



BE the change

Florida's Child Welfare System Changes due to Passage of SB 96 and SB 80

April 2021

Abuse Reporting:

- Central Abuse Hotline (SB 96)
 - Requires the hotline to accept reports for investigation when there is reasonable cause to suspect abuse, determine whether an immediate or 24-hour response is needed, immediately identify previous reports, track critical steps in the investigative process, refer reporters to other agencies, serve as a resource for prevention of abuse, enter agreements with other states to further enhance programs to protect children, and promote public awareness of the central abuse hotline
 - Requires hotline to initiate investigations immediately if the safety or well-being of the child is endangered
 - Requires hotline to record all incoming and outgoing calls, make the recording a part of the report, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the reporting and investigating, produce reports monitoring patterns of abuse, and collect child-on-child sexual abuse reports and reports of abuse at school
 - May not take reports that occurred out of state and the alleged perpetrator and victim do not live in state, but must accept the report if the alleged victim is being treated at a facility in state
 - Requires hotline to initiate an investigation when it receives a report from an emergency room physician
 - Requires hotline to immediately transfer reports involving the impregnation of a child to the appropriate county's sheriff office if the instance involves a child younger than 15 by a person 21 or older
 - Requires hotline to accept reports involving institutional child abuse and surrendered newborn infants
 - May not consider a report solely if the newborn was left at a hospital, fire station, or emergency medical services station
 - Must provide the name of an eligible licensed child-placing agency to the person making the report if there are no indications of abuse
 - Requires the Department to determine if a received report meets the criteria for child abuse, neglect, or abandonment, and any report that meets the criteria must be accepted for a child protective investigation
 - Allows the hotline to accept calls from a parent/legal custodian seeking assistance that does not meet the criteria for abuse
 - Requires the Department to refer the parent for appropriate voluntary community services

- Requires the Department to conduct an assessment and send a written report to the sheriff's office within 48 hours of receiving a report of alleged sexual abuse, including incidents involving a child under their custody
- Requires the hotline to accept reports involving a child who has exhibited inappropriate sexual behavior and requires the Department to conduct an assessment within 48 hours
- Requires the Department to conduct a child protective investigation if the incident occurs on school grounds and notify the Department of Education
- Mandatory Reporting (SB 96)
 - Allows reporters of abuse to remain anonymous if they are a member of the general public
 - Requires reporters to provide their name if their occupation is:
 - Physician, osteopathic physician, medical examiner, chiropractic physician, nurse, practitioner who relies solely on spiritual means for healing, or any other health care or mental health professional
 - School teacher, school official/personnel, social worker, daycare worker, professional child care worker, foster care worker, residential worker, institutional worker, law enforcement officer, judge, or animal control worker
 - Excludes professionals who are hired to treat or counsel a person because of a report of abuse, an officer/employee of the judicial branch when the matter has previously been reported to the Department, and an officer/employee of a law enforcement agency when the incident was reported to law enforcement by the central abuse hotline from mandatory reporting
 - Requires reporting of any sexual abuse and any alleged incident of sexual abuse involving a child in the custody of the Department
 - Requires any person required to report instances of abuse to report any suspicion that a child has died because of abuse
- Education Practices Commission (SB 96)
 - If the DOE determines that education administrator or instructor failed to report known or suspected child abuse and the Commission has issued a final order for a previous failure to report, at a minimum the instructor or admin will be suspended for a year

Child Protective Investigations:

- Cross-reporting Child Abuse, Neglect, or Abandonment and Animal Cruelty (SB 96)
 - Requires any person who is required to report child abuse while acting in their profession to report animal cruelty if given reason to suspect animal cruelty has occurred at the same address within 72 hours to their supervisor, who shall submit a report to a local animal control agency that includes:
 - Description of the animal and the known/suspected animal cruelty, the name and address of the animal's owner or keeper, and any other relevant information

