



2018 LEGISLATIVE IMPACT REPORT



#WEDoGOOD

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Northeast Region Board Members and Staff with Rep. Cyndi Stevenson



CHS Advocates Making an IMPACT

Special thanks to each of YOU - CHS State and Division Board Members, Staff, Advocates and our CHS Lobbyist Team for your tireless efforts throughout the 2018 Legislative Session.

Without your determination and advocacy to legislators we would not have been so successful this Session. We thank you and look to your continued advocacy presence in the future.

For copies of this Report, legislative priorities and advocacy information please see the Advocacy Page of the CHS website at www.chsfl.org/advocate.

If you have any questions regarding this Report please contact Summer Pfeiffer, Vice President of Governmental Relations, at 850.339.5463 or Summer.Pfeiffer@chsfl.org.



CHS Northeast Region and Rep. Clay Yarborough



CHS Greater Lakeland Board Members and Staff presenting Sen. Kelli Stargel with Legislator of the Year Award

2018 CHS Senate Pages



Special thanks to our Host Families



We couldn't do this without YOU!

2018 Session Statistics

Legislative Statistics:

TOTAL Bills Filed <small>(doesn't include House budget bills)</small>	1,842
TOTAL Bills Passed	249
Success Rate of Bills Filed	13.5%

TOTAL Budget Bills filed	1210
TOTAL Budget Bills Passed	599
TOTAL Budget Bills Vetoed by Governor	204
TOTAL Budget Bills Final Adoption	395
Success Rate of Budget Bills	32.64%

CHS Advocacy Social Media Posts Statistics:

January – March 2018

- #CHSAdvocacy was tweeted 166 times and appeared on Facebook 12 times
- Advocacy tweets originating from @HelpFLKids appeared in 20,977 news feeds organically.
- Advocacy tweets originating from @HelpFLKids was supported over 500 times with likes, replies, and retweets.



2018 Session

Bills That Passed

Excerpts from the 2018 House and Senate Session Summaries

HB 281/SB 522: Incarcerated Parents

Sponsored by: Rep. Williams/Sen. Bean

HB 281 (Chapter 2018-45, L.O.F.) requires that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) include incarcerated parents of dependent children in the case planning process. Case planning is required by law when a child is removed from his or her home due to abuse or neglect. Based on input from all parties, DCF and the community based care lead agency prepare a written document called a case plan for each child dependency case. Community based care agencies are regional, private entities that provide or contract for child welfare services for dependent children. The case planning process determines the ultimate goal for the child's permanent living arrangement, known as the permanency goal, and the steps the parents must take such as completing certain tasks or receiving certain services. These tasks must be completed by a certain date to achieve the child's permanency goal. When a parent is incarcerated, completing the case plan is more difficult.

The bill intends to improve the ability of incarcerated parents to complete case plans by requiring DCF to:

- Consider any limitations posed by the correctional facility where the parent is incarcerated when developing case plans;
- Determine what services and resources may be available to incarcerated parents and, if reunification with a child is the goal, proactively assist the parent in arranging for services from within jail or prison. If reunification is not the goal, DCF must still include a list of services available from the jail or prison in the case plan; and
- Amend existing case plans when a parent is incarcerated or released from confinement.

The incarcerated parent is responsible for complying with the case plan as well as meeting the requirements of his or her correctional facility.

These provisions were approved by the Governor and take effect July 1, 2018.

Vote: Senate 36-0; House 112-0

Potential Impact: The new addition of incarcerated parents to the case plan will provide greater opportunity for parents to be involved and receive supports while in prison to successfully complete case plan.



HB 417/SB 1212: Public Records/CAC and CPT Personnel
Sponsored by: Rep. Jenne/Sen. Book

HB 417 exempts the home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current and former employees and their family members of a child advocacy center from public records requirements. Child advocacy centers are community-based, child-focused facilities where children alleged to be victims of abuse or neglect are interviewed, receive medical exams, therapy, and other critical services in a child friendly environment. A variety of professionals assist in the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse cases.

The bill also exempts the personal information of current or former child protection team members and their family members from public records requirements. A child protection team is a local medical multidisciplinary group that works with the Department of Children and Families and some sheriff's offices in cases of physical abuse or neglect or sexual abuse of a child. The teams provide expertise in evaluating alleged child abuse and neglect, assessing risk and protective factors, and providing recommendations for interventions to protect children. The bill also exempts names of spouses and children, as well as places of employment and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by children of these personnel.

