



*Council on the
Social Status
of
Black Men
and Boys*

**FLORIDA COUNCIL ON THE SOCIAL STATUS
OF BLACK MEN AND BOYS
HISTORY**

[Title IV](#)
EXECUTIVE BRANCH

[Chapter 16](#)
ATTORNEY GENERAL

[View Entire Chapter](#)

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 Secretary of Health 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 of black origin 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.

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

(6) 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.

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

(8)(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.

(9) 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.

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

(11) 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](#).

(12) Notwithstanding subsection (6), the Attorney General shall:

(a) Within 60 days after the effective date of this act, fix a date for the initial meeting of the council.

(b) Notify each member of the council of the time, date, and place where the initial meeting will be held.

(c) Make any other arrangements concerning the initial meeting of the council.

(d) Serve as the presiding officer at the initial meeting of the council until a chair is elected.

(13) This section expires July 1, 2012, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

History.--s. 1, ch. 2006-123.

FLORIDA COUNCIL ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MEN AND BOYS

COUNCIL MEMBERS



Ms. Jeanine Blomberg
Commissioner

Jeanine Blomberg began her career at the Department of Education in 1976. Throughout this more than 30-year career, she has distinguished herself as a staunch advocate, effective collaborator and leader at the national, state and local levels for research-driven and accountable education policy and practice. Prior to her appointment as Commissioner, she served as Chief of Staff for the Department. She has also served as the Deputy Commissioner for Accountability, Research, and Measurement and Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Operations.

Jeanine holds a bachelor's degree in Business and is a certified public manager with various publications in school finance, accountability and education reform. During the past several years she has served on several national and state task forces and commissions including the Public School Funding Task Force, Governor's Equity in Educational Opportunities Task Force, School Construction Finance Commission, and the National Center for Education Statistics' Task Force



The Honorable Jennifer Carroll
Representative, District 13

In 2003, Jennifer won her election for State House of Representatives, District 13 and was subsequently reelected in 2004 and 2006. She is the first African-American female Republican ever to be elected to the Florida Legislature. Currently, Jennifer is the Chairman of the Financial Institutions Committee and serves on the Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee, Jobs & Entrepreneurship Council, Select Committee on Affordable Housing, and the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys. In 2004, Jennifer was the Vice-Chair of the Ethics and Elections Committee and served on the Finance & Tax, Growth Management and Business Regulation Committees in addition to her duties as House Deputy Majority Leader and Majority Whip.

Jennifer holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of New Mexico and an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Florida Metropolitan University.



Billy R. Close, Ph.D.
Florida State University
College of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Dr. Billy Close is currently an Assistant Professor in the College of Criminology & Criminal Justice at the Florida State University (FSU). Dr. Close is also the President of Paradigm Consultants & Associates, Inc. and Beyond the Athlete, Inc. a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In addition to his faculty role at FSU, he has served as both the Assistant and Acting Director of the FSU Black Studies Program, Co-Principal Investigator and Director for the Brotherhood of Pride Academy for Young Black Males, and Research Consultant to the Racial and Ethnic Bias Study Commission for the Florida Supreme Court

Dr. Close graduated from Lincoln High School in Tallahassee, Florida where he was a High School All-American and two time State Champion in Track and Field. Dr. Close earned both his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in criminology and criminal justice from FSU. Dr. Close currently serves as a Member of the Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, and as Board Member for several organizations including The Leon County School Foundation, The Lincoln High School Alumni Association, The Tallahassee Marine Institute and The FSU Varsity Club.

Dr. Close is married to Dr. Fran T. Close who is currently an Associate Professor in the College of Pharmacy and The Institute of Public Health at The Florida A& M University. He has three children, Nia Sekayi, Nataki Adia and Nyla Imani.



Mr. Christopher Norwood
Vice – Chair
Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys

Inspired to work in public service over fifteen years ago while attending Hampton University and working for the City of Hampton (Virginia) Youth Services Commission. While working during the summer with the City of Hampton, Norwood coordinated a job referral service for teen-agers. He learned the impact government & public policy can make in the lives of children.

After completing his degree in Social Work/Community Organization at Hampton, he went on to Graduate School at Cornell University's Institute for Public Affairs. His time at Cornell, while pursuing a Masters in Public Administration, solidified his commitment to Public Service. After which he worked for the Municipal Council of the City of Newark and the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey.