- Requires any person who is required to investigate animal cruelty while in their profession to report knowledge or suspicion of child abuse immediately to the hotline
 - A child protective investigator who is required to report animal cruelty and who knowingly and willingly fails to do so commits a second-degree misdemeanor
 - An animal control officer who is required to report abuse and willingly and knowingly fails to do so is subject to penalties
- Requires the Department to develop a one-hour training course for all child protective investigators and animal control officers on identification, reporting and crossover of child abuse or animal cruelty
- Representation during Child Abuse Investigations (SB 96)
 - Allows an alleged perpetrator to be represented by an attorney or accompanied by another person during an investigation
 - Allows the Department to proceed with other aspects of the investigation if there is the absence of an attorney
 - Requires the investigation to commence immediately upon the institution resuming for institutional child abuse

Out-of-Home Placement:

- Best Interest Determination for Placement (SB 80)
 - Requires consideration of child's age, mental/physical/emotional benefits of leaving child in current placement, stability/longevity of current placement, bond with current caregiver, preference of the child if age-appropriate, recommendations of current caregiver/GAL, sibling current relationship, likelihood of permanency/need to change schools/access to needed care - medical, behavioral, dental, other, in current placement, allegations of issues that brought the child to care, and impact on activities/education/Medicaid/independent living if child is moved
- Priority Placements (SB 80)
 - Non-offending parent
 - Relative caregiver
 - Adoptive parent of child's sibling
 - Fictive kin
 - Non-relative caregiver without current relationship with child
 - Licensed foster care home
 - Group care
 - Siblings must be placed together if possible
 - Must be included on the order of shelter that the Department attempted to place based on priority set
 - While awaiting shelter hearing, placement is based on the set priorities and child's best interests
- Family-Finding (SB 96)
 - Requires family-finding programs in each CBC and efforts to go beyond basic searching tools by exploring alternative tools and methodologies
- Requires Case Record Face Sheets for Every Child under Child Welfare Supervision (SB 80)

- Must include: child's name, DOB, county of residence, reason for the referral and family safety info, identifying information of caregivers/guardians at time of referral, date of removal from home, contact information for all attorneys/DCF employees/CBC employees/subcontracted service providers involved in the case, contact information for family members/caretaking adults, information on other children in the out-of-home placement, any threats placing the child in danger of being removed, concerns about the parents ability to keep the child safe, transitions in placement, court hearing info, and sibling info
 - Must be updated once a month
- Foster Home Capacity (SB 96)
 - The number of children placed in a foster home will no longer be based on the recommendations of the Department or community-based care lead agency where the foster family is located
 - The Department must grant a capacity waiver for the placement of another child in a foster home:
 - If the total number of dependent children in the foster home is six or more
 - If the total number of children in the foster home including dependent and the family's own children is eight or more
 - Before granting a capacity waiver:
 - The Department must conduct an assessment of each child to be placed in the foster home, but the assessment no longer needs to be completed by a family service counselor and approved by the counselor's supervisor prior to placement
 - The assessment must assess whether the needs of the child will be met by the foster home placement

Family/Stakeholder Input:

- Multidisciplinary Teams/Staffing (SB 80)
 - Established to allow for better engagement and shared accountability with families - convened within 72 hours of removal
 - Goals are to secure the child in the least restrictive and intrusive placement, minimize the trauma associated with being separated from family, provide input on proposed placement and services for the child, contribute to ongoing assessment of child and family, and monitor progress and plans
 - Participants include: the child if age-appropriate, family members and fictive kin, current caregiver, representative from the Department CBC representation, case manager for the child
 - Majority of participants need to attend, but staffings will not be delayed if given reasonable opportunities invited attendees do not attend
 - Participants may also include: representative of CMS, GAL, school representative, therapist, mental health professional, other community providers of services
 - Lead by a facilitator who is a member of the team and trained

