

Adoptive Parent Handbook and Post-
Adoption Resource Guide
Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties
2017-2018



Important Phone Numbers

Adoption Recruiter

Name _____
Office _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Case Management Agency

Agency Name _____
Dependency Case Manager's Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Adoption Licensing Agency (if applicable)

Agency Name _____
Licensing Counselor/Specialist Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Adoption Attorney

Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Guardian Ad Litem

Name _____
Phone _____

CBC of Central Florida County Adoption Manager

Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Post-Adoption Specialist

Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Therapeutic Agency

Agency Name _____
Therapist's Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____

Other Service Provider

Agency Name _____
Provider Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____

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The People Involved in your Adoption Process

Adoption Recruiter: This person facilitates child-focused recruitment programs whose exclusive goal is placing foster care children with adoptive families.

Adoption Specialist: This person serves as a guide for the pre-adoptive parent prior to adoption. He/she will also be the one responsible for the completion of your Adoption Home Study and having the adoption subsidy (Financial/Medicaid portion of adoption) approved. They will visit your home throughout the adoption process for interviews and to observe the relationship between you and the child(ren). The Adoption Specialist is a support and resource for any adoption related questions/concerns.

Dependency Case Manager (aka “Family Case Manager “, “Caseworker” or “Case Manager”): This person is responsible for assessing the safety and well-being of your child. He/she assess the child’s environment for risk. Until Adoption Finalization, the Family Case Manager is required to visit your child(ren) in their home at least once every thirty days. The Family Case Manager is a support and resource, and may have a bond with the child. They are the point of contact for all legal and medical decisions.

Dependency Case Manager Supervisor: This person supervises the Dependency Case Manager. If you are having a difficult time contacting the Case Manager after several attempts, it may be helpful to contact the Case Manager Supervisor. This person is there to provide guidance and support to the Case Manager, your child and the parents involved in the child’s life, including you. They are also there to assess the safety and well-being of your child.

Guardian ad Litem (GAL): This court-appointed person represents the best interests of a child in Dependency Court. The GAL will investigate the family situation and provide recommendations to the court based on the best interest of the child.

Licensing Counselor/Specialist: This person may have instructed your foster and/or adoptive parenting classes. He/she may also be the one responsible for the completion of your Adoption Home Study.

Post-Adoption Specialist: This person works specifically with families after adoption. The purpose of Post-Adoption Services is to assist families after adoption and link them to other community resources and support for their family in adoption. This support comes in the form of service referrals, crisis stabilization assistance, educational support, Medicaid assistance, and other support.

Adoption Benefits

The Federal Adoption Tax Credit

-For adoptions finalized in 2016, there is a federal adoption tax credit of up to \$13,460 per child. The 2016 adoption tax credit is not refundable, which means taxpayers can only get the credit if they have federal income tax liability. Taxpayers have six years (the year they first claimed the credit plus five additional years) to use the credit. Please refer to www.nacac.org/taxcredit/taxcredit.html for more information.

Florida's Adoption Reunion Registry (FARR)

-FARR was established in 1982 by the Florida Legislature for people affected by adoption in Florida to have the opportunity to reunite. FARR is operated by the State of Florida, and the Department of Children and Families. Those eligible to register include adopted adults, birth parents, birth siblings, birth aunts, uncles, birth grandparents, and adoptive parents on behalf of their adopted minor child. For more information call the Florida Reunion Registry at **1-850-488-8000** or Florida's Adoption Information Center at **1-800-96-ADOPT**.

Florida College's Tuition Exemption

-This benefit is for children adopted through the Department of Children and Families, and includes tuition exemption at a postsecondary career program, community college, or state university. The adoptive parents will receive a Tuition Exemption Letter from either the case management agency or lead agency. **This benefit applies only to adoptions finalized after May 5, 1997. Youth may utilize this benefit towards their first postsecondary degree until reaching the age of 28 years old. Please contact your county Adoption Manager to obtain a copy of your child's college tuition exemption letter.**

Florida Adoption Assistance/Subsidy

-Financial assistance and services may be provided to a child and his or her adoptive family. Such assistance may include a maintenance subsidy (a monthly payment made for support and maintenance of a special needs child until the child's 18th birthday, medical assistance (the cost of medical, surgical, hospital and related services needed as a result of a physical or mental condition of the child which existed prior to the adoption may be subsidized), and reimbursement of nonrecurring expenses associated with the legal adoption (those reasonable and necessary adoption fees, court costs, attorneys fees, and other expenses that are directly related to the legal adoption of a special needs child).

Medicaid

- Each child's Adoption Medicaid is renewed annually by the lead community-based care agency. All adopted children receive Medicaid until their 18th birthday. However, youth who participate in the PESS Program, who have been adopted after the age of 16 years old that have spent a minimum of six months in foster care within the twelve months preceding adoption will receive Medicaid until their 21st Birthday.

Federal Financial Aid for Youth Adopted After Age 13

-The Fostering Adoption to Further Student Achievement Act became law as an amendment to the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84). This law went into effect beginning the 2009-2010 school year and forward. The provision will apply to youth even for adoptions that were finalized before the law was passed in 2007. This law makes it possible for teens in foster care to be adopted without losing access to college financial aid. Under this new law, youth who are adopted from foster care at any point after their 13th birthday will not have to include their parents' income in the calculations for determining their need for financial aid. Financial Aid applications can be completed at www.fafsa.gov.

