

How the Ad hoc began!

- SEPTEMBER 4th 2018 changed the Public's views on the Child Welfare system.



The DATA (as of October 2018)

- **321 total child fatalities in the year 2018 alone, as of October.**
- 82% of children fatalities within the DCF system are under the age of 3 and 39% of the fatalities have had prior involvement with the Department of Children and Families.
- Florida's reunification of children with families is 47% compared to the National average of 51%.
- 46% of the children in care are there for 12 months or more of which 28% are in care for 2 or more years.

AFFECTS ON CITIES STATEWIDE

- Negative emotional, behavioral, medical, and psychological outcomes lead to increased risk of being involved in the criminal justice system, being addicted to substances, and an increased risk of medical and mental health concerns. In addition, they are at higher risk of being a perpetrator of child abuse/neglect, and domestic violence.
- Trauma accounts for 45% of mental health disorders starting in childhood, 32% in early adulthood, and 26% in mid-later adulthood.
- 70% of psychiatric inpatients are reported to have experienced some form of childhood abuse.
- Medical costs are found to increase significantly when individuals have a history of childhood trauma. The annual adjusted costs ranges between \$982 and \$3,269 per abused person. The annual societal costs at population level range between 100 and 450 MILLION per one million individuals between the ages of 18 and 65 years of age.
- **All negative impacts Increase costs to Social Service Agencies, EMS, Fire and Police departments. Increased medical costs affect citizen premiums.**

PRIORITY CHANGES

1. Hire more investigators and case managers, increase salaries to better represent their responsibilities and profession.
2. Investigate cases more efficiently and accurately.
3. Require a more wholistic and objective affidavit for removal.
4. Demand that DCF address work conditions and require open access for employees. Require transparency in the system for both personnel and the public.
5. Placed children must receive mandatory mental health services.
6. Guardian Ad Litem and Foster Parents must be given a voice at hearings.
7. Require a gradual reunification with parents and mandate supervision by case management throughout the process.

“There is no more neutrality in the world. You either have to be part of the solution, or your going to be part of the problem.”

(Eldridge Cleaver)