- Staffing must be held: initial placement decisions, changes in physical custody, changes in educational placement, placement decisions involving siblings, and complex/important decisions in child's life
- Required to gather data and information prior to making decisions if possible
- Need to use evidence-based assessment tools
- For children 3 years of age or younger:
 - Identify kin who express interest in caring for the child
 - The likelihood the child can stay in the placement for the duration of the placement
 - Prospective caregivers' willingness to accept supports relating to early childhood development, address emotional needs, nurture the child, work with the parent to build/maintain attachment, co-parent with parent, and ensure frequent family visits
- Decisions - If the decision is unanimous, it becomes the position of the CBC and is binding. If it is not unanimous, the facilitator notifies the court and Department within 48 hours of the conclusion of the staffing, and the Department decides based on the child's best interest. A report must be prepared by the facilitator which details the positions of the team members.
- Participants may hear confidential information, but are required to uphold confidentiality
- Multidisciplinary Legal Representation Model (SB 96)
 - Allows the establishment of multidisciplinary legal representation model programs
 - Requires the Department to collaborate with the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel to determine approval of federal Title IV-E funding and ensure the program accesses available federal funding
 - Requires the team to consist of an attorney, a forensic social worker, and a parent-peer specialist, maximize Title IV-E funding, provide specialized training and support for the team members, collect data on each child whose parent is served, ensure there is a unique identification number, develop consistent policies, obtain agreements related to approved placements for social work students in universities, and execute conflict of interest agreements
 - Reporting
 - Each office that establishes a MDLR model program must submit an annual report to OPPAGA using the uniform data collected on each child whose parents are served by the program, and detail the reasons the family became involved in the CW system, length of time it takes to achieve permanency goal for families in the program, rate of subsequent abuse which results in removal, and other relevant factors that show the impact of the program
 - OPPAGA will compile the reports and analyze the MDLR model program against other children in the CW system
 - Must submit the analysis by December 1, 2022

Out-of-Home Placement Changes:

- Model Transition Plans (SB 80)
 - Department will contract for model transition plans that may be the basis for developing individualized transition plans
 - Plans must include length and pace, sequence and steps, consideration of factors - child's developmental stage, age, level and type of abuse, and attachment to/length of time with current caregiver - to reduce trauma and encourage healthy development
 - Information will be provided to all staff creating transition plans, caregivers and other child welfare professionals
- Placement Transitions (SB 80)
 - Requires transition plans:
 - Multidisciplinary staffing needs to occur before a child is moved or 72 hours after an emergency placement transition
 - Requires the Department to provide written notice of planned move at least 14 days before the move which must include the reason the move is needed
 - The notice must be provided to the child (if age-appropriate), child's parents, out-of-home caregiver, GAL, attorney for the child, attorney for the Department
 - Additional considerations:
 - Age requirements for consideration:
 - 6 months or less - move the child sooner rather than later
 - 7 months-3 years - may not be healthy to move the child
 - Length of time with current caregiver, strength of attachment, harm of disruption compared to gain of new placement
 - Relationship with new caregiver and agreement to keep connection between old caregivers
 - Pace of transition and if there is flexibility
 - A child can only be removed from the home of the current caregiver if:
 - The caregiver is clearly unable to care for the child safely or legally;
 - The child and the birth or legal parent are reunified;
 - The child is being placed in a legally permanent home in accordance with a case plan or court order; or
 - The removal is demonstrably in the best interests of the child. (current statute)
 - Requires services to help prevent disruption of placement
 - Preparation of new caregiver
 - Must be fully informed of child's needs and circumstances, understand their role, parenting partnership responsibility
- Transition Plan (SB 80)
 - Form created with the Quality Parenting Initiative to be updated each time the child is moved placements

- Must be attached to the case record, and include important information - members of the MDST who developed the transition plan, name of the facilitator, topics considered by the MDST to ensure appropriate transition, recs of the MDST and who is going to carry out each recommendation
- Post Disposition Change of Custody (SB 80)
 - Any party including the current caregiver can object to the need for a change in placement and be heard by the court
 - The court must use the placement priority list and the report filed by the MDST when making the determination for best placement
 - **Rebuttable presumption that it is in the best interest of the child to stay in the current placement IF the child has been in the placement more than 9 consecutive months, reunification is not possible, the current caregiver wishes to adopt or be the permanent custodian, the caregiver does not want a change, the change being made is not to reunify the child with parents or siblings or transition to a safe and stable relative caregiver.**
 - To rebut the presumption, the court will hold an evidentiary hearing, where they will consider evidence, testimony, and a court-ordered neutral expert in child-parent bonding
 - **Cannot be rebutted by only biological parent, biological relative, or caregiver of a sibling of the child**
 - MDST meeting must be held, if they are not unanimous in their decision then the D will make the call based on the best interest of the child
 - **Caregiver who objects need to do it in writing, court will grant party status to caregiver, appoint an attorney for the child, advise the caregiver of their right to retain counsel, and appoint the expert in child-parent bonding**
 - Court will provide their decision in writing and the D/CBC must follow it

