



Summary Report

December 2015

Florida Department of Children and Families
Office of Child Welfare

What people said about the 2015 Child Protection Summit...

"Excellent venue!! Wonderful networking opportunity with so many workshop options."

"Great presentations that are applicable to my work in the children and adult system of care."

"Highly organized, good speakers, interesting topics. Great learning experience!"

"I enjoyed networking with other professionals. It was a great experience because **it made me remember why I am in this field.**"

"I learned a lot about this profession. I learned overall that **there is hope for our children.**"

"I learned a lot of good techniques to help foster parents/caregivers with behaviors of kids who have been sexually abused."

"I **really learned a lot** about other legal issues facing older children in out-of-home care, such as LGBTQ issues and human trafficking victims."

"I was surprised at the amount of training provided, was hard to decide what to take :)"

"Information is available for the asking. Each person in 'the system of care' can and should make a significant difference in the lives of the children who are thrust into the Dependency system."

"It was encouraging to see almost 3,000 people coming together for the same purpose. **It gave me renewed love and excitement for this field** that can often become overwhelming."

"Keynote speaker showed that one person can make a difference."

"Mike Carroll is the right person to lead the state. He knows what he is doing and walks the walk."

"Networking and relationship-building that occurred were great."

"Renewing the child welfare spark in my heart. This event is uplifting and builds team relationships."

"The circuit breakout was very well thought out and productive. This needs be done locally on a regular basis. The zip drive containing the presentations was a great idea. Now I can easily share what I learned."

“The focus on the family as opposed to just children. The trauma that is caused by not trying to keep the family together. We need to really look at whether removal is truly keeping the child safe.”

“**The greatest take-aways from the event this year were the presenters.** This year, particularly, they were more engaging, provided information unknown to some of the most seasoned personnel in the Child Welfare System and did an outstanding job with answering follow-up questions. Additionally, the movie night and amenities were **fantastic!**”

“The unlimited energy of those around the State and in our own community working in child welfare. It is **inspiring.**”

“There is a great support system for Child Safety in Florida.”

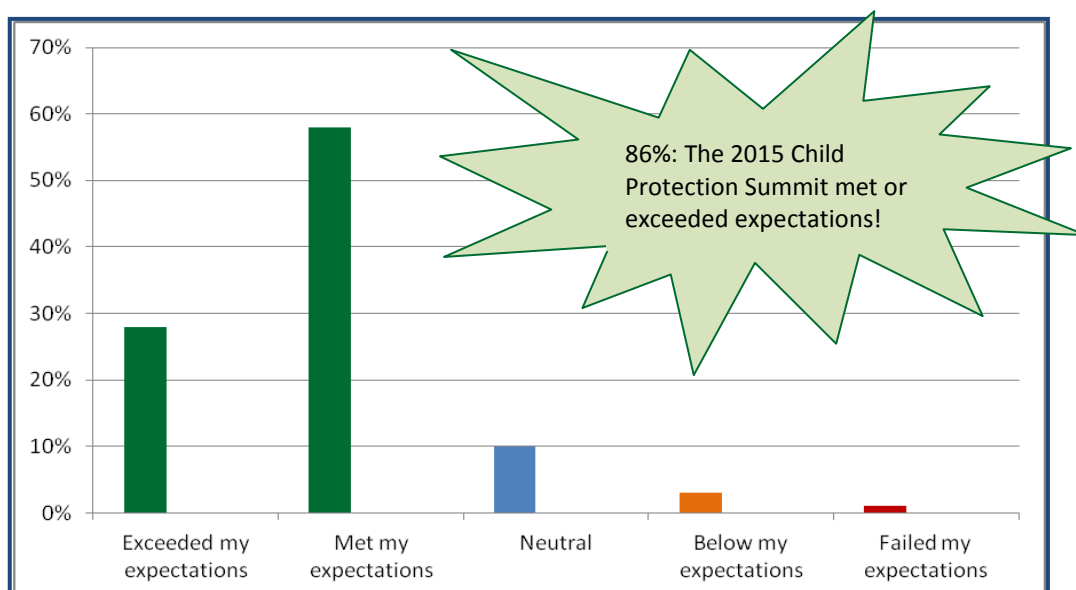
“There were some **great workshops** on Mental Health of parents.”

