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# Healthy Families Subcommittee

## Action Packet

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

12 HOB

# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Healthy Families Subcommittee

1/14/2014 1:00:00PM

**Location:** 12 HOB

### **Summary:**

#### **Healthy Families Subcommittee**

*Tuesday January 14, 2014 01:00 pm*

PCB HFS 14-01 Favorable With Amendments

Yeas: 11 Nays: 0

Amendment PCB HFS 14-01 a1 Adopted Without  
Objection

Committee meeting was reported out: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 6:33:12PM

# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Healthy Families Subcommittee

1/14/2014 1:00:00PM

Location: 12 HOB

### Attendance:

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Excused</i>
Gayle Harrell (Chair)	X		
Lori Berman	X		
Heather Fitzenhagen	X		
Shevrin Jones	X		
Amanda Murphy	X		
W. Keith Perry	X		
Kathleen Peters			X
Cary Pigman	X		
Bobby Powell	X		
Sharon Pritchett	X		
Ray Rodrigues	X		
Patrick Rooney, Jr.	X		
Carlos Trujillo	X		
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

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# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Healthy Families Subcommittee

1/14/2014 1:00:00PM

Location: 12 HOB

### PCB HFS 14-01 : Sexually Violent Predators

Favorable With Amendments

	Yea	Nay	No Vote	Absentee Yea	Absentee Nay
Lori Berman				X	
Heather Fitzenhagen	X				
Shevrin Jones	X				
Amanda Murphy	X				
W. Keith Perry	X				
Kathleen Peters			X		
Cary Pigman	X				
Bobby Powell	X				
Sharon Pritchett	X				
Ray Rodrigues	X				
Patrick Rooney, Jr.	X				
Carlos Trujillo	X				
Gayle Harrell (Chair)	X				
<b>Total Yeas: 11</b>		<b>Total Nays: 0</b>			

### PCB HFS 14-01 Amendments

#### Amendment PCB HFS 14-01 a1

Adopted Without Objection

### Appearances:

PCB HFS 14-01

Dritt, Jennifer (Lobbyist) - Waive In Support  
Florida Council Against Sexual Violence  
1820 E Park Avenue, Suite 100  
Tallahassee FL 32301  
Phone: (850) 297-2000

Sexual Violent Predators

Jacobs, Buddy (Lobbyist) - Waive In Support  
State Attorneys of Florida  
961687 Gateway Blvd. Suite 201-i  
Fernerdina Beach FL 32034  
Phone: (904) 261-3693

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# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Healthy Families Subcommittee

1/14/2014 1:00:00PM

**Location:** 12 HOB

### **Presentation/Workshop/Other Business Appearances:**

#### Crossover

Dillinger, Bob (State Employee) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only  
6th Judicial Circuit  
14250 49 St North  
Clearwater FL 33762  
Phone: (727) 464-6865

#### Crossover Youth

Pennypacker, Stephen (State Employee) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only  
Assistant Secretary for Programs, Department of Children and Families  
1317 Winewood Blvd  
Tallahassee FL 32399  
Phone: (850) 717-4320

#### Crossover Youth

Wimmer, Joan (State Employee) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only  
Assistant Secretary for Probation, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Tallahassee FL 32399  
Phone: (850) 717-2585

#### Crossover Youth Practice Model Georgetown

Smith, Pat (State Employee) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only  
VP and CIO, Our Kids of Miami Dade and Monroe  
401 NW 2nd Ave 10th Place  
Miami FL 33128  
Phone: (305) 455-6277

#### Crossover Youth Project Model - Practice Model Developed by Georgetown University

Black, Kadie (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only  
External Affairs, Our Kids of Miami-Dade Monroe  
401 NW 2nd Ave  
Miami FL 33155  
Phone: (786) 344-5077

#### Georgetown Practice Model

Armstrong, Bart (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only  
COO, Our Kids  
401 NE 2nd Ave  
Miami FL 33128  
Phone: (305) 389-4281

#### Human Trafficking

McCowen, Courtney (State Employee) (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only  
Human Trafficking Coordinator, Department of Juvenile Justice  
2737 Centerview Dr Ste 3203  
Tallahassee FL 32399  
Phone: (850) 717-2716

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# COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

## Healthy Families Subcommittee

1/14/2014 1:00:00PM

**Location:** 12 HOB

**Presentation/Workshop/Other Business Appearances:** (continued)

Human Trafficking

Book, Ron (Lobbyist) - Information Only

Lauren's Kids and FL Council Against Sexual Violence

104 W. Jefferson

Tallahassee FL 32301

Phone: (850) 224-3427

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**Criminal Justice Center**

14250 49th St. N.  
Clearwater, FL 33762  
PHONE: (727) 464-6516  
FAX: (727) 464-6119

**Dade City Courthouse**

38053 Live Oak Ave.  
Dade City, FL 33523  
PHONE: (352) 521-4388  
FAX: (352) 521-4261

**West Pasco Judicial Center**

7530 Little Road  
New Port Richey, FL 34654  
PHONE: (727) 847-8155  
FAX: (727) 847-8025

**Crossover For Children**



Established in July of 2006, the Crossover for Children's program provides representation to juveniles whose cases cross over into both the dependency and delinquency divisions of the Unified Family Court of the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

The program uses a One judge/one attorney approach. The same attorney represents the client, going before the same judge on both their delinquency and dependency cases. Unlike a guardian ad litem, who presents opinions regarding "the best interests of the child," the crossover attorney advocates the "express interests" of the child client. In this way, the child's actual wishes are made known.