Education Transitions for Children in Out-of-Home Care:

- Education Transitions (SB 80)
 - Mandatory education transition plans
 - Minimize school changes
 - Members of the MDST must make the determination in the best interest of the child related to the school/education program. They are required to consider child's desire to remain in current program, preference of child's legal guardian/parents, siblings/close friends that attend current program, cultural and community connections, IDEA or 504 needs and services, ELL students' needs and services, impact current school would have on promotion/academic achievement, availability of extracurricular activities important to the child, permanency goal and ability and timeline, history of school transfers, length of transportation time and length of time that the student has attended the current school. Transportation costs cannot be part of the decision.
 - Early learning - child should try to be kept with current program unless the new program is of higher quality. The plan must allow the child to say goodbye to important people in the current program.

- K-12 - documentation that the Department or CBC has made the decision to change the program, that the D/CBC will coordinate education change to provide immediate appropriate enrollment, discussion of proposed timing and impact on the child's life including - grading periods, extracurricular seasons etc.

Sibling Placement in Out-of-Home Care:

- Placement of Siblings in Out-of-Home Care (SB 80)
 - Department must make a reasonable effort to place siblings together when it is in the best interest of each sibling, appropriate and there is a joint placement available
 - Reasonable efforts to place a child who enters out-of-home care after siblings to be placed with them if D/CBC and MDST decides it will not jeopardize the stability of the placement and is in the best interest of all children
 - If changing a placement to connect siblings, all relevant factors must be considered, including existing bonds and viewed as a whole
 - Siblings do not need to change placement/be placed together if they didn't have a relationship before out-of-home care
 - Factors to consider - existing emotional bonds between siblings, degree of harm each child is likely to experience because of separation, and the standard protocols established by the Quality Parenting Initiative
 - The D/CBC is required to place sibling group together IF there is a placement available and it is determined to be in the best interest of the children. If a placement is not available, the D/CBC must make all reasonable efforts to ensure visitation and contact.
 - If siblings are not able to be placed together and do not have an existing relationship, the D/CBC must consider existence/quality of current attachments, potential of new caregiver to be a primary attachment figure, quality of existing sibling relationships, costs and benefits disrupting existing emotional attachments, ability to establish and maintain sibling contact
 - D/CBC must review the current placement at minimum every 6 months
 - D/CBC must make reasonable efforts to find and provide sibling contact information to child
 - If a sibling leaves care the parent must consent to continued contact, and the court must decide if continued contact is in the child still in out-of-home care's best interest
- Maintaining Contact when Siblings are Separated (SB 80)
 - Caregiver must respect the current bonds and allow continued contact, D/CBC must support caregiver to make this happen, kinship care must be prioritized, siblings should try and be placed near each other in geography, regular and frequent contact/visitation must be supported, other forms of contact must be provided, coordinating of joint outings/respite care, MAY NOT withhold contact as punishment

Caregiver Support:

- Kinship Navigator Program (SB 96)
 - Requires each CBC to create a KNP
- Guardianship Assistance Program (SB 96)
 - Removes the evaluation of the program from The Florida Child Welfare Institute
- Resources and Supports for Caregivers (SB 96)
 - Foster parents - Establish a Foster Information Center to connect current and former foster parents (foster parent advocates) to prospective and current foster parents to provide information on navigating the application process, timelines, approval to placement, accepting a child in the home, available resources, provide immediate assistance
 - Kinship caregivers - CBC lead agency provide resources and support available and discuss eligibility criteria. If the caregiver cannot access supports, the CBC is required to provide referrals to kinship navigation services, link to community resources, program applications, schedule appointments, initiate contact, and a phone number for immediate assistance.

