What is the Child Protection Summit?

The annual Child Protection Summit is the largest child welfare event in Florida and one of the largest professional development conferences for child welfare stakeholders in the country. The conference originated as a Dependency Court Improvement initiative in 1997. With the exception of one year when multiple, local trainings were offered, this annual centralized, statewide conference has grown over the past 19 years. The conference has maintained a focus on improving the child welfare system of care in Florida and ensuring safety, permanency and well-being for vulnerable children throughout the state.

The 2016 Child Protection Summit drew a record 3,082 child protection professionals, community partners, caregivers, advocates and stakeholders from Florida’s entire child welfare system of care for a three-day series of workshops and specialized trainings. In addition to the child welfare professionals, a record 174 children were in attendance along with their foster or adoptive parent(s) or relative/nonrelative caregiver(s).

Because the Department does not have a state building large enough to accommodate the attendance of the annual Child Protection Summit, the Summit historically has been held at a conference site. The 2016 Child Protection Summit was held September 7-9 at the JW Marriott Grande Lakes Orlando.

Who attended the 2016 Child Protection Summit?

Representatives from Florida’s entire child welfare system of care registered to attend, including: prevention service providers; frontline child protective investigators and case managers; foster and adoptive parents and other caregivers; guardians ad litem; dependency judges and magistrates; attorneys; physicians; substance abuse and mental health treatment professionals; service providers for children and young adults with developmental disabilities; young adults who formerly were in foster care; policymakers; and representatives from the educational and juvenile justice systems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Type</th>
<th>Number Registered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Protective Investigators (DCF and Sheriff Office) and DCF Headquarters &amp; Regional Staff</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Managers and Community-Based Care (CBC) Lead Agency Staff</td>
<td>655</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBC-subcontracted Provider Agency Staff</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Legal Services (DCF, State Attorney’s Offices and Offices of Attorney General)</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardian ad Litem Staff and Volunteers</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judges, Magistrates and Court Support Staff</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster and Adoptive Parents and Relative/Nonrelative Caregivers</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Professionals</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency Partners (Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Juvenile Justice, Agency for Persons with Disabilities)</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adults formerly in Foster Care</td>
<td>37</td>
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</tbody>
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Bikers Against Child Abuse (featured with DCF Secretary Mike Carroll, below) support children in out-of-home care in multiple cities throughout Florida.
When asked their greatest 2016 Summit take-aways, attendees said...

“Left feeling motivated and inspired.”

“Knowing and seeing I am on a statewide team working towards the best interest of our children.”

“We are all working towards the same result, just have different ideas of how to get there.”

“That we must always remind ourselves why and who we are fighting for. That the concept of team has to be a major factor in our daily professional thought process.”

What was new in 2016?

The 2016 Child Protection Summit offered annual favorite features, including presentation of the William E. Gladstone Award and Child Welfare Excellence Awards, and the graduation ceremony of the Florida Youth Leadership Academy participants. In addition, the 2016 Summit offered:

- Advanced Training Workshops, such as:
  - the legislatively mandated specialized training on handling cases involving allegations of medical neglect, specifically with children who have chronic medical conditions such as Diabetes, Asthma, Eczema, Failure to Thrive, Obesity and Dental Caries; and
  - a human trafficking session focused on the importance of cross-sector collaboration to improve the coordination and delivery of services provided to children involved in gang trafficking.

- A memorial tribute to the Honorable Judge William E. Gladstone, a legendary child advocate who served two decades seated on the Miami-Dade juvenile court bench. Judge Gladstone died in October 2015 at the age of 85.

- A panel discussion featuring frontline child welfare professionals sharing tips for success and avoiding compassion fatigue in the challenging and impactful field of child welfare.

- Child care programming for the 174 children in attendance with their foster/adoptive parent or relative/nonrelative caregiver, including science activities and storytelling by Josh the Otter.

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Youth-focused workshops for youth ages 13 and older, including a session on youth rights and privileges with representatives from the Department of Children and Families, Department of Juvenile Justice and the local Sheriff’s Office.

Five Lifesaver awards presented to individuals recognized by their peers and colleagues for taking actions that had an immediate impact in the protection of a child’s life.

Launching of a conference mobile app with on-site support for first-time users of the app. The Summit app provided interactive maps, a listing of Summit speakers and their workshop materials, a live social feed, event reminders and personalized, real-time schedules.

Recognition of child welfare professionals, foster parents and partnering stakeholders through the “Tell Me Your Why” photo wall, video and mobile app feature. The “Tell Me Your Why” recognition featured faces and voices of individuals throughout the system of care, expressing why they are so committed to the children and families they serve.
Top 25 Favorite Workshops

1. Leadership and Retention Through the Eyes of Dr. Seuss
3. Recent Developments in Dependency Case and Statutory Law
4. The New Face of Child Advocacy: Two Brown Eyes and a Cold Wet Nose
5. From Distracted to Productive: Finding Your Focus in an Increasingly Interrupted World
6. Assessing Child Maltreatment in Multicultural Populations
7. Hiding in Plain Sight: A Human Trafficking Case Study
8. Chapter 39 Injunctions: Challenges and Solutions
9. Compassion Fatigue: The Cost of Caring
10. A Heads Up on Flakka (Novel Synthetic Psychotropic Agents)
11. Hitting a Home Run with Safety Plans
12. Effects of Early Maltreatment on Brain Development
13. Children of Inmates: Children at Risk
15. Promoting Family Well-Being and Healthy Development Through Positive Discipline Techniques
16. ICPC: Let’s Get Placement On!
17. Trendsetting Therapeutic Arts Services for Foster Youth
18. Achieving Family Safety in Domestic Violence Cases: Assessment, Partnership, and Accountability
19. Our Voice Our Stories: A Digital Storytelling Project by Florida Youth SHINE
20. Crossover Court: From Arrest to Success
21. LGBT Sensitivity: A Panel Discussion
22. Emerging Issues Regarding Parental Fundamental Rights: What Every Judicial Officer Needs to Know
23. A Comprehensive Trauma-Informed System of Care for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth
24. Family Acceptance of LGBTQ Youth
25. Creative Counseling with Children and Teens Who Have Experienced Trauma

What did attendees of the 2016 Child Protection Summit like most about their top favorite workshop?

Of the 1,069 attendees who answered the question, “What did you like most about your ‘top favorite’ workshops?“:

- 34% reported they mostly liked that the information they learned will aid them in their day-to-day work;
- 29% responded that they mostly liked that the speaker was engaging;
- 14% reported that the presentations were easy to follow and provided applicable information; and
- 10% mostly liked that the information was presented in an interactive manner.
Here are some of the thoughts attendees shared regarding their general session experience.

“This event always energizes me and motivates me. While the workshops often provide valuable information, it’s the general sessions that provide inspiration and motivation to continue to do this work.”

“The general sessions provided encouragement and praise for the hard work that we do for families. This is needed in the world of Child Protection.”

“Very impressed with the speakers for the general sessions. I also was impressed by the large number of groups represented throughout the State.”
Save the Date!

20th Anniversary

2017 Child Protection Summit

August 29-31, 2017