The bill includes a constitutionally required public necessity statement. The exemption will be repealed on October 2, 2023, pursuant to the Open Government Sunset Review Act unless it is reenacted.

Approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2018.

Vote: Senate 36-0; House 114-0

Potential Impact: The new provision will provide a protection for front line staff and their families by exempting their personal information from being accessible to the public.

HB 449/SB 720: Children's Initiatives
Sponsored by: Rep. Stafford/Sen. Young

HB 449 creates the Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise Zone in Tampa and the Overtown Children and Youth Coalition in Miami as state recognized children's initiatives.

Children's initiatives are modeled after the nationally known Harlem Children's Zone. They are limited geographic areas with severely disadvantaged physical and social infrastructure, such as high crime, low educational outcomes, or poor housing. These factors result in fewer opportunities for successful child development.

Children's initiatives aim to create a community-based service network that develops, coordinates, and provides quality education, accessible health care, youth development programs, opportunities for employment, and safe and affordable housing for children and families.



The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida reviews and designates requests from local governments for neighborhoods to be recognized as children’s initiatives under s. 409.147, F.S. The Ounce of Prevention Fund has designated five initiatives in Florida, including both the Tampa and Overtown initiatives.

The bill provides that the initiatives are 10-year efforts and are designed to serve an area large enough to include all necessary components of community life, but small enough to reach every member of the neighborhood who wishes to participate.

Approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2018.

Vote: : Senate 36-0; House 112-0

Potential Impact: These child focused community designations include the Sulphur Springs area in Tampa which currently has a Community Partnership School. Additional resources and funding opportunities can be attained for a long period of time to ensure real change and impact can be achieved.

**HB 1073/SB 1292: Department of Financial Services
Sponsored by: Rep. Hager/Sen. Stargel**

HB 1073 made numerous changes to financial policy but the worthy change for our interest includes:

- Requires transition plans of youth aging out of foster care to provide information on the financial literacy curriculum offered by the DFS and requires young adults who have aged out of foster care and who request aftercare services to receive information about the financial literacy curriculum;

Approved by the Governor, provisions take effect July 1, 2018.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 113-0

Potential Impact: The purpose of this added language to statute is to provide an increase in financial knowledge for our youth in foster care. DFS is concerned that many youth in foster care or who have aged out of foster care do not possess the financial skills to make sound decisions for their futures.

**HB 1079/SB 1360: Child Welfare
Sponsored by: Rep. Burton/Sen. Broxson**

CS/CS/HB 1079 makes a number of changes designed to improve the child welfare system.



When a household is under investigation for child abuse, the bill allows the Department of Children and Families to add to that investigation any child born into the home if the department determines that the family cannot safely care for the other children in the home.

The bill gives flexibility to the Department of Children and Families for fingerprinting a person with a significant disability in a household being considered as a prospective placement for a child in out-of-home care. In such cases, the department does not have to fingerprint the household member to conduct a national check of criminal history, but must still complete a level 1 background screening for state criminal history.

The bill requires parents involved in a dependency case to provide current contact information. The court must consider how well the parent has completed the case plan and how often the parent visits the child in dependency proceedings.

The bill establishes the Guardianship Assistance Program within the Department of Children and Families as an option for relatives and non-relative caregivers. The new program is to be available July 1, 2019 and is in addition to the existing relative caregiver program and licensure as a foster home. Caregivers under the Guardianship Assistance Program must be licensed by the state and will receive higher monthly payments than the relative caregiver program, but less than foster care payments. The department may waive certain licensing requirements for families in the Guardianship Assistance Program. The bill provides definitions, specifies eligibility criteria that must be met to receive payments, provides for a \$4,000 annual payment, and specifies criteria that must be met for a young adult to continue receiving assistance to the age of 21. Unlike young adults in other licensed care, the bill does not provide postsecondary benefits such as per diem payments when attending school, for those in the Guardianship Assistance Program.

The bill adds two federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act requirements relating to background screening requirements for child care personnel. Child care licensing and employee background rescreening requirements are administered by the Department of Children and Families. The change will require the department to use out-of-state criminal history records results for the past five years and adds drug offenses to the list of disqualifying offenses in Chapter 893 for child care personnel. The bill amends child care licensing statutes to require child care providers to give parents information on the dangers of leaving a child unattended in a vehicle. Child care providers must also post this information in their facilities.

Effective January, 1, 2019, the bill extends adoption assistance payments to families for children who are older than 18 but less than age 21. Such payments are funded by federal sources to encourage the adoption of children from the child welfare system. In order for the family to receive the payments, the young adult must be working or enrolled in school, unless they are unable to participate in these activities due to a disability.