Post-Adoption Services and Adoptive Parent Support Group

-Contracted by Community Based Care of Central Florida, Devereux Florida provides post-adoption services to assist families in the Orange, Osceola and Seminole County areas. This service for adoptive parents is provided to enhance safety and promote continued permanency and well-being for adopted children.

Devereux Florida facilitates monthly Adoptive Family Support Groups. For more information call **(321) 441-8695** and ask to speak with the Post-Adoption Specialist.

Post-Secondary Education Services and Support (PESS)

-PESS is the program for young adults formerly in licensed foster care that provides a financial stipend to assist with the costs of attending an eligible postsecondary education institution. **Adoption Eligibility:** Young adults who were adopted after the age of 16 from foster care, after spending at least 6 months in licensed care within the 12 months immediately preceding adoption **and** have earned a standard high school diploma. Please contact CBC at 321-441-2060 and ask to speak with an Independent Living Manager to determine if you are qualified.

Frequently Asked Questions/General Information Post-Adoption

1. What if I move?

- a. If you move or change your address, please put your new address in writing and send it to Community Based Care of Central Florida, Attention: County Adoption Manager 4001 Pelee Street, Suite 200, Orlando, FL, Ph: (321) 441-2060, Fax: (407) 681-0560. If you leave the state of Florida, it is very important that you make the County Adoption Manager aware so that he/she can complete the necessary paperwork to transfer your child's adoption Medicaid to the new residence. The process to open Adoption Medicaid in another state can take at least 30 days to complete.

2. When are monthly adoption subsidy payments mailed?

- a. Subsidies are mailed or directed deposited **3rd Wednesday** of the month. Please visit www.cbccfl.org for more information on Direct Deposit. If you are already a foster parent, you do not need to complete a new direct deposit form.

3. Whom should I contact if there is a problem with the adoption subsidy check or if I have not received it?

- a. Please contact Community Based Care of Central Florida's Finance Department at (321) 441-2060.

4. Where can I obtain a copy of my child's Adoption Finalization Order?

- a. You may obtain a certified copy of your Adoption Finalization Order from the Orange, Osceola or Seminole County courthouse, depending on which county finalized your adoption. You will need to bring a form of identification (i.e. Driver's License, Florida ID Card) to obtain a copy. There is a fee for obtaining a copy. **Requesting them from the courthouse is the only way to obtain a certified copy of the Adoption Finalization Order.**

5. Where do I get my child's new birth certificate?

- a. Your Adoption Attorney should file the necessary paperwork for you to receive a birth certificate with your child's new name (if applicable). You will obtain a new birth certificate several weeks after Adoption Finalization.

6. How do I obtain a new Social Security Card?

- a. To obtain a new Social Security card you must obtain an application from the Social Security Administration or visit the SSA website at www.ssa.gov.

7. How do I obtain a new Medicaid Gold Card?

- a.** Please contact CBC of Central Florida's County Adoption Manager to have a new Medicaid Gold Card requested. Medicaid Gold Cards are no longer issued. Contact your Medicaid MMA (Managed Medical Assistance Program) for an MMA specific Medicaid Card.

Explaining Adoption Medicaid

The Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) administers the Florida Medicaid program.

Within the Adoption Medicaid system, there are multiple plans from which to choose:

If you need to select or change your child's Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) Plan please contact a Choice Counselor at 1-877-711-3662 to find out more information about each program.

Managed Medical Assistance Programs (MMAs)

In Florida, the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is responsible for overseeing the Medicaid program. Under Florida Statutes, AHCA created the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) program.

The Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) program is comprised of several types of managed care plans

- Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)
- Provider Service Networks (PSNs)
- Children's Medical Services Network (CMSN)

Most Medicaid recipients must enroll in an MMA program unless they meet very specific criteria that makes their enrollment voluntary or exempt, thereby remaining in Fee-for-Service Medicaid. Available MMA plans may vary depending on your county of residence. For a listing of MMA plans by designated coverage area, please visit www.floridahealthfinder.gov/medicaid/florida-medicaid-general.aspx

If your child is enrolled in an MMA, the Agency for Health Care Administration pays the MMA an insurance premium for the child's care each month. The MMA is then responsible for the child's care. Providers (your child's doctors or specialists) would bill the MMA, not Medicaid. Therefore, if you tell your doctor that you have Medicaid and they try to look you up in their system for verification, it will not show up. This is because Medicaid pays the MMA, the MMA is not Medicaid.

The MMA would assign the Primary Care Physician (PCP) and if the child needs to see a specialist, the MMA Primary Care Physician (PCP) would have to make a referral to another doctor in the MMA network. If you need to check to see which Primary Care Physician your child is assigned to, you should call the MMA. Due to HIPAA regulations, a case manager or CBC of Central Florida staff cannot call the MMA directly and inquire about your child.

Changing Managed Medical Assistance Programs (MMA Plans)

You may change your child's plan during the first 90 days of enrollment. **After** the 90 days you will only be able to change the plan during your open enrollment period or with a State-approved good cause reason. The open enrollment period is the 60 day period each year when you can change plans without State approval. Open Enrollment Occurs every year on the anniversary date of your child's first enrollment into the plan.

You can explore the MMA plans in more detail by visiting
<http://www.flmedicaidmanagedcare.com/MMA/PlanInformation.aspx>

The Choices Counseling Hotline (877)711-3662 may also help you select the MMA choice for your child.

Specialty Plans

Sunshine Health Child Welfare Specialty Plan

Phone: 866-796-0530

TDD Phone: 800-955-8770

<http://www.sunshinehealth.com>

This plan provides health care services for children who are adopted and receive Adoption Subsidy and Medicaid assistance; and for children in the custody of the Florida Department of Children and Families.

