

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/CS/HB 315 Child Welfare

SPONSOR(S): Appropriations Committee, Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee, Latvala and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/SB 634

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N, As CS	Christy	Brazzell
2) Appropriations Committee	28 Y, 0 N, As CS	Fontaine	Pridgeon
3) Health & Human Services Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Jordan Belliveau, Jr., was murdered by his mother in September 2018 when he was two-years-old. At the time of Jordan's death, his mother and father had been reunified with Jordan but were under court supervision and receiving post-reunification services. Due to lack of communication to the court, lack of communication between law enforcement and the Department of Children and Families (DCF or department), and lack of evidence provided by case management regarding the parent's case plan compliance, on-going family issues that provided an unsafe home environment for Jordan were never addressed. Jordan was initially reported missing by his mother, but his body was later found by law enforcement. His mother admitted to killing Jordan by hitting him, which caused his head to hit a wall.

HB 315 is entitled "Jordan's Law" and addresses some issues that arose in his dependency case.

The bill creates a communication process between the department and law enforcement by requiring the systems used by both agencies to connect in a way that allows the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to make available to law enforcement agencies information that a person is a parent or caregiver involved in the child welfare system. The bill further requires that if a law enforcement officer interacts with such a person, the officer shall contact the Florida central abuse hotline (hotline) so the hotline can provide relevant information to individuals involved in the child's case.

The bill amends several statutes to require child welfare professionals and law enforcement officers to receive training on the recognition of, and response to, head trauma and brain injury in a child under six years of age.

The bill amends s. 409.988(3), F.S., to include intensive family reunification services that combine child welfare and mental health services for families with dependent children under six years of age.

Finally, the bill amends s. 409.996, F.S., authorizing the department to select up to three lead agencies to develop and implement a program to more effectively provide case management services for dependent children under six years of age.

The bill has a negative fiscal impact to DCF and FDLE, no fiscal impact to the Guardian ad Litem program, and an indeterminate impact to the Community-based Care Lead Agencies.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Florida's Child Welfare System

The child welfare system identifies families whose children are in danger of suffering or have suffered abuse, abandonment, or neglect and works with those families to address the problems that are endangering children, if possible. If the problems cannot be addressed, the child welfare system finds safe out-of-home placements for these children.

To serve families and children, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) contracts for foster care and related services with lead agencies, also known as community-based care organizations (CBCs). The outsourced provision of child welfare services was intended to increase local community ownership of services delivery and design.¹ DCF, through the CBCs, administers a system of care for children² to:

- Prevent children's separation from their families;
- Intervene to allow children to remain safely in their own homes;
- Reunify families who have had children removed from their care, if possible and appropriate;
- Ensure safety and normalcy for children who are separated from their families;
- Enhance the well-being of children through educational stability and timely health care;
- Provide permanency; and
- Develop their independence and self-sufficiency.

Florida uses funds from a variety of federal sources for child welfare services, such as the Social Services Block Grant, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant, Title XIX Medicaid administration, Title IV-B, Title IV-E, and various other child welfare grants; and state general revenue.

Florida Central Abuse Hotline

DCF operates the Florida central abuse hotline (hotline), which accepts reports 24 hours a day, seven days a week, of known or suspected child abuse, neglect, or abandonment.³ A child protective investigation begins with a report by any person to the hotline. Statute mandates any person who knows or suspects that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, or that a child is in need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide supervision and care, shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the hotline.⁴ If the hotline determines the allegations meet the statutory definition of abuse, abandonment, or neglect, a child protective investigation is triggered.⁵ A child protective investigation must be commenced either immediately or within 24 hours after the report is received, depending on the nature of the allegation.⁶

¹ Department of Children and Families, *Community-Based Care*, <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/service-programs/community-based-care/> (last visited Feb. 1, 2019).

² S. 409.145(1), F.S.

³ S. 39.201(5), F.S.

⁴ S. 39.201(1)(a), F.S.

⁵ S. 39.201(2)(a), F.S.

⁶ *Supra* note 3.

