



State Advisory Council Briefing and Membership

Background: The federal government made funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to support states in the creation of Advisory Councils as mandated in the Head Start Reauthorization Act 2007. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) solicited applications to carry out the activities of the State Advisory Councils. This funding is a non-competitive, collaborative, three-year grant to assist states in establishing an Advisory Council and to initiate creative infrastructure improvement projects. Florida was eligible and received **\$4,983,079** to accomplish the proposed scope of work.

Purpose: The Florida State Advisory Council will lead the development of a high quality, comprehensive system of early childhood education that ensures statewide coordination and collaboration among the wide array of early childhood education programs and services in the State, including Head Start, child care and prekindergarten.

Federal Requirements: To meet the requirements of the grant as described in section 642B of the Act, the State Advisory Councils shall accomplish the following:

1. Conduct a statewide needs assessment;
2. Develop recommendations on increasing participation in child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;
3. Develop recommendations on the development of a unified data collection systems for public early childhood and development programs and services;
4. Develop recommendations on statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood education teachers;
5. Assess the capacity and effectiveness of institutes of higher education supporting the development of early childhood educators; and
6. Other activities.

Goal: Through partnership with across agencies and organizations that work on behalf of young children and their families, the goal of the Advisory Council is that at the end of three years, Florida will have a stronger, more responsive, and more integrated early childhood system. Children and families will receive more coordinated, responsive services and funding will support these priorities.



1. **Brittany Birken** **Chair, CEO, Florida Children’s Services Council**
2. **Cyndee Odom** **Director, Governor’s Office of Adoption and Child Protection**
3. **Matt Guse** **Interim Director, Office of Early Learning, Agency for Workforce Innovation**
4. **Stuart Greenberg** **Executive Director, Just Read, Florida! and Office of Early Learning, Department of Education**
5. **Bob Chilmonik** **Representative of local educational agencies**
6. **Heather Fiorentino** **Superintendent, District School Board of Pasco County**
7. **VACANT** **Representative of institutions of higher education**
8. **Lucia Zaikov** **Owner, Helping Hands and Peppermint Tree Schools**
9. **Louis Finney, Jr.** **Director, Hillsborough County Head Start Board of County Commissioners**
10. **James Finnegan** **Administrator, East Coast Migrant Head Start Project**
11. **Lilli Copp** **Director, Head Start Collaboration Office**
12. **Lynn Marie Firehammer** **Bureau Chief, Children's Medical Services – Early Steps, Florida Department of Health**
13. **David Sofferin** **Asst. Sec., Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Department of Children and Families**
14. **Sandra Murman** **Consultant**
15. **Noelle Bee** **Military Child Care Liaison, United States Department of Defense / National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies**
16. **Linda Lanier** **CEO/Executive Director, Jacksonville Children's Commission**
17. **Susan Main** **Representative of the Association of Early Learning Coalitions**
18. **Deborah Russo** **Director of Child Care Services, Department of Children and Families**