Florida's OPIOID EPIDEMIC and its Impact on Children

Statewide Data

According to the CDC 73 out of every 100 Floridians has a painkiller prescription.

In 2016 more than 4,200 Florida babies were born addicted to drugs.

During the 2016-2017 state fiscal year there were over 7,700 child removals due to parental drug abuse being present.

Policy Considerations

As the Florida Children’s Council and its communities work to mitigate the opioid epidemic. It supports the following policy recommendations:

**Prenatal Care**
- Support increased access to prenatal care
- Ensure adequate counseling and community resources are available to expecting mothers
- Support home visiting and follow up resource availability to new mothers

**Child Welfare**
- Increase access to substance abuse counseling for parents and counseling for children
- Integrate family support into Plans of Safe Care
- Ensure adequate funding to expand treatment capacity, increased caseloads, and enhance clinical skills
- Support the expansion of Early Childhood Court