Current law requires DCF to notify law enforcement immediately when the alleged harm to the victim is the result of suspected “criminal conduct” by the child’s parent or caregiver.⁷ The term “criminal conduct” in these situations includes when a child is known or suspected to have died as a result of child abuse or neglect or to be the victim of:

- child abuse or neglect.⁸
- aggravated child abuse.⁹
- sexual battery.¹⁰
- sexual abuse.¹¹
- institutional child abuse or neglect.¹²
- human trafficking.¹³

Upon receiving information about alleged criminal conduct from DCF, the law enforcement agency reviews the information to determine whether a criminal investigation is warranted.¹⁴ If so, the law enforcement agency coordinates its investigative activities with DCF, when feasible.¹⁵ Under s. 39.306, F.S., DCF enters into working agreements with county sheriffs’ offices and local police departments specifying how the requirements of Ch. 39, F.S., must be met when there are joint investigations.¹⁶

Other than reporting criminal child abuse or neglect, the department is not currently required by statute to share any other information with law enforcement, such as when there is an open child protective investigation or when a family is under judicial supervision after an adjudication of dependency.

Dependency Case Process

When DCF removes a child from his or her home during a child protective investigation, a series of dependency court proceedings must occur to adjudicate the child dependent and place him or her in out-of-home care.

Throughout the dependency process, DCF must develop and refine a case plan with input from all parties to the dependency case that details the problems being addressed as well as the goals, tasks, services, and responsibilities required to alleviate the concerns of the state.¹⁷ Services in the case plan must focus on clearly defined objectives that will improve the conditions in the home and aid in maintaining the child in the home, facilitate the child’s safe return to the home, ensure proper care of the child, or facilitate the child’s permanent placement.¹⁸ Once a child is found dependent, a judge reviews the case plan, and if the judge accepts the case plan as drafted, orders the case plan to be followed by the child’s parent.¹⁹ The case plan follows the child from the provision of voluntary services through dependency, or termination of parental rights.²⁰

Once a case plan has been approved by the court, dependency cases continue with judicial review hearings, case plan reviews, custody or placement changes, and permanency planning. The goal is for the dependency court and all parties involved in the child’s case to ensure the child remains safe while living in

⁷ S. 39.301(2)(a), F.S.

⁸ S. 827.03, F.S.

⁹ S. 827.03(1)(a), F.S.

¹⁰ S. 827.071(1)(f), F.S.

¹¹ S. 39.01(77), F.S.

¹² S. 39.01(37), 39.302(1), F.S.

¹³ S. 787.06, F.S.

¹⁴ S. 39.301(2)(c), F.S.

¹⁵ Id.

¹⁶ S. 39.306, F.S.

¹⁷ Ss. 39.6011 and 39.6012, F.S.

¹⁸ S. 39.6012(1)(a), F.S.

¹⁹ S. 39.521, F.S.

²⁰ S. 39.01(11), F.S.

the home or reaches permanency, either by being reunified with his or her parent after he or she has remedied the dangers in the home or through adoption, permanent guardianship, permanent placement with a fit and willing relative, or placement in another planned permanent living arrangement.²¹ In determining the specific permanency goal and whether requirements for its achievement have been met, or if other actions need to be taken to protect the child, the court follows the Rules of Juvenile Procedure²² and statute. In addition, the court considers information about the parent's behavior and actions and other relevant details provided by parties to and participants in the case, such as through written reports submitted and witness testimony at hearings.²³

Services for Dependent Children

DCF contracts for case management, out-of-home care, and related services with lead agencies, also known as community-based care organizations (CBCs). The model of using CBCs to provide child welfare services is designed to increase local community ownership of service delivery and design.²⁴

CBCs are responsible for providing foster care and related services. Through case management, case managers help individuals identify their needs, plan their services, link them to the service systems, coordinate the various system components, monitor services delivery, and evaluate the effect of the services received.²⁵ Services that may be provided include, but are not limited to, counseling, domestic violence services, substance abuse services, family preservation, emergency shelter, and adoption.²⁶ The CBC must give priority to services that are evidence-based and trauma informed.²⁷ CBCs contract with a number of subcontractors for case management and direct care services to children and their families. There are 17 CBCs statewide, which together serve the state's 20 judicial circuits.²⁸

