

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to community-based child welfare
3 agencies; amending s. 409.016, F.S.; defining the term
4 "management functions"; amending s. 409.987, F.S.;
5 authorizing the Department of Children and Families to
6 extend contracts with community-based care lead
7 agencies under certain circumstances; revising
8 requirements for an entity to serve as a lead agency;
9 providing duties for board members and board of
10 directors of lead agencies; requiring that lead
11 agencies ensure that board members participate in
12 certain annual training; revising the definition of
13 the term "conflict of interest"; defining the term
14 "related party"; requiring the lead agency's board of
15 directors to disclose any known or potential conflicts
16 of interest; prohibiting a lead agency from entering
17 into a contract or being a party to any transaction
18 with related parties if a conflict of interest is not
19 properly disclosed; prohibiting a lead agency from
20 entering into a contract or being a party to any
21 transaction with related parties for officer or
22 director level staffing to perform management
23 functions; removing obsolete language; authorizing a
24 lead agency to enter into certain contracts or be a
25 party to certain transactions under certain

26 | circumstances; requiring department contracts with
27 | lead agencies to include certain contractual penalty
28 | provisions; specifying the contractual penalties;
29 | providing applicability; requiring certain contracts
30 | to be reprocured; requiring the department to recoup
31 | lead agency expenses for the execution of certain
32 | contracts; amending s. 409.988, F.S.; revising lead
33 | agency duties and authority; repealing s. 409.991,
34 | F.S., relating to allocation of funds for community-
35 | based care lead agencies; creating s. 409.9913, F.S.;
36 | providing definitions; requiring the department, in
37 | collaboration with the lead agencies and providers of
38 | child welfare services, to develop a specific funding
39 | methodology for the allocation of core services which
40 | meets certain criteria; requiring the lead agencies
41 | and providers of child welfare services to submit to
42 | the department certain financial information for the
43 | development of the funding methodology; requiring the
44 | department to submit to the Governor and the
45 | Legislature certain reports by the established
46 | deadlines; subjecting the allocation of core services
47 | to the requirements of ch. 216, F.S.; authorizing the
48 | department to include certain rates and total
49 | allocations in certain reports; requiring the
50 | Legislature to allocate funding to the lead agencies

51 with due consideration of the funding methodology,
52 beginning with the 2025-2026 fiscal year; prohibiting
53 the department from changing a lead agency's
54 allocation of funds provided in the General
55 Appropriations Act without legislative approval;
56 authorizing the department to approve certain risk
57 pool funding for a lead agency; requiring the
58 department to submit to the Governor and the
59 Legislature certain reports by the established
60 deadlines; amending s. 409.992, F.S.; revising
61 requirements for lead agency practices in the
62 procurement of commodities and contractual services;
63 requiring the department to impose certain penalties
64 for a lead agency's noncompliance with applicable
65 procurement law; requiring a contract between the
66 department and a lead agency to specify the rights and
67 obligations to real property held by the lead agency
68 during the term of the contract; providing
69 applicability; providing applicability of certain
70 limitations on the salaries of community-based care
71 lead agency administrative employees; amending s.
72 409.994, F.S.; revising the conditions under which the
73 department may petition a court for the appointment of
74 a receiver for a community-based care lead agency;
75 amending s. 409.996, F.S.; revising requirements for

76 contracts between the department and lead agencies;
 77 making a technical change; providing duties of the
 78 department; providing reporting requirements;
 79 requiring the department to convene a working group to
 80 submit a certain report to the Governor and the
 81 Legislature by a certain date; providing membership
 82 and termination of the working group; providing an
 83 effective date.

84

85 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

86

87 Section 1. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 409.016,
 88 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4) and (5),
 89 respectively, and a new subsection (3) is added to that section,
 90 to read:

91 409.016 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

92 (3) "Management functions" means:

93 (a) Planning, directing, organizing, coordinating, and
 94 carrying out oversight duties of the lead agency; or

95 (b) Contracting for officer or director level staffing in
 96 performance of the planning, directing, organizing,
 97 coordinating, and carrying out oversight duties of the lead
 98 agency.

99 Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4) and paragraphs (a) and
 100 (b) of subsection (7) of section 409.987, Florida Statutes, are

101 amended, and paragraph (g) is added to subsection (7) of that
 102 section, to read:

103 409.987 Lead agency procurement; boards; conflicts of
 104 interest.—

105 (3) Notwithstanding s. 287.057, the department shall use
 106 5-year contracts with lead agencies. The department may extend a
 107 contract for 1 to 5 years, in accordance with s. 287.057, only
 108 if a lead agency has met performance expectations within the
 109 monitoring evaluation.