Children's Medical Services Network Specialty Plan

Phone: 866-376-2456

TDD Phone: 800-955-8771

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/AlternateSites/CMS-Kids/providers/mma.html>

This plan provides health care services for children from birth up to age 21 with special health care needs.

Magellan Complete Care

Phone: 800-327-8613

<http://www.magellancompletecareoffl.com>

This plan provides health care services for all recipients who have a serious mental illness.

**Orange County, Osceola and Seminole Counties
Community Managed Medical Assistance Plans:**

Amerigroup Florida

Phone: 800-600-4441

TDD Phone: 800-855-2880

<http://www.myamerigroup.com/fl>

Molina HealthCare of Florida

Phone: 866-472-4585

TDD Phone: 800-955-8771

<http://www.molinahealthcare.com>

Sunshine Health

Phone: 866-796-0530

TDD Phone: 800-955-8770
<http://www.sunshinehealth.com>

United HealthCare of Florida
Phone: 888-716-8787
TDD Phone: 711
<http://www.uhcommunityplan.com>

Staywell
Phone: 866-334-7927
TDD Phone: 877-247-6272
<http://florida.wellcare.com>

Before the Adoption

While your child is in Florida's foster care, relative or non-relative care, it is likely that he/she may be enrolled in the managed care plan, Sunshine Health. Sunshine Health Child Welfare Specialty Plan is the managed care plan for children in foster care and post-adoption. **Upon completion of the adoption subsidy packet and adoption finalization, you have the option to change your child's Medicaid plan if you choose not to stay with the Sunshine Child Welfare Specialty Plan.**

Keep in mind that the Sunshine Health plan is a specialty, child welfare plan that is very familiar with the special needs of children within the child welfare system and it allows for you to keep the providers your child had while in foster care, if you so choose.

You will want to determine which MMA plans have the providers caring for your children in their network. Without doing this prior to finalization, your child could be forced to change providers if the MMA plan does not have your provider in their network.

After the Adoption: Opting Out of Sunshine Health – Child Welfare Specialty Plan

If you choose to opt out of the Child Welfare Specialty Plan, be sure ask your primary care physician what types of Medicaid MMAs if any, that they accept. You may find a list of Medicaid providers/ physicians by contacting the Medicaid office in your coverage area. Access the following link on the Agency for Health Care Administration's website: <http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/index.shtml#areas> to find the office that covers your area.

The MMA will assign the Primary Care Physician (PCP) and if the child needs to see a specialist, the MMA Primary Care Physician (PCP) would have to make a referral to a specialist in the MMA network. If you need to check to see which Primary Care Physician your child is assigned to, you should call the MMA.

Choosing to put your child on your Private Health Insurance Plan

If your child is assigned to private health insurance, this is referred to as having Third Party Liability (TPL). According to the Florida Medicaid, TPL is the obligation of any entity other than Medicaid or the recipient to pay all or part of the cost of the recipient's medical care as the child's primary insurance source. If the child has other coverage through a TPL insurer, the provider must bill the TPL insurer prior to billing Medicaid. Medicaid becomes the payer of last resort.

Medicaid will cover the cost of services that are not covered or partially covered by TPL/Private Health Insurance but it will require the provider to submit a claim to Medicaid to cover the difference of cost. **You may encounter providers who are not willing to submit a claim to Medicaid and require you to pay a co-pay if you have TPL/Private Health Insurance.**

If you choose to have your child on your Private Health Insurance Plan

There is a misconception about placing your child on Private Health with he/she on Medicaid as secondary insurance. Medicaid may not cover the cost of services that are covered or partially covered by your primary Private Health Insurance.

If Medicaid is the secondary Health Insurance it will only cover costs for services (as if they were your child's primary Health Insurance) if you obtain a denial of services letter from your private insurance company.

The denial letter would then need to be submitted to Medicaid to verify denial of services. For more information, contact your MMA directly.

If you still have difficulty understanding Medicaid, **you can request to speak with the Adoption Subsidy Eligibility Specialist at the Community Based Care Lead Agency.**

Selecting a Therapist

On the next few pages you will find a listing of clinicians/therapists and agency providers servicing Seminole, Orange and Osceola counties with adoption experience. Selecting a therapist who understands children adopted through foster care can be an important component of your child's mental health. Choosing a therapist is a very personal decision as this individual will be supporting your family through an emotional journey. Not every clinician is a perfect fit for every family just like any other relationship connection.

If you utilize this list without first consulting a Post- Adoption Specialist, Adoption Recruiter, Adoption Specialist, CBC County Adoption Manager or Dependency Case Manager, please consider the following questions to ask:

1. What type of license(s) do you hold?
2. What is your approach to therapy?
3. What kind of and how much experience in dealing with grief and loss associated with adoption do you have?
4. Are you Adoption Competency Trained?
5. How long will it take to get an appointment and how often do you normally expect to see clients?
6. If my family is in a crisis, will you be able to assist us quickly and what is your expected response time?
7. What are the standard fees for service, insurance, and payment arrangements?
8. What is your understanding of Trauma Informed Care?