Termination of Parental Rights:

- Reinstatement of Parental Rights (SB 80)
 - Parent or child may file a motion to reinstate parental rights if grounds for TPR were: the parent voluntarily executed a written surrender of the child OR the child was continuously abused/neglected/abandoned by the parents and they failed to comply with the case plan for 12 months after the child was placed in shelter OR the parent materially breached the case plan by action or inaction OR child was in care for 12 of the last 22 months and parents have not completed the case plan enough for reunification; the parent was not the verified perpetrator of physical or sexual abuse on the child; the parent has not been involved in a verified abuse/neglect/abandonment report since TPR; no other TPRs since the TPR of the child, the child is at least 13, the child has not achieved permanency is not in a preadoptive placement and at least 36 months have passed since TPR
 - Court shall consider all relevant evidence including: the child's maturity to express the desire to reinstate rights, parent has a documented change in behavior which would remedy the issues that brought a child to care, parent demonstrates appropriate protective capabilities, both child and parent want to reinstate parental rights, the GAL and MDST recommends the reinstatement
 - Court shall require home study, supervised and trial home visits by the Department for at least three months
 - Report to the court at minimum every 30 days
 - If parental rights are reinstated the child will be placed in the parent's home with an in-home safety plan for 6 months, then then final determination will be made

Abuse in Out-of-Home Care (OOHC):

- CIRRT (SB 96)
 - Requires a representative from a child advocacy center with specialized training in sexual abuse of a child on the critical incident rapid response teams
 - Requires the Department to investigate reports of sexual abuse in out-of-home care
 - Requires the Department to investigate a verified report of sexual abuse if the child was subject to a verified report in the last 6 months
 - Requires the child protective investigator to assess and take appropriate action to address the safety of other children in the out-of-home placement

Aging Out of Foster Care:

- Older Foster Youth (SB 80)
 - In the year after a child in OOHC turns 16, a transition plan needs to be created to include tasks to establish and maintain. The plan will be updated as needed until the child turns 18, and needs to include the child, GAL, attorney for the child and parents if they haven't TPRd in a face-to-face meeting
 - Adds 16-year-olds to the review hearing
 - Gives the child the ability to address the court and provide information in their best interest
 - Requires the court to inquire about child's life skills, the Department will provide update on the life skills the child has obtained since their 13th birthday
 - Judicial review to be held within 90 days after the child's 17th birthday, remove the disability of nonage in certain circumstances,
 - If needed the court may review the status of the child more frequently during the year before the child's 18th birthday
- Office of Continuing Care (SB 80)
 - Requires the Department to create an Office of Continuing Care for kids aged 18-21 or up to 22 for those with a disability to have a point of contact until the young adult reaches 26 to help them reach self-sufficiency
 - Duties include but are not limited to: informing kids aging out the purpose of the office, services and how to contact the office, serve as a direct contact to the young adult to provide information on how to access services and support their self-sufficiency (Medicaid, food assistance, behavioral health, housing, and educational services), complete documentation to help get services, collaborate with CBCs and community resources
- Aftercare Services (SB 80)
 - Subject to available funding, are expanded to young adults age 18-22 who are receiving financial aid, and are experiencing an emergency and

cannot afford it. The support would be in addition to the financial assistance.

- Examples auto repair, medical expenses, etc.

- CBC Requirements - Independent Living (SB 80)
 - Services are portable between CBCs
 - Each CBC will at least annually attempt to contact each young adult who has aged out of foster care, is potentially eligible for continuing care or services, and are not participating
 - Must offer services to for intensive independent living development for the young adults with the biggest deficits
- Independent Living Advisory Council (SB 80)
 - Removes the legislature's ability to stop the council due to not providing a valuable contribution
 - Removes the outdated report requirement
 - Removes the ability of the Department to provide why they didn't implement recommendations of the Council - now they just provide response
 - Adds data on the status and outcomes for young adults who turned 18 while in foster care to the report
 - Adds young adults receiving services and funding from the Road to Independence Act to the council membership, and allows the council children currently in care and those who aged out to determine needs, preferences, concerns
- Independent Living Preparation (SB 80)
 - Support by the Department to help children aging out of foster care by identifying life-skills that children in out-of-home care should acquire, develop a list of age appropriate activities and responsibilities which must include the ability to access available services and community resources, design and disseminate training for caregivers including applying for financial aid, higher education, vocational training, and employment opportunities, provide opportunities for mentors, develop procedures/understanding for children to directly access and manage their personal allowance
- Motor Vehicle Insurance (SB 80)
 - Adds a child who was in licensed care when they reached 18 years of age and is currently receiving educational services and support to those eligible for costs of insurance or getting a license as funds are available