Needs of Children through Age Five

Children under age five are at a crucial developmental stage in their lives. From birth through five years of age, children develop foundational capabilities on which subsequent development builds.²⁹ Regions of the brain involved in regulating emotions, language, and abstract thought grow rapidly in the first three years of life.³⁰ By age three, a child's brain has reached almost 90 percent of its adult size, and the growth in each region of the brain during this time largely depends on the stimulation it receives.³¹

A child's experience with abuse or neglect, or other forms of toxic stress such as domestic violence, can negatively affect brain development.³² These include changes to the structure and chemical activity (e.g., decreased size or connectivity in some parts of the brain) and in the emotional and behavioral functioning of the child (e.g., over-sensitivity to stressful situations).³³ When the brain develops under negative

²¹ S. 39. 621(2)(c), F.S.

²² S. 39.013(1), F.S.

²³ For example, the social study report is submitted under s. 39.701(2)(a), F.S., prior to judicial review hearings.

²⁴ Department of Children and Families, *Community-Based Care*, <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/service-programs/community-based-care/> (last visited Feb. 27, 2019).

²⁵ Department of Children and Families, *Support*, <http://myflfamilies.com/service-programs/mental-health/support> (last visited Mar. 3, 2019).

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ S. 409.988(3), F.S.

²⁸ Department of Children and Families, *Community Based Care Lead Agency Map*, <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/community-based-care/cbc-map> (last visited Feb. 12, 2019).

²⁹ Committee on Integrating the Science of Early Childhood Development, *From Neurons to Neighborhood: The Science of Childhood Development 5* (Jack P. Shonkoff & Deborah A. Philips).

³⁰ U.S. Department of Health, Administration for Children & Families, Children's Bureau, *Understanding the Effects of Maltreatment on Brain Development*, (April 2015) https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/brain_development.pdf (last visited Mar. 3, 2019).

³¹ *Id.* at 3.

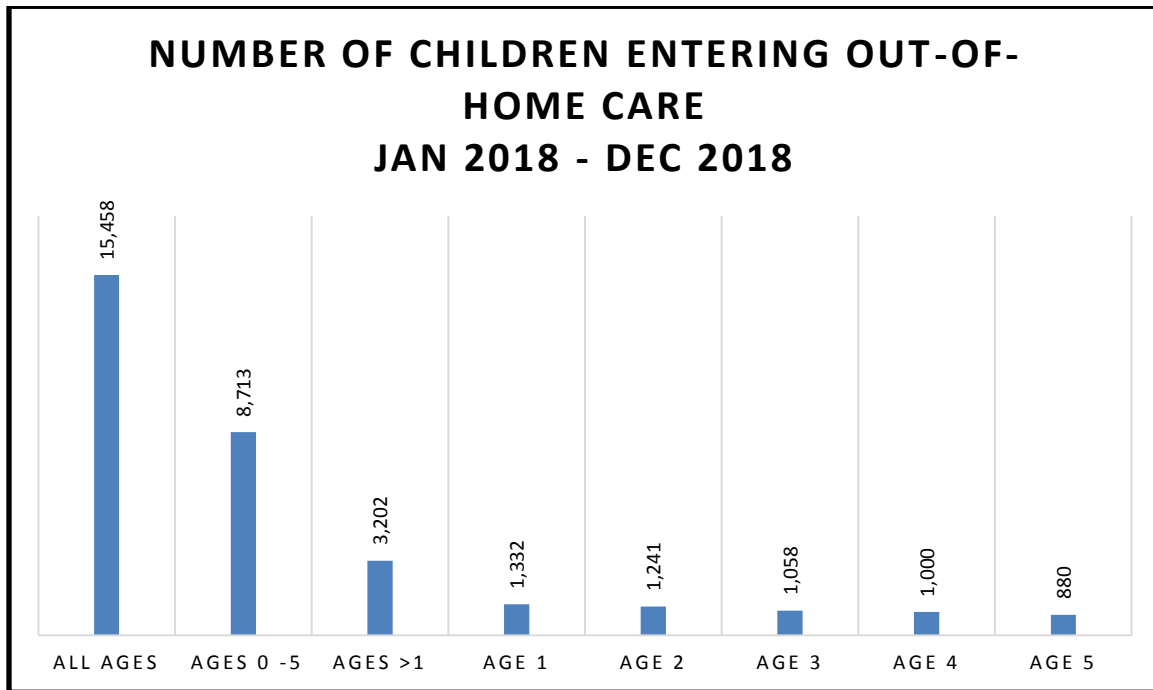
³² *Id.* at 5.