What you should expect from a therapist:

1. An understanding of adoption and its impact on families
2. An understanding of trauma
3. A diagnosis, **only if appropriate and indicated** of any condition affecting your child, or referral to appropriate diagnosticians
4. The ability to ease and help in crisis
5. Willingness to be available during crisis
6. Compatibility with your family and your child

***The Florida Department of Children and Families provided a 32 hour Adoption Competency Training for clinicians, utilizing Rutgers University Adoption Competency Curriculum.**

Clinicians/Therapists/Providers with Adoption Experience

2-Strive

Barry Daly *Adoption Competency Trained
2704 Rew Circle, Suite 105F
Ocoee FL 34761
(407)573-1192
twostrive@aol.com

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

Florida Medicaid, Medi-Waiver, Sunshine Health, Staywell, Amerigroup, Cenpatico, Magellan, Florida Kid Care, Citrus Health Care, Healthease, Healthy Kids, Well Care, United Health Care, TANF, CMS

A Better Life Counseling Services

Margot Logan, LCSW, *Adoption Competency Trained
1155 S. Semoran Blvd, Suite 1150
Winter Park 32792
(407) 739-6059 (t)
(407) 977-8639 (f)
ABetterLife@bellsouth.net

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

United Healthcare/United Behavioral Health; Cigna, Tricare; Private Pay; Corphealth; Staywell; Healthease; Lifesynch, Humana, Compcare, Magellan, Cenpatico, CMS, HAS, Psychcare CBC

A New Perspective Counseling

Jennifer A. Vestal, M.A., *Adoption Competency Trained
Jessica Dawn Bush, M.A., *Adoption Competency Trained
919 W. 9th St.
Deltona, FL 32771
407-792-0900
JBush@anewperspectivecounseling.org

Payments/Insurance Accepted:

United Healthcare, Sunshine State, Straight Medicaid, Self-pay on a sliding scale

Be Happy Achieve Balance Institute

Rochelle Hall, MSW, LCSW*, QCS, *Adoption Competency Trained
Solange M. Ortiz Rodriguez, M.A *Adoption Competency Trained
3501 W. Vine St. Kissimmee, 34741
(407) 520-1470
(844) 744-3554
bhabinstitute@gmail.com

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

Sunshine State (Cenpatico), Psychcare (Prestige, Beacon, Molina), and contracting with Wellcare (Staywell, Healthease), Compcare, and Sliding Scale. Optimum care EAP Aetna, Cigna.0

Aspire Health Partners

Ryan Fontaine, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained
Angela D'Amelio *Adoption Competency Trained
Karla Bilderbeck, ATR, COP Therapist, RMHI, *Adoption Competency Trained
Nicole Thweat, PHD, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained
1800 Mercy Drive Orlando, FL 32808
407-875-3700(t)
407-245-0049(f)

Payment/Insurance Accepted:
Medicaid

Attachment Services of Central Florida, Inc.

Teresa Guerard, LMHC *Adoption Competency Trained
427 Center Pointe Circle, Ste 1878
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
(407) 739-7211 (t)
(407) 260-0091 (f)
TGgreat@aol.com

Payment/Insurance Accepted:
Private Pay Sliding Scale; Cash, Credit Card

Carrousel Therapy Center

Dikza Gonzalez *Adoption Competency Trained

3201 Budinger Ave.
St. Cloud, FL 34769
(407) 891-3082(t)
(888)-477-7678(f)

Payment/Insurance Accepted:
Amerigroup Community Care, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Cenpatico, CMS Network, Florida
KidCare, Medicaid, FSPT, HealthEase, Healthy Kids, Humana, Medipass, Prestige, Staywell,
Sunshine State, WellCare, Self-Pay or Private Insurance

Children's Home Society Clinical Services

Joy Silas, MSW *Adoption Competency Trained
Shazia Mirza, MA, *Adoption Competency Trained
5766 South Semoran Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32822
(407) 896-2323
(407) 896-7760

Stacey Fox, MA, *ACT
650 10th street Vero Beach, FL 32960

Payment/Insurance Accepted:
Straight Medicaid, Amerigroup, Amerigroup Healthy Kids, Healthease, Healthease Healthy Kids,
Sunshine, Magellan, Staywell, Healthy Kids, Prestige, United, Simply Healthy

Circle of Friends Services, Inc.

Barbara Defazzio, LMHC, President, CEO *Adoption Competency Trained
Emeka Anyiam, Ph.D., LMFT, *Adoption Competency Trained
Jennifer Lombardo, Registered Clinical SW Intern, *Adoption Competency Trained
Annie Rivera, MA, CAP, Registered Clinical Intern, *Adoption Competency Trained
DeAne Matthew, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained
Maraima Medina, *Adoption Competency Trained
Ann-Marie Miglionico, MSW, *Adoption Competency Trained
Robyn Smith-McLeish, MA, Registered Clinical Social Work Intern, *ACT
Christina Astorga, Registered Clinical Social Work Intern, *Adoption Competency Trained
Jeffrey Moyer MA, *Adoption Competency Trained
Amy Iannitelli, MA, *Adoption Competency Trained
Cintha Freeborn, MA, Registered Clinical Social Worker, *Adoption Competency Trained
Rachel Oestreich, RILMFT, MA, *Adoption Competency Trained
517 Deltona Blvd.
Deltona, FL 32725
(386) 473-4566 (t)

friends@cofsfl.org

Payments/Insurance Accepted:

Straight Medicaid; Harmony; Children's Medical Services; PediCare; Magellan; Molina, Pedicare Title 21 Staywell, Medicaid and Healthy Kids, Sunshine Health Plan, Amerigroup, Aetna, Tricare by Humana, Lifesynch by Humana; Harmony; VOCA; United Behavioral Healthcare, Medipass/Florida Health Partners, United Healthcare, Victims of Crime Compensation, United Health Medicaid. Freedom Health, Clear Health Alliance and Amerigroup healthy kids.

