

ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2019, members participated and integrated activities within their local areas to align with the various state initiatives. Quarterly meetings of the Council also provided a platform to highlight topics and efforts to support state initiatives. The information below provides a summary of those activities.

Child Welfare

- Member Calvin Martin participated the following efforts through the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program:
 - *Trauma Informed Advocacy Workgroup*- reviewed credible and relevant information on trauma, GAL policies and procedures, and made recommendations to align the program's representation with what experts in child development and trauma have determined best serves children.
 - *Fostering Futures Training Initiative*- focused on advocacy and mentoring for older youth in the child welfare system by providing them with trained volunteers to serve as a significant adult in their lives and help them transition to adulthood. Through these efforts, more youth were promoted to the next grade level and did not have involvement with law enforcement.
 - *Race Equity Education*- implemented strategies to support volunteer recruitment efforts and offer additional training options focused on situational and generational poverty, cultural competencies and implicit bias, LGBTQ+ advocacy and targeted community outreach. Mr. Martin was invited and served as a panelist for the Center for Child Welfare at FSU's symposium on Race Equity.
 - *FAWL in Love with GAL*- utilized pro bono attorneys to mentor teenage girls aging out of the foster care system by offering guidance, sharing of concerns and receiving legal and perspectives in a non-threatening environment.
 - *Transition to post-secondary education*- worked to provide experienced volunteer mentors for foster youth who are/will be enrolled in a state college or university to assist with campus resource identification, college and workforce readiness towards future professions/life aspirations. Also worked with academic institutional partners to provide campus liaisons as a resource to volunteer mentors, and to create a "culture of college" for younger youth.
- Member Gerard Duncan coordinated a focus group through the *Innovative Dads* fatherhood group where participants learned about adverse childhood experiences (ACE), took the ACE survey, and identified ways to address and prevent trauma within themselves and their families.
- Member Rolando Gonzalez continued implementation of the *Share Your Heart* program that utilizes volunteer chaplains to provide food, clothing, emotional and spiritual support to individuals or families identified in crisis or distress. Responded to referrals from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to serve and support families that are, or at-risk of, involved in the child welfare system. Worked with DCF- Suncoast Region to bring the program to Circuit 20.
- Member Rosby Glover participated in the following efforts through Mt. Bethel Human Services Corporation:
 - Facilitated 10 adoption finalizations through the foster care program in Circuits 15, 17, and 19.
 - Conducted four community workshops on ACEs and Trauma Informed Care.

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- Provided insight and perspectives at six child welfare Racial Equity meetings in Broward County.
- Member Reno Zunz participated in the following efforts through Idlewild Baptist Church:
 - Worked closely with Christian adoption agencies, pregnancy care centers and utilized the church's adoption fund to help families with the expenses of adoption.
 - Offered Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) on a quarterly basis for families and hosted an "Empowered to Connect" simulcast to support families considering adoption.
 - Provided licensing classes, TBRI, and other training to support foster families and utilized Care Communities to wrap around and support foster families.
- Council members disseminated information and encouraged support from local faith and community organizations to support public awareness topics throughout the year to include Child Abuse Prevention Month in April and Adoption Month in November.

Criminal Justice

- Member Gerard Duncan participated in the following efforts:
 - Worked with Project Youthbuild to provide mentoring services, develop pre-apprentice skills and job readiness in the areas of carpentry, electrical, plumbing, flooring and painting; community impact projects, and leadership skills for youth and young adults who are at-risk of, or have been involved with, the criminal justice system.
 - Facilitated weekly transition classes in partnership with the Santa Fe Bridges of America and Compass 100 for 30 males utilizing a Department of Correction's curriculum.
- Member Marcus Smith worked with the Department of Juvenile Justice to host the *2019 Restoring Hope Training Summit* to bring together faith and community partners to work towards reducing juvenile delinquency and supporting youth.
- Member Gretchen Kerr created *ReNEW*, an empowerment program to serve substance involved incarcerated women. It is an intensive eight-ten week in cell program with a structured schedule that provides residents an opportunity to learn more about themselves, their identity beyond their addiction, receive substance abuse curriculum, enrichment classes such as art therapy, trauma-based work and movies that enhance the core *ReNEW* curriculum. It is a rigorous program - residents attend classes five days per week beginning at 7am with some days not ending until 8:30pm. *ReNEW* staff is based in the dorm to increase opportunities to build trust, hold one-on-one sessions, and observe the women as they work their program. Most classes have homework and receive assignments to complete over the weekend. The program is facilitated by two staff and 10-12 volunteers per 16 residents.
- Member Reno Zunz participated in the following efforts through Idlewild Baptist Church:
 - Partnered with the United States Institute Against Human Trafficking to raise awareness and promoted "Traffick-Free Workplaces" through the community.
 - Through collaboration with One More Child – Hope Street to provide diversion and civil citation services for youth.
- At the start of the 2019 Legislative Session, members participated in *Traffick Stop 2019* to support efforts to raise awareness and end human trafficking in Florida.