110 (4) In order to serve as a lead agency, an entity must:

111 (a) Be organized as a Florida corporation or a
 112 governmental entity.

113 (b) Be governed by a board of directors or a board
 114 committee composed of board members. The board of directors or
 115 board committee shall provide oversight and ensure
 116 accountability and transparency for the system of care. The
 117 board of directors or board committee shall provide fiduciary
 118 oversight to prevent conflicts of interest, promote
 119 accountability and transparency, and protect state and federal
 120 funding from misuse. The board of directors shall act in
 121 accordance with s. 617.0830. The membership of the board of
 122 directors or board committee must be described in the bylaws or
 123 articles of incorporation of each lead agency, which must
 124 provide that at least 75 percent of the membership of the board
 125 of directors or board committee must be composed ~~consist~~ of

126 persons residing in this state, and at least 51 percent of the
127 state residents on the board of directors must reside within the
128 service area of the lead agency. The lead agency shall ensure
129 that its board members, directors, and officers participate in
130 annual training related to their responsibilities. The
131 department shall set forth minimum training criteria in the
132 contracts with the lead agencies. However, for procurements of
133 lead agency contracts initiated on or after July 1, 2014:

134 1. At least 75 percent of the membership of the board of
135 directors must be composed ~~consist~~ of persons residing in this
136 state, and at least 51 percent of the membership of the board of
137 directors must be composed ~~consist~~ of persons residing within
138 the service area of the lead agency. If a board committee
139 governs the lead agency, 100 percent of its membership must be
140 composed ~~consist~~ of persons residing within the service area of
141 the lead agency.

142 2. The powers of the board of directors or board committee
143 include, but are not limited to, approving the lead agency's
144 budget and setting the lead agency's operational policy and
145 procedures. A board of directors must additionally have the
146 power to hire the lead agency's executive director, unless a
147 board committee governs the lead agency, in which case the board
148 committee must have the power to confirm the selection of the
149 lead agency's executive director.

150 (c) Demonstrate financial responsibility through an

151 organized plan for regular fiscal audits and the posting of a
 152 performance bond.

153 (7)(a) As used in this subsection, the term:

154 1. "Activity" includes, but is not limited to, a contract
 155 for goods and services, a contract for the purchase of any real
 156 or tangible property, or an agreement to engage with a lead
 157 agency for the benefit of a third party in exchange for an
 158 interest in real or tangible property, a monetary benefit, or an
 159 in-kind contribution.

160 2. "Conflict of interest" means when a board member,
 161 director, or ~~an~~ officer, or a relative of a board member,
 162 director, or ~~an~~ officer, of a lead agency does any of the
 163 following:

164 a. Enters into a contract or other transaction for goods
 165 or services with the lead agency.

166 b. Holds a direct or indirect interest in a corporation,
 167 limited liability corporation, partnership, limited liability
 168 partnership, or other business entity that conducts business
 169 with the lead agency or proposes to enter into a contract or
 170 other transaction with the lead agency. For purposes of this
 171 paragraph, the term "indirect interest" has the same meaning as
 172 in s. 112.312.

173 c. Knowingly obtains a direct or indirect personal,
 174 financial, professional, or other benefit as a result of the
 175 relationship of such board member, director, or officer, or

176 relative of the board member, director, or officer, with the
177 lead agency. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "benefit"
178 does not include per diem and travel expenses paid or reimbursed
179 to board members, directors, or officers of the lead agency in
180 connection with their service on the board.

181 3. "Related party" means any entity of which a director or
182 an officer of the entity is also directly or indirectly related
183 to, or has a direct or indirect financial or other material
184 interest in, the lead agency. The term also includes any
185 subsidiary firm or joint venture.

186 4.3. "Relative" means a relative within the third degree
187 of consanguinity by blood or marriage.