Commercial Plans-

United Healthcare /**Volusia-** Avmed CoventryExchange (HBE) /**Osceola-**Avmed Optimum Medicare

Community Counseling Central of Central Florida

Corrie Kindyl, LMHC, LMFT
Director and Coordinator of Referrals
Rebecca Soto, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained
P.O. Box 161585
Altamonte Springs, FL 32716-1585
(407)291-8009 (t)
(407)291-9620(f)

Payment/Insurances Accepted:

Magellan; PPO Panels (flexible); Private Pay Sliding Scale; Title 24, Victim's Comp, Staywell, Healthsease, Straight Medicaid

Connecting Well Counseling

Nancy J Langford, LMHC *Adoption Competency Trained
William B “Terry” Langford, LMFT *Adoption Competency Trained
5728 Major Blvd #506
Orlando, FL 32819
(407) 351-1010
connectingwell@gmail.com

Payment/Insurances Accepted:

Magellan; Employee Assistance Programs including CompPsych EAP; FEI EAP; Aetna; United Health Care; Cigna; Tricare; Value Options; Military OneSource

CPAS Counseling

Maxine Ruddock, Ph.D. *Adoption Competency Trained
2700 Westhall Lane Suite 220
Maitland, FL 32701
(407) 475-1605
info@cpascounseling.com

Payments/Insurance Accepted:

Medicare; Aetna; Humana; Tricare; Blue Cross Blue Shield; Beech Street; Wellcare; Straight Medicaid; Cigna; CompPsych; Multiplan; ValueOptions

Creative Therapy Associates, LLC

Christine Harris, LCSW, *Adoption Competency Trained, EMDR Trained
2020 East Robinson Street
Orlando FL 32803
(407) 399-8855 (t)
(321) 248-0120 (f)

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

Amerigroup Healthy Kids; Citrus Healthcare; Private Pay; United Behavioral Healthcare; Cigna; Aetna; Humana (LifeSynch); ComPsych; AMERIGROUP Community Care, CompCare; MHNet; AVMED; Pacificare; Tricare; Champ VA; CorpHealth, Psychcare, CorpHealth, LifeSynch, Behavioral Health Systems

Concord Counseling Center

Cynthia A. Klee LMHC, CRT, *Adoption Competency Trained
897 Towne Center Dr. Ste. 101
Kissimmee, FL 34759
407-530-5206 (t)
407-530-5198 (f)
cklee9556@verizon.net

In-home service provider, available evening and weekends

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

Straight Medicaid, FSPT, Magellan, Cenpatico/Sunshine, Amerigroup, Private Pay

Devereux Florida

Jennifer Kammeraad, Clinical Supervisor and Referral Coordinator
Chuck Mendler, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained
Rachael Baker, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained
Lisa McReynolds, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained
Faith Scott, Registered Social Work Intern, *Adoption Competency Trained
Kimberly Lincoln, Registered Mental Health Intern, *Adoption Competency Trained
Kristina Garcia, *Adoption Competency Trained
Jacquita Elston, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained
Julyne Viau, *Adoption Competency Trained
5749 Westgate Drive, Suite 102
Orlando, FL 32835
(321) 441-1030 (t)
(866) 936-8124 (f)

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

Straight Medicaid; AMERIGROUP Community Care; HealthEase of Florida, Inc.; Staywell Health Plan, United Healthcare; Magellan; Healthy Kids; Citrus Health Plan; Psychcare/Compcare; Title 21; Cenpatico/Sunshine; Prestige/Beacon; FSPT; Children's Medical Services

Discovery Counseling of Orlando

Kayla Oliver *Adoption Competency Trained
100 Crown Oak Centre Dr.
Longwood, FL 32750
(407) 212-7057
kayla@discoveryorlando.org

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

Private Pay

Heart Bonds Counseling, Inc.

Stacey Greenberg, MSW, RCSWI
612 E. Colonial Dr.
OrlandoFL32803
Office number: (407)801-3578
Cell number: (407)205-2689
stacey@heartbondscounseling.com

Payment/Insurances Accepted:

Private Pay, Sliding-Scale

Friends of Children and Families

Sarah Ashby, RCSWI, MA
11875 High Tech Ave. Ste 200
Orlando, FL 32817
Office: (407) 273-8444, ext. 211 Cell: (407) 860-8477
sashby@friendsofchildrenandfamilies.org

Fern Creek Counseling

Elizabeth Kunz, *Adoption Competency Trained
2479 Aloma Avenue
Winter Park, Florida 32792
407-894-4030
Fax: 407-894-6010
lizkunz@msn.com

Payment/Insurances Accepted:
United Healthcare; Pacificare; Tricare; Avmed; Aetna; Psychcare ; Cigna; Magellan

Gerald Button, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained

(321) 460-9145 (t)
(561) 431-7661 (f)
afamilytherapyplace@gmail.com
*Primarily in home services

Payment/Insurance Accepted:
Private Pay Sliding Scale; Ask regarding insurance

Hope Alexander, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained

12200 West Colonial Dr.
Winter Garden, FL 34787
407-694-3620

Payment/Insurances Accepted:
Private Pay, Sliding Scale

Impower

Elizabeth Aulds, MA, *Adoption Competency Trained
Angela Blasini, Psy. D * Adoption Competency Trained
Sylvia Multari, LMHC, * Adoption Competency Trained
Felicia Brown, Mental Health Counselor Student Intern, *Adoption Competency Trained
150 Spartan Drive
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 331-8002 ext. 125 (t)
(407) 331-8659 (f)

