

April 11, 2014

To: Jeff Wise, Executive Director
From: Davin Robinson, Executive Secretary to the Advisory Council
Re: Advisory Council Recommendations

The Justice Center Advisory Council is authorized by the *Protection of People with Special Needs Act* to provide guidance to the Justice Center in the development of policies, programs and regulations. The Advisory Council formed five committees to make recommendations to the full Council, which has the authority to advise the Executive Director. The following recommendations emerged from Committee meetings held in March and April 2014 and were approved, unanimously, by the full Advisory Council at the April 10, 2014 meeting.

1. The Justice Center and State Oversight Agencies should provide guidance to providers about:
 - a. when to report incidents between people receiving services;
 - b. how to respond to individuals who make frequent, false allegations.
2. The Protection of People with Special Needs Act should be amended to bring all adult homes under the jurisdiction of the Justice Center.
3. The Justice Center should examine processes and performance in regard to case-closing, and serve as a foundation for changes that:
 - a. clear up case backlog; and
 - b. implement process modifications that ensure future backlogs do not occur and statutory guidelines are followed to the greatest extent possible.
4. The cross-agency Direct Care Workforce Core Competencies Work Group convened by the Governor's office should have sufficient, active participation from the human service agencies including OCFS. Each state agency should identify stakeholders to participate on the workgroup and these stakeholders should include providers, consumers and family members.
5. The Justice Center should develop training protocols for investigators to increase disability awareness and knowledge of service providers under Justice Center jurisdiction.
6. The Justice Center should develop and endorse abuse prevention materials that address all levels of cognition and disability and develop a thorough and expansive outreach campaign.
7. The Justice Center and State Oversight Agencies should develop tools for family members and support staff on how to respond to abused individuals in a trauma-informed manner.