Residential treatment facilities such as crisis stabilization units, residential treatment facilities, and residential treatment centers for children and adolescents or hospitals who care for a child victim of commercial sex exploitation, must meet certain requirements set for safe houses or safe foster homes. The bill eliminates the requirement that residential treatment facilities or hospitals separate child victims of commercial sexual exploitation from children with other needs. In addition, such facilities will no longer need meet the requirement for awake staff members on duty 24 hours a day. Other licensing requirements regarding awake staff would still apply.



The bill revises the allocation formula used to distribute additional funding to community-based care lead agencies. The changes will increase the weight given to the provision of family support services and the workload from the child abuse hotline. The weight of the number of children in out-of-home care, in-home care, and the portion of children in care is reduced. The amount allocated to all community-based care lead agencies is increased while the amount to address funding inequities is decreased.

Finally, the bill directs the Legislature's Division of Law Revision and Information to prepare a reviser's bill for the 2019 session to capitalize each word of the term "child protection team" in the Florida Statutes.

Approved by the Governor and will take effect July 1, 2018.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 114-0

Potential Impact: This legislation establishes the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) in Florida is part of the strategy plan as the state's response to preparing for the expiration of the Title IVE Waiver (September 2019). The Program won't begin until July 1, 2019. CBC Allocation formula is modified for core services funding only. 70% of new core services funding will be distributed to all CBCs and 30% of new funding will only go to CBCs that are funded below the equitable share. All CBCs agreed to the changes.

HB 1435/SB590: Child Welfare
Sponsored by: Rep. Perez/Sen. Garcia

CS/CS/HB 1435 makes a number of changes designed to improve the use and support of relative and nonrelative caregivers for children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect.

Subject to available resources, the bill authorizes the Department of Children and Families, certain county sheriff's offices, and community based care lead agencies to establish family finding programs. In some areas of the state, child abuse investigations are conducted by the sheriff. Family finding programs are to better identify relatives that may become caregivers for children of family members who are placed in out-of-home care. Community based care lead agencies are regional entities under contract with the Department of Children and Families to provide child welfare services.

Subject to available resources, the bill authorizes community based care lead agencies to establish a kinship navigator program to provide assistance to relatives and nonrelatives who are caring for children in out-of-home care. Such assistance may include providing eligibility and enrollment information for available benefits, relevant training, knowledge relating to custody options, help in finding legal services, and general outreach.

The bill requires the court to make a determination relating to a dependent child's enrollment in child care, early education, and preschool records for children under school age at each judicial hearing.



The bill clarifies a provision in the Rilya Wilson Act that requires children under school age who are in out-of-home care to continue enrollment in child care. Caregivers who stay home all day or work less than fulltime are not required to keep the child in child care. The bill also provides for educational stability and transitions in educational settings for children under school age.

Approved by the Governor, the bill has an effective date of July 1, 2018.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 115-0

Potential Impact: The Legislature’s intent is to focus more resources and opportunities for relatives and nonrelative caregivers to take care of children who have been removed. This legislation encourages implementation of family finding and kinship care programs. The legislation clarifies current law that the court can grant exceptions for infants through 3 years of age to not attend a child care school 5 days a week if the caregiver stays at home or works part time and it would be in the best interest of the child.

**SB 7026: Public Safety
Sponsored by: Senate Rules**

The bill (Chapter 2018-3, L.O.F.) comprehensively addresses the crisis of gun violence, including but not limited to, gun violence on school campuses. The Legislature intends to address this crisis by providing law enforcement and the courts with the tools to enhance public safety by temporarily restricting firearm possession by a person who is undergoing a mental health crisis and when there is evidence of a threat of violence, and by promoting school safety and enhanced coordination between education and law enforcement entities at the state and local level.

In the area of mental health, the bill:

- Authorizes a law enforcement officer who is taking a person into custody for an involuntary examination under the Baker Act to seize and hold a firearm or ammunition in the person’s possession and to seek the voluntary surrender of other firearms or ammunition kept in the residence.
- Provides that the firearms or ammunition seized or voluntarily surrendered must be available for return no longer than 24 hours after the person taken into custody can document that he or she is no longer subject to involuntary examination and has been released or discharged or discharged from any inpatient or involuntary outpatient treatment provided or ordered and does not have a risk protection order against them or is the subject of a firearm disability.
- Prohibits a person who has been adjudicated mentally defective or who has been committed to a mental institution from owning or possessing a firearm until a court orders otherwise.
- Creates a process for a law enforcement officer or law enforcement agency to petition a court for a risk protection order to temporarily prevent persons who are at high risk of harming themselves or others from possessing firearms or ammunition when a person poses a significant danger to himself or herself or others, including significant danger as a result of a mental health crisis or violent behavior.