“**We all have an invisible thread tying us together.**”

“**Well-organized conference, great topics and wonderful presentations.**”

“**We make a difference.**”

How well did this event contribute to your overall professional development this year?



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 Summit in 2015 brought a record 2,710 child protection professionals, community partners, caregivers, advocates and stakeholders from the entire child welfare system of care for a three-day series of workshops and specialized trainings.

Because the Department does not have a state building large enough to accommodate the attendance of the Child Protection Summit, the Summit historically has been held at a conference site in the centrally located Orlando area. The 2015 Child Protection Summit was held at the JW Marriott Grande Lakes Orlando from Sept. 9-11.



To maximize the number of child welfare professionals and stakeholders who can benefit from the professional development opportunities offered at the Summit, all general sessions and several workshops were recorded and posted online at the Center for Child Welfare

(<http://centerforchildwelfare.org/Training/2015CPSummit.shtml>). In addition, the Opening General Session (Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2015, 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.) was webcast live by The Florida Channel (thefloridachannel.org). Participants also received upon registration a USB drive that includes PowerPoint presentations and workshop materials used by presenters.

Who attended the 2015 Child Protection Summit?

Representatives from the 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.

Among those who registered for the 2015 Child Protection Summit:

Category	Number registered
Child Protective Investigators (DCF and Sheriff Office) and DCF Headquarters and Regional Staff	520
Case Managers and Community-Based Care (CBC) Lead Agency Staff	509
CBC-subcontracted Provider Agency Staff	253
Children's Legal Services (DCF, State Attorney's Offices and Offices of Attorney General)	204
Guardian ad Litem Staff and Volunteers	165
Judges, Magistrates and Court Support Staff	124
Foster and Adoptive Parents	93
Treatment Professionals	80
Young Adults formerly in Foster Care	33

What did the Department expect to gain by bringing all of these people together?

The goals of the 88 workshops and three general sessions offered during the 2015 Child Protection Summit were driven by the federal grant that supports this professional development conference, the Children's Justice Act (CJA) grant. The purpose of the CJA grant is to develop, establish and operate programs to improve:

- The handling of child abuse and neglect cases, particularly cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner which limits additional trauma to the child victim;

- The handling of cases of suspected child abuse or neglect-related fatalities;
- The investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation; and
- The handling of cases involving children who are victims of abuse and neglect who have disabilities or serious health-related problems who are victims of abuse and neglect.

The Florida Department of Children and Families is the designated agency responsible for administering the Children's Justice Act grant for the state of Florida. Florida complies with Section 107(a) of the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) in order to continue its eligibility to receive the CJA grant award. A CJA Task Force is a requirement of the grant, with members representing the following disciplines: law enforcement, criminal court judge, civil court judge, prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, child advocate attorney, court-appointed special advocate representative, health professional, mental health professional, child protective service agencies, individuals experienced in working with children with disabilities, parents and representative of parent group, adult former victims of child abuse and/or neglect, and individuals experienced in working with homeless children and youth. In Florida, this task force is called the Child Welfare Practice Task Force.

In addition to support by the Child Welfare Practice Task Force and the Children's Justice Act, community-based care lead agencies and child welfare stakeholders, sponsors for the 2015 Child Protection Summit were:

- Sunshine Health
- Casey Family Programs
- The Florida Certification Board
- North Highland Worldwide Consulting.

AK Consulting Group provides conference planning consultation services for the Child Protection Summit.

How long has the Department been hosting the Summit?

The conference originated as a Dependency Court Improvement initiative in 1997. With the exception of one year (multiple, local trainings were offered), this annual centralized, statewide conference has grown over the past 18 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.

What was new in 2015?

Each year, the Summit planning team strives to improve the following year's conference, responsive to the feedback of participants and presenters, and mindful of training needs identified by legislative priorities and evaluation of



practice. The 2015 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 2015 Child Protection Summit offered:

- Advanced Training Workshops, such as:
 - the legislatively mandated specialized training on handling cases involving Medically Complex children and recognizing and identifying Medical Neglect;
 - a training specifically for supervisors of child protective investigators to strengthen the consultation and coaching skills needed to effectively implement the new Child Welfare Practice Model; and
 - a session focused on improving the continuum of care by implementing Evidence-Based Practices into the menu of services offered by communities throughout Florida.