³³ *Id.*

conditions, children learn to cope in a negative environment, and their ability to respond to nurturing may be impaired.³⁴

The effect of abuse or neglect as a child can continue to influence brain development into teenage years as well as adulthood. Some youth who grow up in negative environments as children develop brains that focus on survival, which can lead to impulsive behavior as well as difficulty with tasks that require higher-level thinking and feeling.³⁵

Young children are especially vulnerable to abuse and neglect due to their inability to protect themselves. Last year, 15,458 children entered out-of-home care statewide. Of these children, around 56 percent were 0 to 5 years of age. A breakdown based on the age of children entering out-of-home care last year can be found in the table below.



An important predictor of a child's healthy growth and development is the attachment he or she forms with a consistent caregiver.³⁶ A secure bond with a caregiver helps children develop healthy attachments, nurture themselves, care for others, and be motivated to learn.³⁷ Because a young child's brain is rapidly developing and he or she has a need to bond with a consistent caregiver, it is important to quickly remedy issues that contribute to an unsafe home environment so young children can be reunified with their parents, or be placed in an alternative stable placement, in the shortest time possible.

Jordan Belliveau, Jr.'s Story

Jordan Belliveau, Jr., was murdered by his mother in September 2018. At the time of Jordan's death, his mother and father had been reunified with Jordan but were under court supervision and receiving post-reunification services. His family first came in contact with DCF in October 2016 when a report was made to the hotline alleging Jordan was in an unsafe home environment that included gang violence. Jordan was placed in foster care after his mother was unable to obtain alternative housing. He was subsequently

³⁴ Id.

³⁵ Id. at 9.

³⁶ Lucy Hudson, et al., *Healing the Youngest Children: Model Court-Community Partnerships* (Mar. 2007), available at https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/child_law/healing_young_children.pdf.

³⁷ Id.

adjudicated dependent on November 1, 2016, and placed in foster care. His parents were offered a case plan with tasks including finding stable housing and receiving mental health services and counseling.

Throughout the entirety of Jordan's case, his mother and father were either non-compliant or only partially compliant with their case plans. Nevertheless, due to lack of communication to the court and lack of evidence provided by case management regarding compliance, Jordan was still eventually reunified with his mother and father. After reunification and while still under judicial supervision, domestic violence continued between the parents, with Jordan's father being arrested for domestic violence against Jordan's mother in July 2018. However, the incident was not immediately reported to the hotline upon arrest, and thus the incident was not reported to the court at a hearing the next day regarding Jordan's reunification. When the incident was reported to the hotline three weeks later, a child protective investigation was triggered. However, the investigator found Jordan was not currently in danger, and therefore, found there was no need to remove him from the home.³⁸ Given the on-going and escalating level of violence between the parents, the inability to control the situation in the home, and the risk of harm posed to Jordan should his parent engage in further altercations, an unsafe home environment should have been identified. However, with no concerns for Jordan's safety raised after the investigation or during subsequent hearings, there was no consideration for an emergency modification of his placement and Jordan's reunification with his father occurred.

