

16.615 Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.--

(1) The Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys is established within the Department of Legal Affairs and shall consist of 19 members appointed as follows:

(a) Two members of the Senate who are not members of the same political party, appointed by the President of the Senate with the advice of the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(b) Two members of the House of Representatives who are not members of the same political party, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives with the advice of the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(c) The Secretary of Children and Family Services or his or her designee.

(d) The director of the Mental Health Program Office within the Department of Children and Family Services or his or her designee.

(e) The State Surgeon General or his or her designee.

(f) The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.

(g) The Secretary of Corrections or his or her designee.

(h) The Attorney General or his or her designee.

(i) The Secretary of Management Services or his or her designee.

(j) The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation or his or her designee.

(k) A businessperson who is an African American, as defined in s. [760.80\(2\)\(a\)](#), appointed by the Governor.

(l) Two persons appointed by the President of the Senate who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state government. One of the appointees must be a clinical psychologist.

(m) Two persons appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who are not members of the Legislature or employed by state government. One of the appointees must be an Africana studies professional.

(n) The deputy secretary for Medicaid in the Agency for Health Care Administration or his or her designee.

(o) The Secretary of Juvenile Justice or his or her designee.

(2) Each member of the council shall be appointed to a 4-year term; however, for the purpose of providing staggered terms, of the initial appointments, 9 members shall be appointed to 2-year terms and 10 members shall be appointed to 4-year terms. A member

of the council may be removed at any time by the member's appointing authority who shall fill the vacancy on the council.

(3)(a) At the first meeting of the council each year, the members shall elect a chair and a vice chair.

(b) A vacancy in the office of chair or vice chair shall be filled by vote of the remaining members.

(4)(a) The council shall make a systematic study of the conditions affecting black men and boys, including, but not limited to, homicide rates, arrest and incarceration rates, poverty, violence, drug abuse, death rates, disparate annual income levels, school performance in all grade levels including postsecondary levels, and health issues.

(b) The council shall propose measures to alleviate and correct the underlying causes of the conditions described in paragraph (a). These measures may consist of changes to the law or systematic changes that can be implemented without legislative action.

(c) The council may study other topics suggested by the Legislature or as directed by the chair of the council.

(d) The council shall receive suggestions or comments pertinent to the applicable issues from members of the Legislature, governmental agencies, public and private organizations, and private citizens.

(e) The council shall monitor outcomes of the direct-support organization created pursuant to s. [16.616](#).

(f) The council shall develop a strategic program and funding initiative to establish local Councils on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.

(5) The council may:

(a) Access data held by any state departments or agencies, which data is otherwise a public record.

(b) Make requests directly to the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee for assistance with research and monitoring of outcomes by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.

(c) Request, through council members who are also legislators, research assistance from the Office of Economic and Demographic Research within the Florida Legislature.

(d) Request information and assistance from the state or any political subdivision, municipal corporation, public officer, or governmental department thereof.

(e) Apply for and accept funds, grants, gifts, and services from the state, the Federal Government or any of its agencies, or any other public or private source for the purpose of defraying clerical and administrative costs as may be necessary for carrying out its duties under this section.

(f) Work directly with, or request information and assistance on issues pertaining to education from, Florida's historically black colleges and universities.

(6) The Office of the Attorney General shall provide staff and administrative support to the council.

(7) The council shall meet quarterly and at other times at the call of the chair or as determined by a majority of council members and approved by the Attorney General.

(8) Eleven of the members of the council constitute a quorum, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present is required for final action.

(9)(a) The council shall issue its first annual report by December 15, 2007, and by December 15 each following year, stating the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the council. The council shall submit the report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairpersons of the standing committees of jurisdiction in each chamber.

(b) The initial report must include the findings of an investigation into factors causing black-on-black crime from the perspective of public health related to mental health, other health issues, cultural disconnection, and cultural identity trauma.

(10) Members of the council shall serve without compensation. Members are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. [112.061](#). State officers and employees shall be reimbursed from the budget of the agency through which they serve. Other members may be reimbursed by the Department of Legal Affairs.

(11) The council and any subcommittees it forms are subject to the provisions of chapter 119, related to public records, and the provisions of chapter 286, related to public meetings.

(12) Each member of the council who is not otherwise required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. [112.3144](#), must file a disclosure of financial interests pursuant to s. [112.3145](#).

History.--s. 1, ch. 2006-123; s. 2, ch. 2008-6; s. 1, ch. 2008-130.