Payment/Insurance Accepted:
United Healthcare of Florida; Staywell Health Plan/Harmony; HealthEase of Florida,
Inc./Harmony; Wellcare/Harmony; Magellan; AMERIGROUP; Straight Medicaid; Florida Health
Partners; Healthy Kids-Staywell

Jennifer Lombardo MRSW, RCSWI, CCTP *Adoption Competency Trained

734 Irma Avenue
Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 392-0645
EMDR, TBRI

Journeys End Counseling and Training, LLC

Tammy Austin, LMHC, NCC, *Adoption Competency Trained

Rosemary Gowett, RILMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained

Leslie Pender Therapist, *Adoption Competency Trained

Shaniqua Bangura, *Adoption Competency Trained

1155 S. Semoran Blvd Ste 1040

Winter Park, FL 32792

(407) 678-9800(t)

(407) 315-0048(f)

Web based referrals: www.journeysendcounseling.com

Payment/Insurances Accepted:

Aetna; Magellan; Private Pay Sliding Scale; Prestige; Staywell; Healthase

Kids House of Seminole, Inc.

5467 North Ronald Reagan Blvd.

Sanford, FL 32773

407-324-3036 ext. 265

407-324-3045 fax

Brenenstuhl@kidshouse.org

Providing trauma focused therapy to children who have been the victim of physical or sexual abuse or witness to severe domestic violence.

Payment/Insurances Accepted:

Amerigroup, Wellcare, Magellan, Victims of Crime Compensation, sliding scale;

Kinder Konsulting & Parents Too

Angie Hilken, LCSW, Clinical Director, * Adoption Competency Trained

Amy Riley, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained

Linda Ortiz

Shay Runnels, MSW, *Adoption Competency Trained

Desiree Ros, RILMHC, MSW, *Adoption Competency Trained

Lakesha Hayes, RILMHC, MSW, *Adoption Competency Trained

Gasel Marte, MSW, *Adoption Competency Trained

Kristina Miller, RILMHC, MSW, *Adoption Competency Trained

Krista Manganiello, LMHC, MA, *Adoption Competency Trained

Jennifer Ortiz, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained

2479 E. Aloma Avenue

Winter Park, FL 32792

(407) 657-6692 (t)

(407) 894-6010 (f)

Payments/Insurance Accepted:

Staywell, Amerigroup, Healthease, Harmony, United Behavioral Healthcare, Healthy Kids, CMS, Magellan, Straight Medicaid, Citrus, Medipass/Florida Health Partners

Life and Work Solutions, Inc.

Amanda Percy, LCSW

3400 Hunter's Creek Blvd.

Orlando, FL 32837

407-340-5708

amandapeercy@lifeworksoul.org

Payments/Insurances Accepted:

Amerigroup Healthy Kids, Amerigroup Medicaid, Clear Health Alliance, Magellan Complete Care, Molina Health Care, Prestige Health Choice, Staywell Healthy Kids, Staywell, Sunshine-Healthy Kids, Sunshine

Life Balance Counseling

Cathie Rising-Clarke, MA, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained

2750 Taylor Avenue

Orlando, Florida 32806

(407) 255-2533

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

Private Pay

Live Life Counseling

DeAne Matthew, LMHC

1345 Clay Street

Winter Park, FL 32789

321-689-9148

DeAne@LiveLifeCounseling.com

LiveLifeCounseling.com

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

Self-pay

Mary Jo McHaney, MA, LMFT, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained

EMDR Trained

100 East Sybelia Avenue Suite 165

Maitland, FL32751

(407) 443-3497

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

Private Pay Sliding Scale

Marisa Bovey, MA, LMHC

6900 Tavistock Lakes Blvd. Ste 400

Orlando, FL 32827

407-434-9877

EMDR Trained and Spanish Speaker

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

Private pay and sliding scale

Marie Dauterive, *Adoption Competency Trained

870 Clark Street, Suite 1030

Oviedo, Florida 32765

407-451-4520

Payment/Insurance Accepted: Self-Pay

Milestone Counseling

Violetta Wilczynski, MSW, *Adoption Competency Trained
1804 Vale Dr.
Clermont, FL 34711
352-348-8858 (t)
352-708-5603 (f)
info@milestone-counseling.com

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

CMS/Pedicare (title 21), Wellcare, Staywell, Healthease, TriCare. BlueCross BlueShield, Cigna, United Health Care; Milestone is also able to revive payments from HSA's (Health Savings Accounts)

The Psychology and Counseling Group, LLP

Maria C Inoa, LCSW, *Adoption Competency Training
2101 Park Center Dr.
Suite 270
Orlando, FL 32835
Orange County
Phone: (407) 523-1213

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

Health Choice, BCBS, Cigna, Aetna

ME Solutions Counseling Agency

Tracey Felix-Thomas, MA, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained
Deirdre Guilloton, *Adoption Competency Trained
Christopher Venezia, *Adoption Competency Trained
Julie Taylor, M.A
6001 Brick Court
Winter Park, FL 32792
(407) 671-0490 (t)
(407) 429-3923 (f)
www.MESolutions.org

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

Private Pay Sliding Scale; Victim's Com; Alliance; Amerigroup; Cenpatico/Sunshine; Cigna-EAP; Cigna; ComPsych EAP; CMS; First Health; HAS; Humana; Interface EAP; LifeSynch EAP & Commercial; Medicare: MHNNet (Managed Health Network); Mehra Vista; Mines & Associates; MultiPlan; Tricare Prime; Victims Comp.; Work Partners