On August 31, 2018, a case manager visited Jordan's parents to discuss several issues regarding lack of cooperation with the Guardian ad Litem and case plan tasks. The case manager emphasized the continued need for Jordan's parents to participate in services or risk losing custody of Jordan. Less than 24 hours after the visit, Jordan was reported missing by his mother. Four days later his body was found, and his mother was charged with aggravated child abuse and first-degree murder after admitting to killing Jordan by hitting him in a "moment of frustration" which "in turn caused the back of his head to strike an interior wall of her home."³⁹

Training on Head Trauma and Brain Injury in Abused and Neglected Children

Head Trauma and Brain Injury in Children

Abusive head trauma is a leading cause of child abuse deaths in children under 5 in the United States.⁴⁰ Head trauma and injuries can be mild, like a bump or bruise, or they can be more severe, like a concussion or a fractured skull bone, and may also include internal bleeding and damage to the brain. Head trauma and brain injury in children can be caused by a number of actions. The most commonly known physical abuse that results in a brain injury is shaken-baby syndrome; however, head trauma and brain injuries can be caused by other forms of physical abuse, like hitting or striking a child, or it can be caused by caregiver neglect through inadequate supervision or by providing an unsafe home environment.

Additionally, the brain can be damaged by other forms of abuse that don't involve physical abuse to the head, such as through choking or strangling. Disruption in oxygen to the brain, called hypoxia, can cause long-term disabilities and damage to a child's brain.⁴¹

Training Requirements

Current law requires mandatory training for many professionals who work in the child welfare system. Some of these professions require training upon hire as well as continuing education courses throughout employment. The chart below details these requirements.

³⁸ Department of Children and Families, Special Review of the Case Involving Jordan Belliveau, Jr. (Jan. 11, 2019), available at <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/newsroom/docs/Belliveau%20Special%20Review%202018-632408.pdf>.

³⁹ Id.

⁴⁰ Erica L. Spies, Ph.D. and Joanne Klevens, MD, Ph.D., *Fatal Abusive Head Trauma among Children Aged <5 Years – United States, 1999-2017* (May 27, 2016), available at <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6520a1.htm>.

⁴¹ James E. Lewis, Ph.D., *Neuropsychological Evaluations of Children and Adults in Child Welfare Cases*, <http://centervideo.forest.usf.edu/clsneuropsych/start.html> (last visited Jan. 31, 2019).

Although training for these professionals may include some information on head trauma and brain injury in abused and neglected children, it is not a statutorily required training topic.

Professional	Training Requirement	Statute
<i>Judges</i>	<p>All judges new to the bench are required to complete the Florida Judicial College Program during their first year of judicial service following selection to the bench.⁴²</p> <p>Additionally, continuing judicial education is mandatory for all county, circuit, and appellate judges and the Supreme Court justices.</p> <p>The Florida Court Educational Council is required to establish standards for instruction of circuit and county court judges who have responsibility for domestic violence cases.</p>	<p>s. 25.385, F.S.</p> <p>Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.320</p>
<i>Law Enforcement</i>	<p>New hires must successfully complete the Florida Basic Recruit Training Program for the respective discipline or equivalency for out-of-state officers.⁴³ Child abuse training is currently provided as part of the basic skills training for law enforcement officers.</p> <p>All officers, as a condition of continued employment, must receive continuing training or education every four years. A continuing education class entitled Child Abuse Investigations is a 40 hour advanced training program that can be used for salary incentive, as an elective course for mandatory retraining, or as a Specialized Training Program course.</p>	<p>s. 943.13, F.S.</p> <p>s. 943.135, F.S.</p>
<i>Guardian ad Litem</i>	<p>The Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office must establish a curriculum committee to develop the training program for Guardian ad Litem staff and volunteers.</p>	<p>s. 39.8296(2), F.S.</p>
<i>Child Protective Investigators</i>	<p>All child protective investigators and child protective supervisors employed by DCF or a sheriff's office must obtain their Florida Child Protective Investigator certification within 12 months of hire. Additionally, they must complete specialized training within two years of being hired. The training either focuses on servicing a specific population or focuses on performing certain aspects of child protection practice.</p> <p>The specialized training may be used to fulfill continuing education requirements under s. 402.40(3)(e)</p>	<p>s. 402.402(2), F.S.</p>
<i>Children's Legal Services</i>	<p>Attorneys employed by DCF are required within the first six months of employment to receive training, but the training currently offered does not address head trauma and brain injuries.</p>	<p>s. 402.402(4), F.S.</p>
<i>Case Managers, Case Manager Supervisors, and Service Providers</i>	<p>CBC providers are required to ensure all individuals providing care for dependent children receive appropriate training.</p>	<p>s. 409.988(1)(f), F.S.</p>