Administration:

- CBC Lead Agencies (SB 96)
 - In communities where it is not feasible to competitively contract with a lead agency
 - The Department may collaborate with the local community alliance to create an alternative approach to providing child welfare services
 - The Department and local community alliance shall develop a plan that details how the community will implement care through

competitively procuring components of foster care and related services or comprehensive services from qualified entities

- The plan must:
 - Ensure local control over the management and administration of service provision
 - Describe reasons for the inability to competitively contract lead agency services
 - Include a proposed alternative approach to providing lead agency services, the entities that will be involved, how local control will be maintained, how services will be maintained to ensure federal and state requirements are met, and recommendations for increasing the ability of the Department to contract with a lead agency
 - Be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House
 - Quarterly updated about the plan will also be submitted until 2 years after full implementation
 - Activity is defined as includes, but is not limited to, a contract for goods and services, a contract for the purchase of any real or tangible property, or an agreement to engage with a lead agency for the benefit of a third party in exchange for an interest in real or tangible property, a monetary benefit, or an in-kind contribution.
- Community-Based Care Lead Agencies (SB 80)
 - Adds children who were adopted from the child welfare system and need post-adoption supports to the list of those served by the CBC lead agency
- CBC Board Conflict (SB 96)
 - Conflict of interest is defined as when a board member, officer, or relative of a board member
 - Enters into a contract or transaction for good or services with the lead agency
 - Hold an interest in a corporation, limited liability corporation, partnership, limited liability corporation, or other entities that conduct business with the lead agency or proposes to enter a contract or translation with the lead agency
 - Knowingly obtains personal, financial, professional, or other benefits because of the relationship of such board member, officer, or relative of either with the lead agency
 - The board member or an officer or a lead agency shall disclose to the board anything that can reasonably be construed as a conflict of interest for any activity presented to the board of a lead agency for its initial consideration and approval after July 1, 2021 or anything involving a contract considered for renewal on or after July 1, 2021, but before January 1, 2022.
 - A rebuttable presumption of a conflict of interest exists if the activity was acted on by the board without prior notice as required

- For contracts with a lead agency that are in existence on July 1, 2021, but are not subject to renewal before January 1, 2021 members of the lead agency must disclose any activity that may be construed as a conflict of interest to the board by December 31, 2021
 - If a board member or officer of a lead agency, or relative of either, proposes to engage in activity as previously defined, the activity must be listed on the next meeting agenda and copies of all contracts and transactional documents related must be included. The meeting must:
 - Identify potential conflict of interests
 - Approve by an affirmative vote of two thirds of all board members present for a board member, officer, or relative to engage in the activity
 - If the board votes against the activity the board member, officer, or relative must notify the board in writing of their intent not to pursue the activity or withdraw from office before the next meeting. If they violate this, they will be removed from office before the next meeting
 - If the board does not approve a conflict of interest the parties involved may opt to cancel the activity or they must resign
- A contract between a board member and the lead agency that has not been properly disclosed as a conflict of interest is voidable and terminates with written notice containing the consent of at least 20% of the voting interests of the lead agency
- Lead agency transparency
 - Lead agencies shall publish the total number and percentage of case avengers who have 25 or more cases on the caseloads and other data calculated using standard methodology determined by the Department
 - The statement "(lead agency name) is a community-based care lead agency contracted with the Department of Children and Families" shall be included on the lead agencies website, promotional literature, agency created documents and forms provided to families, business cards, and stationary letterhead
- Funding and contracts for lead agencies
 - Lead agencies shall fund the cost of increase care if subcontracted providers provide services beyond contract limits due to increased need
 - Contracts with lead agencies must require the agency to provide the Department information on how it will adhere to best child welfare practices
 - The Department will conduct a comprehensive multiyear review
 - Of revenues, expenditures, and financial position or community-based care lead agencies
 - That must include comprehensive system-of-care analysis