Pearls of Light

Corrie Moore, M.A., *Adoption Competency Trained
74 Sweetbriar Branch
Longwood, FL 32750

Positive Behavior Solutions

Tracey Ramos –Therapist, *Adoption Competency Trained
7635 Ashley Park Ct. Ste 503H Orlando, FL 32835
321-299-9415

Park Place Behavioral Healthcare

Sandra Duarte, *Adoption Competency Trained
206 Park Place Blvd
Kissimmee, FL 34741-2344
(407) 846-0023 ext. 1300
sandrad@ppbh.org

Payment/Insurance Accepted:
Sliding Scale

ReNew Counseling

Lisa Hoang, LMCH, MA, *Adoption Competency Trained
Tiffany Jones, LMCH, MS, *Adoption Competency Trained
1416 N. Semoran Blvd. Suite 201
Orlando, FL 32807
(321) 300-6992
therapy.hoang@gmail.com
tiffany@renew-counseling.org

Payment/Insurance Accepted:
Self-Pay

Resilience Counseling Center

Ruth Cortez, *Adoption Competency Trained
Kori McLaughlin, *Adoption Competency Trained
Monique Mercado, MSW, *Adoption Competency Trained
1759 W Broadway St
Oviedo, FL 32765
(407) 977-4335(t)
(407)-977-4370(f)
rcortez@resiliencecc.com
kmclaughlin@resiliencecc.com
Mmercado@resiliencecc.com

Payment/Insurance Accepted:
Aetna, Aetna EAP, Anchor Benefit, Assurant Health, Amerigroup, BlueCross/Blue Shield,
Cenpatico(Sunshine), Ceridian EAP, Champ VA, Cigna, Cigna EAP, Horizon EAP (Aetna),
Magellan, Meridian Health, Military One Source, Tricare, United, Value Options, Value Options
EAP, Sliding Scale Options, Value Options EAP, Sliding Scale

Tetrick Counseling, LLC

Martina Tetrick, LMHC, *Adoption Competency Trained
2020 Robinson Street
Orlando, FL 32803
(407)929-6821 office
(407)898-2805 fax
tinatetrick@cfl.rr.com

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

Amerigroup, Cigna, Aetna, MHNet, United, PacifiCare, ComPsych, AvMed, Psychcare, Humana, Horizon EAP, Champ VA, Tricare, Private Pay, sliding scale on a case by case basis.

The Mentor Network

Priscilla Kunkel, LCSW, *Adoption Competency Trained
Helga Mejia, MSW, *Adoption Competency Trained
Shari Marino, LCSW, *Adoption Competency Trained

5035 Edgewater Dr.
Orlando, FL 32810
(407) 206-0722
Priscilla.kunkel@thementornetwork.com

Payment/Insurance Accepted:

The School System

Information to know regarding education if your child was in foster care:

While your child was in foster care it was the responsibility of the Dependency Case Manager (DCM) to keep track of your child's school records; for example, progress reports/ report cards, meeting notes, annual IEP reviews (if appropriate), etc. Your child's school records were confidentially maintained. The DCM also notified the school of any changes in the child's status in foster care, court dates, mental health and medical exams, etc.

Foster Care Designee/Families in Transition Liaison

The goal of the Foster Care Designee/FIT Liaison is to support the academic achievement and social/emotional needs of student in foster care. Responsibilities include:

- Serving as a resource to the school principal and other personnel to facilitate the provisions of supportive services
- Identifying foster care students to teachers and school personnel who are involved with assessment and/or interventions
- Reporting to Family Case Managers adverse changes in grades, attendance, and behavior
- Maintaining a confidential folder for the school containing information pertinent to a student's foster care status
- Communicating with designees at other schools to facilitate the transition of students entering your school of transferring to another school
- Developing a working relationship with Community Based Care of Central Florida, and their provider agencies responsible for placement and foster care casework services
- Becoming familiar with Florida's dependency law (Florida Statue Chapter 39)
- Serving as a direct contact for the OCPS School Court Liaison

Prior to the beginning of each school year, the Principal identifies a professional staff as a Foster Care Designee. This Foster Care Designee's primary responsibility is to coordinate/monitor the support and educational interventions for the foster care student and communicate with the Family Case Manager, foster care parents, and residential facility designees.

If you are a pre-adoptive parent, introduce yourself to the Foster Care Designee (FCD)/FIT Liaison in your child's school. If your child is attending the same school he or she was in prior to placement in your home, this FCD may already know your child and can be a supportive and valuable resource for your family.

Educational Resources

Here are some online resources to help you understand your rights to your child's education and services available:

Wrights Law Website: <http://www.wrightslaw.com/>

Florida Department of Education: <http://www.fldoe.org/>

Orange County Public School System: <https://www.ocps.net/Pages/default.aspx>

Osceola County Public School System:

<http://www.osceola.k12.fl.us/index.asp>

Seminole County Public School System:
<http://www.scps.k12.fl.us/>

Iris Center: A great online dictionary providing definitions for all of the education terms used in the school system (i.e. “504 Plan”, “IEP”)
<http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/onlinedictionary.html>