188 (b)1. For any activity that is presented to the board of a
189 lead agency for its initial consideration and approval ~~after~~
190 ~~July 1, 2021~~, or any activity that involves a contract that is
191 being considered for renewal ~~on or after July 1, 2021, but~~
192 ~~before January 1, 2022~~, a board member, a director, or an
193 officer of a lead agency shall disclose to the board any
194 activity that may reasonably be construed to be a conflict of
195 interest before such activity is initially considered and
196 approved or a contract is renewed by the board. A rebuttable
197 presumption of a conflict of interest exists if the activity was
198 acted on by the board without prior notice as required under
199 paragraph (c). The board shall disclose any known actual or
200 potential conflicts to the department.

201 2. A lead agency may not enter into a contract or be a
 202 party to any transaction with related parties if a conflict of
 203 interest is not properly disclosed. A lead agency may not enter
 204 into a contract with a related party for officer or director
 205 level staffing to perform management functions. The contract
 206 with the department and lead agency must specify the
 207 administrative functions and services that the lead agency will
 208 subcontract ~~For contracts with a lead agency which are in~~
 209 ~~existence on July 1, 2021, and are not subject to renewal before~~
 210 ~~January 1, 2022, a board member or an officer of the lead agency~~
 211 ~~shall disclose to the board any activity that may reasonably be~~
 212 ~~construed to be a conflict of interest under this section by~~
 213 ~~December 31, 2021.~~

214 3. Subject to the requirements of subparagraph 2., a lead
 215 agency may enter into a contract or be a party to any
 216 transaction with related parties as long as the fee, rate, or
 217 price paid by the lead agency for the commodities or services
 218 being procured does not exceed the fair market value for such
 219 commodities or services. The lead agency shall disclose any
 220 known actual or potential conflicts to the department.

221 (g) All department contracts with lead agencies must
 222 contain the following contractual penalty provisions:

223 1. Penalties in the amount of \$5,000 per occurrence shall
 224 be imposed for each known and potential conflict of interest, as
 225 described in paragraph (b), which is not disclosed to the

226 department.

227 2. If a contract is executed for which a conflict of
 228 interest was not disclosed to the department before execution of
 229 the contract, the following penalties apply:

230 a. A penalty in the amount of \$10,000 for a first offense.

231 b. A penalty in the amount of \$15,000 for a second or
 232 subsequent offense.

233 3. The penalties for failure to disclose a conflict of
 234 interest under subparagraphs 1. and 2. apply to any contract
 235 entered into, regardless of the method of procurement,
 236 including, but not limited to, formal procurement, single-source
 237 contracts, and contracts that do not meet the minimum threshold
 238 for formal procurement.

239 4. A contract procured for which a conflict of interest
 240 was not disclosed to the department before execution of the
 241 contract shall be reprocured. The department shall recoup from
 242 the lead agency expenses related to a contract that was executed
 243 without disclosure of a conflict of interest.

244 Section 3. Paragraphs (c), (j), and (k) of subsection (1)
 245 of section 409.988, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

246 409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general
 247 provisions.—

248 (1) DUTIES.—A lead agency:

249 (c) Shall follow the financial guidelines developed by the
 250 department and shall comply with regular, independent auditing

251 of its financial activities, including any requests for records
 252 associated with such financial audits within the timeframe
 253 established by the department or its contracted vendors ~~provide~~
 254 ~~for a regular independent auditing of its financial activities.~~
 255 The results of the financial audit must ~~Such financial~~
 256 ~~information shall~~ be provided to the community alliance
 257 established under s. 20.19(5).

258 (j) May subcontract for the provision of services,
 259 excluding with a related party for officer or director level
 260 staffing to perform management functions, required by the
 261 contract with the lead agency and the department; however, the
 262 subcontracts must specify how the provider will contribute to
 263 the lead agency meeting the performance standards established
 264 pursuant to the child welfare results-oriented accountability
 265 system required by s. 409.997. The lead agency shall directly
 266 provide no more than 35 percent of all child welfare services
 267 provided unless it can demonstrate a need, ~~7~~ within the lead
 268 agency's geographic service area in which there is a lack of
 269 qualified providers available to perform the necessary services.
 270 The approval period to exceed the threshold must be limited to 2
 271 years and must be renewed following the process outlined in this
 272 section, ~~to exceed this threshold.~~ The local community alliance
 273 in the geographic service area in which the lead agency is
 274 seeking to exceed the threshold shall review the lead agency's
 275 justification for need and recommend to the department whether

276 | the department should approve or deny the lead agency's request
 277 | for an exemption from the services threshold. If there is not a
 278 | community alliance operating in the geographic service area in
 279 | which the lead agency is seeking to exceed the threshold, such
 280 | review and recommendation shall be made by representatives of
 281 | local stakeholders, including at least one representative from
 282 | each of the following:

- 283 | 1. The department.
- 284 | 2. The county government.
- 285 | 3. The school district.
- 286 | 4. The county United Way.
- 287 | 5. The county sheriff's office.
- 288 | 6. The circuit court corresponding to the county.
- 289 | 7. The county children's board, if one exists.