In 1999, Norwood realized that public policy was really a function of laws. In 2002, Mr. Norwood graduated from St. Thomas University Law School and began working in Public Policy Advocacy for Human Service Agencies.

In 2007, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives appointed him to serve on the Council on the Social Status of Black Men & Boys.



The Honorable Frank Peterman
Representative, District 55

Frank Peterman, Jr. was elected to the House in 2000. He serves as the Democratic Ranking Member for the Committee on Juvenile Justice and the Director of Development for Juvenile Services Programs of St. Petersburg. Additional assignments include Committee on Economic Development, Legislative Budget Commission, Safety & Security Council, and Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys.

He is a graduate of Morehouse College and is currently enrolled in the Dallas Theological Seminary's M.A. in Biblical Studies Program. Representative Peterman resides in St. Petersburg with his wife June Kicklighter and their three children Sydnee, Frank W. III, and Taffrey.



Mr. David Pridgen
Deputy Secretary for Institutions
Department of Corrections

Mr. David Pridgen is a dedicated and faithful servant to the people of the State of Florida; he is a senior level executive with 34 years of broad, in-depth experience in managing operations and programs at the institutional, regional and central office levels. Mr. Pridgen began his career with the Department in 1973 at Union Correctional Institution as Classification Specialist. He progressed through the ranks and was appointed to the position of Warden in 1997. He served in this capacity until 2001 when he was appointed to the position of Deputy Director of Institutional Programs.

During this time he was responsible for all Classification and Institutional programs for the Department on a statewide level.



Eddy M. Regnier, Ph.D.

Dr. Eddy Regnier born in Port-au-Prince Haiti and a United States Citizen is an Associate Professor of the Sarasota School of Professional Psychology and Behavioral Sciences for Argosy University/Sarasota. He received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 1986, an MA in Clinical Psychology in 1981 from Boston University Clinical Psychology program and a MSW in Social Work in 1979 also from Boston University, Boston Massachusetts. Dr. Regnier's received his Baccalaureate in Psychology from University of Massachusetts.

Dr. Regnier has clinical privileges at Sarasota Memorial Hospital and is a frequent lecturer in the community. Dr. Regnier has worked in the community on various boards and is a practicing alumni member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Dr. Regnier is a member of the American Psychology Association, the Florida Psychology Association and is listed in the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology.

Dr. Regnier is married to Angela Kay Regnier and has three children, Chantale Monique Regnier, Joel Mathieu Regnier and Jean-Marc Regnier.



Ms. Sybil Richard
Assistant Deputy Secretary
Agency for Health Care Administration

Sybil Richard is the Assistant Deputy Secretary for Florida Medicaid Operations. She is responsible for more than 400 employees in the bureaus of Medicaid Pharmacy, Medicaid Services, Health Systems Development, as well as the 11 field offices throughout the State. Florida Medicaid is an \$11.2 billion program with 2.1 million beneficiaries and thousands of providers.

Sybil received a B.S. degree in Pharmacy from Xavier University of Louisiana and her Juris Doctor and Masters in Health Administration from Indiana University. She was the 2000 David A. Winston Health Policy Fellow, through which she completed an internship at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, formerly known as the Health Care Finance Administration



Rev. Albert Simpson, Jr., Ph.D.
Philemon Missionary Baptist Church

Dr. Albert Simpson, Jr. is a highly experienced pastor skilled in pastoral counseling, conflict resolution, marriage counseling, critical incident stress management, domestic violence intervention, professional ethics and executive leadership training. Dr. Simpson also serves as an advisor to Florida State Senate Stephen R. Wise and the founder of The Share, Care, and Dare Development Program Inc., and the Philemon Evangelistic Outreach Ministries Bible Institute.

He received his Pastoral Counseling Doctor of Philosophy in Pastoral Counseling in 2004 from Suffield University, Religious Arts Master's Degree in Christian Education from Jacksonville Theological Seminary in 2004, and Biblical Arts Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies from Revelation Message Bible College in 2003.



Dr. Shairi Turner
Chief Director of Medical Services
Office of Health Services
Department of Juvenile Justice

Dr. Shairi Turner is an Internist and a Pediatrician. In 2005, she was named as the first Chief Medical Director in the eleven-year history of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. She directs the Office of Health Services and is responsible for the oversight of the medical, mental health, and substance abuse services for nearly 8,000 youth.

The native of New York City earned an undergraduate degree in Biology from Stanford University in 1991. In 1996, she received the Doctor of Medicine degree from Case Western University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio and was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honors Medical Society.