This comprehensive representation benefits preteen and teenage foster children, who are most in need of stability, at an age when they are able to offer opinions regarding their situation. It ensures that the professionals working with the child are familiar with the child's specific needs. This provides a comfort level to the child, they are better informed of the legal proceedings, are more involved in their dependency case and, through client education, are better able to understand the efforts and reasoning of the professionals working on their behalf.

Crossover representation also promotes fiscal responsibility and efficiency to the extent the crossover attorney can point out and/or eliminate duplication of services from the local community-based care (CBC) provider/Department of Children and Families and Department of Juvenile Justice.

**How It Works**

Clients are identified and appointed a crossover public defender at various stages of proceedings, with an emphasis on identification and assignment as early as possible. The public defender actively screens for crossover children at daily detention hearings of arrested children. The Department of Juvenile Justice staff at the Juvenile Assessment Center will note that a child's guardian is the local CBC provider, or a foster parent or case worker may appear on behalf of the child. These children are reviewed and, if they are still the subject of an open dependency case, a crossover attorney will be assigned. If a child appears with a foster parent or case worker at an arraignment or pre-trial conference, the public defender would again review the case to make sure reassignment to a crossover attorney is appropriate.

The great majority of crossover clients have pre-existing dependency cases prior to becoming involved in delinquency proceedings, however, some clients have dependency cases opened or re-opened during the pendency of their

delinquency matters. The court psychologists employed by the Unified Family Court are in constant communication with the juvenile division director regarding children in delinquency court whose circumstances mandated the filing of an abuse complaint. If the abuse complaint progresses to the point where dependency proceedings are initiated, the child is reassigned to a crossover attorney.

The crossover program cannot represent all foster children who are accused in delinquency court. Foster children who reside and have delinquency charges in Pinellas or Pasco counties, but who have dependency cases pending in other Florida circuits or other states, are not appointed a crossover attorney. The public defender's office also experiences the transfer for disposition/sentencing of delinquency cases from other counties involving foster children with dependency cases in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, who did not have the benefit of a crossover attorney in the originating jurisdiction of the transferred delinquency case. Upon transfer from the sending jurisdiction, crossover representation of the child begins. Once assigned, the crossover attorney remains on the client's cases until both the delinquency and dependency cases are closed. In actual practice, the delinquency matters typically resolve first, while the dependency matters remain open much longer.

### **Program and Partners**

The Sixth Judicial Circuit is unique in that it is one of the few jurisdictions in which the state attorney handles dependency cases on behalf of Department of Children and Families, as well as prosecuting juveniles accused of delinquent acts. The delinquency and dependency divisions of the state attorney, however, are distinct and the assistant state attorney on a child's dependency case is not the same assistant state attorney on the child's delinquency case.

The delinquency and dependency divisions of the state attorney's office, as well as the Unified Family Court, including the Behavioral Services Court psychologists, the guardian ad litem, and the public defender's office are all located in the Criminal Justice Center in Pinellas County, Florida. The Juvenile Assessment Center, Juvenile Detention Center and the Pinellas County Jail are on the same campus. The offices of the CBC (Community Based Care) provider are within two and a half miles. With such close proximity to one another, access to and communication with each other and clients should be a program strength. Difficulty arises in situations where the CBC has placed a crossover client in an out-of-county placement or the client has been committed to a Department of Juvenile Justice residential program, which can be at great distance from the Unified Family Court hearing the client's remaining matters.

### **Goals**

The goal of the program is to effect better outcomes for crossover children. On the delinquency side, this means a concerted effort to avoid felony adjudications and avoid Department of Juvenile Justice commitments as a convenient or cost-saving alternative to appropriate intervention by the dependency workers. On the dependency side, the goal is to effect better outcomes by analyzing the client's current needs and current plan and to address shortcomings or gaps in what is being provided to the client to enhance the stability, normalcy and permanency of the child's situation.

By advocating for appropriate interventions from both the delinquency and dependency systems, the goal of Crossover for Children is to show reduced recidivism in our clients. The goal of both delinquency and dependency advocacy is to enhance the client's ability to become a self-reliant adult in the future. The Public Defender Crossover for Children's program attorneys advocate to avoid the criminalization of the behaviors associated with




children, like M.D.B. in the case example, who have experienced abuse, abandonment or neglect.

In Fiscal Year 2007-2008, the Public Defender Crossover for Children's program provided representation in over 400 delinquency and dependency cases to over 100 children.

Case Example

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