290 | (k) Shall publish on its website by the 15th day of each
 291 | month at a minimum the data specified in subparagraphs 1.-10.
 292 | ~~1.-5.~~, calculated using a standard methodology determined by the
 293 | department, for the preceding calendar month regarding its case
 294 | management services. The following information shall be reported
 295 | by each individual subcontracted case management provider, by
 296 | the lead agency, if the lead agency provides case management
 297 | services, and in total for all case management services
 298 | subcontracted or directly provided by the lead agency:

- 299 | 1. The average caseload of case managers, including only
 300 | filled positions;

301 2. The total number and percentage of case managers who
 302 have 25 or more cases on their caseloads;
 303 3. The turnover rate for case managers and case management
 304 supervisors for the previous 12 months;
 305 4. The percentage of required home visits completed; ~~and~~
 306 5. Performance on outcome measures required pursuant to s.
 307 409.997 for the previous 12 months;~~;~~
 308 6. The number of unlicensed placements for the previous
 309 month;
 310 7. The percentages and trends for foster parent and group
 311 home recruitment and licensure for the previous month;
 312 8. The percentage of families being served through family
 313 support, in-home, and out-of-home services for the previous
 314 month;
 315 9. The percentage of cases that converted from nonjudicial
 316 to judicial for the previous month; and
 317 10. Children's legal service staffing rates.
 318 Section 4. Section 409.991, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
 319 Section 5. Section 409.9913, Florida Statutes, is created
 320 to read:
 321 409.9913 Funding methodology to allocate funding to lead
 322 agencies.—
 323 (1) As used in this section, the term:
 324 (a) "Core services funding" means all funds allocated to
 325 lead agencies. The term does not include any of the following:

- 326 1. Funds appropriated for independent living services.
- 327 2. Funds appropriated for maintenance adoption subsidies.
- 328 3. Funds allocated by the department for child protective
 329 investigation service training.
- 330 4. Nonrecurring funds.
- 331 5. Designated mental health wrap-around service funds.
- 332 6. Funds for special projects for a designated lead
 333 agency.
- 334 7. Funds appropriated for the Guardianship Assistance
 335 Program established under s. 39.6225.
- 336 (b) "Operational and fixed costs" means:
- 337 1. Administrative expenditures, including, but not limited
 338 to, information technology and human resources functions.
- 339 2. Lease payments.
- 340 3. Asset depreciation.
- 341 4. Utilities.
- 342 5. Administrative components of case management.
- 343 6. Mandated activities such as training, quality
 344 improvement, or contract management.
- 345 (2) The department shall develop, in collaboration with
 346 lead agencies and providers of child welfare services, a funding
 347 methodology for allocating core services funding to lead
 348 agencies which, at a minimum:
- 349 (a) Is actuarially sound.
- 350 (b) Is reimbursement based.

351 (c) Is designed to incentivize efficient and effective
 352 lead agency operation, prevention, family preservation, and
 353 permanency.

354 (d) Considers variable costs, including, but not limited
 355 to, direct costs for in-home and out-of-home care for children
 356 served by the lead agencies, prevention services, and
 357 operational and fixed costs.

358 (e) Is scaled regionally for cost-of-living factors.

359 (3) The lead agencies and providers of child welfare
 360 services shall submit any detailed cost and expenditure data
 361 that the department requests for the development of the funding
 362 methodology.

363 (4) The department shall submit a report to the Governor,
 364 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
 365 Representatives by December 1, 2024, which, at a minimum:

366 (a) Describes a proposed funding methodology and formula
 367 that will provide for the annual budget of each lead agency,
 368 including, but not limited to, how the proposed methodology will
 369 meet the criteria in subsection (2).

370 (b) Describes the data used to develop the methodology,
 371 and the data that will be used to annually calculate the
 372 proposed lead agency budget.

373 (c) Specifies proposed rates and total allocations for
 374 each lead agency. The allocations must ensure that the total of
 375 all amounts allocated to lead agencies under the funding

376 methodology does not exceed the total amount appropriated to
377 lead agencies in the General Appropriations Act in the 2024-2025
378 fiscal year.