⁴² Florida Courts, *Information for New Judges*, <https://www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Judiciary-Education/Information-for-New-Judges> (last visited Feb. 12, 2019).

⁴³ Florida Department of Law Enforcement, *How to Become Employed in Florida*, <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/CJSTC/Officer-Requirements/Employment-Requirements.aspx> (last visited Feb. 12, 2019).

Information Technology Systems for Child Welfare and Law Enforcement

Florida Safe Families Network

The Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) is the department's Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System. FSFN serves as the statewide electronic case record for all child abuse investigations and case management activities in Florida for the department.

Florida Crime Information Center

The Florida Crime Information Center (FCIC), administered by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), is a state database that houses actionable criminal justice information. When law enforcement comes in contact with an individual, the officer runs the individual's identifying information in FCIC to see if there are any open wants or warrants for their arrest. FDLE's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) is the central repository of criminal history records for the state and provides criminal identification screening to criminal justice and non-criminal justice agencies.⁴⁴ The CJIS helps ensure the quality of data available on the FCIC system.

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill is entitled "Jordan's Law" and addresses some issues that arose in his dependency case. It creates a communication process between the department and law enforcement, requires training on head trauma and brain injury in children under six years of age, requires the department to select lead agencies to develop and implement case management services for dependent children under six years of age, and specifies that intensive reunification services may be provided to dependent children.

Department Communication with Law Enforcement

The bill creates a communication process between DCF and law enforcement agencies. Although DCF and law enforcement currently share information on cases possibly involving criminal conduct for the purpose of facilitating criminal investigations, law enforcement is not informed of individuals involved in the child welfare system for purposes of providing information for these civil cases.

The bill requires the FSFN and FCIC systems to be connected in a way that allows FDLE the ability to make available to law enforcement agencies information that a person is involved in the child welfare system in one of two statuses as a parent or caregiver:

- Currently the subject of a child protective investigation, or
- Under judicial supervision after an adjudication of dependency.

The bill further requires that if a law enforcement officer has an interaction with such a person, the law enforcement officer shall contact the hotline. The hotline shall then provide any relevant information provided by the officer to either a child protective investigator or to the child's case manager and the attorney representing the department, depending on who is involved in the child's case at the time of the report.

Training

The bill amends ss. 39.8296(2)(b), 402.402(2) and (4), and 409.988(1)(f), F.S., to require training on the recognition of and response to head trauma and brain injury in a child under six years of age. The professionals who must be trained include case managers, Guardian ad Litem staff and volunteers, dependency court judges, child protective investigators, Children's Legal Services attorneys, and foster parents and group home staff.

⁴⁴ Florida Department of Law Enforcement, *Criminal Justice Information Services*, <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/CJIS/CJIS-Home.aspx> (last visited Mar. 3, 2019).

Additionally, the bill creates s. 943.17297, F.S., to require law enforcement officers to be trained on the recognition of and response to head trauma and brain injury in a child under six years of age to aid an officer in the detection of head trauma and brain injury due to child abuse. Each law enforcement officer must complete the training as part of basic recruit training or as part of continuing training or education. The bill requires the training to be available for new law enforcement offices and completed by current officers by July 1, 2021.

Each entity will have flexibility in developing the trainings it provides.

