



florida children's council

Making a lasting impression

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Florida Children's Council Announces New CEO Michele Watson *Early Childhood System Expert to Lead Council*

TALLAHASSEE, FL – The Florida Children's Council, the association for local children's services councils and leader in childhood advocacy, announced today Michele Watson has been named the organization's new Chief Executive Officer, effective October 1, 2020.

“After a thorough search, the board unanimously concluded that Michele Watson is the best candidate to lead the Florida Children's Council into the future,” said David Heaton, Executive Director for the CSC of Martin County and Chairman of the Council's Board of Directors. “Few individuals have the expertise, legislative experience and technical understanding of CSC operations as Michele. She steps into this role with a level of understanding that will ensure a smooth transition and propel the organization forward.”

Michele Watson has been involved with the work of the Council for many years, utilizing her expertise in data analysis and system development in the areas of education, policy and finance. She previously served as Policy Chief for Florida's Office of Early Learning after a career in Polk County as an educator. In 2012, Watson founded Watson Policy Solutions to focus on helping organizations identify systemic issues, develop new processes, and create system improvements.

“I have long been inspired by the tremendous impact of children's services councils and it is an honor to step into this role,” stated Watson. “This is a proven model that exemplifies the importance of partnerships and sustained focus on improving outcomes for children and families. I am excited for the opportunity to deepen my contributions to the mission.”

Watson succeeds Matt Guse who after leading the association over the last few years has joined the Florida Sports Foundation.

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The Florida Children's Council is a non-profit organization leading businesses, agencies and other key stakeholders in work efforts that support Florida's children, youth and families. The Council serves as the statewide association for Children's Services Councils (CSC). The Council supports local CSC efforts and provides statewide leadership to improve the lives of Florida's children and families. For more information about the Florida Children's Council, visit www.floridacsc.org.