- Enhanced categorization of workshops targeting specific professions (System and Program Leadership, Practice and Caregivers, and Legal).
- Introduction of a special service project by the Florida Youth Leadership Academy to support youth in foster care with duffel bags.
- Support of the statewide foster parent recruitment campaign, including increased focus on the need to recruit foster parents of teens.
- A Movie Night and panel discussion of the *Tough Love* documentary, sponsored by Casey Family Programs and featuring director Stephanie Wang Breal and Judge Katherine Essrig of the 13th Judicial Circuit.
- Involvement during the general sessions of youth currently or formerly in foster care or involved in the child welfare system, including the NexGen Band, FSU Unconquered Scholar Brittany Gardener, Dan Scott of Florida Youth SHINE and the 15 Florida Youth Leadership Academy graduates.
- Keynote speaker Laura Schroff, bestselling author of *An Invisible Thread*.

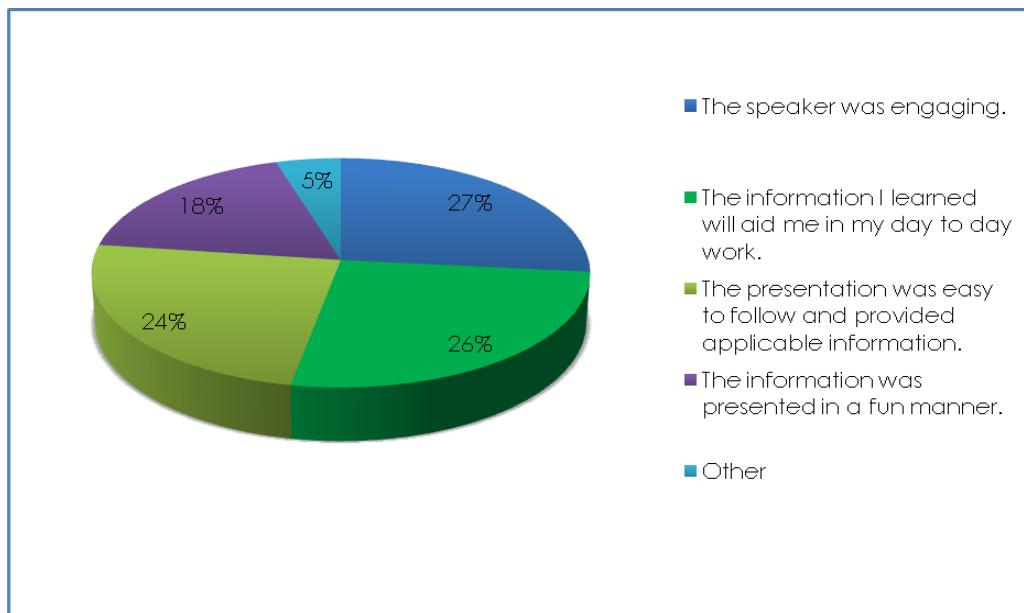


What did attendees of the 2015 Child Protection Summit like most about the workshops?

Nearly 700 attendees of the 2015 Child Protection Summit (693, or 25.5 percent) completed an electronic survey conducted by the Florida Institute for Child Welfare, College of Social Work, Florida State University, to provide feedback on the professional development conference.

Of the 693 attendees who answered the question, "What did you like most about the workshops?":

- 27% of those responded that they mostly liked that the speaker was engaging;
- 26% reported they mostly liked that the information they learned will aid them in their day to day work;
- 24% reported that they liked the presentations because they were easy to follow as well as provided applicable information; and
- 18% mostly liked the information which was presented in a fun manner.



