Department of Children and Families Summary of New/Modified Duties resulting from 2014 Legislative Session

Chapter 2014-224, Laws of Florida, created section 409.996, Florida Statutes. This new section codifies in law current responsibilities of the Department and adds additional responsibilities. The new duties include:

- New requirements to be included in the Community-Based Care (CBC) Lead Agencies’ contracts including graduated penalties for failure to perform
- Post written policies and procedures for monitoring contracts on website
- Post distribution of federal funds on website; monitor Lead Agencies to assess compliance with financial guidelines and applicable state and federal laws
- Provide technical assistance and consultation to CBC Lead Agencies in provision of care in the child protection and child welfare system
- Provide training and assistance to CBC Lead Agencies regarding responsibility relating to children receiving supplemental security income, social security, railroad retirement, or veterans’ benefits
- Retain responsibility for licensure of foster homes
- Process all applications submitted by CBC Lead Agencies for the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children and the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance
- Assist Lead Agencies with access to and coordination with other service programs within the Department including implementation of working agreement between Lead Agencies and substance abuse and mental health managing entity to integrate services and supports for children and parents
- Determine Medicaid eligibility for all referred children and coordinate services with Agency for Health Care Administration including providing Medicaid-eligible children with early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment including 72 hour screening, periodic child health checkups and prescribed follow-up for ordered services
- Develop, in cooperation with CBC Lead Agencies, credentialing entity, and Florida Institute for Child Welfare a standardized competency-based curriculum for certification training for child protection staff
- Maintain statewide adoptions website and provide information and training to the CBC Lead Agencies relating to the website
- With assistance of CBC Lead Agencies, develop and implement statewide and local interagency agreements with Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Education, Department of Health and other governmental organizations
- Assist CBC Lead Agencies in developing an array of services in compliance with the Title IV-E waiver and monitor the provision of such services
- Provide a mechanism to allow CBC Lead Agencies to request a waiver of Department policies and procedures that create inefficiencies or inhibit the performance of the CBC Lead Agency’s duties
• Provide attorneys to prepare and present cases in dependency court and provide the court names and contact information for child protective investigator and supervisor, case manager and supervisor, and regional department official and provide case information and recommendations provided by the CBC Lead Agency or subcontractor

• Conduct at least annually evaluations of the CBC Lead Agencies that covers programmatic, operational, and fiscal operations and is consistent with the child welfare results-oriented accountability system; must also consult with dependency judges in the circuit(s) on the performance of the CBC Lead Agency

• Monitor out-of-home placements including placement of sibling groups and incorporate findings into results-oriented accountability system, outcome evaluation of child welfare services, and Florida Institute for Child Welfare

• Ensure court is fully informed, presented competent evidence including testimony by Department employees, contractors and subcontractors, and consideration be given to info developed by case manager and direction given to case manager if more information is needed