

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF HEALTHY START COALITIONS, INC.
AND
THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

WHEREAS,

The Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc.(FAHSC) and the Florida Department of Children & Families (DCF) share a commitment and responsibility for providing prevention and early intervention services to vulnerable families in the state; and,

FAHSC and DCF have a 25 year history of working together at both the state and community level to implement Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women and newborns, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and other ACCESS Florida programs, substance abuse prevention and treatment programs, safe sleep initiatives, mental health services, Project LAUNCH and Healthy Start services to at-risk families; and,

FAHSC and DCF have collaborated on state and community initiatives to infuse protective factors critical for strengthening families and preventing abuse and neglect into all programs provided by child –serving agencies; and,

DCF is the state’s designated agency responsible for Title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) as well as the state’s child welfare agency (Title IV-E and IV-E); and,

FAHSC is the lead organization for the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Impact grant which aims to strengthen linkages between home- and community-based services for families with children age 0-3 and early learning; and,

FAHSC and DCF are committed to program accountability and the provision of high-quality services to vulnerable families; and,

It is mutually beneficial for FAHSC and DCF to support the successful implementation of evidence-based maternal, infant and early childhood home visiting programs in Florida’s high-need communities as part of a continuum of early childhood comprehensive services, now, therefore

FAHSC and DCF hereby agree to work together on the following activities:

1. **Staff Training and Capacity Building**, including the identification of core competencies for child serving agency staff and inter-agency training around these core competencies.
2. **Promotion of a Coordinated System of Primary Prevention Services at the State and Community Level** including, where practical, the use of a single-intake system to facilitate the identification and appropriate referral of vulnerable families using the state’s universal prenatal and infant screens as well as participation in inter-agency coordinating councils and committees.
3. **Adoption and use of common metrics** that will facilitate the measurement of program impacts and outcomes across a multi-agency continuum of primary prevention services for families with

children age 0-5. Where appropriate, these common metrics will be incorporated in required state assessments and plans, such as the Florida Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment (CAPTA) plan.

4. **Leveraging the respective resources** of both organizations for home visiting and other primary prevention services in the 29 priority counties/subcounty areas identified in *Florida's Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Updated State Plan (June 8, 2011)* previously developed by the Florida Department of Health and DCF, incorporated herein by reference.
5. **Facilitate and support** the involvement of the Community-Based Care lead agencies and local alliances in efforts to promote the coordination of primary prevention services, including evidence-based maternal, infant and early childhood home visiting services to vulnerable families.

Additionally, DCF agrees to 1) participate in state and community planning efforts to improve coordination of screening, referral, follow-up, as well as data and systems coordination; and to 2) share data with FAHSC and its evaluation partner to the extent specified in established Data Use Agreements and/or allowable by Florida law and regulations, incorporated herein by reference.

This memorandum of agreement will be reviewed annually by both parties. Additional reviews may take place if warranted by changing conditions or circumstances. Changes may be made at any time by attaching an amendment to the basic agreement. Any amendment to this agreement shall be in writing and signed by both parties. Either party may terminate this agreement without cause, upon 30 days written notice to the other party.

This agreement becomes effective upon the date of the last approving signature and will remain in effect for one year unless otherwise amended or terminated.

The undersigned officials are duly authorized to execute on behalf of their organizations by their signature indicate their agreement with this MOA.

FOR:
Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc.



James J. Bracher, Executive Director

FOR:
Florida Department of Children & Families



Mike Carroll, Secretary

8/31/16

Date

8/29/16

Date