Tips to Ease Enrollment into School Post-Adoption Finalization

- Request copies of school records from the Dependency Case Manager pre-adoption
- Request a certified birth certificate and immunization records from the Adoption/Family Case Manager or Adoption Attorney because those documents are required to enroll your child in school. **(If your child’s legal name changes, you will have to obtain these documents with a name change on your own post-adoption.)**
- Find out if your child has ever been identified as a child with disabilities. If your child has ever been suspected or identified as such, you will need to request several records:
 - If your child has ever received a psycho-educational evaluation you will need to review the results
 - Request a meeting with the school psychologist to go over any questions that you may have about the assessment
 - If appropriate, request a copy of your child’s Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan from the School.
- Request copies of report cards, discipline records, standardized test scores, etc. to determine if your child has any struggles or learning difficulties that you will need to support and advocate for services
- Request a school-based meeting to review your child’s cumulative record and speak to any individuals who can offer support such as: Reading Coach, Guidance Counselor, Staffing Specialist, SAFE Counselor, Dean, etc.
- **Maintain a Certified Copy of your Adoption Finalization Order** This is important because if your child’s previous school records state his birth name, and his/her birth name and your child’s adoptive name is different, you need verification of your parental rights. This Adoption Finalization Order will verify your parental rights.

Remember after adoption finalization that this is your child and you have the same rights to and for your child as any parents.

Pre- and Post-Adoptive Parents' Rights

- Be treated with consideration, respect for personal dignity and privacy
- Be included as a valued member of the service team
- Receive post-placement support services for fewer than 90 days from the date the child was placed in your physical custody. Admin. Rule 65C-16.010 (1)
- Be provided all available social and medical history information prior to or at the time of adoption placement, including the Child Study. Admin. Rule 65C-16.002 (7)
- Be informed of all agency policies and procedures that relate to your role as an adoptive parent
- Receive training that will enhance skills and ability to be an adoptive parent
- Not be discriminated against on the basis of religion, race, color, creed, sex, national origin, age or physical ability
- Be informed of any siblings of your adopted child available for adoption and be given an opportunity to apply to adopt the siblings. Admin. Rule 65C-16.002 (4)(e)
- Right to a fair hearing pursuant to Chapter 120, F.S., if you have been wrongly denied subsidy benefits. Admin. Rule 65C-16.013 (2)
- Right to non-identifying information from closed adoption records through the State Office of Family Safety. Admin. Rule 65C-16.016 (1)

Parent Responsibilities

- Make a commitment to be the child's parent as though you gave birth to them upon adoption finalization
- Assist the child in understanding and accepting who he/she is, and help to deal with any feelings about his or her birth parents and the circumstances that brought him or her to adoption
- Provide a loving environment, acceptance, and care to a child without expecting a demonstration of appreciation from the child
- Provide the child with opportunities for normal growth and development
- Refrain from making negative statements about the child's birth family or the child
- Treat agency staff, the child's birth family, foster family, and Guardian ad Litem (all team members) with respect and courtesy
- Comply with court orders, visitation plans, and case plan for any child placed in their care pre-adoptive
- Notify your County Adoption Manager at CBC of Central Florida of a potential change in address, living arrangements, marital status, family composition (who is in the home), and conditions that may affect where your adoption subsidy is sent
- Accept the direction and supervision given by the CBC and Case Management Agency (CMA) in caring for the child pre-adoption
- Attend and take part in dependency court hearings and other staffings concerning the child pre-adoption
- Support and encourage religious beliefs, ethnic heritage and language of the child

Where you can locate Florida Laws and Regulations Governing Adoption



<http://www.leg.state.fl.us>

- Florida Statutes specifically related to Adoptions, Chapter 63.

Review Florida Department of Children and Families Administrative Codes at https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/View_notice.asp?id=5026751.

Adoption Chapter: Section 65C-16

The Florida Administrative Code Website States: “The State Library and Archives’



Florida Department of State: State Library and Archives of Florida

FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE WEEKLY & FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

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Administrative Code, Weekly and Laws Section are the filing points for rules promulgated by state regulatory agencies. Agency rulemaking is governed by Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, under the Administrative Procedures Act. The program publishes the Florida Administrative Weekly.

The mission of the section is to file, preserve and make available to the public the rules and other public records it receives. Staff provides training and consultation with respect to the requirements for filing rules and publishing rule, meeting and other notices. Finally, this section provides continuing access to materials that are files and have long term value.”

Utilizing Post-Adoption Services

Post-adoption services are available to help families meet the special needs of children adopted from the foster care system. This service can be utilized by adoptive parents for short-term services to enhance safety or to promote continued permanency and well-being for adopted children.

Potential post-adoption services available include but are not limited to:

- **Family Counseling**
- **Psychiatric Services and Medication Management**
- **Targeted Case Management**
- **Mentoring**
- **Adoption Support Groups**

Please call Devereux Florida at 321-441-1567 if you are in need of post-adoption services.

Devereux's Post-Adoption Team Contacts
Supporting Families in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties

Simone Y. Aldrich, MA
Post-Adoption Program Supervisor
Office: 321-441-8695
Cell: 407-340-5991
saldric2@devereux.org

Petra Huemmer
Post-Adoption Specialist
Office: 321-441-8663
Cell: 321-354-4343
phuemmer@devereux.org

Chauncey Wesley
Post-Adoption Specialist
Office: 321-441-8657
Cell: 407-473-7772
cwesley@devereux.org

Robin Thomas
Devereux Operations Manager
Office: 321-441-8652
Cell: 321-354-4391
rthomas5@devereux.org

Verification of Receipt

I/We _____, have received a copy of
Adoptive Parent(s) Name

The Adoptive Parent Handbook and Post Adoption Resource Guide for Orange, Osceola
and Seminole Counties 2015-2016 on _____
Date

Parent	Print Name	Signature	Date
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Parent	Print Name	Signature	Date
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