16.616 Direct-support organization.--

(1) The Department of Legal Affairs shall establish a direct-support organization that is:

(a) A Florida corporation, not for profit, incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved by the Secretary of State.

(b) Organized and operated exclusively to solicit funds; request and receive grants, gifts, and bequests of money; acquire, receive, hold, invest, and administer, in its own name, property and funds; and make expenditures for the benefit of the purposes as specified by this section.

(c) Certified by the department, after review, to be operating in a manner consistent with the statutory goals of the organization and in the best interests of the state.

(2) The direct-support organization shall operate under written contract with the Department of Legal Affairs. The contract must provide for:

(a) Approval of the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the direct-support organization by the department.

(b) Submission of an annual budget for the approval by the department.

(c) Certification by the department that the direct-support organization is complying with the terms of the contract and in a manner consistent with the statutory goals and purposes and in the best interests of the state. Such certification must be made annually.

(d) The reversion to the department of moneys and property held in trust by the direct-support organization if the direct-support organization is no longer approved to operate or ceases to exist.

(e) The disclosure of material provisions of the contract and the distinction between the board of directors and the direct-support organization to donors of gifts, contributions, or bequests, as well as on all promotional and fundraising publications.

(f) An annual financial audit in accordance with s. [215.981](#).

(g) The fiscal year of the direct-support organization, to begin July 1 of each year and end June 30 of the following year.

(h) Appointment of the board of directors to be made pursuant to this section.

(i) Authority of the board of directors of the direct-support organization to hire an executive director.

(3) The board of directors of the direct-support organization shall consist of 13 members. Each member of the board of directors shall be appointed to a 4-year term; however, for the purpose of providing staggered terms, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall each initially appoint two members to serve a 2-year term, and the Attorney General and the chair of the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys shall each initially appoint one member to serve a 2-year term. All subsequent appointments shall be for 4-year terms. Any vacancy that occurs shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment and shall be for the unexpired term of that seat. The board of directors shall be appointed as follows:

(a) Two members of the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, appointed by the council chair.

(b) Three members appointed by the Attorney General.

(c) Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(d) Four members appointed by the President of the Senate.

(4) In conjunction with the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, and funded exclusively by the direct-support organization, the direct-support organization shall form

strategic partnerships to foster the development of community and private sector resources and shall act as a liaison with state agencies, other state governments, and the public and private sectors on matters that relate to underlying conditions that affect black men and boys to bring about an environment that promotes the values of learning, family, prosperity, unity, and self-worth. To that end, the direct-support organization is charged with the following duties:

(a) Develop a strategic program and funding initiative to expand the 5000 Role Models of Excellence in Miami-Dade and Pinellas Counties and implement the 5000 Role Models of Excellence in Broward, Palm Beach, Duval, Orange, and Hillsborough Counties. The strategic program and funding initiative shall be reported to the Legislature by February 15, 2009.

(b) Develop a strategic program and funding initiative to implement the Reading 4 Success Program by the 100 Black Men of Florida in Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Duval, Orange, Pinellas, and Hillsborough Counties. The strategic program and funding initiative shall be reported to the Legislature by February 15, 2009.

(c) Develop a strategic program and funding initiative to implement the One Church, One Child program statewide. The strategic program and funding initiative shall be reported to the Legislature by February 15, 2009.

(d) Develop a strategic program and funding initiative to implement the Mapping the Future for Black Males Program within community colleges identified by the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys. The strategic program and funding initiative shall be reported to the Legislature by February 15, 2009.

(e) Develop a public awareness and marketing campaign showcasing programs funded by the direct-support organization, as well as other opportunities to implement the statutory duties of the direct-support organization and the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, pursuant to s. [16.615\(4\)](#). The campaign should also encourage the idea that each one of us has a responsibility to make a difference in the community.

(f) Fund the clerical and administrative costs of the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, as may be necessary for carrying out the council's duties under s. [16.615](#).

(5) The direct-support organization may:

(a) Develop a strategic program and funding initiative to implement a health screening program using mobile screening services.

(b) Hold a statewide Black Policy Summit in conjunction with a university in this state.

(c) Create a compendium of intervention programs in each county, which can be used to determine how to maximize existing resources and address under-served populations or unmet needs.

(6) The direct-support organization shall consider the participation of counties, in addition to those specified in subsection (4), that demonstrate a willingness to participate and an ability to be successful in any programs funded by the direct-support organization.

