

DCF Vision



August 2011

Welcome to DCF Vision – the Department’s new employee newsletter!

Every month, the newsletter will provide timely updates on DCF initiatives, upcoming events, DCF successes, best practices, and helpful resources. We encourage you to share your ideas about topics you are interested in.

Please enjoy this first issue of DCF Vision!

Strategic Vision Update

Secretary Wilkins Unveils DCF Strategic Vision

During the month of July, Secretary Wilkins traveled the state meeting with DCF staff, community partners and stakeholders to share his Strategic Vision for transforming the way DCF serves Florida’s most vulnerable. The Secretary is planning more visits in August as well. See the Upcoming Events section. The strategic vision has four key focus areas:



DCF employees are encouraged to learn more about the Secretary’s Strategic Vision through the DCF [Strategic Vision](#) web page on the Intranet. A [video message](#) from Secretary Wilkins is also available that provides an overview of the vision and the important role employees play in its success.

As always, if you have suggestions for improvements, efficiencies or how DCF can better serve the people of Florida, send your ideas to Secretary Wilkins through the [Dear Secretary](#) web page.

CPIs Discuss Redesign at CPI Summit

DCF has embarked on a major redesign of Child Protective Investigations. The focus for this project is to ensure



DCF Champions

DCF bids farewell to two true champions.



Ester Tibbs & Jim Henry

Ester Tibbs, Circuits 3 & 8 Administrator, is retiring after 35 years serving the people of Florida. She will be sorely missed. See [video news clip](#).

Jim Henry, Legislative Affairs Director, is retiring after 40 years of service to the State of Florida. In his nine years with DCF, Jim holds the record for staying power, providing wise policy guidance to five different Secretaries. Jim will be sorely missed for his knowledge, his great sense of humor, his political savvy, and for being an all-around good guy. Don’t worry, however, he will probably be seen wandering the marble halls of the Capitol again – he’s not one to sit still long.

Stepping into the Legislative Director role will be Logan McFaddin, who

children and families receive the necessary assessments and interventions to assist caregivers in gaining control over family circumstances that place children in harm's way and compromise child well-being. [Read more](#)



Secretary Wilkins at summit

For additional information on any of the improvement projects, please visit the [Project Management Office](#) website.

DCF Taps Community Leaders for New Child Protection Advisory Board

The first [meeting](#) of the Child Protection Transformation Advisory Board was held June 16, in Orlando. DCF has assembled community leaders, including judges, law enforcement, foster parents, advocates and business partners, to provide real-world input on the Department's child protection improvement projects. We look forward to their guidance and recommendations, and know that the Board will play a significant role in helping us reach our goal of becoming a world class child welfare agency. An Advisory Board web page is coming in September. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for September 15 in Orlando. See a [video](#) of the Secretary's remarks at the June Board meeting.

DCF Embarks on Improved HR Strategy

Human Resources shared services is coming! Secretary Wilkins' vision, coupled with his many years of experience with shared services, is leading the Department and the state toward a very exciting change in the delivery of administrative services. Soon employees across the state will have one number to call for all of their HR needs which will allow them more time to focus on mission-critical activities as opposed to administrative workload. The "go live" date for HR Shared Services is July 2012. More details will be provided in future issues of this newsletter. Contact [Angela McNulty](#) or [Tom Rankin](#) if you have ideas or questions about this initiative.

DCF Success Stories

Camps for Champions

will have big shoes to fill. Logan comes to us from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, where she served in the same capacity. We are pleased to welcome her to the team.

Gay Frizzell, Family and Community Services, was presented with the Heart of Gold award for her many years of leadership, commitment and extraordinary heart in her work with foster and adoptive families.

Family Support Services of North Florida received the Leadership through Example Award from the Florida State Foster/Adoptive Parent Association

Tanya Wilkins (Secretary Wilkins' wife) is working with the Quality Parenting Initiative, assisting with various quality efforts, such as foster parent recruitment.

[Lanecia Radcliff](#), adoption homefinder in Broward County, is the 2011 winner of the National Adoption Exchange Association's Lillian Lansberry Award for Excellence in Adoption.

[Jennifer Hatteras](#), Child Protective Investigator, was recognized by the Governor in his weekly message to state employees.

Secretary Wilkins presented six [Awards of Excellence](#) during the June 16-17 CPI Summit, recognizing the hard work and dedication of Rosa Baez, Southern Region; Ronise Baptiste, Circuit 15; Elise Dawson, Circuit 1; Twala Dollard, Circuit 18; Regina Ashley Hickson, Circuit 4; and Christina Scott, Circuit 20.

Office Matters

You can find a summary of the major legislation passed last session that affects the Department on the [Legislative Affairs](#) web page.

Changes to the Florida Retirement System went into effect on July 1. You can find information on [My FRS](#).

Tips & Techniques

An initiative of Secretary Wilkins, DCF's [Camps for Champions](#) was created to help Florida children and youth "Dream, Believe & Achieve." The Department, along with foundations and community partners, has planned six Camps for Champions around the state for hundreds of Florida's foster children and youth this summer. Here are recaps of the first three.

- The **Dwight D. Howard Foundation Summer Youth Enrichment Camp** was the first camp, held June 27 – 30 in Winter Park. The camp was a joint project between the Dwight D. Howard Foundation, Community Based Care of Central Florida and DCF. [View photos](#) from the camp.



Howard Camp participants

- The [Myron Rolle Wellness & Leadership Academy](#) was held July 23 -- 27 in Stark at Camp Blanding. Almost 100 kids from across the state gathered for the five day camp. Watch a [video](#) of all the fun.