- Allows a court to issue a risk protection order for up to 12 months and requires the surrender of all firearms and ammunition if a risk protection order is issued.
- Provides a process for a risk protection order to be vacated or extended by the court.

The bill provides the following in the area of gun safety:

- Requires a three-day waiting period between the purchase and delivery of a firearm or until the background check is completed, whichever is later.
- Provides exceptions of the three-day waiting period for concealed weapons permit holder, and for the purchase of firearms other than handguns, an exception for:
 - Individuals who have completed a 16-hour hunter safety course and possess a hunter safety certification card;
 - Persons who are exempt from the hunter safety course requirements and hold a valid Florida hunting license; or
 - Law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and servicemembers.
- Prohibits a person under 21 years of age from purchasing a firearm and a licensed firearm dealer, importer, and manufacturer, from selling a firearm, except in the case of a member of the military, or a law enforcement or correctional officer when purchasing a rifle or shotgun.
- Prohibits a bump-fire stock from being imported, transferred, distributed, sold, keeping for sale, offering for sale, possessing, or giving away within the state beginning October 1, 2018.

The bill improves school safety through the following provisions:

- Establishes the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission (commission) to investigate system failures in the Parkland school shooting and prior mass violence incidents, and develop recommendations for system improvements. An initial report from the commission is due to the Governor and the Legislature by January 1, 2019; and the commission is scheduled to repeal on July 1, 2023.
- Codifies the Office of Safe Schools within the Florida Department of Education (DOE) which will serve as a central repository for the best practices, training standards, and compliance regarding school safety and security.
- Permits a sheriff to establish a Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises. The bill allows school districts to decide whether to participate in the school guardian program if it is available in their county. A school guardian must complete 132 hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training, 12 hours of diversity training, pass a psychological evaluation, and initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests. No teacher will be required to participate. In fact, the legislation provides that personnel that are strictly classroom teachers with no other responsibilities cannot participate, with specified exceptions.
- Requires each district school board and school district superintendent to cooperate with law enforcement agencies to assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility.
- Requires each district school board to:

- Designate a school administrator who completes the required training within the specified timeframe as the school safety specialist for the district to serve as the district’s primary point of public contact for public school safety functions.
 - Designate a threat assessment team at each school, and requires the team to operate under the district school safety specialist’s direction. The bill requires the threat assessment team to consult with law enforcement when a student exhibits a pattern of behavior, based upon previous acts or the severity of an act that would pose a threat to school safety.
 - Formulate and prescribe policies and procedures, in consultation with the appropriate public safety agencies, for emergency drills for hostage and active shooter situations and incorporate procedures to address active shooter situations in the model emergency management and emergency preparedness procedures.
 - Requires each school safety specialist to coordinate with appropriate public safety agencies that are designated as the first responders to a school’s campus to tour such campus once every 3 years and provide recommendations related to school safety.
- Requires the DOE to contract for the development of a Florida Safe School Assessment Tool to be used by each school district and public school in conducting security assessments to identify threats and vulnerabilities.
 - Requires the DOE to establish evidence-based youth mental health awareness and assistance training program to help school personnel identify and understand the signs of emotional disturbance, mental illness, and substance use disorders and provide such personnel with the skills to help a person who is experiencing or developing an emotional disturbance, mental health, or substance abuse problem.
 - Creates the mental health assistance allocation within the Florida Education Finance Program to provide funding to assist school districts in establishing or expanding school-based mental health care.
 - Clarifies that the cost per student station does not include specified costs related to improving school safety.

The bill also:

- Prohibits a person from making, posting, or transmitting a threat to conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism.
- Requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to contract for community action treatment teams to provide behavioral health and support services.
- Requires the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to procure a mobile app that would allow students and the community to relay information anonymously concerning unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or criminal activities or threats. The students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School recommended that the program be named “FortifyFL.”

The bill includes, but is not limited to, the following appropriations for the proposals discussed above:

- Over \$69 million to the DOE to fund the mental health assistance allocation;

- \$1 million for the design and construction of a memorial honoring those who lost their lives on February 14, 2018, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.
- Over \$25 million for replacing building 12 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.
- Over \$67 million for sheriff's offices who decide to establish a school guardian program.
- Over \$97 million to aid for the safe school allocation.
- Over \$98 million to implement a grant program for improving the physical security of school buildings.
- \$400,000 for the "FortifyFL" mobile app.
- \$18.3 million to the DCF for additional mobile crisis teams to ensure reasonable access among all counties.

