes
- Lilli Copp, Director, Head Start State Collaboration Office, Tallahassee
- Major Connie Shingledecker, Investigative Bureau Chief, Manatee County Sheriff's Office, Bradenton
- Marcie Biddleman, M.A., Executive Director, Heartland for Children, Bartow
- Marilyn "Bunny" Finney, Brevard Community Alliance, Merritt Island
- Mark Perlman, M.A., President and Founder, Center for Growth & Development, Sarasota
- Matthew Claps, MSW, Senior Management Analyst, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Tallahassee
- Mike Haney, Ph.D., Division Director for Prevention and Intervention, Children's Medical Services, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee
- Nancy Crawford, Executive Director, Kids House of Seminole, Sanford
- Patricia Nellius-Guthrie, Ph.D., CEO, Community Based Care of Brevard, Melbourne
- Peter Gorski, M.D., M.P.A., Director of Program Impact and Innovation, Children's Board of Hillsborough County, Tampa
- Sandy Neidert, MSW, Senior Court Operations Consultant, Office of the State Court Administrator, Tallahassee
- Sheila Hopkins, Associate for Social Concerns/Respect Life, Florida Catholic Conference, Tallahassee
- Suzanne Gellens, MS, Executive Director, Early Childhood Association of Florida, Tampa
- Terry Thomas, Special Agent, Crimes Against Children, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee

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- Tina Hayes, Ph.D., Director of Department Initiatives, Florida Department of Corrections, Tallahassee

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