Lt. Gov. Carroll, Sec. Wilkins & Rolle camp participants

- First Lady Ann Scott joined Secretary Wilkins for the kickoff of [Corey's Kids Summer Camp](#) in Tallahassee July 29-31

The Casey Family Programs recently released their evaluation of the [Foster Care Redesign in Duval and Alachua Counties](#). The redesign project was a collaborative effort between DCF and Duval and Alachua County CBCs. Kudos to Family Support Services, Partnership for Strong Families and our hundreds of community partners, and DCF staff who contributed to the success of this redesign.

If your office is planning to do a survey, the DCF Web Services office can assist you with all aspects of your survey, from design to evaluation. Contact them at Web_Services@dcf.state.fl.us

Did You Know?

Secretary Wilkins is the new chairman of the [Florida Children and Youth Cabinet](#).

First Lady Ann Scott is Florida's new [Chief Child Advocate](#).

Scholastic Books, Inc., donated 1,000 books for the children participating in this year's Camps for Champions.

As a result of an efficiency suggestion via the "[Dear Secretary](#)" website, the Adult Protective Services Program finalized a policy revision regarding requirements to determine capacity to consent for deceased victims of abuse. For more information, see revised [policy](#).

You can see the list of 2011 Davis Productivity Awards Winners at the [Florida TaxWatch](#) website.

U.S. Housing and Urban Development and Department of Veterans Affairs awarded \$3.76 million in rental assistance vouchers to help homeless veterans in Florida secure permanent supportive housing. See [press release](#).

The childcare program is offering new [online training](#) to support children with developmental disabilities and playground safety.

On the Web



First Lady Ann Scott and Corey camp participants

See next month's issue of DCF Vision for highlights from these Camps for Champions events:

- [Shannon Miller Camp](#), Jacksonville, August 2-4
- [James Jones Camp](#), Miami, August 9-10
- [Derrick Brooks Camp](#), Tampa, August 18-19

Simply the Best

Congratulations to all of the hard-working employees in [ACCESS Florida](#) for a job well done! For the third year in a row, ACCESS Florida earned the distinction of having the best payment accuracy rate in the nation for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), 0.78 percent. Not only was Florida recognized as the best nationally, it was also awarded a SNAP High Performance Bonus of just over \$6 million. Great job, ACCESS Florida!

Strive to Drive Challenge

DCF, [Best Foot Forward Foundation](#), a nonprofit organization that supports youth in foster care, and Offlease Only, a Lake Worth used car dealer, have teamed up to change lives – in a big way. Offlease Only will donate one car per month to a Palm Beach County foster care youth who has reached their 18th birthday and aged out of custodial care. The Strive to Drive Challenge not only alleviates the transportation issues the youth face upon leaving the system, but rewards them for their efforts and motivation to stay in school and helps them achieve self-sufficiency. Best Foot Forward and Offlease Only presented the first car on July 23rd to Manny Oliver, a young man who aged out of foster care and now works for the Department in ACCESS.

Newsclips

[Florida Times Union](#) editorial: Social services, using data for efficiency

[WFTV - Orlando\(ABC\)](#): Rental vouchers to homeless veterans

[WCJB - Gainesville \(ABC\)](#): Myron Rolle camp

Videos

Video of Secretary's talk with Child Protection Professionals at the [CPI Redesign Summit](#)

Video of Secretary remarks to the [Child Protection Transformation Advisory Board](#)

Webcasts

[Child Protective Professionals](#) webcast

[Foster Parents](#) webcast

Upcoming Events

August 2, Secretary's Strategic Vision Rollout – Palm Beach

August 2-4, Shannon Miller Foundation Camp for Champions, Jacksonville

August 4, Secretary's Strategic Vision Rollout – Tampa area

August 9, Secretary's Strategic Vision Rollout - Miami

August 9-10, The James Jones Legacy Foundation Summer Youth Enrichment Camp, Miami

August 12, Secretary meeting Champions of the Hotline Long Term Redesign

August 18-19, Camp for Champions with Derrick Brooks, Tampa

August 30, Secretary's Webcast for Dependency Judges

August 30 & September 1, Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Meetings, Orlando

September 6-7, 2011 Adult Protective Services Strategic Action Plan Meeting, Orlando

September 7-9, DCF Pathway to Independence Summit, Orlando



Manny Oliver (center) & representatives from Offlease Only and Best Foot Forward

World Refugee Day

DCF kicked-off its "[World Refugee Day](#)" statewide events in Tallahassee on June 14th. Secretary Wilkins spoke about the importance of helping those who come to America to escape persecution in their home countries. "Coming to a new country presents many uncertainties for these families. The Department strives to assist these families and provide hope for a better life here in Florida," Wilkins said. "Our communities are strengthened by these new Floridians as they become self-sufficient, raise the newest generation of Americans and add to the diverse tapestry of Florida's families."

Internships for Persons Overcoming Mental Illness

DCF's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program, in partnership with DOE's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, has established "innovative internships" with businesses to open job opportunities for Floridians overcoming mental illness. "We are putting into practice Governor Scott's call to get Floridians back to work by linking businesses with the people who are ready to go to work as part of their treatment and recovery from mental illnesses," said Secretary David Wilkins. [Read more](#)

September 12, Florida Missing Children's Day Ceremony, Tallahassee

September 15, Child Protection Transformation Advisory Board meeting, Orlando

September 15-October 15, Hispanic Heritage Month

Comments & Submissions

We want to know what you think about this newsletter. Please send us your [comments](#).

Tell us your news! Send your submissions for consideration to newsletter editor, [Cindy Bull](#) in Executive Communications.



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