- Submitted to the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House by November 1st of each year
 - The Department shall collect and publish annually on its website all compensation earned or awarded more than 150% of the annual salary paid to the secretary of the Department regardless of position for each lead agency under contract
- Florida Institute for Child Welfare (FICW) (SB 80)
 - Requires FICW to evaluate the effectiveness of the state's child welfare system to provide youth aging out of foster care with the gaining the life skills needed to become self-sufficient adults and consult with the Institute for Food and Agricultural Services Extension Program at the University of Florida to conduct its evaluation
 - Must include (at minimum):
 - Describe current requirements for caregivers to assist youth in gaining life skills and level of engagement
 - Methods and measures to determine if the skills have been gained
 - Outcomes on a statewide basis and each CBC and how the information is being used to improve
 - Identify best practices for gaining these skills and compare to the state's current practice
 - Barriers keeping youth from being self-sufficient
 - Evaluate if the state's current approach is adequate and recommend changes (must prioritize the state's reliance on caregivers to provide training but additional options are allowed)
 - Include input of youth currently in foster care and those previously in foster care
 - Submit evaluation by November 1, 2022
 - Analyze permanency outcomes in the state
 - Must include (at minimum):
 - Frequency of permanency outcomes, long term and 2 years into foster care, and the impact of the child's age
 - Length of time before TPR by child's age
 - Frequency of permanency outcomes for children whose parents TPRd, length of time before permanency was achieved, difference in type of permanency and length of time, by child's age
 - Patterns of length of time to permanency, type of outcome, by different ages and rights of parents
 - Submit report by October 1, 2022
- Child Advocacy Centers (SB 96)
 - Defines child advocacy centers as facilities that offer multidisciplinary services to children who are alleged to be victims of abuse, the children served may have experienced a variety of types of abuse, including sexual or severe physical abuse

- The center brings together child protective investigators, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, health care professionals, and mental health professionals
- Goals for Dependent Children (SB 96)
 - Requires the case manager to provide verbal and written instructions to a child entering shelter or foster care to educate the child on identifying and reporting abuse, abandonment, or neglect if the child is of a sufficient age and understanding
 - Encourages district school boards to establish educational programs for students 5-18 relating to identifying and reporting abuse which may be in conjunction with youth mental health awareness

Mental Health and Substance Abuse:

- Behavioral Health Managing Entities
 - Department duties
 - Collect and publish and update annually on the website: compensation by position who receives more than 150 percent of the annual salary paid to the Department Secretary, most recent three years IRS 990, auditor reports and annual reports
 - ME duties
 - Required language on its website
 - Boards of behavioral health conflict of interest
 - Uses the same conflict of interest language in CW
 - Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse
 - Purpose is to examine the current methods of providing mental health and substance abuse services in the state and to improve effectiveness of current practices, procedures and programs and initiatives and recommend changes to current practices and law
 - Membership will include 19 members; Senator, Representative, Secretary of DCF or designee, Secretary for AHCA or designee, a person living with a mental health disorder, family member of a consumer of publicly funded mental health services, representative of the Louis de Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, representative of county school district, representative of mental health courts, representative of treatment facility, representative of managing entity, representative of community substance abuse provider, licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, mental health professional, emergency room physician, law enforcement representative, criminal justice system representative
 - Chair will be picked by Governor
 - Convene no later than Sept 1, 2021 and meet quarterly by electronic means
 - Duties: review and evaluation of management and functioning of current publicly supported mental health and substance abuse services, consider individuals who are dual diagnosed, address access, cost and scope of responsibility in the delivery of

emergency behavioral health services, quality and effectiveness of services, address priority populations groups, review implementation of laws, identify gaps, recommendations of BH MEs fulfill purpose of continuity, mission and objectives of state supported MH and SA services, evaluate and recommend an agency level entity to manage MH and SA,

- Reports: Sept 1, 2022