379 (d) Provides risk mitigation recommendations that ensure
380 that lead agencies do not experience a reduction in funding that
381 would be detrimental to operations or result in a reduction in
382 services to children.

383 (5) By October 31 of each year, beginning in 2025, the
384 department shall submit a report to the Governor, the President
385 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
386 which includes recommendations for adjustments to the funding
387 methodology for the next fiscal year, using the criteria in
388 subsection (2) and basing the recommendations on, at a minimum,
389 updated expenditure data, cost-of-living adjustments, market
390 dynamics, or other catchment area variations. The total of all
391 amounts proposed for allocation to lead agencies under the
392 funding methodology for the next fiscal year may not exceed the
393 total amount appropriated for core services funding in the
394 current fiscal year's General Appropriations Act. The funding
395 methodology must include risk mitigation strategies that ensure
396 that lead agencies do not experience a reduction in funding that
397 would be detrimental to operations or result in a reduction in
398 services to children.

399 (6) (a) The requirements of this section do not replace,
400 and must be in addition to, any requirements of chapter 216,

401 including, but not limited to, submission of final legislative
 402 budget requests by the department under s. 216.023.

403 (b) The data and reports required under subsections (4)
 404 and (5) may also include proposed rates and total allocations
 405 for each lead agency which reflect any additional core services
 406 funding for lead agencies which is requested by the department
 407 under s. 216.023.

408 (7)(a) Beginning with the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the
 409 Legislature shall allocate funding to lead agencies through the
 410 General Appropriations Act with due consideration of the funding
 411 methodology developed under this section.

412 (b) The department may not change the allocation of funds
 413 to a lead agency as provided in the General Appropriations Act
 414 without legislative approval. The department may approve
 415 additional risk pool funding for a lead agency as provided under
 416 s. 409.990.

417 (8) The department shall provide to the Governor, the
 418 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
 419 Representatives monthly reports from July through October 2024,
 420 which provide updates on activities and progress in developing
 421 the funding methodology.

422 Section 6. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 409.992,
 423 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

424 409.992 Lead agency expenditures.—

425 (1) The procurement of commodities or contractual services

426 by lead agencies ~~is shall be~~ governed by the financial
427 guidelines developed by the department and must comply with
428 applicable state and federal law and follow good business
429 practices. Pursuant to s. 11.45, the Auditor General may provide
430 technical advice in the development of the financial guidelines.

431 (a)1. Lead agencies shall competitively procure all
432 contracts, consistent with the federal simplified acquisition
433 threshold.

434 2. Lead agencies shall competitively procure all contracts
435 in excess of \$35,000 with related parties.

436 3. Financial penalties or sanctions, as established by the
437 department and incorporated into the contract, shall be imposed
438 by the department for noncompliance with applicable local,
439 state, or federal law for the procurement of commodities or
440 contractual services.

441 (b) The contract between the department and the lead
442 agency for the provision of child protection and child welfare
443 services must delineate the rights and obligations of the
444 parties concerning the acquisition, transfer, or other
445 disposition of real property held by the lead agency during the
446 term of the contract. This paragraph applies prospectively to
447 new contracts entered into between the department and a lead
448 agency for the provision of child protection and child welfare
449 services on or after July 1, 2024.

450 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a

451 community-based care lead agency administrative employee may not
 452 receive a salary, whether base pay or base pay combined with any
 453 bonus or incentive payments, in excess of 150 percent of the
 454 annual salary paid to the secretary of the Department of
 455 Children and Families from state-appropriated funds, including
 456 state-appropriated federal funds. This limitation applies
 457 regardless of the number of community-based care contracts a
 458 community-based care lead agency may execute with the
 459 department. This subsection does not prohibit any party from
 460 providing cash that is not from appropriated state funds to a
 461 community-based care lead agency administrative employee.

462 Section 7. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section
 463 409.994, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

464 409.994 Community-based care lead agencies; receivership.—

465 (1) The Department of Children and Families may petition a
 466 court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of a
 467 receiver for a community-based care lead agency established
 468 pursuant to s. 409.987 if any of the following conditions exist:

469 (d) The lead agency cannot meet, or is unlikely to meet,
 470 its current financial obligations to its employees, contractors,
 471 or foster parents. Issuance of bad checks or the existence of
 472 delinquent obligations for payment of salaries, utilities, or
 473 invoices for essential services or commodities constitutes ~~shall~~
 474 ~~constitute~~ prima facie evidence that the lead agency lacks the
 475 financial ability to meet its financial obligations.

