



# Department of Children and Families LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 21, 2019

Update 2019-4

## CONFIRMATION OF COMMISSIONER DORANTES

I'm happy to report that Commissioner Dorantes was unanimously confirmed by the House of Representatives on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations Commissioner!

## GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

On February 20, 2019, Governor Lamont presented his budget proposal to the legislature. The full budget documents for the Governor's FY 2020-2021 budget proposal are now available online ([www.governor.ct.gov](http://www.governor.ct.gov)). For a direct link, [click here](#).

### DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES RECOMMENDED BUDGET

	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>
Personal Services	269,468,513	279,496,655
Other Expenses	28,964,687	29,160,237
Workers' Compensation Claims	10,470,082	10,158,413
Family Support Services	946,451	946,451
Differential Response System	13,120,002	15,812,975
Regional Behavioral Health Consultation	1,646,024	1,646,024
Health Assessment and Consultation	1,415,723	1,415,723
Grants for Psychiatric Clinics for Children	16,182,464	16,182,464
Day Treatment Centers for Children	7,275,589	7,275,589
Child Abuse and Neglect Intervention	9,874,101	9,874,101
Community Based Prevention Programs	7,527,785	7,527,785
Family Violence Outreach and Counseling	3,745,395	3,745,395
Supportive Housing	19,886,064	19,886,064
No Nexus Special Education	1,904,652	1,952,268
Family Preservation Services	6,593,987	6,593,987
Substance Abuse Treatment	8,629,640	8,629,640
Child Welfare Support Services	2,560,026	2,560,026
Board and Care for Children - Adoption	102,078,733	104,750,134
Board and Care for Children - Foster	136,996,712	136,781,796
Board and Care for Children - Short-term and Residential	89,246,759	88,983,554
Individualized Family Supports	5,885,205	5,885,205
Community Kidcare	44,221,621	44,103,938
Covenant to Care	161,412	161,412
<b>AGENCY TOTAL</b>	<b>788,801,627</b>	<b>803,529,836</b>

The Department's budget presentation is scheduled for March 5, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

## NEW BILLS

[S.B. No. 883](#) (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE THREATENING OF CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES WORKERS', to provide enhanced penalties for threatening a child protective services worker.

[S.B. No. 884](#) (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WILDERNESS SCHOOL', to permit certain employees of the Department of Children and Families Wilderness School to administer epinephrine to children enrolled in the school who experience presumed allergic reactions.

[S.B. No. 885](#) (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY INTERACTIONS BETWEEN GRANDPARENTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES', to establish a task force to study interactions between grandparents and the Department of Children and Families.

[S.B. No. 886](#) (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSURE OF THE ALBERT J. SOLNIT CHILDREN'S CENTER', to rename Albert J. Solnit Children's Center to Albert J. Solnit Children's Hospital, and require such hospital to obtain licensure from the Department of Public Health.

[S.B. No. 891](#) (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE FAILURE TO REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT', to reorganize statutes related to the failure to report suspected child abuse and neglect.

[S.B. No. 892](#) (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF YOUTHS PLACED IN OUT-OF-HOME SETTINGS LICENSED, ADMINISTERED AND INVESTIGATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES', to require the Commissioner of Children and Families to report annually to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children and appropriations concerning the safety and well-being of youths placed in out-of-home settings that are licensed, administered and investigated by the Department of Children and Families.

[H.B. No. 6403](#) (COMM) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT CONCERNING A CHILDREN IN CARE BILL OF RIGHTS AND EXPECTATIONS AND THE SIBLING BILL OF RIGHTS', to create a Children in Care Bill of Rights and Expectations for foster children and to require caseworkers to annually provide the Sibling Bill of Rights to foster children.

[H.B. No. 7147](#) 'AN ACT MAKING DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019', to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[H.B. No. 7148](#) 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2021, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR', to implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[H.B. No. 7189](#) (RAISED) JUDICIARY. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE RESTORATION OF TERMINATED PARENTAL RIGHTS', to allow a child over fourteen years of age, who has one or more parents whose parental rights have been terminated and who has not thereafter been adopted, to petition the superior court for juvenile matters for a restoration of previously terminated parental rights.

[H.B. No. 7198](#) (RAISED) PUBLIC HEALTH. 'AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORKERS', to require any person who uses the title "social worker" to be licensed as a clinical social worker.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

Thurs., Feb. 21 - 1:00 PM	Committee of Children Committee	Room 1A
Fri., Feb. 22 - 11:00 AM	Education Committee Public Hearing	Room 2E
Mon., Feb. 25 - 10:30 AM	Public Health Committee Public Hearing	Room 1D
Mon., Feb. 25 - 1:00 PM	Education Committee Meeting	Room 2C
Wed., Feb. 27 - 10:00 AM	OPM Briefing on Gov's Budget to Finance Committee	Room 2E
Wed., Feb. 27 - 5:30 PM	Commission on Women, Children & Seniors	Room 1C
Thurs., Feb. 28 - 1:00 PM	Children Committee Public Hearing (DCF Bills)	Room 1B
Every day, Beginning Tues. Feb. 26 at 10:00 AM	Appropriations Committee State Agency Budget Presentations and Public Hearings	Room 2C

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## GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBSITE

For complete legislative information, visit the Connecticut General Assembly's website at - [www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov)

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**For additional information regarding legislative matters, contact Vincent Russo, DCF Legislative Program Director at 860-550-6329 or 860-461-6689.**