Disaster Planning

- Member Rolando Gonzalez provided Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) trainings to build capacity in support the Miami-Dade Emergency Management Department.
- Member Rosby Glover through Mt. Bethel Human Services Corporation prepared and disseminated food baskets to families impacted by hurricanes.

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- Since the start of hurricane season in Florida, Council members disseminated information on disaster preparedness and recovery from the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Education

- Member Rolando Gonzalez continued implementation of the *Share Your Heart* program with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to respond to school-based referrals for children, families and school staff who are identified as in crisis or distress. All referrals are vetted through the District's School Police Department prior to delivering services.
- Member Reno Zunz participated in the following efforts through Idlewild Baptist Church:
 - Offered tutoring services at six schools in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties to improve readiness and achievement.
 - Provided meal distribution at the Sulpher Springs Elementary/Middle School and coordinated a Hope 5K event to raise funds for partner schools.
- Member Rosby Glover through Mt. Bethel Human Services Corporation provided after school care at Lauderdale Lakes Middle School, mentoring/tutoring to students at Parkway Middle School and allocated staff to serve as an Innovation Zones representative at North Fork Elementary.
- During the month of September, Council members assisted in promoting *Dads Take Your Child to School Day* through the Department of Education.

Family/Community Initiatives

- Chair Trenia Cox participated in the following events through the Florida Dream Center:
 - Expanded the Adopt-A-Block initiative that utilizes community volunteers to provide community beautification, home appliances and other resources to families in the areas of Lealman, South St. Petersburg and Tarpon Springs.
 - Provided food through the Mobile Pantry throughout the Pinellas County.
 - Provided case management services to victims of human trafficking and work readiness skills.
 - Continued collaboration with the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County and Eckerd Kids Community Alternatives to host the F.O.C.U.S. (Family Oriented Concepts Unified to Serve) Symposium. This symposium brings together faith and community organizations to increase awareness and access to needed services in order to build the resiliency of individuals and families resulting in stronger and healthier communities.
- Member Richard Albertson continued to advance efforts to promote healthy marriages and relationships throughout Florida. Through the <http://usmarriage.org> website, encouraged faith and community organizations to utilize the platform to promote their free trainings/meetings to strengthen relationships and support families.
- Members Gerard Duncan and Rolando Gonzalez partnered with Farm Share to coordinate/assist with community food distributions to support families in need.
- Member Scott George worked closely with CareerSource Central Florida to provide educational opportunities for faith organizations to learn more about services available, organized a meeting at First Baptist Orlando to connect faith organizations to CareerSource, and collaborated with Pastor George Cope with Vision Orlando to promote services and resources available through CareerSource.

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- Member Pam Olsen led prayer activities at the state capitol with legislators, pastors and citizens throughout the year and coordinated the 25th annual National Day of Prayer that featured Governor DeSantis and other state leaders to prayer for our state and nation.
- Member Rosby Glover through Mt. Bethel Human Services Corporation operated a community resource center to provide referrals for housing, furniture, clothing, employment and food to over 5,000 clients.
- Members continued to support the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' efforts to enlist organizations to serve as summer meal sponsors and sites to reduce the number of children who do not have access to healthy foods during the summer.

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