Top 25 Favorite Workshops

1. Finding an Extra Hour Every Day: Time & Tech Tips for Busy Professionals
2. It's the Little Things in Life That Matter: Florida Youth SHINE Speaks on Supportive Relationships
3. Top 20 Tools for Your Dependency Law Toolbox
4. Creating Sexual Safety and Promoting Healing (Recover) in Foster Care and Adoption
5. Children Visiting Incarcerated Parents in Prison: What We've Learned from 5,000 Child Visits
6. Simple Math: 2 Agencies + 1 dog = Better Outcomes for Kids
7. SUPERwoman, SUPERman, SUPERvisor...the Ultimate SUPERhero!
8. Adopting the Maltreated Child: Effects of Early Trauma on the Developing Brain
9. Recent Developments in Dependency Case & Statutory Law
10. Engagement Evolution
11. Controlling, Coercing or Coaching?
12. My State Regulates Your State: Coaching and Connecting with Children in Conflict
13. Serving and Protecting Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
14. 15th Judicial Circuit's Therapeutic Court: A Team Approach from Treatment to Permanency
15. Baker Act and Marchman Act
16. Providing a Continuum of Services for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth: One Year Findings
17. Recommended Practices for Meeting the Needs of LGBTQ, Transgender & Gender Non-Conforming TGNC Youth
18. Safety Planning: Best Practices for Enhancing Safety for Domestic Violence Survivors and Their Children
19. A Step-By-Step Guide to Guardianship Issues for Dependent Teens
20. Advocacy Lessons Learned at My Grandmother's Kitchen Table
21. Child Welfare in the News: A Survey and Discussion of Child Abuse Cases Around the Country
22. Critical Incident Rapid Response Team: An Introduction to the Process
23. Sunshine Health Child Welfare Specialty Plan
24. The Fundamentals That Leaders Should Consider About Implementation of Evidence Based Practices (EBT)
25. Trendsetting Therapeutic Arts Services for Youth in Foster Care: A Journey into Lyrical Expression

What types of workshops do those who attended the 2015 Child Protection Summit want to see at future Summits?

Among the 37 workshop topic areas provided, 33% chose *Human Trafficking*; 27% chose *Leadership*; and 27% chose *Mental Health*; 24% chose *Domestic Violence* and 24% chose *Trauma-Informed Care*.



Are recordings available of the general sessions and workshops?

To watch the general sessions, review workshop materials and watch certain recorded workshops from the 2015 Child Protection Summit, go to the Summit page on Center for Child Welfare site:

<http://www.centerforchildwelfare.org/Training/2015CPSummit.shtml>

In addition, The Florida Channel recorded the general sessions and the following selected workshops:

Sept. 9, 2015: Department of Children and Families Child Protection Summit **Opening Session** (<http://thefloridachannel.org/videos/9915-department-of-children-and-families-child-protection-summit/>)

Sept. 10, 2015: Department of Children and Families Child Protection Summit **General Session** (<http://thefloridachannel.org/videos/91015-department-of-children-and-families-child-protection-summit-general-session/>)

Sept. 11, 2015: Department of Children and Families Child Protection Summit **Closing Session** (<http://thefloridachannel.org/videos/91115-department-of-children-and-families-child-protection-summit-closing-session/>)

Sept. 9, 2015: **Improving Outcomes for Infants and Toddlers through Early Childhood Court Teams** (<http://thefloridachannel.org/videos/9915-department-of-children-and-families-child-protection-summit-breakout-session-improving-outcomes-for-infants-and-toddlers-through-early-childhood-court-teams/>)

Sept. 10, 2015: **Children Visiting Incarcerated Parents in Prison: What We've Learned from 5,000 Child Visits** (<http://thefloridachannel.org/videos/91015-department-of-children-and-families-child-protection-summit-breakout-session-children-visiting-incarcerated-parents-in-prison-what-weve-learned-from-5000-child-visits/>)

Sept. 10, 2015: **Recent Developments in Dependency Case & Statutory Law** (<http://thefloridachannel.org/videos/91015-department-of-children-and-families-child-protection-summit-breakout-session-recent-developments-in-dependency-case-statutory-law/>)

Sept. 11, 2015: **Baker Act and Marchman Act** (<http://thefloridachannel.org/videos/91115-department-of-children-families-child-protection-summit-breakout-session-baker-act-and-marchman-act/>)

Save the Date!

**The 2016 Child Protection Summit
will be held
Wednesday-Friday,
September 7-9, 2016,
at the
JW Marriott Grande Lakes Orlando.**