Dr. Turner is married and the proud mother of two young children.



Mr. Levi Williams
Chair
Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys

Levi was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1968. Levi was blessed with the joy of his life with the birth of his daughter, Gabrielle “Gabby” Williams in 2005. Levi came to the United States at the age of eight to live with his mother, Eslyn Brown, after his biological father and name sake passed. Chicago was not a friendly place to immigrants during his early childhood, but his mother and stepfather, Lincoln Brown, insisted on him getting a quality education. The family made many sacrifices and Levi soaked up all that he could learn. He graduated from University of Illinois with his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with emphasis in marketing and organizational behavior. Levi ended up attending the University of Florida law school as a result of experiencing discrimination in his Air Force ROTC program at the University of Illinois. Consequently, Levi graduated from the University of Florida with his Juris Doctor.

Levi was also honored to be appointed by the Honorable Attorney General Bill McCollum, for the State of Florida, to serve as his designee and the inaugural Chairperson for the Florida Council On The Social Status of Black Men And Boys, one of four such councils in the Country dedicated to identifying the quality of life limiting factors that afflict this population and develop recommendations to cure or mitigate those elements in the lives of Black men and boys in the State of Florida.



The Honorable Frederica Wilson
State Senator, District 33

Frederica Wilson was elected State Senator in 2002. She serves as 2007 Chair of the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation and was appointed Speaker Pro Tempore of the Florida Senate. Wilson is Vice-Chair of the Education Pre K-12 and Rules Committees. Additional assignments include Banking & Insurance; Criminal Justice; Government Operations; Health & Human Services Appropriations; Oversight and Procedural Policy & Calendar; and Social Responsibility Policy & Calendar Committees.

Elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1998, Wilson served as House Democratic Leader Pro Tempore in 2002 and holds the distinction of being the first African-American woman in Florida to hold this prestigious and powerful position. Wilson was a Miami-Dade County School Board member and served as Principal of Skyway Elementary for 12 years. She is the founder of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project.

A graduate of Fisk University, Wilson earned a Masters Degree from the University of Miami and an Honorary Doctorate from Florida Memorial University. She is Past Regional Director and Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and attends the historic St. Agnes Episcopal Church.



Ms. Gladys Wilson
Deputy Director
Office of Early Learning
Agency for Workforce Innovation

Gladys W. Wilson was selected as the Director for the Office of Early Learning in the Agency for Workforce Innovation in Tallahassee, Florida January 2005 by Susan Pareigis, then acting Director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The Office of Early Learning is responsible for administering the Child Care Development Fund and Florida's Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Program. The Office of Early Learning has an annual operating budget of approximately \$ 1 billion.

Gladys brings an understanding of not only importance of early childhood education on the future success of children but also of the many systems in place that deliver services to the children and families of Florida. She has also been intricately involved in developing and improving the system of comprehensive services for the children and their families.

Gladys earned a Bachelors degree in Early Childhood & Elementary Education from the University of South Florida, Tampa and a Masters in Learning Resources from Nova University, Fort Lauderdale.



The Honorable Stephen Wise
Florida Senate, District 5

A native of Canton, Ohio, Stephen R. Wise moved to Melbourne, Florida upon graduation from high school. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Florida Southern College in 1963, his Masters' degree from Middle Tennessee State University in 1968, and his Doctorate from the University of Alabama in 1970.

On August 14, 2001 Dr. Wise was elected to the Florida Senate to serve the remaining year in Senator Horne's term. Dr. Wise obtained 68.8% of the vote in a three person primary and avoided a potential secondary primary election. He now serves on the following committees: Criminal Justice Committee, Chair; Domestic Security Committee; Education Committee, Education Appropriations Committee; Regulated Industries, and the Legislative Auditing Joint Committee. Dr. Wise was recently appointed to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Standing Committee on Legislative Effectiveness & State Government, and the Education Commission of the States (ECS).

Dr. Wise and his wife, Kathryn, celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary in August, 2006. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. Kelly is married and lives in Largo with her husband and two children, and Tara is married and lives in MacClenny with her husband and two children.

Staff

Fredrica Doctor
Research and Training Specialist

Rick Nuss
Bureau Chief of Criminal Justice Programs

Daniel Gilmore
Research and Training Specialist / Preventing Crime in the Black Community Conference Coordinator

Legal Staff

Carly Hermanson
Executive Staff Deputy Attorney General / Counselor to the Council