476 Section 8. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section
 477 409.996, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

478 409.996 Duties of the Department of Children and
 479 Families.—The department shall contract for the delivery,
 480 administration, or management of care for children in the child
 481 protection and child welfare system. In doing so, the department
 482 retains responsibility for the quality of contracted services
 483 and programs and shall ensure that, at a minimum, services are
 484 delivered in accordance with applicable federal and state
 485 statutes and regulations and the performance standards and
 486 metrics specified in the strategic plan created under s.
 487 20.19(1).

488 (1) The department shall enter into contracts with lead
 489 agencies for the performance of the duties by the lead agencies
 490 established in s. 409.988. At a minimum, the contracts must do
 491 all of the following:

492 (d) Provide for contractual actions ~~tiered interventions~~
 493 ~~and graduated penalties~~ for failure to comply with contract
 494 terms or in the event of performance deficiencies, as determined
 495 appropriate by the department.

496 1. Such contractual actions must ~~interventions and~~
 497 ~~penalties~~ shall include, but are not limited to:

498 ~~a.1.~~ Enhanced monitoring and reporting.

499 ~~b.2.~~ Corrective action plans.

500 ~~c.3.~~ Requirements to accept technical assistance and

501 consultation from the department under subsection (6).

502 ~~d.4.~~ Financial penalties, as a matter of contract. The
 503 financial penalties assessed by the department on the lead
 504 agency revert to the state ~~which shall require a lead agency to~~
 505 ~~reallocate funds from administrative costs to direct care for~~
 506 ~~children.~~

507 ~~e.5.~~ Early termination of contracts, as provided in s.
 508 402.7305(3)(f) ~~s. 402.1705(3)(f).~~

509 2. No later than January 1, 2025, the department shall
 510 ensure that each lead agency contract executed includes a list
 511 of financial penalties for failure to comply with contractual
 512 requirements.

513 Section 9. The Department of Children and Families shall
 514 submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
 515 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on rules and
 516 policies adopted and other actions taken to implement the
 517 requirements of this act. The first such report must be due
 518 September 30, 2024, and the second such report must be due
 519 February 1, 2025.

520 Section 10. There is established the Future of Child
 521 Protection Contracting and Funding Working Group. The Department
 522 of Children and Families shall convene the working group and
 523 shall be responsible for producing and submitting a report to
 524 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
 525 the House of Representatives by October 15, 2025.

- 526 (1) The report must, at a minimum:
- 527 (a) Examine the current contracting methods for the
- 528 provision of all foster care and related services.
- 529 (b) Identify any barriers or deficiencies in creating
- 530 local ownership and governance of such services.
- 531 (c) Assess the implications of a 10 percent cap on
- 532 administrative costs.
- 533 (d) Evaluate barriers to entry in the procurement of
- 534 managed care networks.
- 535 (e) Consider the unique regional needs of children and
- 536 families at risk of abuse and neglect.
- 537 (f) Recommend changes to existing laws, rules, and
- 538 policies necessary to implement the working group's
- 539 recommendations.
- 540 (2) The secretary of the Department of Children and
- 541 Families, or his or her designee, shall chair the working group
- 542 and shall invite the following persons to participate as a
- 543 member of the working group:
- 544 (a) The Secretary of the Agency for Health Care
- 545 Administration, or his or her designee.
- 546 (b) The secretary of the Department of Management
- 547 Services, or his or her designee.
- 548 (c) A member of the Florida Coalition for Children, Inc.,
- 549 or his or her designee.
- 550 (d) A current contractor for lead agency child protection

551 services.

552 (e) Two representatives of a direct provider of child
553 protection or child welfare services.

554 (f) A member of the Family Law Section of The Florida Bar
555 or a member of the court exercising jurisdiction over family law
556 matters.

557 (g) A representative of a for-profit managed care entity.

558 (h) A representative from a State University System school
559 of business.

560 (i) A representative from the Florida Institute for Child
561 Welfare.

562 (j) Any additional members as the department deems
563 appropriate.

564 (3) The working group shall terminate immediately after
565 the Secretary of the Department of Children and Families submits
566 the report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
567 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

568 Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.