These provisions were approved by the Governor and take effect on March 9, 2018, unless otherwise provided.

Vote: Senate 20-18; House 67-50

Potential Impact: CHS believes there are multiple opportunities to serve more schools with our behavioral health and counseling services. CHS will be actively working to pursue these opportunities throughout the state.

HB 7055/SB590: Education
Sponsored by: Rep. Perez/Sen. Garcia

- Authorizes the carryforward of Schools of Hope program funds for up to 5 years after the effective date of the original appropriation.

The provisions establishing the Hope Scholarship Program and requiring the Department of Revenue to share certain taxpayer information became law upon approval by the Governor on March 11, 2018; the remaining provisions in the bill take effect July 1, 2018.

Vote: Senate 20-17; House 74-39

Potential Impact: CHS is working with Palm Beach County Schools to implement a Community Partnership School model in a variety of schools as the school system was awarded a grant through the Schools of Hope program. Allowing carryforward of funding will be important since implementation is set to begin in August 2018.



*Timothy Only after testifying before House Committee on Community Partnership School funding with Rep. Mel Ponder – Left
Senate Page meeting with House Speaker Richard Corcoran – Right*



Rep. Shevron Jones and Senior Vice President Maggie Dante and CHS Staff



2018 Session

Bills That Failed

HB 57 by Rep. White: Appointment of Attorneys for Dependent Children with Special Needs: Designates act as "Pro Bono Matters Act of 2018"; requires payment of due process costs of litigation of all pro bono attorneys appointed to represent dependent children with special needs, subject to appropriation & review. Effective Date: upon becoming a law.

HB 169/SB 1044 by Rep. Spano/Sen. Book: Child-Placing Agencies: Requires DCF to adopt or amend licensing rules for child-placing agencies to include specific requirements to prevent separation of siblings. Effective Date: July 1, 2018

SB 228 by Sen. Bracy: Serving Commercially Sexually Exploited Children; Requiring each region of the Department of Children and Families and each community-based care lead agency to establish a plan to recruit providers of specialized services to commercially sexually exploited children and to increase the service capacity of existing providers in order to develop the necessary capacity to meet the needs of commercially sexually exploited children, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018

SB 280 by Sen. Bean: Telehealth; Establishing the standard of care for telehealth providers; providing that telehealth providers, under certain circumstances, are not required to research a patient's history or conduct physical examinations before providing services through telehealth; providing recordkeeping requirements for telehealth providers, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2018

HB 357 by Rep. Starke: Adoptee Birth Certificates: Requires DOH to issue noncertified copy of original birth certificate to adoptees under certain conditions; provides for fee. Effective Date: July 1, 2018

HB 767/SB 1084 by Rep. Ausley/Sen. Rouson: Pay-For-Success Contracts: Authorizes state agency to enter into pay-for-success contract with private entity under certain conditions, subject to appropriation & specified language in GAA; authorizes carryforward of specified unexpended appropriations; provides contract requirements; authorizes cancellation of contract; specifies services & programs that may be eligible for funding under contract; prohibits private entity from viewing or receiving personal client information that is otherwise confidential & exempt from public records law; requires agency to provide annual report to legislative appropriations committees by specified date; requires DMS to prescribe certain procedures by specified date. Effective Date: July 1, 2018

HB 799/SB 998 by Rep. Jacobs/Sen. Book: Child-Placing Agencies: Requires DCF to adopt or amend licensing rules for child-placing agencies to include specific requirements to prevent separation of siblings. Effective Date: July 1, 2018



Children’s Home Society of Florida Board and Staff presented with State of Florida Resolution for 115 Years helping children in Florida by the CHS Florida Cabinet



CHS Executive Director Eliza McCall-Horne, Rep. Nicholas Duran with CHS State Board Members Steven Wernick and Sam Bell and Mort Principal Woodlawn Johnson

FY 2018-2019 Budget Highlights

Issue	FINAL Budget Outcomes
CHS Legislative Priorities	
Community Partnership Schools	\$1.4million
Restore Nonrecurring Child Welfare Core Services	\$10.4million
Back of the Bill funding for CBCs	\$20million
Healthy Families Florida - REDUCTION	(no reduction)
Other Important Issues	
CBC Risk Pool	\$15million
Healthy Start REDUCTION	(no reduction)
Children's Advocacy Centers	\$4.9million
FSFN's FL Path Forward for CCWIS	\$4.5million
Non-Relative Caregiver Program	\$9.1million
DCF Child Workforce Stability	\$8.1million
Independent Living increase	\$7.6million

The Governor signed the HB 5001 General Appropriations Act into law on March 16, 2018 with a list of vetoed items, but none of the items listed above were part of the Governor's veto list.