Services for Dependent Children

The bill amends s. 409.996, F.S., to require the department to select up to three lead agencies to develop and implement a program to more effectively provide case management services for dependent children under six years of age. The bill requires the department to choose lead agencies in circuits with high removal rates, significant budget deficits, significant case management turnover, and the highest numbers of children in out-of-home care or a significant increase over the last three fiscal years in children in out-of-home care. Furthermore, the bill amends s. 409.988(3), F.S., regarding the services CBCs may provide to dependent children to include intensive family reunification services that combine child welfare and mental health services for families with dependent children under six years of age.

This bill is effective July 1, 2019.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Provides a title.

Section 2. Amends s. 25.385, F.S., relating to standards for instruction of circuit and county court judges.

Section 3. Creates s. 39.0142, F.S.; relating to notifying law enforcement of parent or caregiver names.

Section 4. Amends s. 39.8296, F.S.; relating to statewide Guardian ad Litem Office; legislative findings and intent; creation; appointment of executive director; duties of office.

Section 5. Amends s. 402.402, F.S.; relating to child protection and child welfare personnel; attorneys employed by the department.

Section 6. Amends s. 409.988, F.S.; relating to lead agency duties; general provisions.

Section 7. Amends s. 409.996, F.S.; relating to duties of the Department of Children and Families.

Section 8. Creates s. 943.17297, F.S.; relating to training in the recognition of and response to head trauma and brain injury.

Section 9. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2019.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

The bill has a negative fiscal impact among multiple entities, which in totality is estimated to have nonrecurring training costs of \$44,955. These costs can be absorbed within current funding. Other areas affected by the bill have costs that are indeterminate, as the costs are dependent upon the means by which the bill requirements are implemented.

Training

- DCF estimates a nonrecurring cost of \$35,000 to develop the training established in the bill. This includes the cost of research, front-end analysis to further define scope, subject matter experts, and the design and development of materials. These costs can be absorbed within existing resources.
- The Guardian ad Litem program can incorporate the changes of its training curriculum within existing resources.
- FDLE estimates a cost of approximately \$9,955 to develop the required training curricula, which is based upon the need for curriculum development workshops and OPS staff. The department can utilize existing appropriations for these costs.

Technology

- FDLE reports a nonrecurring technology cost of \$45,000 to incorporate child welfare training into its current system. The department indicates this cost can be absorbed within existing resources, although doing so may require the reprioritization of existing staff and resources.
- DCF indicates a nonrecurring need of \$200,000 for the development of a technology solution that interfaces FSFN and FCIC. There exists sufficient resources for this cost.
- FDLE suggests developing a web-based interface between these two systems for a nonrecurring cost of \$312,000, and notes these programming modifications may take two years to complete. Initial costs can be absorbed within available resources. The FDLE can submit a legislative budget request for future needs should a comprehensive analysis indicate such.
- DCF has indicated the need for additional staffing resources to maintain the parent or caregiver information in the FCIC, but the impact is indeterminate.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Training

The CBCs will be required to ensure that individuals providing care for dependent children receive training on recognition of and response to head trauma and brain injury. However, they may be able to use or adapt training developed by the department or available from other entities at low or no cost.

Case Management Project

Should DCF elect to create a program that examines more effective case management for children age six and under, the CBCs selected for this program would work in collaboration with the department to develop and implement the program in their respective circuits. The bill provides flexibility in how the program is implemented, and the cost to develop the program depends on its design. For example, the program design may involve hiring additional case management staff. In 2017, the annual mean wage estimates in Florida for a Child, Family and School Social Worker was \$41,600, and for a Community

and Social Service Specialist was \$40,420.⁴⁵ At least five staff members would be needed to serve 75 children if caseloads are at the bill's target level of no more than 15 children. In this scenario, additional staffing resources would cost each CBC an estimated \$200,000 (five additional case managers x \$40,000 mean salary).

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not Applicable. This bill does not appear to require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take action requiring the expenditures of funds; reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On April 2, 2019, the Appropriations Committee adopted an amendment affecting the creation of a program that will examine the delivery of more effective case management services. The amendment makes the creation of such program permissive rather than required. This analysis is drafted to the bill as amended.

⁴⁵ Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Employment Statistics*, https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_fl.htm (last visited Mar. 11, 2019).