

If you're having trouble viewing this email, you may [see it online](#).

Share This: 



Independent Living legislation being prepared for consideration

Look for proposed legislation to be submitted to the Florida Legislature that would change the rules for youth in foster care. If adopted into law, the legislation would make a positive difference in the lives of youth “in care.”



The City of Life is leading efforts to get the new legislation passed. City of Life board member **Gerry Glynn** is a board member and past president of the statewide Independent Living Services Advisory Council (ILSAC). The ILSAC is a state-chartered organization that advises the Legislature on issues relating to the state’s provision of foster-care service.

According to Glynn, the primary goals of new foster care legislation are:

- Changing the law to provide extended foster care after age 18 through ongoing support of foster parents, adoptive parents and relatives. Most experts agree that the age of 18 should not be a “magical date” by which all youth “in care” must “age out” of the foster care system. As with many families, some youth are ready for adulthood at age 18; some are not. The goals for foster youth should be “permanency” and “normalcy.”
- Continuing case management for over-18 foster youth and enable the provision of services such as mentoring and life coaching; community connections; access to health care and educational support and judicial reviews.
- Increasing accountability for agencies that provide services to foster youth by creating new outcomes-based measurements.
- Enabling the state of Florida to access increased federal dollars to fund services for youth in foster care without requiring an increased investment by the state.

The Florida Legislature will convene earlier than usual in January 2012. The proposed legislation likely will be modeled after SB 1902 and HB 1241, which were considered by the Legislature in 2010. In the Senate, the legislation will be led by [Sen. Ronda Storms](#), R-Brandon, chair of the Committee on Children, Families and Elder Affairs, and by [Sen. Nan Rich](#), D-Sunrise, vice chair.

In the House, the legislation will likely be led by [Rep. Rich Gloriso](#), R-Plant City.

For a full analysis of what proposed legislation should contain, click here for the [City of Life’s recommendations](#).



Youth Advisory Boards provide insight

Active youth advisory boards (YABs) are a critical component of a well-functioning foster care system. YABs are made up of youth “in care” and young adults who have transitioned out of the foster-care system. YABs serve to advise the agencies providing care of the real-world issues faced by foster youth.

City of Life is playing an active role in establishing active and vibrant youth advisory boards in Orange and Osceola counties. For example, City of Life took a lead role in creating a plan for Orange County’s YAB and in brokering meeting space and refreshments for YAB meetings in Orlando.

According to **Nicola Bailey**, executive director, Orange County, for CBC of Central Florida, the Orange County YAB has established an organizational head-of-steam. The group, composed of foster youth and young people who have transitioned out of care, has laid out organizational goals, including:

- Youth engagement, seeking to get more foster youth involved in the YAB.
- Development opportunities to raise funds for the YAB’s activities.
- Developing partnerships with established businesses and organizations in Orange County.
- Developing leadership training.

The Orange County YAB is currently holding a monthly car wash to raise funds and is exploring additional fundraising ideas, Bailey said.

In Osceola County, CBC of Central Florida is working with Intervention Services, Inc. to replicate the YAB success in Orange County.

City of Life welcomes two new board members

City of Life is pleased to welcome two new board members: **Nathan Cook** and **Vanessa Roman**.

Mr. Cook is Public Affairs Director at TW Squared, an Orlando public relations firm. He previously served as Chief of Staff and as a legislative aide to several members of the Florida Legislature.



Mr. Cook and his wife, Andrea, are parents to an 18-month-old girl and are currently serving as foster parents to two brothers, aged four and 18 months old.

Ms. Roman is a veteran radio industry executive in Central Florida. Ms. Roman is the cousin of the late Erika Roman, a popular Orlando radio D.J., who was raised in foster care in New York. Erika’s life was tragically cut short in a freak traffic accident on the Florida Turnpike in May 2009.

Vanessa is currently spearheading a documentary film about Erika and her life foster care and how that affected her sister’s life and career. You can follow developments

about the making of the film by clicking [here](#).



Kudos to Lucas Boyce

Kudos to City of Life Board member **Lucas Boyce**, director of Community Affairs for The Orlando Magic. Mr. Boyce was recently chosen by Orlando Business Journal as Outstanding Man of the Year in OBJ's annual Forty Under 40 competition. Mr. Boyce began life in foster care and then was adopted by a family in Kansas City, where he thrived. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and speech communication from the University of Central Missouri, and then landed an internship at the White House in 2002.

He accomplished his next goal in 2005 during a chance encounter with George W. Bush on the White House lawn. Boyce left such an impression on the former president that the president offered him a job. He was hired as associate director in the Office of Political Affairs and accompanied the president on Air Force One.

To read the full story on Mr.Boyce, click here to visit the [Orlando Business Journal's website](#).

City of Life Foundation | 1020 N. Orlando Ave, Maitland,FL 32751 | 407-398-7386

This email was sent to joe@jkconsultinginc.com. To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.

[manage](#) your preferences | [opt out](#) using TrueRemove®.

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

Internet Marketing by
 websolvers'