CHS Executive Director Eliza McCall-Horne with Rep. Colleen Burton



FY 2018-2019

Proviso Language

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 111 for UCF Community Partnership Schools, \$400,000 is provided for the program in Clay County Public Schools (Senate Form 2454).

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 325, the department shall restore any Fiscal Year 2017-2018 nonrecurring core service funding for each Community-based Care lead agency up to the amount of the nonrecurring allocation from Fiscal Year 2017-2018 before allocating the remaining core services funding pursuant to the equity allocation model prescribed in section 409.991, Florida Statutes.

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 325, the sum of \$3,997,407 from the General Revenue Fund, of which \$2,644,665 is nonrecurring, and the sum of \$3,642,850 from the Federal Grants Trust Fund, are provided for Independent Living services, and to extend the eligibility of Maintenance Adoption Subsidies to age 21 for specified individuals.

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 325, the nonrecurring sum of \$8,087,040 from the Federal Grants Trust Fund is provided for safety management services.

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 325, the recurring sum of \$2,250,000 from the General Revenue Fund is provided for adoption incentive awards to Community-based Care lead agencies or their subcontractors, pursuant to section 409.1662, Florida Statutes.

From the funds provided in Specific Appropriation 325, the department shall conduct a comprehensive, multi-year review of the revenues, expenditures, and financial position of all Community-based Care Lead Agencies and shall cover the most recent two consecutive fiscal years. The review must include a comprehensive system-of-care analysis. All lead agencies must develop and maintain a plan to achieve financial viability which shall accompany the department's submission. The department's review shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by November 1, 2018.

CHS Advocacy Award Recipients - 2017

Congratulations to all of our Children's Home Society of Florida Advocacy Award Recipients for their hard work and dedication throughout 2017. Linda Wilkie, Nikolas and Blislainey Pasqual, Sally Lazo and Lauren Calmet.



Linda Wilkie, former Senate Page Coordinator



Nikolas and Blislainey Pasqual



Sally Lazo, Mid Florida Board Chair



Lauren Calmet, formerly with Florida Coalition for Children

CHS Legislative Priorities Impact



Be Aware and Prepare: Plan for Expiration of Title IV-E Waiver

IMPACT: Before and during the 2018 Legislative Session, CHS Board Members and Staff advocated to the Legislature about the impending expiration of Florida's Title IVE Waiver. This occurred through various methods including testifying before legislative delegations, meeting with legislators and their staff, social media posts and opinion pieces in large media markets. The Legislature adopted changes to policy to include the establishment of the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) and funded projects that will assist DCF in preparation for the Waiver's expiration. In addition, although it is not recurring funding, the Legislature did prioritize funding to alleviate all CBC Lead Agencies who were confronted with current fiscal year deficits and allocated additional funding to the CBC Risk Pool. *There are additional issues and policies concerning Title IVE Waiver that will need to be addressed during the 2019 Legislative Session; however, we will also need to examine how the Federal Families First Prevention Services Act will be implemented all under new House, Senate and Governor leadership.*



Expand Evidenced-Based Solution: Community Partnership Schools

IMPACT: CHS advocated to increase current funding from \$1,000,000 to \$2,900,000 to expand the model to other schools currently in operation and planning for future implementation but was unsuccessful in receiving the full request. Final amount of funding granted was \$1,400,000. There was proviso added to the budget specifying Clay County Schools will receive \$400,000 of the \$1.4million appropriation. *CHS did receive more support this year than ever before with delegations like Leon County and Polk County strongly advocating for the requested appropriation to help implementation of new schools interested in receiving planning grants.*



Sen. Aaron Bean with Northeast Region Board Member and Staff – Above

State Board Member Cate Merrill and Summer Pfeiffer with Governor and First Lady Scott at Annual Holiday Party – Left

Senate and House Legislative Spouses Lunch and Learn Program with North Central Board and Staff – next page



2019 Legislative Session Dates

**Interim Committee Meetings
December 2018 – February 2019**

Session Begins – March 9, 2019

Session Ends – May 9, 2019